

# pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district

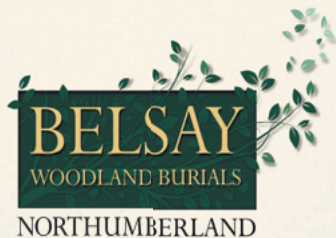


Iconic images to raise  
funds for cancer charity

Duchess presents special  
award to retired PC

School bowls over judges  
to win national accolade

## Hairdresser Harry to cut and go



A beautiful natural burial ground located in the heart of Northumberland, close to Newcastle and Tyneside.



A SPECIAL RESTING PLACE



[www.belsaywoodlandburials.com](http://www.belsaywoodlandburials.com)

BELSAY ESTATE OFFICE, BELSAY, NORTHUMBERLAND NE20 0DX  
t:01661 881206 e:info@belsaywoodlandburials.com

**Kip McGrath**  
EDUCATION CENTRES

**ONLINE TUTORING NOW AVAILABLE**



Primary • Secondary • Qualified Teachers • Personalised Learning

✓English ✓Maths ✓Reading ✓Spelling ✓Comprehension

Book a free online assessment today

**Kip McGrath - Newburn and Westerhope**

**Tel: 0191 4355 274**

**[kipmcgrath.co.uk/newburn-and-westerhope](http://kipmcgrath.co.uk/newburn-and-westerhope)**

**fratelli**

RISTORANTE • BAR • TERRACE

**NEW YEAR**  
*Celebration*

**31 FOOD  
DRINKS  
DEC LIVE MUSIC**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

[fratelliponteland.co.uk](http://fratelliponteland.co.uk)

*Belsay and Bockenfield, Felton Woodland Burials Now Available*



**STRETTL**

FOR A COMPLETE  
FUNERAL & MEMORIAL  
SERVICE

- Funeral arrangement for cremation or burial - Religious or Humanist from £2750 inclusive
- Direct cremation at Charlton Park with **PURE CREMATION** from £1500 (as seen on TV)
- 'Pre-need' funeral and memorial plans from £2999
- Advice on a grave purchase - traditional or woodland
- Memorial in stone, marble, slate and granite - traditional or bespoke from £480 inclusive
- Memorial renovation, additional inscriptions etc.
- Statuary, vases, plaques and 'tomblets' - the remarkable miniature home memorial
- Memorial stone valuation/insurance
- Sympathy and funeral floral tributes

**Office, Showroom and Chapels of Rest at:**

**15 West Road, Ponteland Tel: 01661 822015**

**450 West Road, Newcastle Tel: 0191 274 2471**

**24HR ENQUIRY LINE**

**(0191) 252 8222**

Pont News & Views is published by Ponteland Town Council. Inclusion of articles and advertising in Pont News & Views does not imply Ponteland Town Council's endorsement, agreement or approval of any opinions, statements or information provided. If you would like to submit an article, feature or advertise contact:

T. 07954 157 939 E. [pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk](mailto:pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk) W. 32 Caley Rise, Durham, DH1 5UN

Produced by Cian creative pr



# Choir sings at charity Christmas coffee morning

Singing children entertained staff and guests at a charity Christmas coffee morning at DoubleTree by Hilton's Newcastle International Airport hotel.

The seventeen Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from Ponteland Community Primary School's choir sang seasonal tunes at the event on December 15, held to raise funds for the Dragonfly Cancer Trust.

They were rewarded for their efforts with a pizza buffet and refreshments, which caused great excitement!

Parents joined the spectating staff, who were supporting national Christmas jumper day, while teachers Ryan Bottley and David Lavery accompanied on guitar and keyboards.

Photo by Barry Pells.

# Views sought on county council budget priorities

Ponteland residents are being invited to give their views on next year's budget priorities for the county.

Each year Northumberland County Council must set a balanced budget, which sets out its spending and investment plans and how its services will be funded. The budget must also take account of new cost-pressures as well as making sure all its services are as efficient as possible.

The Council's budget setting process is happening now alongside a refresh of its Corporate Plan that sets out key priorities and shapes how services will be delivered and performance and improvement measured.

People can give their views on a wide range of budget and Council service issues in an online questionnaire at [nland.cc/budget22](http://nland.cc/budget22). The consultation runs until January 17, with the budget due to go before Full Council in February and a refreshed Corporate Plan presented in March.

Council Leader Glen Sanderson, pictured, said: "We are continuing to progress the county's economic recovery and deliver investment in our infrastructure and frontline services.



"However, we know the national financial picture is very challenging with some difficult choices to be made, so it's very important people have their say and we will listen carefully.

"It's a genuine consultation and an opportunity for residents to let us know how they'd prioritise the services we deliver. In the New Year we'll also be looking to run an online question and answer session, as well as taking our budget plans out on the road and into our communities."

## PONTELAND COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are a specialist teaching, learning and wellbeing school with outstanding facilities. PCPS is proud to provide excellent opportunities for children and families.

In the most recent school league tables of 2019, PCMS was ranked in the top 1% of all primary and middle schools in England and number 1 in Northumberland.

Limited places still available for 2022/2023 from Nursery (age 2) through to Year 6. Children living in local catchment have a geographical pathway to Ponteland High.

**01661 824853**  
**admin@ponteland.academy**  
**www.ponteland.academy**

A HIGH ACHIEVING TEACHING, LEARNING AND WELL-BEING SCHOOL



"I love being part of this school because, it is very friendly and when I started everyone welcomed me." Ana Year 3

# New environmental group launches first tree planting project

A newly formed environmental group has launched what it hopes to be the first of many tree planting projects.



Ponteland Action Group for the Environment (PAGE) joined children from Darras Hall Primary School to plant two flowering cherry trees at the entrance to Station Cottages in Darras Hall.

The event marked the beginning of a project to plant trees in and around Ponteland over the next decade.

The ten-year plan drawn up by Rotary Ponteland's Environment Committee - 'Pontenviroland' - has a series of objectives to improve the local environment.

They include:

- General tree planting - local schools have been contacted regarding the Woodland Trust's offer of free trees for schools. Ponteland residents and locally based companies will also be encouraged to plant trees in their land and gardens and to not remove trees unnecessarily.
- Rewilding Ponteland and its surrounds - encouraging industrial and domestic garden areas to have a 'Wild Corner' where wild plants, animals, birds and insects can thrive.
- Local wildlife - supporting efforts to maintain local wildlife including the Ponteland Red Squirrels support group, the provision of nest boxes, the creation of 'Hedgehog Pathways' and 'Hedgehog Homes' in wild corners.
- School liaison - working with and supporting local schools on environmental projects and activities and potentially setting up a 'Rotakids Group' at a local primary school to focus on environmental projects.
- Plastic and litter - examine what can be done both to reduce the amount of plastic used and hold a regular programme of litter removal in Rotary Way and other key local sites.

Links have been established with Ponteland Town Council, Northumberland County Council, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Ponteland Red Squirrels and PAGE is striving to forge partnerships with other groups.

Alan Hall, from PAGE, said: "The Group is grateful to Darras Hall Estate Committee for permission to plant on this first site and we are also pleased that the children at Darras Hall Primary School were keen to be involved.

"Beyond this, PAGE is at an advanced stage in discussion with Northumberland County Council to plant more trees on Rotary Way and other sites in and around Ponteland. If anyone knows of areas within Ponteland which might be a good site for tree planting, PAGE would be keen to hear from you."

Find the group's Facebook page at [PontelandActionGroupForTheEnvironment](https://www.facebook.com/PontelandActionGroupForTheEnvironment).

[www.ponteland-tc.gov.uk](http://www.ponteland-tc.gov.uk)



## New Year, New Home

**Full-service property experts**

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Award Winning Commercial Agency | • Property Management           |
| • Expert Estate Agents            | • Building Surveying            |
| • Land, Development & New Homes   | • Mortgages                     |
| • Red Book Valuation Services     | • Lease Renewals & Rent Reviews |

0191 284 2255

[gosforth@bradleyhall.co.uk](mailto:gosforth@bradleyhall.co.uk)

120 High Street, Gosforth NE3 1HB

[www.bradleyhall.co.uk](http://www.bradleyhall.co.uk)

Bradley Hall





# Tackling irresponsible dog owners a new priority for 2023



*By PC Graeme Harbottle, Ponteland Neighbourhood Policing Team*

Along with the entire Ponteland Neighbourhood Policing team of PCSO Laura McCann, Special Constable Jon Gray and Sgt Lewis Cadden, I hope that everyone had a great festive period with friends, family or whoever you spent it with.

We would also like to wish all readers a very Happy New Year and hope that 2023 is good to us all.

In my first column of the new year I wanted to reiterate what as a Neighbourhood Policing Team we will be doing and have planned for 2023.

My overriding mission will always be working within the local community so we have a visible presence and are seen where local residents would like us to be and to be approachable so we can meet the wants and needs of local residents.

Over the last six months I have tried to establish better community links with residents, local businesses and our excellent schools and leisure facilities. I have worked alongside individuals, groups and local organisations so they know if

they require a police service for whatever reason who they can contact, and that I will try my very best to help.

The whole team will continue to tackle all the important issues that matter to you by identifying and dealing with crime, disorder and anything else reported to me and the team including anti-social behaviour and speeding vehicles.

In 2023 I will be tackling irresponsible dog ownership and the rise in dog fouling in our area. This issue has been brought to my attention and as a fellow dog owner and walker myself in the local area I know first-hand how angry and frustrating it can be for us responsible dog owners who see what is left by those who aren't.

This is often looked at as a minor issue by some, but not by me or the team, especially when it involves the health and safety of the community out and about in the parks or walking on footpaths and having to encounter this. I will be working alongside the local councils and dealing with any irresponsible and offending dog owners; action will be taken.

Residents can contact me on Northumbria Police's local neighbourhood policing team mailbox at the following address: [easttynedale.npt@northumbria.police.uk](mailto:easttynedale.npt@northumbria.police.uk)



## GREYSTOKE

PONTELAND, NORTHUMBERLAND

Situated in a highly sought-after location, Greystoke offers families an outstanding collection of homes perfectly positioned to enjoy Northumberland's countryside and connections to local towns and the city of Newcastle.



### LAST PLOTS REMAINING

HIGH SPECIFICATION  
THROUGHOUT

[www.cussins.com](http://www.cussins.com)

CALL 01665 600 800 / 07717 574236  
or EMAIL [susan.shanley@cussins.com](mailto:susan.shanley@cussins.com)

**Cussins**  
YOUR HOME IS WHERE OUR HEART IS



Photo: Brian Hunt

## Duchess presents special award to long-serving Jon

**A long-serving Ponteland Special Constable has been presented with a British Empire Medal by the Duchess of Northumberland.**

Jon Gray was recognised in the late Queen's Birthday Honours last June for services to Policing. A familiar face in the village, former PC Gray joined Northumbria Police in 1978 and was stationed in Gateshead before making the move to rural Northumberland.

He retired in June 2008 after 30 years' service, but with much still to give, he started volunteering as a Special just two days later – and has served the community of Ponteland ever since.

He also still finds time to volunteer in the 102nd Battalion, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Reserves Pipe Band, where he plays as a drummer. The band plays regularly, raising money at charitable events.

Speaking after being notified of his honour last year, Jon said: "Having been posted in Ponteland since 1990 I do

this duty out of a sense of loyalty to the service and the area.

"I'm pleased to continue to serve the community of Ponteland, which I know well. I still assist full-time officers and I'd like to think I help new recruits. This recognition is humbling and I was very surprised to get the call."

Jon was one of four Northumberland residents presented with British Empire Medals at two special investiture ceremonies at Alnwick Castle by the Duchess in her capacity as the Lord Lieutenant for the county.

### ADVERTISING FEATURE

## What's in a name? A lot!

*By David Lamb CFP™ MCSI*

**I have seen the name given to people who give advice or sell financial products change many times in the 38 years I have worked in the financial services sector.**

Common examples include insurance agent, financial consultant, broker, financial adviser and wealth manager. The latest favoured term seems to be financial planner.

Unfortunately, many 'financial planners' are just financial advisers. Financial planner may sound better but there is a big difference between planning and financial advice - and not just in the qualifications.

Financial advice is the recommendation of a financial transaction at a fixed point in time - the selling of, or helping to buy, a product - whereas financial planning is an evolving action plan, resulting from a cyclical process.

Financial planning may involve financial advice (although not necessarily from the financial planner) but it does not need to involve product recommendations. A financial plan

may, or may not, involve providing regulated financial advice.

Most importantly, clients do not need to be asset rich or earn high incomes to require financial planning.

In this new series of articles for 2023, I am going to describe the financial planning process - as detailed by my professional body the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment and recommended for a Certified Financial Planner.

Qualifying as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP™) requires years of experience and the completion of a difficult and stringent process including standardised exams and a demonstration of ethics. The most important aspect quality of a CFP™ is that they have a fiduciary duty, meaning they must make decisions with their client's best interests in mind.

Future articles will include: what you should expect from a first meeting with a financial planner; the data required for a detailed financial plan and determining objectives; the importance of assumptions; the structure of a financial plan; why cash flow modelling is essential in financial planning; how the plan may be implemented; and why regular reviews are essential.

My experience shows that financial planning works well if it is done with clients as opposed to for them, but it works best if clients do their own financial planning and I just facilitate the meeting, use my professional knowledge when required and produce a structured financial plan.

Next month: what you should expect from a first meeting with a financial planner – and what to be wary of.





Meliha Vareshanovic walks with her head held high through a battle-scarred Sarajevo

## Iconic images to raise funds for Sir Bobby Robson Foundation

Iconic images from an award-winning Ponteland photojournalist's portfolio are available to buy for the first time.

The launch of the sale of a selection of Tom Stoddart's magnificent work marks the first anniversary of his death and is in accordance with his own wishes.

Tom was one of Fleet Street's finest photographers in an illustrious career which started back in 1970 at the Berwick Advertiser and saw him capture the fall of the Berlin Wall, the September 11 attacks and the Beirut and Sarajevo conflicts.

Before turning freelance he worked for the Daily Mail, Daily Express and Sunday Times as well as charities and NGOs including Medecins Sans Frontieres, Oxfam, Christian Aid, Care International and Sightsavers.

Tom, who lived in Darras Hall, also photographed Royal weddings and Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and David Cameron. In 2019 he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the UK Picture Editors' Guild.

He died of cancer in November 2021 aged 68.

Each image available for purchase has been carefully chosen from more than 40 years of work in more than 60 countries across the world and



Tom at an exhibition of his work at Newcastle's Side Gallery in 2020.

represents a chance to own part of his extraordinary legacy.

The prints are validated with a specially created Tom Stoddart Estate Archive certificate of authenticity embossed with Tom's digital signature.

A donation from each sale will go to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, a Newcastle-based charity that funds cancer research and gave Tom the opportunity to receive cutting-edge treatment and to take part in early trials.

To purchase one of Tom's images visit [tomstoddart.com/print-sales](http://tomstoddart.com/print-sales).



A young Princess Diana stalling her Austin Metro outside her Earls Court flat in 1980.



The Berlin Wall crashing down in 1989.



## Popular hairdressing salon to close after 31 years

**Popular Ponteland hairdresser Harry Pringle is to put away his brushes and scissors after three decades.**

Harry and his trusty stylist Debbie McCue have decided to retire, having worked together at the Henry Roberts Hairdressing salon at The Toll House for 31 years.

Harry first trained as a hairdresser in the late 1980s after being made redundant from travel firm International Leisure, following several years in hotel management – the subject of his university degree.

It was his own hairdresser at the time who suggested the career change and, during a two-year training course at Newcastle College, Harry secured a part-time placement at Fenwick's.

He said: "My goal was always to open up my own salon and when The Toll House came up as available I thought it was ideal – the right site and a perfect size."

Debbie, who had also previously worked at Fenwick's, was already at The Toll House, employed by the previous salon owner, and the pair immediately hit it off.

They have offered a full range of hairdressing services for the whole family since 1991, and the announcement on the salon's Facebook page that the salon would be closing in the New Year came as a blow to many loyal customers.

Sarah Cherrill wrote: "So sorry Harry, that is sad news. I've been coming to the salon since 1996 and will certainly miss you both!"

Pam Hollier agreed: "Sad news indeed. You have a lovely friendly salon and will be missed."

Vivienne Hewitt said: "Thank you for your wonderful efforts with my very fine hair. In your salon, it has always been home from home. You will both be missed so much."

Michelle Dawson added: "I'm sad to hear that. Definitely the end of an era."

Harry, from Gosforth, said: "The clients

finding it the most difficult are my older customers and the youngest ones who haven't know any other hairdresser.

"I am trying to make it as easy as possible, getting details for mobile hairdressers and local salons, and providing details of the colours they have. I am also leaving my email address where I can be contacted to answer any questions.

"Some are almost refusing to accept and hoping I would change my mind. But it is with great regret and sadness I have to close and move on. I'd like to thank all my customers - without loyal customers you can't have a successful business and I have built up some real friendships over the years."

The salon will be open for the last time on Saturday January 14 and will take bookings until this date on 01661 871659.

Above: Harry and Debbie at The Toll House salon.  
Photos by Barry Pells.

### Dave Walker Joinery

Professional Joinery & Carpentry Fitting Service

Door fitting Wood Flooring Skirtings Shelving Bookcases  
Office and Storage Cupboards Boxing-in General Repairs

Over 25 years in the Trade. Fixed Rates

Call Dave – 07951 202 757

Email – [davewalkerjoinery@gmail.com](mailto:davewalkerjoinery@gmail.com)

[www.davewalkerjoinery.co.uk](http://www.davewalkerjoinery.co.uk)



## MJO Accounting

Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

**Financial Management,  
Bookkeeping, Payroll and Pensions,  
Tax Returns and HMRC Compliance**

07404 093 513

[mjoponteland@gmail.com](mailto:mjoponteland@gmail.com)

[mjoaccounting.com](http://mjoaccounting.com)

# Your letters

Continuing controversy over Darras Hall's new telegraph poles in this month's letters...

The Editor  
Pont News & Views



## The Estate Committee needs to take a lead on poles row

**The Darras Hall estate has always had a number of telegraph poles carrying both electricity and telephone lines. It is the latter that has been the subject of letters.**

A tour of the estate would indicate that they service some 30 to 40 per cent of mainly older properties, largely in what are the main and original roads together with some side roads.

The more modern properties on these roads are not, largely, serviced by poles.

Interestingly the great majority of these existing poles are not linked by cable. Their telephone wire feed comes out of the ground, one assumes from an underground cable.

Thus workable ducts seem to be available in all streets taking telephone into properties either by underground or overhead by poles. If the ducts were not workable (blocked/collapsed) then there would be lots of telephone outages (sorry that's an opinion).

Ladyrigg has recently acquired a pole. The lead for this is not from a pole on Eastern Way but from a cable laid by Factco from Eastern Way to the pole. So are there no ducts on Ladyrigg? Perhaps there are no telephones?

Thanks to a correspondent in the previous month's edition we were made aware of an installation system that requires neither poles nor ducts and appears to be less intrusive than either. Interestingly a town in our locality has fast broadband together with narrow filled channels on pavements and across roads so perhaps there are other alternatives?

Oaklands and Wentworth Court both protested to the Darras Hall Estate Committee in respect of proposed poles and were granted a review. They now have poles but not further information as to why they were the only option for their streets.

Residents were never informed that poles could proliferate when pre-commencement meetings were held. Even now the full extent of (and reason for) poles is not known some 5/6 months after they first made an appearance. We don't know where they will be but outside your window shortly?

If the community got behind the installation of fast broadband could a better solution not be found than poles? In fact, could poles not be eradicated from the estate? Where is the leadership? The county council appears to be happy to let Factco pole along as they wish and are very helpful in authorisations, so not much support there (box ticked no government money spent - pat on back).

But we do have a community resource - the Darras Hall Estate Committee. They don't seem to have given much support to the residents presently affected and their environmental claims look a little tarnished.

Perhaps they should stop hiding behind 'the pavements are not our responsibility', find a voice and give a lead to find a 21st century solution to the required introduction of high speed broadband. Should such a lead be forthcoming then I'm sure the committee would find a great deal of active support in its community.

The alternative is that each locality fights its own corner (or not) and residents begin to wonder why we have this 'authority' if it is not prepared to fight for the concept of the garden village.

**Trevor Hughes**

*Meadow Court, Darras Hall*

## Why don't you start a pole petition?

**I write in response to the letters sent into you from Darras Hall residents in your December issue regarding Factco.**

Being a Darras Hall resident myself, I have not been asked if I had any objections to the poles to be erected which will be an eyesore. I feel sure most residents are extremely annoyed at not being consulted.

Why don't you start a petition in your Pont News? For the residents who I think will be pleased to confirm their views, I am sure you will be surprised how many will object.

I will start this off with my vote: 100% object.

**Wyn Jackson**

*Darras Road, Darras Hall*

## Thank you for Christmas tree donation

**I would just like to say a huge thank you to Mick and Ange at The Pont Tap for the kind donation of a fully decorated Christmas tree which they gave to Grange Lea Care Home in Ponteland.**

It stands with pride of place in our sun lounge. All residents, staff, visitors and passers-by can see it - it is just perfect. Mick also gave Grange Lea some wine and beer to make our Christmas festivities even jollier.

Everyone at Grange Lea wish you both and The Pont Tap a prosperous New Year.

**Jane Haddon**

*Officer-in-Charge, Grange Lea*

**February issue deadlines:** The deadline for all copy and adverts for the February issue is Monday January 16. Door to door distribution will be from Monday January 30 to Friday February 3. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the February issue. Please visit [ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views](http://ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views) for online issues and all updates.

Letters on all issues are welcomed by Pont News & Views but the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher. The Editor reserves the right to amend any submitted letters for legal or other reasons. All letters submitted should include the writer's name and address.

# What's on...

## Ponteland u3a

Meetings and talks at St Mary's Parish Centre are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Our next two talks will be: January 4 – Seven Bridges: Crossing the Tyne Gorge by J Michael Taylor; February 1– AGM and faith tea. We welcome enquiries from anyone wishing to join Ponteland u3a by calling the membership secretary on 01661 824953.

## Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

On Monday January 9 at 2.30pm we have David Gold speaking on 'The Four Georges...Kings in Tights' at St Mary's Parish Centre.

## Ponteland Village WI

Scam awareness will be the theme of our talk on Tuesday January 10 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Centre, Ponteland. Our subgroups include Walking Group, Dining Out, Walking for Softies, Dog Walking and Book Club. If you would like to give us a try, email [pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com](mailto:pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com). Look for Ponteland Village WI on Facebook.

## Callerton Garden and Flower Club

Our first meeting of the year will take place at Ponteland CIU club at 2pm on Wednesday January 11. Club members will be demonstrating various arrangements using supermarket flowers and garden foliage. Visitors welcome - £7 fee.

## Beetle Drive at Kirkley Hall

Come along to an old-fashioned afternoon of fun filled competition with complimentary cake and tea/coffee. The Friends of Kirkley Hall Beetle Drive will start at 2pm on Wednesday January 11. Members £2, non-members £3. Everyone welcome, no booking necessary. More information at [friendsofkirkleyhall200@btinternet.com](mailto:friendsofkirkleyhall200@btinternet.com).

## Ponteland Local History Society

On Thursday January 19 at 7.30pm Dr Christine Seal will give a talk entitled 'Tynedale and the home front' at St Mary's Parish Centre. Visitors welcome - £2. The History Society Archive will be open for inspection at Ponteland Library on Friday January 6 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

## Ponteland Friendly Stitchers

Our next meeting will be on Monday January 23 from 2pm until 4pm in the Hive, Ponteland Leisure Centre, when Kate Slaughter will deliver a workshop. Visitors are welcome. For more information contact [emmaddenham52@gmail.com](mailto:emmaddenham52@gmail.com).

## Ponteland Wildlife Talks

Our next meetings at St Mary's Parish Centre are at 7.30pm on Tuesday February 7 when we have our AGM and Jane Austin Walker's talk entitled 'Northumberland's Wildflowers'. On Tuesday March 7 we have Ian Glendinning with 'Two squirrel families'. Admission £2 includes refreshments.

## Ponteland Writers

We regularly write to prompts and also have a visiting published author for more in-depth sessions. Some of us write purely for pleasure and others have had work published. Come and join us for motivation and practice. £2 a week. We meet every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Ponteland CIU Social Club, Merton Way.

## Ponteland Methodist Church

Sunday worship 10am and 6.30pm. Monday: 1pm to 4pm 'Open Door' friendship café. Tuesday: Boys Brigade with Girls' Association. Thursday: Toddlers, Men's Forum, Women Together. Saturday: walking group and Coffee Shop Strollers plus room hire. On alternate Thursdays at 2pm (November 10 and 24) Women Together provides friendship, interesting talks and social activities. More information from Chris on 0191 271 2637.

## Friendship Group launched

Age UK Northumberland has launched a new weekly friendship group every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm at St Mary's Parish Centre. It's a great chance for older people living in the area to get together and enjoy a whole host of activities such as board games, arts and crafts, music, or just to have a nice cuppa and a chat.

## Merton Hall library and coffee morning

Merton Hall's coffee morning and

free library is now open on Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am. New or nearly new book donations would be appreciated - they can be dropped off on Friday mornings.

## Ponteland Ladies Choir

We meet on Mondays, term time, at 7.30pm at Ponteland Community Primary School, Callerton Lane. We sing a wide variety of music. Please contact Susan on 07710 418780 for more details. New members welcome - no auditions required.

## Creative writing classes

Suitable for both beginners and more experienced writers, these classes will inspire and encourage you to write poetry, short fiction and memoir and to share and develop your writing through stimulating workshop sessions in a friendly and supportive group. We meet on Wednesday mornings in members' homes in and around Ponteland. Email [claire@claire276.plus.com](mailto:claire@claire276.plus.com) for more information or to arrange a free taster session.

## Rotary Ponteland

We meet at the Britannia Hotel each Tuesday, alternating lunchtime and evenings. Visit [rotaryponteland.org.uk](http://rotaryponteland.org.uk).

## Inner Wheel Club of Ponteland

Part of a women's voluntary organisation we are a small club founded on friendship. Meetings held on the first Monday of the month at St Mary's Parish Centre at 2pm include members spending social time together and talks, and occasional meals in a local restaurant and small fundraising events for charities are also held. New members and visitors are always welcome - contact 07568 743653.

## Ponteland Health Walks

Ponteland Health Walks meet every Tuesday at 10.30am outside Ponteland Leisure Centre. The free walks take 60 to 90 minutes on local footpaths. A good opportunity to walk safely, improve fitness and make new friends. Assistance dogs only please. Contact Gordon Allan on 07936 135469 for more information or just turn up, no notice required.

# Howzat! Ponteland pupils bowl over judges to win national award

Ponteland High School has received a national award for the way that it has used cricket to develop leadership skills and interest in sport for girls.

It has been named The Secondary School of the Year at the Chance to Shine Awards held at Lord's cricket ground in London. The school was also nominated for the Participant of the Year award for Year 10 pupil Georgia Beckwith.

Georgia, who has gone on to represent Northumberland in the U15 squad, said: "Before I started cricket at school I wasn't really interested in sport. I didn't have much confidence; I was quite a shy, quiet girl and I didn't talk to many people. In the future I definitely want to keep playing, hopefully for the county but, if not, definitely club cricket at Blagdon."

The Chance to Shine Girls Secondary School Programme supports girls aged 11 to 16 to develop key employability and leadership skills while enjoying sport and physical activity.

Coaches from the charity support the 'young leaders' to learn the skills to run their own extra-curricular cricket club at school and then to coach pupils from local primary schools at cricket festivals.

The judging panel said they were impressed by the way that PHS engaged



with the leadership element of the programme, adapting its curriculum to engage more girls with the sport and allowing pupils to officiate and run activities outside of school.

The girls showed that they were able to adapt to new challenges and have grown in confidence. Many of the girls now attend local cricket clubs where they help to deliver sessions.

Chance to Shine and Northumberland Cricket Board coach Adam Robson said: "The school has been fantastic in embracing the leadership elements. It has changed its curriculum to fit us in and make sure that we get as many groups as possible."

Year 7 student Ellie Snowden, 11, who took part in a session delivered by the young leaders, added: "I'd really like to be a young leader one day because I want to help people and inspire them to find a sport they love and help them feel comfortable with playing as well."

As well as the ceremony at the Home of Cricket, the girls also enjoyed a trip to the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland during the London visit.

A film showing cricket sessions and featuring interviews with the players and coaches can be seen at [youtu.be/8Zh3yL4Mvw0](https://youtu.be/8Zh3yL4Mvw0).

Coach Adam Robson and Head of Girls' PE Jolene Byers are pictured with Georgia Beckwith (centre) and other members of the cricket team at the awards ceremony.

---

## Couple open mini foodbank outside their home

A caring couple have created a mini foodbank outside their Ponteland home to enable people to either leave donations or take much needed provisions.

Christine and David Greenwell have purchased a small tool shed which they have fully insulated and shelved out. They have named the new community facility, which is located at Station Lodge opposite the Merton Way car park behind the shopping centre, 'Ponteland's sharing larder'.

Christine explained why they have launched the depository. She said: "I know we have donation boxes in supermarkets but unfortunately none of the food stays in Ponteland. Local residents in need therefore have to go to food banks outside

the village or have food delivered from Hexham.

"No questions will be asked of anyone using this facility. We will not know if you are taking goods out or putting goods in."

Appealing for donations, she added: "Your help is desperately needed to donate non-perishable food, toiletries and pet food. Your generosity in the past has been outstanding so I hope you will support this sharing larder. Just open the larder and put your donations inside or leave your bag at the gate behind the sharing larder and I will stock it up."



Last year, we supported over 3,000 customers

## Help at the touch of a button from our 24-hour telecare alarm response service

Ostara provides 24-hour alarm and response services to help people in Newcastle and Ponteland to live safely and independently at home.

We have an affordable menu of equipment to choose from, ranging from simple alarm buttons to fall detectors, flood detectors and door opening sensors, all connected to our 24 hour response centre in Gosforth.

If you fall or feel unwell in your own home, our team of first responders can be with you in under 30 minutes to help you, giving you and your family peace of mind.



"My mam has the Ostara service and it gives me peace of mind that's she is in safe hands when I can't be there."

"I rang Ostara and had wonderful advice and service and as a result of my magic pendant my confidence is completely restored."

To sign up, ring  
**0191 277 7470** and quote  
**PN2023** or visit [ostara.org.uk](https://ostara.org.uk)  
for more information.



# Rotary Christmas events raise £4,900 for children's cancer charity

Nearly £5,000 has been raised for a regional children's cancer charity by Rotary Ponteland's Christmas fundraising campaign.

Families turned out in large numbers to see Santa's Sleigh tour Ponteland and Darras Hall in early December, with an extended route taking in the Bellway estate and more stopping points.

A Christmas Market held at Ponteland Community Primary School supported by over 30 local craft and food stallholders raised further funds, alongside an in-store collection at Tesco Extra in Kingston Park in November.

Lloyds Bank Foundation matched Rotary's fundraising efforts to take the total to £4,900 for Children's Cancer North.

The charity funds vital childhood cancer research at the Wolfson Childhood Cancer Research Centre in Newcastle



Santa's Sleigh tour outside the shops on Thornhill Road, Ponteland

and supports children, young people and families across the region who travel to the Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle for their cancer treatment.

Dale Wighton, Senior Bank Manager at Lloyds Bank, said: "Congratulations to Rotary Ponteland for organising these events for our local community and with it the fundraising efforts supporting Children's Cancer North.

"I'm proud that my colleagues from

Lloyds have given their time to join these events which will see every penny donated by you matched by the Lloyds Bank Foundation. Thank you for allowing us to be involved."

Rotary Ponteland President Janet Cusworth added: "We were very grateful to our Rotary friends and helpers who volunteered with us at our Christmas events; without their help it would not have been possible."

## Bookstall and quiz raise £1,000 for foodbanks

Two Newcastle foodbanks have each received £500 from Ponteland Lions after funds were raised in a quiz and via their regular bookstall.

The quiz was held in October at Ponteland CIU Social Club and, with tickets at £12 a ticket and food provided by Gills fish and chips, more than £530 was raised.

The club has virtually matched this to give £500 each to the Kenton Foodbank and the Westend Foodbank.

A further quiz is now planned at the same venue on February 4.





MATHS ENGLISH



**KUMON DELIVERS PROVEN ACADEMIC RESULTS**

Research shows Kumon students are **over a year ahead** of the national average, and over six months ahead of their peers in maths at the end of primary school.\*

Book your free maths and English assessment today and help your child get ahead at school.

**Ponteland Study Centre**  
07880 327782  
ponteland@kumoncentre.co.uk

**DISTINCT INTERIORS**

Home Interiors | Soft Furnishings | Made to Measure



07816 601 709

distinctinteriors.co.uk

carly.distinct@gmail.com

# Time to get those needles out again

The giant Remembrance poppies which have been a feature of Ponteland for three years have been praised by people across the region and beyond.

Created from small knitted and crocheted poppies, the poppies are safely in storage and will be brought out again in November. Ponteland Town Council is now working on a new Remembrance display and asking people to get out those knitting needles and crochet hooks once again.

More than 2,000 more red poppies will be needed, so the council is asking people to start now.

Coun Karen Overbury, who helps to organise Remembrance events in the village, said: "The dark days and winter weather are keeping us all inside a lot more. So this is a good time to get out those knitting needles and crochet hooks to make poppies for the people of Ponteland to enjoy.

"Many people feel the giant poppies

are an impressive and fitting tribute to the fallen of the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts, and the council is finalising plans for a display to complement the giant poppies. Having seen the simple yet striking displays, we are sure that even more people will want to get involved."

Ponteland Mayor Coun Christine Greenwell added: "The six giant poppies receive a lot of praise and Ponteland Town Council is proud to remind people young and old of the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by so many people.

"Like the poppies, the new display will be created by the people for the people. So please get knitting and crocheting and send in your poppies."

Patterns are available on the Town Council website at [ponteland-tc.gov.uk](http://ponteland-tc.gov.uk) and the council will also be purchasing some supplies for people who find it difficult to get hold of wool. For more information consult the website or call (01661) 825092 from Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 1pm.



One of the giant poppies on Coates Green.

## ROOFING SPECIALIST Ltd

- NEW ROOFS/RE-ROOFS
- SLATING/TILING
- ALL ROOF REPAIRS  
INCLUDING STORM DAMAGE
- FLAT ROOFS FELT & FIBREGLASS
- CHIMNEY POINTING & LEAD WORK
- GUTTERS - FASCIAS & SOFFITS
- DRY RIDGE & VERGE
- VELUX WINDOWS & SUN TUNNELS
- FULLY INSURED COMPANY
- FREE WRITTEN ESTIMATES
- ALL WORK GUARANTEED
- APPROVED BY BUSINESS  
SAFETY STANDARDS



0191 280 9566 • 07891 086 157  
[JKROOFINGLTD@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:JKROOFINGLTD@HOTMAIL.COM)

[JKROOFINGSPECIALIST.CO.UK](http://JKROOFINGSPECIALIST.CO.UK)

TYNEDALE  
HOSPICE  
AT HOME

## Bereavement Café

Merton Hall, Ponteland, NE20 9PX

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month



10am -  
12pm

Come and join us in a safe and welcoming space to talk freely (or just listen) to others who have experienced the death of a loved one.

For more information:



ring: 01434 600384

Charity Number: 1034170, Company Number: 02870776

*Local Property Experts*



## HELPING MORE PEOPLE MOVE IN NE20

Best Estate Agent in Northumberland 2022 - ESTAS  
Contact us today for an expert valuation, with no obligation.