

# pontnews&views

**FREE** monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



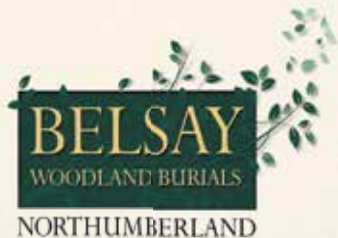
Club fields first women's team in 143 years

Village hall refurbishment 'on a roll'

Coronation celebrations fit for a King

PLUS...all your Easter church services

**Jevindu's  
pictures at an  
exhibition**



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# Pyjama party for World Book Day

Always an annual favourite, children at Ponteland Community Primary School had great fun dressing up for World Book Day.

The celebrations started early with two masked reader videos released each morning on the run up to the day, with the children guessing which teacher was reading their favourite poem.

On World Book Day itself children and staff came dressed in their pyjamas for the Bedtime Stories theme. Parents were also invited into school for 'Brunch and Read' where children were able to read stories to their parents whilst having breakfast together.

The day continued with a whole school house quiz and a book swap where children could bring in books from home and swap them with their friends. Year 3 and Year 6 children whose poems have been published by the Big Green Poetry Machine were also praised during assembly.

The school thanked everyone who helped to make the day so special, including housebuilder Story Homes which donated £250 worth of books for the school's Oxford Reading Scheme.

Photos by Barry Pells.



# Easter fun for all the family

Children of all ages are invited to join in the annual Easter Trail organised by Ponteland Town Council.

This year's event – looking for 15 Easter pictures hidden in Ponteland Park – will take place from 11am on Easter Saturday, April 8, with the last entry at 12noon. Everyone who hands in a completed sheet will receive a small gift.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The completed forms will be entered into two categories – one for children aged seven and under and one for children aged over seven.

A winner and two runners-up from each group will be drawn out of a hat at the Town Council offices on Tuesday April 11, with gifts of large Easter eggs for the six prize-winners. Winners will be notified by phone to collect their prizes.

Entry sheets will be available at the park entrance next to Waitrose - look for the Ponteland Town Council gazebo. Everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments in Merton Hall from 11am.

So come along on Easter Saturday and enjoy the fun!



Jessica Eyre-Tanner and children Mina and Raife at last year's Easter trail. Photo by Barry Pells.

## 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.

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## Young artist holds first exhibition – aged four

**Caring Jevindu Sanyuth Dissanayake held his first art exhibition at the tender age of four to help raise funds for a specialist wheelchair for a family friend.**

The talented young artist displayed his artwork at Ponteland's Café by Design on Sunday March 26 to support the appeal for Freddie Tanner-Boyer.

The five-year-old, from Greenside in Gateshead, has spinal muscular atrophy and, unable to walk, he needs an electric wheelchair as he struggles outside with his manual chair.

Family and friends have launched a fundraising drive to enable the purchase of a Trekkinetic all-terrain chair which would allow Freddie to explore and join in with his friends on days out to places like the beach and forest school. But at a cost of nearly £15,000, it is not funded by the NHS.

Jevindu's mum Chapa, a hospital doctor, is friends with Freddie's mum Stephanie, a staff nurse she met when working in neurosurgery.

She said: "Freddie was just two when he was given the diagnosis and it was heart-breaking. Jevindu was the one who asked me whether he could help Freddie with his paintings.

"He is a very kind innocent little boy with nature-blessed wisdom far beyond his age. He once told me he wants every child to have everything like him. I am so proud of him being so generous and kind."

The Darras Hall Primary School pupil's Kumon instructor Magdalena Gajos-Docherty kindly offered her café as a venue for the exhibition for his paintings, with all ticket sales going to Freddie's GoFundMe appeal.

Jevindu, of Dinnington, started painting aged two with a sponge and is now experimenting with brushes and pallets and already has designs on selling his nature-based artwork in future.

Chapa, a keen artist herself, added: "His skills and talent

are way beyond mine and I get surprised with each of his paintings. His colour combinations are way beyond his age and it's a delight to watch him paint."

Donations can be made to Freddie's GoFundMe appeal at [gofundme.com/f/30-days-for-freddie](https://gofundme.com/f/30-days-for-freddie).

Photos by Barry Pells.

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# Group completes second tree planting project

A newly formed environmental group has completed its second tree planting project.

Ponteland Action Group for the Environment (PAGE) and Rotary Ponteland have placed a new silver birch tree in the centre of the roundabout at the end of Rotary Way.

The tree, which was supplied by Wylam Nursery, follows the planting of two flowering cherry trees at the entrance to Station Cottages in Darras Hall in December.

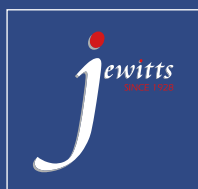
Peter Lowry, Chair of PAGE, said: "PAGE has a ten-year plan to tackle environmental issues in Ponteland and the addition of this tree is part of a grand plan to carry out further tree planting. We are working with the Town Council and with Northumberland County Council on this important work.

"We next intend to plant around 50 trees at the western end of Rotary Way. We are also planning to talk with the Town Council about a possible planting programme in Ponteland Park. This may be small beginnings alongside our other environmental activities but we feel that we are making an impact."

The plan also encourages 'wild corners' in industrial and domestic garden areas, support for local wildlife groups and schools, and regular litter picks. Find the group's Facebook page at [PontelandActionGroupForTheEnvironment](https://www.facebook.com/PontelandActionGroupForTheEnvironment).



Ponteland Rotary Senior Vice-President Peter Tincombe with the new silver birch tree.



## COACH TOURS 2023



**12th - 14th May** (3 days)  
Stratford-upon-Avon & The Malvern Flower Show

**22nd - 26th May** (5 days)  
Bath, Weston-super-Mare & The Cheddar Gorge

**25th June - 2nd July** (8 days) **NEW TOUR**  
Charming Jersey

**21st - 23rd July** (3 days)  
Tatton Park & RHS Bridgewater

**31st July - 4th August** (5 days) **FULLY BOOKED**  
Isle of Bute, Isle of Arran & Loch Lomond

**13th - 18th August** (6 days)  
Bournemouth & The New Forest

**22nd - 23rd August** (2 days) **FULLY BOOKED**  
The Edinburgh Tattoo

**13th - 19th September** (7 days) **FULLY BOOKED**  
Isle of Wight Delights

**1st - 6th October** (6 days)  
The Delights of Donegal & The Wild Atlantic Way

**20th - 23rd October** (4 days)  
Enchanted Forest & Pitlochry

**10th - 12th November** (3 days)  
Christmas at Chatsworth House

**21st - 23rd November** (3 days)  
Thursford Christmas Spectacular

**26th - 28th November** (2 days) **NEW TOUR**  
Chester Christmas Markets & Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet

**10th - 11th December** (2 days) **NEW TOUR**  
Lincoln Christmas Markets

**15th - 19th December** (5 days)  
Holly & Mistletoe festive break Llandudno

**21st - 23rd December** (3 days)  
Christmas Carols at the Royal Albert Hall

For further information please contact us on **01434 681 325** or email [helen.jewitt@jewittscoaches.co.uk](mailto:helen.jewitt@jewittscoaches.co.uk).  
More details can also be found at [jewittscoaches.co.uk](https://www.jewittscoaches.co.uk). **Day tours available now!**

# Celebrations fit for a King

Ponteland is planning its celebrations to mark the coronation of King Charles III next month.

Plans for street parties, afternoon teas, competitions and crafts have already been announced by many organisations.

The Events Committee of Ponteland Town Council has been busy making plans to celebrate the first coronation most of us will have experienced, which will bring an extra bank holiday on Monday, May 8.

Ponteland will look bright and beautiful for the weekend, with floral displays and bunting, while the popular shop window displays competition which the Council sponsored for last year's Platinum Jubilee is being repeated for the coronation.

Shops and businesses are being asked to decorate their windows, with a £200 prize for the best in each of three areas - on Main Street and Bell Villas; in Merton Way, Ponteland; and on Broadway, Darras Hall.

Displays should be on show on or before Monday May 1 and remain in place until or after Tuesday May 9. They will be judged by a team from Ponteland Town Council on Tuesday May 2. Shops and businesses taking part are asked to confirm their participation before Thursday April 27 by email to [enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk).

As with all events, the Town Council is keen to involve all age



The floral display on Coates Green for the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

groups. A competition for schoolchildren to design a poster with a coronation theme has been announced to the four junior schools in Ponteland and Darras Hall. Details of a fun 'Spot the Crowns' trail around the area will also be available on the Town Council website and notice boards.

Last year, the Town Council handed out grants totalling £1,750 to groups, organisations and care homes for street parties, afternoon teas and other celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. Grants of between £25 and £100 are also available this year to celebrate the Coronation. Please apply to the Town Council by April 15.

## ADVERTISING FEATURE

### Data gathering – the next step after choosing your financial planner

By David Lamb CFP™ MCSI



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The easiest data to gather is the quantitative data, (the facts) which will include income and expenditure, assets and liabilities, along with details of your will, if you have one. Family details are essential.

To save time it is usually easier to give your planner account numbers for all your financial products. They can then provide you with a letter of authority to allow the providers (investment or insurance companies) to give them all the information they require. Mortgage providers are likely to charge for this, so best dig out your latest mortgage statement.

Contact details for other advisers such as your accountant and solicitor are helpful because your planner may need to work as a team with fellow professional advisers when tax or estate planning.

These quantitative hard facts are essential but qualitative, soft data is also vital to help you achieve your aims and objectives. This information is usually best discovered in a conversation with you.

This could include questions to help your adviser understand your current and desired lifestyles, your expectations for retirement and plans for your family such as funding children's weddings and house deposits.

It is not uncommon for clients to have given little thought to these questions and therefore to not have a clear vision of what they want.

With more than 30 years as a financial adviser my experience suggests that

many clients don't know what they want, but they do know what they don't want, which is anything less than they have now.

We have some free resources on our website at [lambfinancial.co.uk](http://lambfinancial.co.uk) which ask you questions you may not realise you need to know the answers to - and to help you quantify your lifestyle and identify areas for improvement.

Once this data has been collated and analysed your planner can then build cashflow projections based on your current position, showing where you are heading without any planning.

They should also compile what is basically a set of accounts, detailing your income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, along with inheritance tax calculations. Before they do all this though, you all need to understand and agree the assumptions made in these calculations.

More on this in next month's column.

# Hall refurbishment plans 'on a roll'

Plans to refurbish and revitalise Dalton Village Hall for its second century are 'on a roll'.

That's the upbeat assessment of its new committee, which is aiming to restore the venue's former status as a vibrant community hub.

The original hall opened in 1921 was located in an old mill and, after the land was gifted from the Church Commissioners, the current hall was built in 1964. Nearly six decades later the trustees, who included committee members who oversaw the build, launched a successful campaign for new trustees.

Paula Hartford, one of the four new trustees from Medburn, said: "The new committee has a plan to bring the hall up to date and so far the hall floors have been sanded, redecoration to the main hall, new electrics, deep cleaning and new blinds for all windows - so we are on a roll!

"The next projects are to get more power to the hall at a cost of £9,500, the kitchen upgraded, extension of toilets and car park upgrading.



"The activities we have on offer at present are pilates (run by a lady from Medburn), croquet club and dance classes. A new baby and toddler massage and sensory group will be starting in September.

"We have received grants from Ponteland Town Council (£1,500) which we will use to get equipment for the kitchen, and a stay and play grant (£500) to start a drop in playgroup, which we

desperately need people to help set up.

"Our overall aim for the hall is to make it a community hub as it used to be, with quiz nights, cheese and wine nights, children's parties, band practice area and supplying refreshments for passing cyclists and people from the surrounding area on a weekend."

The next event is a quiz night on Friday May 12. For more information contact the hall at [villagehall4dem@gmail.com](mailto:villagehall4dem@gmail.com).

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# Your letters

Another call to move the location of a proposed sports clubhouse and a tribute to popular taxi driver Fred Davies in this month's letters...

## Proposed sports clubhouse needs different site

I write in response to John Hague's letter in the March edition 'County council should fund clubhouse on old playing fields'.

I endorse his view that while a location near Mayfair Gardens is entirely the wrong place for a sports clubhouse, the opposite end of the school by the new fire station would be very suitable.

I welcome the news of a 'full planning application' for a clubhouse this year. It would be good to be able to support good sports facilities for the people of Ponteland. However, to be successful the application needs to be for a clubhouse and playing fields near the new fire station, not near Mayfair Gardens.

No-one wants to be caught between the desire for good local sports facilities and a planning application with an unsuitable place that destroys the environment. The application should aim to build trust by being worthwhile for all of the community.

No doubt administrative work will be required to cope with the Community Asset Transfer, re-arrangement of playing fields between schools and clubs, etc. But it must not become an excuse for building a clubhouse in the wrong place.

Regarding the article 'Clubs to press ahead with clubhouse scheme despite planning setback', also in the March edition, 'Consulting with those affected by an application' - in this case the residents of Mayfair Gardens - is a well-known ploy for getting round objections to a planning application. We should not be fobbed off by this.

It is disheartening to read the (Ponteland county councillor's) comment 'Ponteland probably has more trees per head than any other town' after the town has lost such a huge number of trees in the last 20 years or so, especially when having more trees is considered important in protecting the environment.

Moreover, replacing mature trees with a larger number of saplings cannot be justified since it takes decades for the same amount of carbon capture, moisture absorption and wildlife support to be achieved that the fewer mature trees already provide.

**David Livingstone**  
Moor Lane, Darras Hall

## Fantastic Fred

Regarding the article 'Tributes paid to a true gentleman' in your March issue (about the sudden death of popular taxi driver Fred Davies) I'd like to pay one of my own.

Fred spent his younger life together at home with his siblings, then was taken in by his grandparents. He loved his grandmother and wore her wedding ring on a chain around his neck.

He attended mass every Sunday at St Dominic's Church in Newcastle.

My brother and I are devastated at his death. We'd been good friends for 12 years and can't imagine our lives without him.

He sat with me in ICU all morning when Tony was ill and took me up in the lift at the Freeman; I don't like lifts.

Recently I was moving house - Fred came with me to view it and when I got the keys also arranged the carpet fitting and helped me choose it.

On the Sunday afternoon before he died, together with Pauline (Fred's close friend and business partner) and myself, we took bits and bobs over to the new house and he was the first to have coffee there.

Fred was arranging the house move on the Monday.

He rang Sunday evening to tell me to go to bed soon and would see me Monday.

Fred we love and miss you loads. Life is so empty without you. Thanks for everything.

**Mrs Pat Muse**  
The Cottages, Ponteland

## Tributes paid to 'a true gentleman'

Tributes have been paid to a popular Ponteland private hire operator who has died suddenly aged 68.

Fred Davies had run J&F Cabs for 35 years and had been running through the local area for his entire career with a smile.

He is believed to have suffered a massive heart attack at his home in Mayfair Edge on January 30, having previously enjoyed good health.

Comments on local social media following the announcement of the sudden death of Fred Davies portrayed a well-loved and respected member of the community.

Jays Matthews wrote: "We are absolutely heartbroken to hear of Fred's passing. He had a true gentleman's spirit."

Dennis Foster said: "I loved the man. Being picked up by him was a joy. He was a true gentleman."

And James J. O'Brien wrote: "We were absolutely devastated when we got the news. I can't believe he's gone. He was a true gentleman."

Pauline Davies wrote: "Fred was a true gentleman. He was a true gentleman."

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Pauline Davies

## Date announced for dog festival

Organisers of a popular canine gathering at Kilday Hall have announced the date for this year's event.

The Kilday Hall Dog Festival will return on Saturday and Sunday, September 2 to 3 to the beautiful grounds and facilities of Kilday Hall.

This year the festival will move to a new larger site, where dogs will be able to play and enjoy the facilities from 10am to 4pm. The festival will be open to all dogs, regardless of breed or size.

For more information, please visit [www.kildayhall.co.uk](http://www.kildayhall.co.uk) or contact the organisers on 01930 210000.

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# What's on...

## North East of England Alpine Group

Our Spring Show and Plant Fair is being held on Saturday April 1 at Hexham Auction Mart. Plant sales 10am till 3pm. Show opens approx 11am. Admission £3.

## Ponteland WI

We are hosting a coffee morning on Saturday April 1 in Merton Hall at 10.30am, when all visitors are most welcome. There will be various stalls and a raffle. Entry costing £2 includes coffee and a scone. Our monthly meeting will be on Tuesday April 11 at 2pm in Merton Hall with entertainment by Victoria Molnar who will be taking us on 'An Accordion Adventure'. Join us for lunch at Plants Plus on the first Monday each month at 12.30pm - all welcome.

## Ponteland Wildlife Talks

On Tuesday April 4 at 7.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre, Ian Beddison will present 'First Steps With Eight Legs, an Introduction to Spiders and Harvestmen'. Entry cost £2 includes refreshments. This is the last talk of the present season. Talks resume on Tuesday September 5 with a talk about Harvest Mice.

## 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 on April 5 – Veteran Tree Project – Northumberland by Nick Johnson and May 3 – The Magic of Morocco by Kath and Harry Gilbert. 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 April 10 at 2.30pm we have David Faulkner speaking on 'The 1929 North East Coast Exhibition' at St Mary's Parish Centre.

## Ponteland Village WI

The Return of the Red Kite will be the subject of our talk on Tuesday April 11 at 7.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre. We meet monthly and 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 & Flower Club

We next meet on Wednesday April 12 at 2pm at Ponteland CIU Club. Demonstrator Ann Simpson's topic will be 'Willow, Wood & Wine'. Visitors welcome £7. Refreshments are available in the bar.

## Plant Heritage North East Group

Our next meeting is at Ponteland Memorial Hall on April 15 at 2.30pm when speaker Helen Chen will be talking about 'Asian Woodland Plants' and bringing plants for sale. Raffle and refreshments available. Visitors welcome £5. Contact [pat.skews@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.skews@btinternet.com) for further information.

## Ponteland Local History Society

On Thursday April 20 Michael Thomson will give his talk 'Bede: More than a footnote in history' at 7.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre. Visitors welcome - £2.

## Ponteland Friendly Stitchers

Our next meeting will be on Monday April 24 from 2pm to 4pm at St Mary's Parish Centre, when Ruth Wadey will lead a workshop on Stumpwork. Visitors are welcome - fee £5. Contact: [emmadenham52@gmail.com](mailto:emmadenham52@gmail.com).

## Ponteland Methodist Church Annual Plant Sale

Ponteland Methodist Church welcomes you to our annual plant sale on Saturday May 20 at 10am. Refreshments will also be available.

## Ponteland Friendship Group

Age UK Northumberland's Ponteland Friendship Group is held each Wednesday from 10.30am to 12noon at St Mary's Parish Centre. It offers a chance for older people in the area to get together and enjoy activities including board games, arts and crafts, music and a nice cuppa and a chat.

## 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 now meet every Monday from 11am to 1pm at Ponteland Social Club in Merton Way.

## Creative Writing Classes

Places currently available for one or two new members; beginners and more experienced writers are equally welcome. 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 Ponteland and Dinnington. Email [Claire@claire276.plus.com](mailto:Claire@claire276.plus.com) for more information or to arrange a free taster session.

## Ponteland Methodist Church

Sunday worship 10am and 6.30pm. First Sunday each month Bouncy Church 9am onwards - lovely breakfast, bouncy castle, crafts, all age short service 9.40am in addition to normal church service. Monday - 1pm to 4pm 'Open Door' friendship café/warm space. Tuesday - Boys Brigade with Girls' Association. Thursday - Toddlers, Men's Forum, Women Together. Saturday - walking group and Coffee Shop Strollers. Room hire: contact [anncooperx@gmail.com](mailto:anncooperx@gmail.com) or call 01661 613502. For Minister Rev Jona Sewell email [revjsewell@gmail.com](mailto:revjsewell@gmail.com) or call 01661 822057.

## Line dancing

We meet on Wednesdays at 6.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre where we have lots of laughs, friendship and exercise to music. The cost is £3 per session. Dancing is at beginner and intermediate level. New dancers are always welcome. Free taster session offered. Contact Rosemary Gray (01661) 822493.

## Ponteland Ukulele Band

We are a friendly group of mixed ability ukulele players and meet every Tuesday at the CIU Club from 1pm to 3pm. New members welcome.

# The mystery of the empty tomb

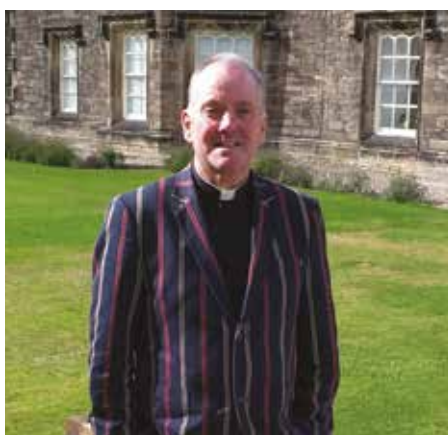
By Revd. Captain Paul Allinson, Vicar of Ponteland

I love a good murder mystery and am particularly fond of Agatha Christie and her famous character "Miss Marple."

I have often wondered if we are inclined towards approaching the story of the death and resurrection of Christ as though it were a crime novel.

The Church, the gatekeeper of the event, focuses on a plot and a story. We forensically pick over the details of who did what and when. As we contemplate the Holy Week and Easter narrative year on year, we gradually build up layers of potential meaning and meanings, glimpses of possible implications and an affinity of dislike for some of the characters and their actions. And yes, there is a cruel and bloody death.

Theologians have built up an understanding that when Christ descended into hell, he went there to triumph over it and so release all those imprisoned. We call it the 'harrowing of



hell', from the old English word, to harrow or despoil. The resurrection of Jesus then becomes the final moments of his rise from hell and his bursting from the tomb as the all-conquering hero who has even defeated death itself.

Yet nowhere in the Bible do we find stories of the risen Lord after the resurrection acting like a triumphant hero. Jesus appears in stories where all the

crowds have gone. The public stage has gone. These are stories of Jesus talking to individuals. Stories of Jesus in private rooms, on a deserted beach and on a road.

This is not the story of a warrior hero who has conquered death, hell and sin. This is a narrative of love-unconditional, uncontrollable, unassuming love. Love which led Christ to spend time after his death and resurrection with his friends, comforting them and giving them a sense of hope and of purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit, that would sustain them in all that life held for them in the future as witnesses to the Risen Lord.

This is a multifaceted mystery that has such dramatic twists and plots that it even outshines the ingenuity of Agatha Christie and is no act of fiction but fact.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

**Happy Easter.**

## Easter church services

The Ponteland churches wish you a peaceful and joyous Easter.

### St. Mary the Virgin, Ponteland

#### Palm Sunday April 2

8am Holy Communion & Blessing of Palm

10am Parish Eucharist & and Blessing of Palms

#### Holy Monday April 3

7pm Compline and Reflection

#### Holy Tuesday April 4

7pm Compline and Reflection

#### Holy Wednesday April 5

10am Holy Communion

7pm Choral Compline and Reflection

#### Maundy Thursday April 6

7pm Holy Communion followed by stripping of the Altar & Vigil

#### Good Friday April 7

10.30am The Proclamation of the Cross

#### Holy Saturday April 8

7pm Vigil Service of Light & Music. He is Risen!

#### Easter Sunday April 9

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

### Holy Saviour, Milbourne

#### Palm Sunday April 2

11.15am Holy Communion and Blessing of Palms

#### Easter Sunday April 9

11.15am Holy Communion

### Methodist Church, Milbourne

#### Good Friday April 7

7pm Evening Service

#### Easter Sunday April 9

6.30pm Holy Communion

### Methodist Church, Ponteland

#### Palm Sunday April 2

9am Bouncy Church

#### Maundy Thursday April 6

7pm Upper Room Service

#### Good Friday April 7

10am Good Friday Service

#### Easter Sunday April 9

10am and 6.30pm Easter Celebration

### St Matthew's RC Church, Ponteland

#### Palm Sunday April 2

10am Service

#### Holy Thursday April 6

7pm Service

#### Good Friday April 7

3pm Service

#### Holy Saturday April 8

4.30pm Service at St Mark's Church, Westerhope

#### Easter Sunday April 9

10am Service

### Coates Green, Ponteland

#### Good Friday April 7

11.15am Raising of the Cross

*Refreshments in the Methodist Church Hall after the service*

**You are warmly invited to any of these services.**

# Litterbugs rubbished by environmental campaigners

Environmentally conscious volunteers collected 20 bags of rubbish in a litter picking day in Darras Hall.

The family event on Sunday March 12 was coordinated by countryside charity Campaign to Protect Rural England's Northumberland branch, Ponteland Action Group for the Environment and Ponteland Rotary.

Volunteers were supported with equipment from Ponteland Town Council and black sacks and recycling bags from Northumberland County Council for the clean-up in the Bridleway area near Broadway.

CPRE committee member Jane Hodson-Hamilton, who helped to set up the event, said: "The problem with litter spoiling our countryside and endangering our wildlife feels overwhelming.

"Litter picking is just dealing with the symptoms, not the real cause of the problem, but I hope that by removing the litter from part of our area it will act as a deterrent to those who drop litter and restore a sense of pride in where we live.

"It's so sad to see litter everywhere but



we can try and make a small difference until the causes of this antisocial behaviour can be addressed with a complete change of attitude to our endangered environment."

Included in the 20 bags of rubbish collected were four buckets of glass bottles, two bags of plastic bottles and cans, a pile of ecigarettes, a bundle of charity bags and a number of face masks – all recyclable.

It is hoped that Darras Hall and Ponteland residents can set up a community litter picking group with regular litter picking activities.

The next community litter pick will be the Ponteland Rotary biannual event on Sunday April 2. To register and for more information email [info@rotaryponteland.org.uk](mailto:info@rotaryponteland.org.uk).

## Hats & Glad Rags



Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm.

Other days or times are available by prior arrangement - please call **Patricia** on **01434 609946**.

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# Club to field first women's team

**Ponteland Cricket Club is to launch a women's team – the first in its 143-year history.**

The club, which is based at the new leisure centre, ran a few taster sessions towards the end of last season which proved very popular. A team was formed, led by experienced player Vicki Martin as Head of Women's Cricket.

The team has been playing throughout the winter in an indoor league and has enjoyed early success, winning several matches. The club plans to develop this once the season starts and enter a team in the Northumberland Ladies Softball League.

Club Chairman Andy Morgan said: "We are absolutely delighted to be giving local girls and women the opportunity to enjoy playing regular cricket. There is a huge amount of interest in women's cricket, with the England Women's



Cricket Team doing particularly well.

"New members are very welcome. There is no requirement to have played cricket previously. There will be weekly training/

practice sessions on Friday evenings throughout the summer and the emphasis will be to make it as enjoyable as possible."

Anyone interested in playing should contact Andy at [andrewmorgan73@live.uk](mailto:andrewmorgan73@live.uk) or Vicki Martin at [vicjmt@hotmail.com](mailto:vicjmt@hotmail.com).

**Free taster sessions in April & May**



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**Saturday 27th May at 2.30pm**

To book please

call us: - (07940) 923286

Email: - [pontelandbowls@gmail.com](mailto:pontelandbowls@gmail.com)

or just turn up on the day

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

# Fresh poppy appeal

A fresh appeal has been launched for knitted and crocheted poppies for this year's Remembrance display.

Staff and councillors at Ponteland Town Council have already started work on a new display after the arrival of the first knitted and crocheted poppies at the council offices following an initial appeal in January.

But more are needed, so the Council is asking people to get out those knitting needles and crochet hooks.

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 in storage and will be brought out again in November alongside the new display, to be created close to the Pele Tower.

Coun Karen Overbury, who helps to organise Remembrance events in the village, said: "Having seen the simple yet striking giant poppies, we are sure that even more people will want to get involved. We are asking people to get knitting and crocheting and deliver their completed poppies to the Town Council offices."

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



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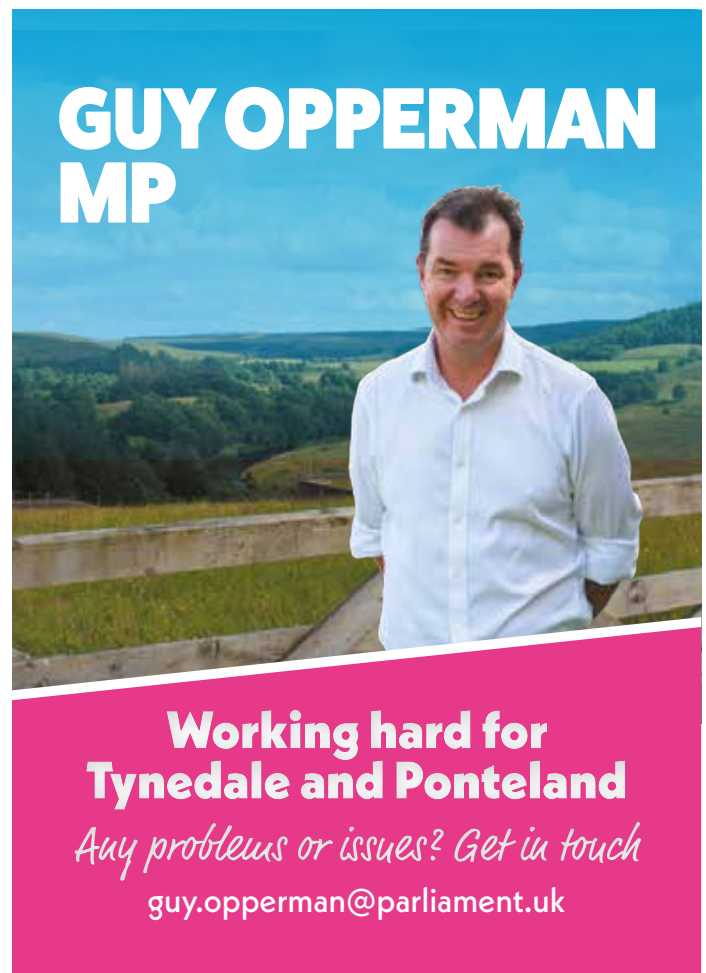
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