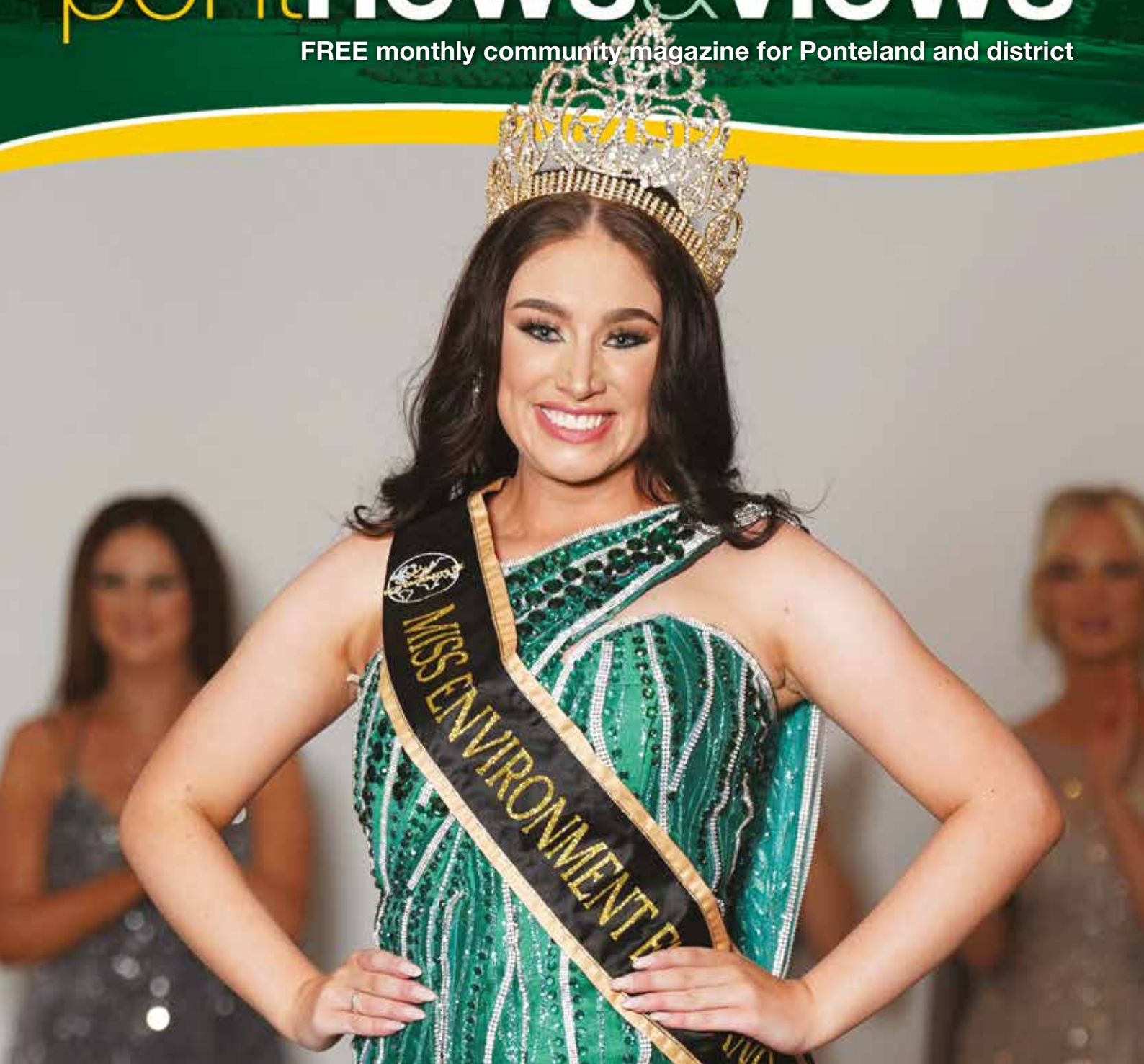


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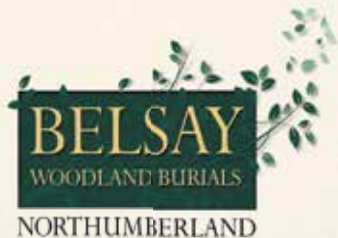


Joint receiver appointed
to sell Dissington Estate

New PC to launch
resident drop-in surgeries

Dogs, ducks and dahlias
in trio of events

Juliette to represent England after latest pageant win



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Ponteland Mayor Karen Overbury with centenarian Christine Robson.



Centenarian Christine gets the VIP treatment

A card from the King, a visit from the Mayor and entertainment from flapper girls to hippies – centenarian Christine Robson certainly got the VIP treatment on her big day.

Staff at the Royal Hampton in Meadowfield, Ponteland, dressed in outfits from periods throughout her life – including the flapper girls of the 1920s, the land girls of the 1940s and hippies from the 1960s and 70s – as they sang and danced.

Christine was born in August 1923 in York and worked as a food distributor for the Ministry of Food during World War Two, later becoming a dog groomer – a profession she held until her retirement.

She met husband Keith aged 27, marrying in 1949. Keith was a coal exporter and the couple moved to Ponteland in the late-1950s when he was relocated with work.

They had two sons, Chris and Tony, and two grandsons Tony and Andy. Sadly, Keith and son Tony have passed away.

Christine, who became a resident at Royal Hampton last October, enjoys flower arranging. When she was more active, she loved playing tennis at the Memorial Hall and socialising with her friends in Darras Hall, playing bridge. Christine was also a keen gardener, tending to her large garden at home.

Ponteland Mayor Karen Overbury joined in the celebrations and brought Christine a beautiful bouquet of flowers on behalf of the people of Ponteland. Both Christine and her family said they were “overwhelmed” with Coun Overbury’s visit and Christine was particularly fascinated by the Mayor’s ‘Civic Regalia’.

Happy 100th birthday Christine!



New local PC to set up drop-in surgeries

By PC Cameron Makepeace, Ponteland Neighbourhood Policing Team

I would like to introduce myself to readers as your new local neighbourhood Police Officer. I take over the role from PC Graham Harbottle, who has moved on to pastures new and I wish him well in his new role.

Having worked as part of the Response Policing Team covering Northumberland, including Ponteland, for the last four years, some of you may have already met me but I am looking forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.

I am eager to hear the issues that you are experiencing and doing all I can to continue to make Ponteland a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

I will be looking to set up drop-in surgeries over the coming months to give residents an opportunity to speak with me in person. Dates and locations will be published in future editions.

As the summer holidays are ending, I am keen on re-establishing the links with local schools in our area. I will be looking to find time to visit local schools and speak with pupils and staff as the new school year begins.

I believe it is important that schools who teach children of all ages have a good working relationship with their local Police Officer. If any readers work in any school or education facility in our area and would like me to make contact and pay them a visit, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me through the force website or the email address below.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen

an increase in reports of thefts involving vehicles in the area. Thieves will always seize any opportunity where they find unlocked vehicles or vehicles with valuable items on show.

I would urge everyone to ensure they leave their vehicles secure and do not leave valuable items on show. Anyone who notices suspicious activity should report it via 101, 999 in an emergency or using the Northumbria Police website.

Readers can contact me through Northumbria Police's local neighbourhood policing team mailbox at the following address: easttynedale.npt@northumbria.police.uk.

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"In order that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

Joint receiver takes control of Dissington Estate

A joint receiver has been appointed for a 2,500-acre estate on the edge of Ponteland which was the subject of hugely controversial plans for a garden village scheme.

In what is one of the UK's largest ever receivership appointments, Watling Real Estate is taking control of the Dissington Estate and assessing all disposal options.

The estate includes three large farms, three farm smallholdings, neighbouring woodland, a fishing pond and a number of residential properties.

Andrew Foster, joint receiver and managing director at Watling Real Estate's Leeds office, said: "The Dissington Estate extends to a total of some 2,523 acres, which is one of the largest ever – if not the largest ever – receivership appointments ever to have been made in the UK.

"We will now be taking control of the land and undertaking a detailed fact-finding operation, assessing all disposal options and implementing the optimum



strategy to realise best value.

"This could be an outright sale of the whole property, or we may well end up splitting the estate into various lots to maximise its value."

The majority of the estate is currently let out as working farms, with residential buildings alongside a range of neighbouring barns, stables, workshops, storage rooms and other outbuildings.

It was first put up for sale for £27.5m in 2019, following a bid by former owners

Lugano to create a garden village on the land, with more than 2,000 homes and other facilities, which was initially supported in principle by the then Labour-led Northumberland County Council.

A change in the administration at County Hall in May 2017 led to a major rethink and a fallout with Lugano which ended up in High Court writs being served, which were later dropped after the application was withdrawn from the planning committee agenda in January 2019.

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Brother's dementia inspires charity coastal walk

The sadness of seeing a sibling's fast developing dementia has inspired a retired Ponteland bookkeeper to complete a challenging charity walk in North Yorkshire.

Janet Cusworth was joined for the 13.5-mile return trek from Whitby to Robin Hood's Bay by her daughter Helen, 37, a Technical Training Instructor who now lives in Hampshire.

The 70-year-old, of Middle Drive, Darras Hall, explained: "My brother Colin Sherwood developed dementia during the Covid lockdown when he lived alone. He became very anxious and by September last year he was unable to cope with the simple tasks necessary to live on his own.

"Colin is only 74, but the dementia developed so quickly he had very little treatment before his ability to cope with life was seriously affected."

Colin's children live in London, Canada and Australia, so he moved into residential care, initially in York where he then lived. Due to the distance from his sister he has since moved into care in Westerhope.

Janet added: "Dementia is affecting far too many people and charities like the Alzheimer's Society need support to provide support and push forward research. Dementia can only be effectively treated at the very early stages, and most sufferers have not even been formally diagnosed at this point so miss out on any chance of useful treatment."

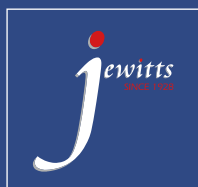
The mother and daughter, who chose North Yorkshire because Janet and Colin's parents met in Harrogate during the war and gave their children many happy family holidays in Yorkshire, have raised more than £1,450 for the Alzheimer's Society which organised the walk.

Janet and Helen celebrate at the finish line.



Janet said: "I had never felt I could walk that distance. So it was a personal challenge to get fitter and we started straight away walking several miles a day with our Border Collie Max, gradually building up the miles.

"We completed the 13.5 miles in six hours (including a lunch stop). I struggled up the steep, short hills but was encouraged by others taking part and when I reached the finishing line I was surprised at how fresh I still felt."



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29th to 31st May (3 days)
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21st to 23rd June (3 days)
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8th to 11th July (4 days)
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League winning sports team wants to net new players

A newly formed sports team which recently celebrated a league victory is looking to net new players.

Ponteland Ladies Netball Team, which was formed after Covid and won the Northumberland League Division 3 in July, hopes to attract ladies aged over 18 to join.

The club meets for training on Monday evenings from 8pm to 9pm at the sports



hall at Ponteland Community Primary School (through the gates and take a right before the football pitches).

Look for Ponteland Netball Club on the session finder at englandnetball.co.uk/session-finder.

Patients invited to give virtual feedback on practice's services

Patients at White Medical Group in Ponteland are being invited to offer feedback on its services by joining a support group.

The West Northumberland Primary Care Network, a collaboration of 12 GP practices, operates a Patient Support Group to provide a patient perspective on proposed changes to services and by suggesting improvements to existing services they and their families receive.

Members of the Patient Group are also able to contribute to action plans and help monitor improvements.

The recruitment drive is particularly aimed at attracting additional 'virtual' members to join the group, who can be as much or as little involved as they would like - or time allows. Being involved generally only requires two to three hours per month.

Participation is mainly via email and the virtual members can also attend quarterly online (Virtual) Patient Group meetings via Microsoft Teams.

Applications are welcomed from anyone aged 16+. For more information email nencib-nor.westnorthumberlandpcn@nhs.net or visit their Facebook Page.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The review: the financial planning equivalent of satnav

By David Lamb CFP™ MCSI

I ended last month's column by saying you could sit back and relax for 12 months on completion of the implementation stage of your financial plan. After this first year the next stage is your initial review.

A financial plan is always work in progress and one of the worst things a financial planner can do for their clients is not to provide regular reviews.

Nowadays, most cars have a satnav, which constantly reviews your progress towards your destination. If you take a wrong turn, it will warn you and advise you how to get back to your planned route.

Your financial review is your 'moneynav' and should include:

- **Your objectives** - What have you achieved? Are there any new objectives we need to plan for?
- **Current position** - What has changed since the last version of

the plan? Income, expenditure assets and liabilities statements should be updated.

- **Investments** - Are adjustments to take into consideration revised objectives? If still accumulating wealth, are the investments on target to achieve 'Enough'? If decumulating, and you are never going to run out of money, how are the investments performing against inflation? For both scenarios, do we need to make some amendments? Different asset classes perform in different ways; does your portfolio still match your investment risk profile? If not, we may need to rebalance to the 'shape' of your original portfolio (all our clients are automatically rebalanced once a year, at no charge).
- **Estate planning** - Have there been changes within your family, or with legislation that we need to consider?
- **Assumptions** - Do these need adjusting to adapt to your changing circumstances or the economic environment? At present, inflation springs to mind!

- **Taxation and legislation** - Are there any changes that we need to consider? Recent changes to capital gains tax and pensions have made some clients change their strategy.

Your review is not just about looking back, it's also about planning going forward; what are you going to do next?

In some instances, there may be significant changes where a completely new financial plan may be required. But usually the existing plan can be updated and amended.

My favourite part of the review is catching up with the progress of our client's bucket lists. We have some lovely photos in our office from clients who have been ticking off their lists, including watching orangutans in Borneo, Route 66 on a Harley Davidson, wild camping and the results of some fantastic charitable donations.

Just remember though, financial planning is like exercise; you can't go to the gym once and be fit for life, you must keep going!



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Environmental campaign secures latest beauty crown

Ponteland beauty queen Juliette Taylor has added the Miss Environment England crown to her impressive list of pageant successes.

The 21-year-old dance teacher has raised more than £15,000 for various charities since winning her first title – Junior Teen at the Royal UK Miss competition – back in 2016. Others have included Royal International Miss International Role Model in 2017.

Juliette secured her latest win on August 5 at a glittering event organised by Eco Pageants UK held at Hilton East Midlands Airport, where she also took the best in swimwear, best in evening gown and Eco Ambassador awards.

In the run up to this pageant she raised nearly £900 for Daisy Chain North East and Flora and Fauna International via photo shoots at Joe Laws photography studio in Newburn, a Party in the Park stall, raffles and a sponsored 100-mile walking challenge.

Juliette also encouraged more than 100 people in the UK,

New Zealand and USA to join her environmental drive which included litter picking and second hand clothes shopping. The recording of a song promoting a positive environmental message with local primary school children and members of Jill Errington Theatre School is also planned.

Juliette will be travelling to the Miss Environment International 2024 competition to compete against women from all around the world, at a location to be confirmed.

She is seeking further sponsorship for this trip and anyone wishing to support can get in touch at @juliette.pageantpage on Instagram and @miss environment England on Facebook.

Juliette (centre) with Nadia King - Miss Environment Wales and Talu Maden - Miss Environment Scotland.



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Significant improvements across all subjects on results day

Fourteen students who achieved a clean sweep of A grades were among the many happy faces on A level results day at Ponteland High School.

Three top performers secured all A* grades and a further nine a mix of A* and As, with one scoring three As and another one a distinction* and two distinctions in BTEC exams.

Star pupils Joseph Anderson, Molly Dufton and Ojas Rajkumar will be studying at Oxford University from September.

This year, students sat public exams for the second time since the Covid pandemic. Ofqual's (Office of Qualifications & Examinations Regulation) approach to grading in 2023 broadly reflects the grade distributions of 2019, the last group of students unaffected by the Covid pandemic.

Ponteland High School Headteacher Stefan McElwee said: "We are delighted with the results achieved by our Year 13 students this year.


"When comparing the results with our 2019 cohort we have seen significant improvements across all subject areas. This is extremely pleasing and is a suitable reward for our students and staff. I am very proud of their efforts and achievements.

"I hope our Year 13 students will look back on their time with us fondly. They are exceptional, inspiring and talented young people who deserve every success."



Star pupils: Molly Dufton (left) and Isabella Shanahan. Molly received 4 A* grades and has secured a place at Oxford University.

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What's on...

North East Dog Festival

The annual event returns to Northumberland College's Kirkley Hall Campus on Saturday September 2 and Sunday September 3. See article on p14. Early bird tickets are on sale at northeastdogfestival.com.

Duck Race

The popular annual family event, which sees 500 ducks released on the River Pont for a series of races, is on Sunday September 3 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm in Ponteland Park. Free entry. Duck and boat races, children's rides, market stalls. Visit rotaryponteland.org.uk.

Ponteland Wildlife Group

Sophie Webster of Northumberland WLT will give a talk on 'Harvest Mice' at 7.30pm on Tuesday September 5 at St Mary's Parish Centre. Cost £2 includes refreshments.

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: September 6 – Victorian Customs and Superstitions by Linda King; October 4 – Northumbria Blood Bikes by Nigel Barlow. We welcome enquiries from anyone wishing to join Ponteland u3a by calling the membership secretary on 01661 824953.

Ponteland Flower and Craft Show

The 46th annual show at the Memorial Hall opens to the public at 1pm on Saturday September 9. Exhibits can be staged between 7pm to 9pm on the Friday and 8am to 10.30am on the Saturday. Download the class schedule at pontelandflowershow.org.uk or pick up a hard copy from the library, Merton Hall, St Mary's Parish Centre and local garden centres. See article on p14.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

On Monday September 11 at 2.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre we have Dr Robert Pullen talking on 'The Secrets of the Human Brain'.

Ponteland WI

Visitors are welcome to come along to our monthly meeting being held on Tuesday September 12 at 2pm in Merton

Hall. This month Christine Rogers will be giving us a seasonal cookery demonstration and our competition theme is for a cookery tip. Our next lunch dates are Monday September 4 and Monday October 2. Come and join us at Plants Plus at 12.30pm.

Ponteland Village WI

Wild in Botswana will be the talk at our meeting on Tuesday September 12 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Centre. Subgroups include Dining Out, Walking Group, Walking with Dogs and Book Club. Due to the large increase in new members, we can no longer allow visitors and have started a waiting list. For more information, email pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com. Look for Ponteland Village WI on Facebook.

Callerton Garden & Flower Club

We welcome area flower demonstrator Carys Harrison, whose arrangements are entitled 'Have Passport Will Travel', to our meeting at 2pm on September 13 at the CIU Club, Merton Way. All visitors welcome - fee £7. Refreshments are available in the bar.

Ponteland Local History Society

On Thursday September 21 at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Parish Centre, the chairman of Acomb Local History Society Gordon Scorer will give a talk 'The Tyne Flood of 1771' which will look at this important event in North East history. Visitors welcome £2.

Ponteland Friendly Stitchers

The next meeting will be on Monday September 25 between 2pm and 4pm in St Mary's Parish Centre when the AGM will be held. For more information please contact emmadenham52@gmail.com.

Ponteland Photographic Society

We welcome everyone to our first evening of the new season on Monday September 25 at 7.30pm in Merton Hall. We aim to have a diverse programme – club evenings where we enjoy one another's photos, presentations by members and visitors and friendly competitions. You may be a seasoned photographer, a beginner or someone who enjoys

using a mobile phone. Everyone is welcome – we are a friendly club.

Charity ceilidh

The Whistling Sheep Ceilidh Band are inviting people of all ages to enjoy an evening of dancing from 6.15pm to 9.15pm on Friday October 13 at Ponteland High School to fundraise for the Disaster Emergency Committee. Buffet food included, bring your own non-alcoholic drinks! Adults £15, High School students £10, Primary School students £5. Tickets can be bought cash only from the High School reception or by online payment by emailing whistlingsheepceilidhband@gmail.com.

Kirkley Carvers

Join us to chip and chat at Whalton Village Hall, NE61 3XA, on Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm. Contact Bob on 0191 267 1930 for more information.

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. Due to the generosity of residents Merton Hall cannot accept any more books at this time. We are pleased to report the free library is now full.

Ponteland Social Group

Come to our fantastic social group – a great chance for older people who live in the area to get together and enjoy friendship, a whole host of great activities, crafts, music or even just have a nice cuppa. You can find us every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12noon at St Mary's Parish Centre. Contact email friends@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk or call 01670 784800.

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.

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.

Members bowled over by centenary celebrations



The centenary of Ponteland Bowling Club was celebrated in style with a winning performance against an all-England team.

Oldest club member Bernard Wright presented a superb display of the club's history in the clubhouse, while veteran playing member Tom Harrison – a member for 46 years – was in the home team.

The Bowls England team included players from eleven different counties, some of whom had travelled hundreds of miles to take part.

The fiercely contested game, described as 'a fabulous match played in a true spirit of camaraderie and friendship on a well-prepared green' was – somewhat aptly – won by Ponteland by 100 shots to 89!

After the game both teams and guests were treated to an afternoon tea provided by the club's dedicated social committee, which boasts extremely talented bakers, served in china loaned by Ponteland WI.

The President of Bowls England, Deepak Tanna, was then presented with a framed team photograph from the day with all team members listed by Club Chairperson David Redhead.

Club Secretary Don Burbeck said: "It was fantastic to see that so many old and new friends had turned out to help the club celebrate this landmark achievement, cheer on the teams and share stories about past bowling glories. Even the sun turned up to shine on a glorious afternoon of bowling and socialising.

"Ponteland Bowling Club would like to thank all the members of the community that supported us – you helped to make our day very special."

The Memorial Hall had opened its doors early for preparations and Colin at Ponteland Print was waiting patiently for the team photo so he could produce a framed print of the day as a memento and thankyou to the Bowls England President.

The Bowls England team raised their drinks and toasted Ponteland Bowling Club, congratulating the Club on achieving 100 years of bowling and wishing the Club every success for the next 100 years.

Ponteland Bowling Club said it wanted to thank all the members of the community who supported them and helped to make the club's day very special.



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Louise Carroll of Tiny Lives and teacher Claire Huitson are pictured with the Richard Coates School Council.

Big donation helps Tiny Lives

A charity which supports parents who have premature babies and the RVI's neonatal unit has received more than £800 thanks to fundraising efforts by a Ponteland school.

Events which children, parents and staff at Richard Coates CE Primary took part in included a sponsored walk/run, charity picnic, cake sales and a non-uniform event.

Their efforts were boosted by a very generous donation by a parent of a £500 holiday voucher to raffle off.

This year's chosen charity was Tiny Lives, which has been helping families and Newcastle's neonatal unit for 40 years, supplying items, funds, staff specialists and support.

The charity's Community Events Fundraiser Louise Carroll visited the school to talk about Tiny Lives' work and collect a cheque for £836.46 presented by the School Council.

Teacher and School Council lead Claire Huitson said: "It was a wonderful effort from the whole Richard Coates community."

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Dogs, ducks and dahlias: three big events to kick-start September

From dogs to ducks to dahlias, the first two weekends of September offer something for all ages with three of Ponteland's biggest events of the year taking place.

The North East Dog Festival kick-starts the entertainment at Northumberland College's Kirkley Hall Campus on Saturday September 2 and Sunday September 3.

New additions this year include the 'have a go' activities UK Sniffer Dogs, Mantrailing, UltiMutt, Scent Hurdling and Petnanny, while 'The Ferret Man' Simon Whitehead will feature in the main arena. There will also be more than 80 exhibitors. Early bird tickets are on sale at northeastdogfestival.com.

Also on Sunday September 3, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, is the annual Duck Race in Ponteland Park, which sees 500 ducks released on the River Pont for a series of races.

Entry to the park is free and there will be a range of stalls in a market area, children's rides and a climbing wall, with ice cream, hot food and drink also available. The main charity beneficiary from this year's event will be Children North East. Visit rotaryponteland.org.uk.

The second weekend of the month sees the newly rebranded

Ponteland Flower and Craft Show. New additions for the 46th annual show include the set recipe (spiced apple and carrot cake), the sunflower bloom, longest runner bean and heaviest pumpkin.

Wood turned item, bottle of home brewed beer or lager, bottle of non-alcoholic cordial and flower arrangement in cup and saucer are also among the 122 prize categories this year. The show website has been updated to include tips for those new to showing, a page on the history of the show and a copy of the event timetable.

You can download the class schedule at pontelandflowershow.org.uk or pick up a hard copy from the library, Merton Hall, St Mary's Parish Centre and local garden centres.

Exhibits can be staged at the Memorial Hall between 7pm on Friday September 8 and 8am to 10.30am on Saturday September 9. The show opens to the public at 1pm on the Saturday. Ponteland Guides will be serving refreshments to raise funds for their activities.

One of the entrants in the agility display at last year's dog festival.



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October issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the October issue is Monday September 18. Door to door distribution will be from Monday October 2 to Friday October 6. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the October issue. Please visit ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views for online issues and all updates.

Council increases fines to tackle environmental crimes

Fines for environmental offences in Northumberland are set to increase and cover a greater number of issues, the county council has confirmed.

The council issues fixed penalty notices for various environmental offences including dog control/dog fouling, littering, fly-tipping, nuisance parking, abandoning a vehicle, consuming alcohol in public spaces and graffiti.

The cabinet has agreed to consolidate all its fixed penalty notices for environment related transgressions, which are being charged in line with government guidelines.

All fines will now be charged at £100, reduced to £80 for payment within seven days, with the exception of those caught littering who will incur a higher fine of £150, reduced to £100 if paid within seven days.

In an effort to cut down on fly tipping, the authority has also introduced new fines for householders who fail in their Duty of Care when disposing of their waste and

the waste is dumped in the county. These fines will be charged at £400, reduced to £300 if paid within seven days.

Residents are being reminded not to fall for a growing criminal scam in which they pay in good faith to have their waste taken away by people posing as legitimate waste collectors, but who then go on to fly-tip the material. Always make a note of the registration number of the vehicle used and take a note or photo of the waste carrier's licence issued by the Environment Agency.

Coun Gordon Stewart, cabinet member for Looking after our Communities said: "Fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling can have a huge impact on Northumberland's streets. Invariably, taxpayers end up footing the bill to clean up after other people's irresponsibility.

"Fixed Penalty Notice levels have not changed since 2017 so we want to take stronger action against those who commit these types of environmental crimes.

"Our teams clear up on average in the region of 350 fly-tips each month – and we pursue the offenders through the courts. The onus really is on householders to ensure they employ a reputable waste carrier to collect their waste.

"We hope these revised fines will have a positive effect on the county's environment, particularly when it comes to reducing fly-tipping and littering."

To check a waste carrier is reputable, visit the Environment Agency's waste carrier register at nland.cc/waste and enter the business name or search for licensed waste operators near you.

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