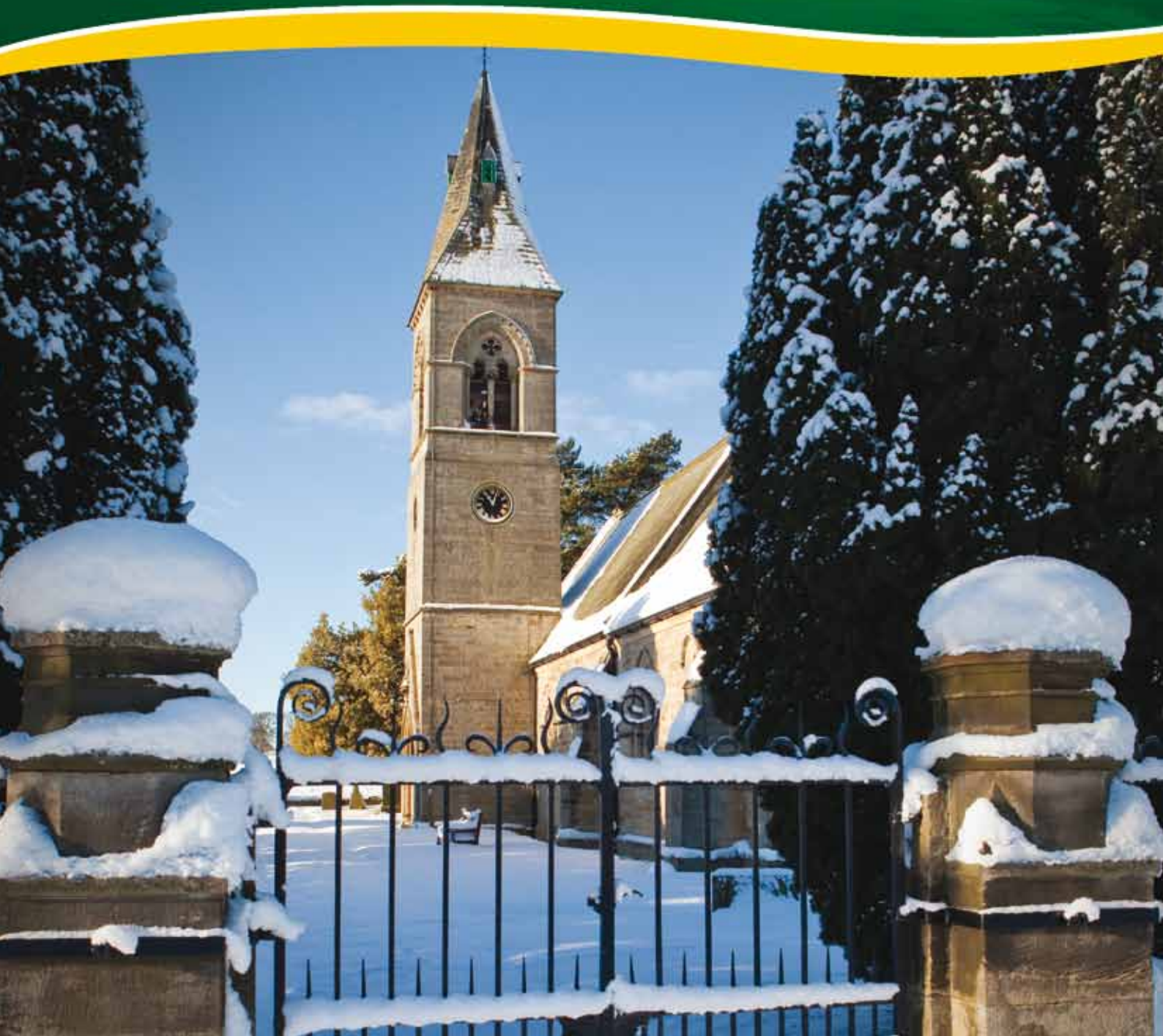


# pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Council deal brings village redevelopment a step closer

Ponteland man wins international photography award

Chris loses beloved locks for Kenyan kids

Phone mast plan on hold after O2 U-turn

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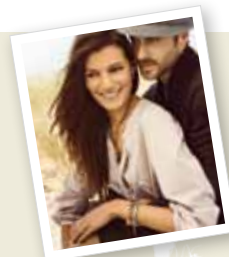
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Pont News and Views is published by Ponteland Community Partnership in conjunction with Ponteland Town Council. If you would like to submit an article, feature or advertise in the magazine, **please note the new contact details** for Pont News: **Tel:** (0191) 3408422 **Mob:** 07954 157939 **Email:** [pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk](mailto:pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk) **Write:** Cian creative pr, 5 East Boldon Road, Cleadon Village, SR6 7SH

Produced by Cian creative pr



# Serengeti success for Jonathan

## Ponteland photographer wins international award

**This stunning picture taken in the Serengeti National Park by a Ponteland amateur photographer has won an international award.**

Jonathan Allen, 23, of Edge Hill, was on holiday with friends in Tanzania when he took the picture of a following jeep as his party sped through the sunset towards a zebra sighting.

It was one of five winners in the Travel Photographer of the Year 2009's First Shot category, which is aimed at amateur photographers who show potential.

But it isn't Jonathan's first photo award, as the Durham University postgraduate

research student explained: "When I was about 12 I got a runner's up award in a Ponteland Photographic Society Northumberland wildlife competition.

"My dad Joseph was a member and took me along, which is how I first got interested in photography."

Travel Photographer of the Year was first launched in 2003 and is open to people across the globe - with entries in this year's contest coming from 70 countries including Australia, India and the USA.

They were judged by a panel of experts including the photographic director of Conde Nast Traveller, editors of British Journal of Photography, Practical Photography and Germany's Fotomagazin,

and renowned photographers Steve Bloom, Jeremy Hoare, Nick Meers and Chris Weston.

As part of his prize, Jonathan will enjoy a weekend of tuition with a team of professional photographers and specialist software to help him further develop his talent. But photography is not his career choice – he is researching aircraft structural engineering.

If his talent in photography is anything to go by, he'll be flying high before long!

The winning shot Safari Sunset and other pics by Jonathan – Sunrise over the Serengeti, Lumiere at Durham Cathedral and a university rugby match between Durham and Glasgow.

# Mast plan put on hold after MEP intervenes

Controversial plans to erect a mobile phone mast by the entrance of a Ponteland school have been put on hold after an MEP intervened.

Liberal Democrat MEP for the North East Fiona Hall persuaded bosses at global telecommunications giant Telefonica O2 to put their plans for the 15m mast on The Broadway outside Darras Hall First School on hold and meet local protesters.

This followed an attempt by MP Peter Atkinson to call in the application after he wrote to the Secretary of State.

The latest twist to the long running saga was immediately welcomed by campaigners trying to prevent the mast.

Businessman Ian McLean, of The Drey, whose three-year-old daughter attends the school,

said: "We really appreciate the intervention of Fiona Hall and Peter Atkinson. I'm now confident we can persuade O2 to change their mind over the location of this mast."

The news comes just a month after the firm said it was to take advantage of a blunder by Northumberland County Council planning chiefs, who last year failed to decide on O2's planning application within the required 56 days, making their decision to refuse permission for the mast invalid.

O2 could have immediately erected the mast but instead identified a second site 100 yards along The Broadway. But after the council's West Area

Planning Committee refused this second application in November the firm said it would proceed with the mast on the first site, which sparked a huge protest by the school and parents when plans were first revealed last summer.

In December around 200 people attended a public meeting at Ponteland Memorial Hall, addressed by Scientific Advisor for the Radiation Research Trust Barrie Trower, who claims telecommunications masts have produced deadly cancer clusters when placed near schools.

In recent weeks the row has intensified, with all four Ponteland county councillors heavily criticising the authority over its handling of the application and now both the local MP and MEP intervening.

Ms Hall said: "I share the concerns of local residents about the proposed O2 phone mast in Darras Hall. I have been in touch with O2 who have agreed to set up a meeting between the company and local campaigners to consider alternative locations for a new mast. In the meantime, O2 have agreed to put the Darras

Hall site on hold, which is a positive step forward."

Mr Atkinson said he had received more than 150 letters from concerned residents. He added: "In recent weeks I have written to the Chairman of O2 and asked the Secretary of State to 'call-in' this planning application.

"I am very disappointed to have received news today that the Government cannot call in the planning decision for further examination, as consent has already been granted. Northumberland County Council has left the Ponteland community in a exposed position on this issue and I fear we are now running out of time and options.

"However over the coming days I will make a final appeal to O2 to change their mind and will ask them to find a more suitable location for the mast. I can only hope they will listen to local concerns and act accordingly."

O2 spokesman Tom Powell said: "We are still in discussions internally. We'll do everything we can to find a mutually acceptable site."

Your letters: p10

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# It's Haircut 1000!

**The Ponteland founder of an orphanage for African street children has made the ultimate sacrifice – having his beloved dreadlocks cut off for his charity.**

Chris Ferry had not cut his hair for seven years. For five years he carefully cultivated his blond dreadlocks, but agreed to sacrifice them in aid of a charity very close to his heart.

After receiving more than £1,000 in sponsorship pledges, he made plans for the big cut to take place at the orphanage he set up in Kenya.

Chris, 23, founded the charity Eating Stones Fund - named in recognition of the daily plight of children in the slums of Nairobi who resort to eating stones for any source of nutrients - during a university gap year in 2007.

He was still a student when he used money from donors to establish an orphanage for street children in the slums outside Nairobi 18 months ago. Most had been orphaned due to their parents dying from HIV/AIDS related illnesses, or as a result of the post-election violence in 2008.

He found more than 30 children, with an average age of four, sharing one tin hut approximately 10ft square. It had three mattresses, soaked with urine. Within weeks, Chris found a new site, set up basic facilities and arranged for children and staff to be moved into the orphanage. It is now home to 45 children and is recognised by the Nairobi Children's Officer.

Chris said: "We are in desperate need of financial help to provide essentials for the children, such as food, water and medicines. Many of the children are very young and are HIV positive. It's essential that we provide them with a good basic diet in order to improve their chances of survival.

"We know we can't expect donors to help us in these difficult times, unless we're prepared to make sacrifices ourselves. I've become very attached to my hair over the years and was really very nervous of the prospect of life without it. I was concerned that the children wouldn't recognise me after it was cut, so I arranged for them to see what was happening and they had some fun at my expense."

Chris graduated from Leeds University last summer and is currently working with staff and volunteers at the orphanage to ensure a secure future for the children, before pursuing a career in overseas aid work.

His mother Alison, of Pinegarth, Darras Hall, said "We have received fantastic support for the Eating Stones Fund from schools, students, local businesses and the Ponteland community. Our donors are able to follow our progress closely and, being a small charity, we are able to see how every penny is being spent.



"Chris has achieved such a lot for these children, who were living in appalling conditions before he became involved. We are enormously proud of him, but none of this would have been possible without the support of our donors."

Anyone who would like to sponsor Chris, or help in any way, can go to the website [www.eatingstones.co.uk](http://www.eatingstones.co.uk) for more information.



## £5,000 BOOST FOR YOUTH WORK

A grant of £5,000 towards detached youth work in Ponteland in 2010/11 has been approved by the Council. Youth Services Manager Angus Ramlal gave a detailed presentation to councillors regarding the detached youth work carried out in Ponteland during 2009/10 and proposals for the coming year.

The statistics of those young people who had participated were also provided. It was suggested that some additional publicity may be necessary to ensure parents were aware of the drop in facility and the detached youth work.

## MAST OBJECTIONS MEAN INCREASED BUDGET

Further to the precept agreed at the last meeting, it was agreed to add a further sum of £2,500 to contingencies to cover potential costs relating to the 02 mast objections. This meant a precept request of £336,000 being levied on Northumberland County Council.

## PROGRAMME OF WORKS

### Welcome signs

Discussions are being held with the county council regarding these signs.

### Historical signs

These are now in place.

### Skate park

Information has been received from the company involved for the necessary pre-application consultations. It is hoped that this would be carried out by the Ponteland Community Partnership.

### Ponteland Park tree management plan

A schedule of the urgent work has been prepared for submission to contractors. A schedule of works for the next one to three years will also be prepared for contractors to enable the Council to consider and allocate expenditure.

### Slope protection works

The consultants have prepared a project plan for the works and are currently preparing contract documentation. Certain trees have been identified for removal and the Clerk has been asked to obtain exact details and prices for the works. Delegated authority was given to the Mayor and the Chairman of the Environment Working Party to approve these works due to the need for completion by March 1. Details of these trees will also be forwarded to the Friends of Ponteland Park. Further information is to be sought regarding proposed bat surveys etc.

### CCTV

Three of the cameras have been installed and are operational. Negotiations are still ongoing with the county council re the siting of poles for the other cameras.

### Play area

This project is complete other than the need for a sign. This was supposed to be supplied by the grant awarding bodies, however there has been a delay and it has been agreed to give delegated

authority to the Clerk to arrange for appropriate signage as soon as possible.

### Park entrance – Callerton Lane

This project is complete.

## VILLAGE CENTRE REGENERATION

It was reported that the Executive at Northumberland County Council had approved an exclusivity agreement with the developer. A project team meeting was due to be held during the week commencing January 18. See article on p8.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the Christmas Concert held at Ponteland High School which had been a great success. The Council wished to express their appreciation to their contractors for their hard work over the recent spell of bad weather. They had carried out gritting and path clearing wherever possible as a supplement to the work carried out by Northumberland County Council.

*This report is based on the minutes of the Ponteland Town Council meeting held on January 13.*

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL



**Ponteland South with Heddon**  
County Councillor Peter Jackson

**Ponteland North**  
County Councillor Richard Dodd

**Ponteland West including  
Stamfordham and Maften**  
County Councillor Veronica Jones

**Ponteland East**  
County Councillor Mel Armstrong

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At **Merton Hall, Ponteland**. From **10.00am - 11.00am**  
*All Constituents Welcome*



By PC Paul Henery,  
Ponteland Community Beat Officer

# Thieves target rural homes and farms

## Appeal for witnesses to car vandals



**There have been a total of nine crimes reported for the period from December 11 to January 13.**

They break down as follows:

- one non-dwelling burglary
- two damage to motor vehicle
- one theft of a motor car
- two thefts (one shoplifting)
- one public order offence
- two assaults.

There have been four arrests in relation to these offences; however, enquiries are

ongoing into the others which may lead to further arrests.

Police and licensees working together as part of the Ponteland Pubwatch Scheme report a safe and well behaved Christmas period in our pubs and restaurants, with no notable trouble.

There have been a number of thefts from rural properties and farms. Quads and farm equipment has been targeted.

Police would advise people to check their security arrangements and particularly ensure that valuable items are locked away, out of sight if possible.

Between 10.30pm on Saturday December 19 and 9.30am on Sunday December 20

a Fiat Punto motor car had both its wing mirrors broken off whilst parked in Merton Way car park.

Police would appeal for any witnesses or anyone with any information relating to this crime to come forward and ring 03456 043043.

The next Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) meeting in Ponteland will be at 9.30am on Tuesday February 23 at the Memorial Hall.

### OVER £700 RAISED BY PONTELAND LIONS

Ponteland Lions help their annual licensed collection in Ponteland on Saturday December 12. Despite the recession we are delighted with the response from the generous people in this area. We raised £717.59. We appreciate the community's support with the Lions charity work.

Our thanks go to Waitrose and Dobbies for letting us collect at their stores. Our thanks also go to Cowells Garden Centre at Woosington for our fundraising event at the garden centre on December 5.

Should you want to know more about Ponteland Lions Club ring John on 0845 833 9913.

### TWO PEOPLE HURT IN CAR CRASH

TWO people were taken to hospital after a crash in Ponteland. The accident happened outside Callerton House in Callerton Lane at around 5.45pm on Tuesday, December 29 when a blue Renault Clio and a grey Land Rover Freelander collided. An 89-year-old female passenger from the Freelander suffered chest injuries and was taken to Newcastle General Hospital where her condition was described as stable.

The 20-year-old male driver of the Clio was also taken to hospital with whiplash related injuries and was later discharged. The road was closed for a short time. Police are appealing for any witnesses to the collision to contact them on 03456 043043, quoting log 840 of December 29.



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# Exclusivity agreement brings village centre regeneration a step closer



**The long awaited regeneration of Ponteland village centre has moved a step forward after Northumberland County Council agreed to enter an exclusivity agreement with MKP Ponteland.**

The agreement between the council and MKP Ponteland Ltd is for 12 months and will allow both parties to work together on various tasks including making substantive progress towards a planning application and financial appraisal.

In a report to the January 11 meeting of the council's Executive, Senior Project Officer Madelaine Rourke said: "The exclusivity agreement's main aim is to enable the developer and NCC staff to have time to progress the various issues and to provide an environment in which the developer can progress these issues without threat of NCC disposing of the land to other parties.

"The signing of the exclusivity agreement by both parties will also provide the community with some confidence that both parties are working together to progress this scheme in a transparent and robust fashion.

"Without the exclusivity agreement the developer could not carry out the necessary 'at risk' work and the community may feel little or no progress is being made. It should be noted that MKP Ponteland have shown considerable commitment to this project."

Northumberland County Council responsibilities are that they shall not sell, transfer any interest in the site or properties from third parties during this period.

The news comes a year after the public consultation event held at the Memorial Hall in which MKP's scheme gained 77% of the 700+ votes.

Your letters: p10-11

## Ponteland and Stamfordham Community Forum

**An action plan for key community priorities is being drawn up following two successful public forum events.**

The second community forum was jointly organised by Ponteland Town Council and Ponteland Community Partnership and took place at Ponteland Memorial Hall on Thursday November 12.

From the information recorded on the flipcharts during the evening the three main deliverables under each theme are summarised below:

Theme	Deliverables
1. Transport/ Environment/ Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic management at rush hour and of school traffic, speed control measures</li> <li>Road crossing near play park</li> <li>Transport – public. Evening buses to health centre and village and Metro.</li> </ol>
2. Environment	<p>Short term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage/gully cleaning/flooding</li> <li>Garden waste removal</li> <li>Communal composting?</li> </ol> <p>Long term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection/Creation of green open space</li> <li>Bypass</li> <li>Airport expansion</li> </ol>
3. Youth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration with wider community</li> <li>Need for better communication of activities</li> <li>Internet café/meeting place</li> </ol>
4. Over 60s	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General information booklet (e-form)</li> <li>Community transport within Ponteland and in the county</li> <li>State of footpaths</li> </ol>
5. Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up business forum</li> </ol>
6. Leisure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directory of local sports clubs.</li> <li>Public conveniences - signposting opening times</li> <li>Circulation of Pont News &amp; Views and use of other newsletters etc. Involvement of young people.</li> </ol>
7. Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Ponteland minibus service</li> <li>Consultation with county council on parking policy</li> <li>Request a schedule of maintenance for road repairs in the Ponteland area over the next five years from the County Council.</li> </ol>

The next steps will see a draft Community Action Plan discussed at the next forum event in May to include the identification of actions and potential funding opportunities.

**YOUR GUIDE TO  
WHAT'S ON  
THIS FEBRUARY AT...**

## KIRKLEY HALL

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*Valentine's dinner dance  
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*Saturday 13th February, 7pm for 7.30pm*

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---

*Carvery Sunday lunch*

*Sunday 14th February, 12pm - 2pm*

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---

*Spiritual health and healing fair*

*Sunday 28th February, 11am -5pm*

The north east's biggest spiritual health and healing fair, featuring top clairvoyant readers, comes to Kirkley Hall. The cost includes at least three demonstrations such as dream interpretations, past life regression, aura photography, Indian head massages and more! £4pp

To find out about other upcoming events at Kirkley Hall visit  
[www.kirkleyhall.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhall.co.uk)  
Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 0AQ  
Tel: 01670 841235

# What's on...

## North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society

On Monday February 8 Professor David Rankin will be talking on 101 ways to murder an alpine plant, which deals with the pests and diseases and all the other problems in maintaining alpiners in a healthy state. David is professor of structural chemistry at Edinburgh University, has held office on the Scottish Rock Garden Club and is a member of the RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. David and his wife Stella maintain a one acre garden on a steep hillside south of Edinburgh and also run Kevock Nursery, an award-winning specialist nursery with unusual alpine, bog, woodland and herbaceous plants, shrubs and bulbs. David will be bringing plants for sale. Our meetings take place in St Mary's Hall, Thornhill Road and the doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The charge to visitors is £2 per meeting - details from Terry Teal at t.teal@btinternet.com or 0191 4132574.

## Ponteland Local History Society

Thursday February 18 at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall. Underfloor discoveries at St. Michael's Church, Houghton-le-Spring - Peter F. Ryder.

## Fairtrade Fortnight concert

Ponteland's concert to launch Fairtrade Fortnight this year is in St Mary's Church, Ponteland on Saturday February 20 at 7.30pm. The concert features The Caedmon Choir and Mick McCabe. The Caedmon Choir is based at the Sage Gateshead with 75 members singing traditional and contemporary song, both local and international in a wide range of styles. Mike McCabe is a renowned local bass/baritone singer of Northumbrian songs. Tickets are available from all four Ponteland Churches and from Steve Helm on (01661) 824109 or email s.helm@virgin.net price £5 (concessions £4) which includes a glass of Fairtrade wine or soft drink. All proceeds will go to Traidcraft Exchange, the Fairtrade development charity which helps poor people use trade as a way to work their way out of poverty.

## Women's World Day of Prayer celebrated at St Matthew's Church

Friday March 5 is Women's World Day of Prayer and the inter-denominational service this year will be hosted by St. Matthew's RC Church on Main Street, Ponteland at 2.15pm. Everyone is most cordially invited. This year's service has been prepared by

the Christian Women of Cameroon on the theme "Let everything that has breath praise God", and the international speaker will be Sr. Michael from Seaham. For further information contact Sally Flynn on (01661) 821449.

## WI coffee morning

Ponteland Women's Institute will be holding a fundraising coffee morning in St. Mary's Church Hall on Saturday March 13 from 10am to 11.30am. Coffee/tea and homemade scones will be served. Various stalls including cakes, books, bric-a-brac, raffle and tombola. Please come and join us. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

## St Mary's Singers concert

St Mary's Singers' next concert is on Saturday March 27 at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Ponteland. A lovely varied programme including music by Haydn, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Tippett. Please come and join us.

If you have an item for the What's on column, please email [pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk](mailto:pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk) or write to Pont News & Views, 5 East Boldon Road, Cleadon Village, SR6 7SH.



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# Your letters

The Editor  
Pont News & Views



**Councillors demanding answers on mast - and getting them, praise for new park entrances and seeking inspiration from Morpeth's new shopping mall in this month's letters**

## Councillors demand answers over phone mast 'chaos'

**As the four Councillors for Ponteland we are deeply concerned about the possible erection of a phone mast next to the school in Darras Hall and right in the middle of a residential area.**

We are asking serious questions of Northumberland County Council in this matter and we will raise this at the next Planning Committee. The Council has a duty to explain why a clear decision to refuse this by Councillors has not been implemented and then to take all possible steps to stop this in its tracks.

We all have mobile phones and they are a vital communication tool. So we have to accept that if we want mobiles we will have these masts. However this one is in the wrong place. No one wants this within yards of a school where there could be an effect on our children's health.

We will be asking that officers use all their powers, even to the Secretary Of State, to look at this again as there must be some involvement by the council in talks with O2. Although we are incensed at the current position, there has to be a reasonable solution to this and that is what we will be working for.

### County Councillors

**Veronica Jones**

*Ponteland West*

**Richard Dodd**

*Ponteland North*

**Mel Armstrong**

*Ponteland East*

**Peter Jackson**

*Ponteland South*

## Genuine mistake by officers leaves us unable to prevent mast

**All telecommunications installations are subject to development control. However, relatively minor development does not require express permission as it is granted planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, as amended, (GPDO).**

It is the case that the proposed telecommunications mast at Darras Hall falls within the scope of the GPDO and as such the applicant is merely required to apply to the Local Planning Authority for a determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required for the siting and appearance of the development.

The Local Planning Authority has a period of 56 days in which to exercise control over the siting and design of the equipment and if it fails to do so the Applicant is deemed to have consent to commence development in accordance with the submitted plans and specification.

I accept that for some very genuine reasons the Council failed to act within that 56 days; officers believing they had authority to bring the application before a Committee scheduled for two days later.

Regarding the Applicant's planning permission, I would make the following comments:

1. O2 do not have an express grant of planning permission for the proposed development. They have a permitted development right under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.
2. The permitted development

right is not something that can be revoked by the County Council as the Local Planning Authority.

3. The lack of evidence of any effective consultation between the Applicant and either the Darras Hall First School's headmaster or governing body will not invalidate the permitted development rights now enjoyed by the Applicant in respect of this particular development.

4. The Council can, where deemed necessary, remove permitted development rights from a specified area which would have the effect of preventing the development from going ahead. This is achieved by way of making an Article 4 Direction.

5. An Article 4 Direction is subject to the prior approval of the Secretary of State who will only approve the Direction where a particular location seems likely to attract obtrusive or inappropriate development which would seriously threaten amenity.

6. In making that decision the Secretary of State will be mindful that Darras Hall is neither a conservation area nor an area where there are a number of important listed buildings where the Secretary of State could determine that such a development might seriously affect the amenity of the area.

7. The Council has given some considerable thought to the process of making an Article 4 Direction in respect of this particular location and is firmly of the opinion that there are no justifiable reasons for the Council seeking the Secretary of State's approval for the making of an Article 4 Direction.

8. It is the position of the Government that there are no health issues associated to telecommunication masts. Therefore this is not considered

to be a material planning consideration.

**Councillor Andrew Tebbutt**  
*Executive Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources  
Northumberland County Council*

## Thanks for the new park entrances

**In answer to the criticism levelled at the new entrances to Ponteland Park I wish to express my thanks – particularly for the structure of Callerton Lane.**

I can now, along with my husband who is wheelchair bound, access Callerton Lane without a forced detour which was via Dunsgreen, along a very uneven path and Mr and Mrs Nixon enjoy new park entrance steep incline.

Previous passage was pedestrian only – in or out was impossible with a wheelchair.

We are now able (with the recently built friendly kerbs) to make a circular tour of the village and park, which we undertake almost daily.

One complaint – the parkside pavement of Callerton Lane leaves much to be desired – its uneven surface ensures a bumpy ride. Is there any hope of improvement?

Hopefully, once the bridge is repaired between Waitrose and the Memorial Hall we can recommence our walks.

Incidentally, the photograph shown in Issue 52 p11 depicts myself and my husband on parade.

**Mrs Jennifer Nixon**  
*Grange Road  
Ponteland*

**'Depressing' Ponteland needs to follow Morpeth's example – and quickly**

**We were impressed with the new shopping precinct in Morpeth during a recent visit.**

Although only a relatively small development, the complimentary architecture blends in well with the centre and all that have been involved should be congratulated.

More importantly, you can detect from the atmosphere and the people walking around that this new initiative will benefit the community and their local economy.

By contrast we walked through our own Ponteland shopping precinct. How depressing and soul destroying – we really feel very sorry for those retailers that are persevering, whilst others have left. What is happening?

When will all the parties involved wake up to the fact that they should follow the example set by Morpeth.

With good architecture we could have a precinct that would be a pleasure to go to.

Indeed, we could even attract new visitors and the community would further benefit in many ways. If nothing is done soon then the centre will continue to decline with more units closing. Broadway could also benefit with an early upgrade.

So what is happening? Stop dragging your feet, get on with it!

**Peter Sutcliffe**

*Middle Drive  
Darras Hall*

**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.

**March issue deadlines:**

The March issue will be delivered week beginning March 1. Deadline for all copy and adverts is Friday February 12. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the March issue.

# Your snow pics...



**Schools closed, billions lost to the economy, roads and pavements treacherous for weeks – it has been the worst winter weather for nearly 30 years.**

But Pont News readers clearly made the best of it, as these submitted photos show.

Sadie Bartholomew, 16, of Cheviot View, sent us this pic of her sister and brother Ruby and Tom with dad Peter enjoying their igloo.

Christine Greenwell, of Station Cottages, captured a frozen River Pont, while June Atkinson, of Dunsgreen, thought the icicles hanging from her gutters were the longest she'd ever seen.

Our photographer Trevor Walker took the lovely cover shot of Milbourne Church and the happy dog enjoying the deep snow.

Many thanks to readers for the photos sent in.



# TRIPLE EIGHT

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## SPECIAL EVENTS 2010 AT MATFEN HALL

### STYLING SUPPER

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Join Jenny B for this styling supper. "Eight outfits and a funeral" The art of dressing with style! Includes welcome drink, talk and supper. Tickets £18 per person

### ALEXANDER LOMAS SWING SINGER

14TH FEBRUARY

Special Valentine's Evening. Includes reception drink, 3 course dinner whilst Alex performs, then disco until 1am. Tickets £35 per person. Special accommodation rates available.

### WEDDING OPEN DAY

28TH FEBRUARY

Join us from 12 noon until 4pm. View the Great Hall and Terrace Rooms set up for your special day and speak with our Wedding Planners on a one to one basis during the day. Free admission.

### MOTHER OF THE BRIDE EVENING

23RD MARCH

Includes a styling talk by Jenny B and a fashion show provided by Panache of Ponteland. Tickets £10 per person

Early reservations are advised to avoid disappointment. All events are subject to availability, full calendar available at [www.matfenhall.com](http://www.matfenhall.com)

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