

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



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scheme planned

Ponteland Market
goes weekly

Full list of Easter
church services

Animal attraction to open at Kirkley

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MIXED GREENSOMES	Bank Hol Mon May 30	£20/pair
LADIES	Fri June 17	£14/pair
OPEN TEAMS (2 from 4)	Tue July 12	£70/4 player team
HEINEKEN SCRATCH	Sun July 31	£20 + lunch
SENIORS NO. 2	Tue Aug 2	£18/pair
JUNIORS	Tue Aug 9	£5
MIXED GREENSOMES	Bank Hol Mon Aug 29	£20/pair
OPEN 4Ball BB	Sun Sept 4	£20/pair

Active CONGU Handicaps are necessary.

Entries to both Seniors' events should contact Roy Ferguson (01661) 871144 and entries to the Ladies' Open should contact Val Crute (01670) 731580.

For all other Opens contact Secretary Greg Waugh at secretary@thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk or call (01661) 822689 or see the website at www.pontgolfclub.co.uk



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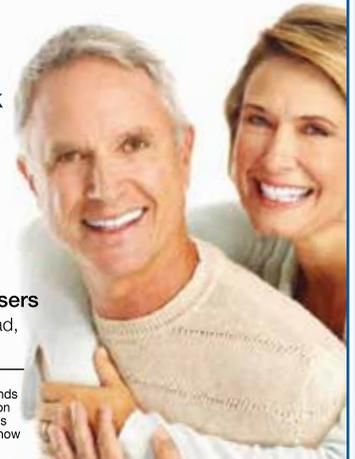


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Pont News and Views is published by Ponteland Town Council in conjunction with Ponteland Community Partnership. If you would like to submit an article, feature or advertise in the magazine, contact: **Tel:** (0191) 3408422 **Mob:** 07954 157939 **Email:**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

Produced by Cian creative pr



Aztec day brings history lesson to life

Children enjoyed a taste of Ancient Mexico in a history lesson with a difference at Richard Coates Middle School.

Year 5 pupils took part in an Aztec day when they enjoyed crafts, games, music making and dance.

Teacher Katie King said: "The children had all created their own Aztec mask in art lessons, which they wore on the day, together with a costume. Some came dressed as Eagle warriors or noblemen, while others were merchants or slaves.

"The event ended in an Aztec feast where the pupils ate the typical Mexican food they had made earlier in the day."

Photos by Trevor Walker



How many loaves have you?

Women's World Day of Prayer was marked in Ponteland with a special service at St Mary's Church on this year's theme from Chile 'How many loaves have you?'

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian women's initiative celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

The movement, started in the USA in 1884, aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

At the St Mary's service the Chilean theme and colours were adopted in both the ladies' dress and the decorated altar.

Parishioners from St Mary's Church (pictured left to right) are: Margaret Erni, Rosemary Creighton, Sheila Cairns, Mary Bailey and Carole Butler.

Photo by Trevor Walker





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PRESENTATION BY MARK DOWDELL, BANKS GROUP

Mark Dowdell, environment and community director at the Banks Group, operators of the surface coal mines on Blagdon Estate, gave a presentation on the Banks Community Fund and the types of project eligible for support. He handed out information on the Brenkley site, copies of newsletters and environmental statements, and also extended an invitation for Councillors to visit the site. Mr Dowdell referred to the community benefit funds operated by Banks and he hoped that some of the voluntary organisations in Ponteland could benefit from this funding. Any projects need to be for a capital scheme and the organisation has to be willing to put some funds towards it themselves. They would also have to open to the wider community. Grants of up to £5,000 are available and Expression of Interest Forms are available from the Town Council or can be downloaded from the website at www.bankscommunityfund.org.uk

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Ponteland Community High School – Youth Services

John Smith, Deputy Youth Services Manager, introduced Ashley Brown, Senior Youth Worker for the West Area. He outlined the reductions in Youth Services that had been made by the County Council but said he was confident that a good service would still be available in Ponteland. If the Council decided to approve a grant he felt that this could be used for a combination of outreach youth work and also the

Youth Centre at the High School. The Council deferred a decision to their April meeting pending receipt of some additional information from the Youth Service.

Ponteland Scouts

A grant of £500 was approved to assist with the purchase of projection equipment for the Scouts.

Ponteland United Football Club

A grant of £500 was approved to assist the Football Club with for various pieces of equipment at the Club.

Darras Hall First School

The Council approved a grant of £100 to assist with a playground project being embarked upon at the school.

PROGRAMME OF WORKS REPORT

Skate Park

The Community Partnership is examining a cheaper alternative to this scheme.

Ponteland Park Tree Management Plan

Work is ongoing on this project.

Slope Protection Works

The replacement trees have been planted.

CCTV

The installation is virtually complete.

Fencing at Twizell Place Play Area

The works have commenced.

Hedge cutting – Park

The works have been carried out.

Park footpaths

This project has been completed.

CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON DATA TRANSPARENCY

The Council was informed that the Government is consulting on a Code of recommended practice on data transparency. Authorities affected by the Code, which includes parish and town councils, will be expected to publish information on any expenditure over £500. This would be published monthly on the website.

PUBLICITY CODE

The Council considered a report on the possible introduction of the above Code by Government in October 2010 when it had been agreed to make various representations to the relevant Government Minister, the Prime Minister and the local MP. The consultation for the Code ended in November 2010 and a revised Code had been circulated, which does state that parish and town councils can continue to publish monthly newsletters, but it was still felt to be fairly restrictive. Further correspondence has been sent to the local MP asking for a further amendment to paragraph 28 of the Code allowing parish and town councils to publish matters relevant to the local community.

REQUESTS TO USE PONTELAND PARK

Legacare

A request had been received from the above Charity asking for

permission to use the park for an Easter Egg hunt at some time over the Easter weekend. Permission was granted subject to the usual conditions and Easter Monday was suggested as the preferred date.

Galliford Try

Permission had been sought by the above Company to use a small area of the park next to the scout hut on 25 June for a family day for employees. This request was approved.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

County Councillor Richard Dodd reported that the county council had approved its budget for 2011/12 which would result in savings of £45m over the year. The full details of the impact of the savings was not yet available.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Meeting with Civic Society

The Mayor reported on a meeting held with representatives of Ponteland Civic Society and Peter Rogers from Northumberland County Council to discuss how to progress a Character Appraisal of the Conservation area in Ponteland. It was agreed to hold a further meeting inviting Jules Brown from the North of England Civic Trust to take this matter further.

This report is based on the minutes of the Ponteland Town Council meeting held on March 9.

General Gardening Contractor/Handyman

The Council is seeking to employ a gardening contractor/handyman to assist with general gardening and maintenance duties for one day per week during the year. The work will involve assisting with gardening and maintenance during the busy summer months with some general handyman duties later in the year.

If you are interested can you please write to Mrs K Mavin, Clerk to the Council, Ponteland Town Council, Unit 1 Meadowfield Court, Meadowfield Industrial Estate, Ponteland, NE20 9SD setting out details of your experience and hourly rate. Alternatively you can email your details to km@pontelandtowncouncil.co.uk

Please ensure details are received by 15 April 2011.



TWO MEN ARRESTED OVER FISH PRICES IN PONTELAND

Two men have been arrested on suspicion of selling fish at inflated prices to elderly residents in Ponteland.

Officers found that in one instance a resident had been charged about £290 for 14 packets of fish.

Two men, both aged 37 and from the Chester-le-Street and Stanley areas of County Durham, were arrested in connection with the incident. Both men have been bailed pending further inquiries.

Police said they took reports of this nature "extremely seriously" - especially those involving the most vulnerable.



New visitor attraction to open at Kirkley



Animals from the Antipodes could become a big tourist draw when Kirkley Hall's new zoological gardens open next month.

Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens will provide an excellent learning environment for the animal management and horticulture students who will learn and work in the new centre, whilst providing a fantastic new attraction for the public to visit at weekends and school holidays.

Visitors will be able to see over 100 species of animals including emus, wallabies, pygmy goats, marmosets, meerkats, ring tail lemurs and more. The animal loving public will be able to meet the zookeepers, who will introduce them to the animals and tell them about their behaviours and habitats.

Marcus Clinton, Assistant Principal at Kirkley Hall, said: "It is the only attraction of its kind in the North East and will be an ideal family day out. Students will also be actively involved in running the attraction

as well as providing a great real life educational experience."

Other key aspects of the attraction include a river and forest trail, ornamental and walled gardens, an aquatics centre, indoor and outdoor picnic areas, children's play areas and a new tea room and gift shop.

The Orangery Tea Room and Gift Shop will be open seven days a week, providing a new place for the public to enjoy a bite to eat.

Animal Management lecturer Steven Sykes has formed key links with well-known animal parks Flamingo Land, Chester Zoo, Twycross Zoo and Beale Park, which have supplied some of the animals for free, and the Wetlands Trust based in Washington has offered plants in return for students building a pond.

Construction students based at the Ashington campus have laid pathways throughout the site, ensuring they are wheelchair and pushchair friendly and the animal management, horticulture and countryside students have helped to build the animal enclosures.

Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens is scheduled to open at the end of May and will be open weekends and school holidays 9am to 5pm, with reduced opening hours in the winter months. The tea room and gift shop will be open to the public midweek 10am – 2pm and weekends and school holidays 10am – 4pm.

Visit www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk for more information.

Photos and cover shot by Trevor Walker

From Pegswood to Ponteland

Archie and Margaret celebrate 60 years of marriage

They met at the Friday night hop in Pegswood in 1949 and have been devoted to each other ever since.

Popular Ponteland politician Archie Cave and his wife Margaret have just celebrated 60 years of marriage and what the Town Councillor described as “a great life together”.

Archie was a 21-year-old miner at Pegswood Pit and Margaret, 18, was a bakeress at Bertha Burns in Morpeth, when he first asked her for a dance. Two years later on Saturday March 10, 1951 they married at St Cuthbert’s Church, Bedlington.

Archie, now 83, left the mining industry after an accident and worked in farming, before becoming a porter at Newcastle’s RVI - a job he held for more than 20 years until his retirement.

He has been a Liberal Democrat councillor ever since, previously serving on the Castle Morpeth authority before its abolition in 2009.

The couple, of Kirkley Drive, have five children in their fifties – Brenda, Joyce, Gordon, Maureen and Ian – eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, and enjoyed a special Diamond Wedding Anniversary party at Stanley Burn Care Home in Wylam, where Margaret, 80, now lives due to ill health.

Ponteland Town Mayor Robin Ramsay dropped in to add his own congratulations, and Town Council colleagues also presented a card and the proceeds of a collection after the authority’s March meeting.

In an emotional tribute Archie said: “We had a great day, and we’ve had a great life together – I wouldn’t change a thing. Margaret has been a fabulous wife and mother.”

Photos by Trevor Walker



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Secretary Greg Waugh at:
secretary@thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk

Tel: 01661 822689





Children enjoy “amazing” skiing trip to France

“Amazing” “The best week of my life” “Great fun” – just some of the descriptions from pupils from Richard Coates Middle School of their annual skiing trip.

The Year 8 students, aged 12 and 13, stayed at the Les Menuires resort in the Savoie department of south-east France, one of the venues for the 1992 Winter Olympics.

Head of PE Graeme Hopper sent Pont News these pictures and a few comments from the children who attended, including Jack from class 8RY who said: “Skiing 2011 in Les Menuires has been the best week of my life. It has taught me that if you put your head to it you can do it. I will never forget this trip.”



Ponteland teenager’s Cambridge dream realised



An award-winning Ponteland teenager has fulfilled her childhood dream to be offered a place at one of the country’s top universities.

Francesca Thornton has longed to study at Cambridge since she was five years old and now she has finally reached her goal after she was offered a place at its esteemed Downing College.

The Newcastle Church High pupil plans to read religious studies and theology.

She said: “Winning my place

at Cambridge is like a dream come true for me. I was inspired from a young age by my dad, who didn’t go to university and always wanted me to have the best education possible.”

Last year the 18-year-old led her team to the national finals of the Young Enterprise awards as joint Managing Director of BrightLife Books. She also won top prize for Most Outstanding Leadership.

“Managing BrightLife Books has given me so much hands-on experience and made me realise

how ambitious I am,” she said.

“I also work at Explore Learning in Kingston Park, helping children aged four to 15 with their school work. I can’t wait to apply the skills I’ve learnt when I go to read religious studies and theology at Cambridge.”

Church High Headteacher Joy Gatenby said: “During a time when competition for these prestigious universities is at its height, this is an outstanding achievement.”

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Traffic problems (and solutions) and councillors' expenses in this month's letters...

My traffic management plan for Ponteland

Previously I had written to Pont News & Views regarding the problem of traffic and children control at the schools on Callerton Lane.

I was invited to a meeting with the two schools' Human Resources staff, Northumberland Police representatives, Councillors (Roads) and Parish Councillors, Governors, a Head Teacher and a reporter.

We all went outside and watched the children leaving school between 3.15pm and 3.40pm. Ideas were suggested and the outcome was that a Pelican Crossing could be installed outside the school entrance on Callerton Lane at no great cost as the electrical supply was already available on the existing crossing.

The main school parking area is currently taken up by extra staff cars thus causing parents to block side roads and pavements. It was suggested the current staff car park should be increased by using land on the other side of the school entrance as an overspill staff car park (subject to monies being available via the Education Department). The coach park would have its own entrance/exit thus avoiding cars entering the existing car park.

Hatched lines on entrances and exits would stop vehicles blocking these to enable other vehicles to move in and out freely. I had hoped that this matter had been discussed and a decision made regarding the problem.

With reference to calls for a bypass, having moved north long ago I personally feel we still do not have the volume of traffic to warrant this. The last time it was suggested it was because of large convoys going to Otterburn; now it seems it is lorries.

We have several supermarkets in the village, an industrial estate, as well as a lorry park and a lot of building going on in the surrounding area. It is also a direct route to farms and the Scottish border. As regards traffic, it is minimal when you take everything into account. A bypass could cause the village to become a ghost town, losing custom on the casual visitor during the summer months. It has happened in other areas.

Regarding the traffic congestion in the village, the no right hand turn into Eland Lane would likely ease the traffic at the lights on this cross road. I would suggest hatched lines outside the Sainsbury supermarket further down the road and also on the roundabout, as unthinking motorists block these and cause backup in

North Road and Main Street and Bell Villas at peak traffic times.

If Northumberland Council has money to spend on a bypass, put it towards the upgrade of the A1 north of Alnwick. Now that is needed urgently.

Mrs Barbara Russell
High View
Ponteland

Forget the bypass, it's dualling of the A1 that's needed

I should like to suggest that in reality it would be many years before there would be any chance of funds being made available for a Ponteland bypass to alleviate the congestion we all experience.

An alternative approach is to minimise the current attraction for traffic of using the A696/A68 route to Scotland.

This would be achieved by A1 dualling which is already supported by other Councils, the North East Chamber of Commerce and many other organisations. Regarding the use by HGVs of the shortcut from the A69 to the A1, perhaps some weight restriction could be placed on the Berwick Hill route or North Road.

I would suggest that a realistic approach is to add Ponteland's voice to the dualling campaign, which is much more likely to succeed than the improbable arrival from depleted government coffers of the necessary millions necessary for our local bypass.

Nicholas Jackson
Smallburn
Ponteland

The days of volunteer councillors may be over but £1.3m seems a lot

The letter from Mrs James (March issue) immediately appealed to me.

I suppose these days we all look askance at apparently unjustified allowances made to MPs, MEPs and of course bankers, which are in common with the ridiculous salaries paid to all kinds of people from footballers to bankers.

Should we, in a Christian nation, not be doing more for the poor especially as the salaries cannot be spent once you've got a yacht, an aeroplane and a few mansions – they don't know what to do with it.

Some of course do give it away, for example Carnegie, Getty and Bill Gates, though their money did not come from excessive salaries and allowances.

The reasoned explanations which followed the letter do cause reflection, but even in today's hectic society I pose the question: have we lost the attitude of an earlier generation who, as far as I know, did their voluntary work in addition to their jobs only for the good feeling it gave and the grateful thanks they got?

I do not believe that my Grandfather – a Justice of the Peace, a Councillor and a Church Elder – got allowances.

I never volunteer but I look up to those who do in return for a feeling of satisfaction and the sometimes limited thanks they get. Being satisfied with my lot, I am not envious of high salaries and expenses.

Finally, I do realise that the world has changed and that expenses can be justified, it is just that £1,308,401 seems an awful lot!

Bruce Grant
Old Station Court
Ponteland

Won't be much to celebrate at Estate's bicentenary

Referring to the intended centenary celebrations, your correspondent Mr HP Earp expresses his concern that:

"Without an in depth revision of certain aspects of the bye-laws, the Darras Hall Estate will soon resemble yet another commonplace piece of mundane suburbia."

I would go further. Parts of the Estate are already indistinguishable from 'commonplace suburbia'. The rural, landscape based, origins upon which the development is based are being progressively whittled away, week by week, primarily by speculative developers for whom 'suburbia' appears to be the Holy Grail.

There is indeed an urgent need to strengthen the bye-laws to help protect what is left of the rural based environment the founders did so much to establish.

Unless firm action is taken, and soon, particularly with regard to the means of frontage enclosure, come the next centenary there won't be a hell of a lot to celebrate.

John Hague
High View
Ponteland

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.

May issue deadlines: The May issue will be delivered on May 3 and 4. Deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday April 18. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the May issue.

What's on...

Northumberland Fuchsia Society

The next meeting is on Thursday April 7 from 7.30pm at St. Matthew's RC Church Hall, Ponteland.

Ponteland Rep presents tribute to Cameron Mackintosh

The Society's next production is to be a tribute to the legendary Cameron Mackintosh who has produced such wonderful shows as *My Fair Lady*, *Oklahoma*, *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Oliver*, *Carousel* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. The fully staged production is over three nights – Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th April at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 for adults and £6 for children (under 16) and are available now from Alan Newton Butcher at Merton Way Shopping Centre, Ponteland or by contacting Ted on (0191) 2847143.

Ponteland United Reformed Church Spring Fayre

Friday April 8 from 11am-3pm and Saturday April 9 from 10am-12noon. New this year are gifts and sundry/pantry stall. Usuals include home bakery, bric a brac, books, CDs, gardening, linens, small furniture, pictures, selection of nearly new clothes and many other attractions. The coffee shop will be open. Contributions to other stalls would be welcome - the church on Broadway, Darras Hall will be open all day Wednesday April 6. Alternatively contact Les Donald on (01661) 872728 to arrange collection.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

The Monday April 11 speaker is Mr Bruce McIntosh and his subject is Remote Islands.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, at 2.30pm. Membership is open to gentlemen aged over 55 who are not in full time employment. The annual subscription is £10. For further details contact Donald Lloyd at donaldflloyd@sky.com or on (01661) 872661.

North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society

The Monday April 11 speaker and subject is David Milward - Springtime in the Caucasus and Zagros Mountains. Our meetings take place in St. Mary's Hall, Thornhill Road. 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.

Author Wendy Robertson in library event

Bishop Auckland author Wendy Robertson is giving a talk at Ponteland Library on Wednesday April 13 at 7.30pm. Refreshments and bookstall. Booking is essential - tickets costing £4 are available from the library on (01661) 823594.

Bradbury Court tea and coffee morning

A tea and coffee morning is being held on Saturday April 16 from 10am – 1pm at Bradbury Court, Thornhill Road, Ponteland. Entry costs £2 and tea, coffee and cake will be provided, so feel free to come and join us!

St Mary's Spring Concert

Our Spring concert will be held on Saturday April 16 at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Ponteland. The choir, plus soloist, will sing Stainer's 'Crucifixion' and the lovely

'St. Cecilia's Mass' by Gounod. Janet Bennet, a harpist who has performed with us previously, will take part in the Gounod as well as playing some solo pieces. Tickets (£7 to include refreshments) are available from choir members, from the Church office (01661) 824470, and from June Reed (01661) 825899. Please come along and join us.

Easter crafts at Ponteland Library

Monday April 18 from 10.30am – 11.30am, for children aged 4 – 10. Tickets £2, but places are limited, so booking is essential. To book your place please contact Ponteland Library on (01661) 823594. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Ponteland Embroiderers' Guild

Ponteland Embroiderers' Guild next meeting is Monday April 18. Usual meeting place St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road, Ponteland from 2pm until 4pm. Please note this is a week earlier than our usual meeting date because of Easter Monday. We have a talk by Catherine Hart on Classic and Contemporary Hats. She is a local milliner and her hats are fantastic and have achieved renown all over the world. Everyone welcome. Small charge for visitors to help cover hire of the hall. Queries to Sheila Armstrong tel. 0191 2667873.

Ponteland Civic Society

Ponteland Civic Society, St Mary's Church Hall at 7pm Monday April 18. Chris Jones, National Park Archeologist will speak about the background to the Historic Villages in and around Northumberland National Park. Visitors welcome, for whom there is a nominal charge of £2.

Ponteland Floral Art Club

The next meeting is Tuesday April 19 starting at the usual time of 7.30pm at Ponteland Memorial

Hall, Darras Road. New members are welcome to attend or contact Linda Bolam on (01661) 822504 for more information.

Ponteland Local History Society

Thursday April 21 at 7.30pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road, Ponteland. Tom Peacock is a well known local historian and Chairman of Walbottle Local History Society. He will speak on *The people, places and products of Newcastle* and give us his first-hand knowledge of this subject which he has "lived and breathed". Visitors are welcomed at a special price of £1.50 per person.

Ponteland Market

The relocated Ponteland Market at Merton Way shopping centre is on between 9am and 4pm on Friday April 22. See article overleaf on p12.

Ponteland Manor Easter Family Fun Day

Saturday April 23 from 10.30am to 2pm. Join us at Ponteland Manor Care Home, Thornhill Road, and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and hot cross buns as well as an Easter egg hunt, raffle and egg painting. Please call (01661) 821400 for more information.

Easter Egg hunt

Monday April 25 from 11.30am to 3pm in Ponteland Park, for all ages in aid of the charity LegaCare. 11.30am - Egg Hunt; 12noon Easter Bonnet Parade; 1pm Mad Hatters Tea Party; 2pm Easter Egg Winner Draw, Bouncy Castles. Other rides and refreshments will be available in the park.

Easter Origami at Ponteland Library

Wednesday April 27 from 10.30am – 11.30am, for children aged 8+. Tickets £2, but places are limited, so booking is essential. To book your place please contact Ponteland Library on (01661) 823594.

Yoga Class

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	WEDNESDAY 27 th	6.45pm to 7.45pm
Contact		Price to Party
DANNY on 07921 910 113 for details		£4.00 Lets dance ☺

Ponteland market goes weekly

From Friday March 25 Ponteland's bustling street market will be going weekly.

The market was relocated to the village's Merton Way shopping centre in June last year, and has been increasing in popularity with shoppers and stallholders ever since.

Regular traders sell a wide range of products including organic meat, pies and quiches, clothing, fish and game, plants and flowers, eggs, cheese and wines, cup cakes, chocolates, greetings cards, jams and fudge.

Northumberland County Council manages the market and it has recently launched a new strategy aimed at revitalising local markets.

Councillor Ian Lindley, executive member responsible for markets, said: "This is a great example of a market that is going from strength to strength and having a real impact on the local community.

"We are strongly committed to strengthening and improving the quality and interest of markets in Northumberland and to create a dynamic market experience that adds maximum value to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the county."

The market will run from 9am to 4.30pm every Friday.

For further information contact Keith Gray at the council on keith.gray@northumberland.gov.uk or 01434 652419.



New Rendezvous restaurant now at the former Smithy Bistro next to the Diamond Inn.



Open seven days a week

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EVENING

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New Rendezvous

CHINESE RESTAURANT

New Rendezvous, 3-5 Bell Villas, Ponteland, NE20 9BD



By PC Paul Henery,
Ponteland Community Beat Manager

Car vandals sought



There have been a total of 16 crimes reported in the Ponteland area in the period from February 16 to March 15.

They break down as follows:

- five thefts (one shoplifting)
- four damage to motor vehicles
- three possession of drugs
- two burglary (non-dwelling)
- one burglary (dwelling)
- one assault.

There have been nine arrests and enquiries are ongoing which may lead to further arrests.

There have been a number of criminal damages to motor cars in Dunsgreen, Ponteland which occurred between 1am and 2am on March 5. We would appeal for anyone who saw any suspicious activity or who may have information about who was responsible to come forward.

We would also like to appeal for information following a theft of coping stones from the wall of a house in Middle Drive which occurred between 6.30pm on March 12 and 12.30pm on March 13.

If anyone has any information about these or any other crimes contact the Police on 03456 043 043 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Surgeries and public meetings

CSO Ruddick's next surgery is on Saturday April 2 at Merton Hall between 10am-11am. The next neighbourhood policing day in Ponteland is Wednesday April 13 on Merton Way at 10am and the Broadway at 1pm.

The April Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) meeting is Tuesday April 19 at 9.30am in the East Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe.

CSO Ruddick has another surgery on Friday April 22 at Ponteland Library between 11am-12noon. My next surgery is Saturday April 30 at the Co-op, Broadway, between 10am-11am.

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Samantha, 7, designs winning logo for children's centre

An artistic Ponteland schoolgirl's design has beaten off 200 competitors to be chosen as the local children's centre's logo.

Samantha Gray's creation is now on permanent display at the entrance to Ponteland Children's Centre and used on all signage, stationery and uniforms.

Susan Usher, from the Family Support team at the centre, said: "When Ponteland Children's Centre opened in April 2010 we needed a logo for signage, letterheads, stationery, uniforms etc.

"We decided to open up a competition with the local schools, Ponteland First School and Year 5 of Richard Coates Middle School, to get the children to design the Children's Centre logo and 200 children submitted entries."

Samantha, seven, saw her logo unveiled at a presentation at the centre and is pictured with the winning design on her 'hoodie' and entrance sign.

Photo by Trevor Walker



BRIDGE CLUBS

We have three Bridge Clubs in Ponteland - Ponteland Tuesday Bridge Club which meets on Tuesday in the Memorial Hall at 7pm, Ponteland Contract Bridge which meets on Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall at 7.15pm, and Ponteland Village Bridge Club which meets on Fridays in Merton Hall at 7pm. All of the clubs are unaffiliated, needing members, very friendly and welcome all levels.

PONTELAND GOLF CLUB GENTLEMEN'S OPEN: MAY 24

Entries are still open for this gentlemen's four-ball team charity event. Best three stableford scores count at each hole. Handicap allowance will be ¾ club handicap. Ties will be decided according to the practice of Ponteland Golf Club. Entry fee is £70 for a team of four and all proceeds from the day will be donated to Rotary charities. Prize money for the winning team is £200, with £150 for the runners-up and £120 for third place. There will also be prizes for 'nearest the pin', the 'straightest drive' and putting. Entries enclosing entry fees, a stamped addressed envelope, contact telephone number or email address, the names of team players and their handicaps and a preferred starting time band should be sent by Monday May 16 to Stewart Blair, 45 Cheviot View, Ponteland, NE20 9BH. For more information email stewart.blair1@virgin.net or call (01661) 822367.

PONTELAND METHODIST CHURCH - BY THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Sunday services 10am & 6.30pm, both followed by refreshments. Sunday 10am 'Stepping Stones' for children. Monday 'Open door' drop-in café, 2pm - 4.30pm, excellent cakes & friendship. House groups & Fellowship meetings. Walking & Art groups. Carpet Bowls & Luncheon Club. Prayer & Fairtrade groups. Youth Club & Pushchair Club & Messy Church, Girls Brigade & Boys Brigade and much more. Contact Ann on (01661) 824347.

Fiona Hall MEP Lib Dem MEP for the North East

Please get in touch if there's anything I can help you with. Best wishes, Fiona.

How to contact me:
By post: 55a Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN
By email: fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk
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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PONTELAND

The Ponteland churches wish you a peaceful and joyous Easter

United Reformed Church, Broadway

Wednesday Passover Service	7pm
Good Friday Service 22 April	10am
Easter Day 24 April Communion	10am
Easter Day Evening service	6.30pm

St Mary the Virgin, Ponteland

Palm Sunday, 17 April, Holy Communion	8am
Procession starts at Richard Coates' School and proceeds down Thornhill Road to Church (If you cannot walk meet at the church at 10am)	10am
Mon 16-Sat 23 April Compline and Address	7pm
Compline is the late night monastery service	
Half an hour of peace and quiet	
Maundy Thursday 21 April Choral Communion	7pm
then a Vigil until Compline	10pm
Good Friday 22 April Morning Service	10.30am
Penguins Children's club meets at	11.15am-12.30pm
Afternoon Vigil	1.30pm-3pm
Easter Sunday 24 April Holy Communion	8am
Festal Communion	10am
Evening Service	6.30pm

Holy Saviour, Milbourne

Palm Sunday 17 April Holy Communion	11.15am
Easter Day 24 April Holy Communion	11.15am

Methodist Church, Milbourne

Palm Sunday 17 April United Service	6.30pm
Good Friday, 22 April Evening Service	7pm
Easter Day 24 April Holy Communion	6.30pm

Methodist Church, Ponteland

Palm Sunday 17 April Palm Cross Sharing	10am
United Service at Millbourne Methodist	6.30pm
18,19, 20 April Holy Week Reflections	7pm
Maundy Thursday Upper Room Communion	7.30pm
Good Friday 22 April Morning Service	10am
Circuit Choir sing 'Olivet to Calvary' at Lemington	6pm
Easter Sunday 24 April	
Sunrise Service at Bolam Lake	6am
then breakfast at Church	
Holy Communion	10am
Evening Worship	6.30pm

St Matthew's R.C. Ponteland

Holy Thursday 21 April Service	8pm
Good Friday 22 April	3pm
Easter Vigil 23 April	6pm
Easter Service 24 April	10.30am
At Cheeseburn 24 April	8.30am



RAISING OF THE CROSS – GOOD FRIDAY 11.15am VILLAGE GREEN PONTELAND

Refreshments in the Methodist Hall after the service

Peer visits Ponteland school

Ponteland High School sixth formers gained a valuable insight into the role of the House of Lords when one of its members paid a visit.

Lord Walton of Detchant gave a talk about his career, which was followed by a Q&A session.

Former neurologist John Walton was born in 1922 and has an extensive, distinguished medical career on which to draw as a crossbench member of the House of Lords.

His particular interests include medicine, health, science and education. He was

raised to the peerage as Baron Walton of Detchant, Northumberland, in 1989.

Ponteland High Headteacher Stephen Prandle said: "The House of Lords has an important role to play in the government of our country, yet its workings do not have as high a profile as that of the House of Commons.

"This visit from Lord Walton, a local peer, was an excellent opportunity for our post-16 students to discover how he and his colleagues work."

The visit was part of the Peers in Schools programme, which operates across the UK and sends members of the House into schools and sixth-form colleges to talk to young people about its work and role.

The scheme was devised by Baroness



Hayman, the Lord Speaker, as part of an outreach programme aimed at raising awareness of the role of the House of Lords and encouraging people to get involved in politics.

Ponteland Town Centre Regeneration Scheme: project update

It has been a long time since Ponteland Community Partnership has felt able to produce a communication about the Town Centre regeneration proposals.

Through the efforts of our local Northumberland County Councillors (NCC) and those of the PCP Regeneration Sub-Group, the Ponteland Town/Village project was put into the domain of Northumberland County Council mid-2009.

After considerable scrutiny in January 2010 the Executive of the NCC agreed that the officers dealing with the project should enter into a 12 month Exclusivity Agreement with the preferred developer the MK Partnership, this agreement being signed on February 11 2010, having criteria to be fulfilled by both parties.

These criteria were to clarify the feasibility, viability, economic and other financial matters for the project, in addition to preparing an outline planning application.



The conditions of the Exclusivity Agreement have been satisfied by both the MK Partnership and NCC and progress is now being made to finalise the Full Development Agreement. To facilitate this, the Exclusivity Agreement has been extended by six months, within which time it is anticipated the Agreement will be concluded.

Throughout the discussions, NCC has ensured that all necessary procedures and

protocols have been applied to enable Compulsory Purchase powers to be used if necessary to this development. Though, initially, it was hoped that these powers would not be required.

How much of the original concept proposals will be retained will be determined when a full planning application is made, but the MK Partnership has advised that the original design guide is still the foundation for the project.

Some variations may be required in the event that a care home is built on the site of the former cattle market and the development being undertaken on the old Ponteland First School site.

Subject to the Development Agreement proceeding as expected, the MK Partnership is of the opinion that it may be possible to go out to public consultation sometime in the period June to September 2011.

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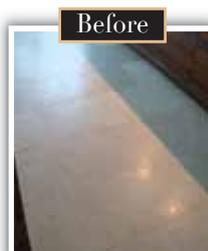


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Work underway to increase Ponteland flood defences

Nearly 50 more homes and businesses in the centre of Ponteland will be better protected from flooding after a new programme of works by the Environment Agency.

Sophisticated computer modelling showing how a severe flood event might spread reveals that floodwater first reaches the town centre by flowing over the ramp at Waitrose supermarket, putting 46 low lying properties at risk.

The project will see the height of two flood walls in the town centre increased, raising the height of the flood bank in the park and boosting the height of the supermarket ramp.

The town's lowest defences, at Waitrose car park, currently protect against a flood with a 2% (or 1 in 50) chance of happening in any one year. When the scheme is completed, around 480 homes and businesses in Ponteland will be protected from a flood from the River Pont with a 1% (or 1 in 100) chance of happening in any given year.

Ben McCarthy, from the Environment Agency Flood Risk Mapping and Data

Team, said: "The new sophisticated modelling work showed that the predicted water level for a flood with a 1% chance of occurring in any one year was lower than previously estimated. This means that the existing flood defences actually provide a greater standard of protection to local homes and businesses than previously thought.

"We have been able to demonstrate, using the computer model, that by making some minor improvements to key defences, we can increase the standard of protection in the most vulnerable areas of the town so that more people will benefit from defences during a major flood."

Environment Agency teams have already carried out a number of improvements to reduce the risk of flooding, including:

- repairing sections of flood bank along Eland Lane that had slumped

- re-pointing the walls and replacing the expansion joints between the Diamond Inn and the Seven Stars on both banks to ensure they remain watertight
- removing some large trees from the channel behind the Seven Stars and between Fox Covert Lane and Berwick Hill Bridge.

Every six months, as part of a regular maintenance programme, the Agency also cuts the long weed and vegetation and clears out the river of any significant debris to ensure there is nothing to obstruct the flow.

The River Pont last flooded Ponteland in November 2000 when heavy rainfall caused extensive surface water flooding and the town's main flood defences were overtopped, affecting 147 properties. The town was flooded again in 2008 when surface water flooded 19 properties.

MORE THAN 100 VILLAGERS SUPPORT MEMORIAL HALL APPEAL NIGHT

More than 100 villagers have already responded to the £500,000 renovation appeal for Ponteland Memorial Hall.

They attended a Cantonese Evening at the newly relocated New Rendezvous on Bell Villas last week, raising an estimated £700 to kick-start the fundraising efforts.

Treasurer David Cobb said: "I have also received a few donations already and have been asked for a number of gift aid forms so hopefully they will come back in the next week or so. We have also had some good suggestions for further fundraising events some of which we intend to take up."

In last month's issue we told how committee members had launched the campaign to fund a full interior update, a new extension, full central heating, rewiring, and toilet and ceiling replacements.

The popular venue, built by public subscription in 1922 for £4,197.4s, has 40,000 users annually and is home to 30 separate organisations.

If you can help with the appeal efforts, contact treasurer David Cobb at davidcobb2@tiscali.co.uk or (01661) 871430.



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