

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Broadway housing
plan thrown out

New Mayor sets
out priorities

MP's thanks for support
after brain tumour op

Countryfile's Adam opens Kirkley zoological gardens

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GUY OPPERMAN MP

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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

New civic head for Ponteland

Ponteland has a new civic head following the retirement of Town Mayor Robin Ramsay.

Former IT manager Coun Peter Cowey took the chains of office at the Town Council's monthly meeting on May 11.

The father-of-two, who served in the RAF for a decade before his 32-year career in IT, retired in 2002 and was elected as a Conservative Town Councillor in October 2009.

The keen jogger and songwriter, who has lived in Ponteland for 18 years, said his early priorities would be seeing progress on the proposed £25m town centre redevelopment "the sooner the better" and relocating the council's offices to the Memorial Hall.

Speaking of his vision for the area, Coun Cowey added: "I want to promote a sense of community where people are considerate and look out for each other, for example helping elderly neighbours. There is a limited budget, so it is sometimes hard to meet expectations, but we will be a caring, honest, hard working and listening council."

Coun Ramsay said he was proud of the achievements during his four years as Town Mayor. He said: "The vision for Ponteland was to promote a place people took pride in, to encourage a greater sense of community. We introduced popular new events including the Civic Service and Music in the Park.

"One of the things which has improved the village immensely is the new park

entrance, we have a new children's playpark and working in partnership with businesses we have installed CCTV, among many other things. We have accomplished a lot over and above the precept."

Coun Cowey's first key public engagement was the Civic Service and Parade held on May 22. See article on page 7.



Outgoing Town Mayor Robin Ramsay hands over the chains of office to Coun Peter Cowey. Photo by Trevor Walker

20-home scheme for Broadway Garage site rejected by councillors



A visual of the proposed housing scheme for Broadway Garage which has been refused planning permission

Plans to replace Darras Hall's Broadway Garage with a 20-home development have been rejected by councillors.

Members of Northumberland County Council's West Area Planning Committee said the residential scheme comprising five three bedroom town houses and 15 two bedroom flats would have resulted in over-development of the site.

The applicants Roadside Group Limited had described the scheme as 'of a low density, with extensive circulation space and landscaping, to be in keeping with the character of the surrounding area but also to respond to the demand for smaller accommodation in this area accessible to local shops and services'.

The scheme had been recommended for conditional outline planning permission by council planning officers.

But it failed to win the support of the Darras Hall Estate Committee or other objectors including Zara Commercial, which owns the neighbouring Broadway shopping centre.

The committee rejected the application by eight votes to one.

DROP IN FOR FUN AND FRIENDS AT MERTON HALL

Merton Hall offers the community of Ponteland somewhere pleasant between 9.30am and 11.15am Monday to Saturday to have a friendly chat and choice of hot/cold beverage, priced between 25p to 45p.

We have full access for those with a disability and we are staffed by volunteers. Local daily and weekly papers are available for patrons, as well as a large paperback library (at no charge nor time limit for return).

Many groups including bridge, photography, Tai-chi, art, Country Market (Friday weekly) history, wine tasting etc. currently use the Hall. Our rooms are available for hire at very reasonable prices.

The Chairperson and Treasurer are standing down in April 2012 and we are anxious to find volunteer replacements. Full training and help is available leading to April 2012, inquiries welcome.

For more information and booking, please contact us via email mertonhall@hotmail.com or telephone (01661) 872917.

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



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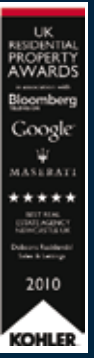
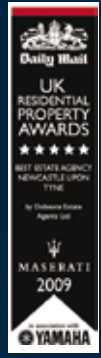
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Ponteland Town Council



ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Town Council elected Councillor Peter Cowey as Mayor following the resignation from the position by Councillor Robin Ramsay, who had been Mayor for three years and Chairman of the former Parish Council for one. Coun Ramsay will continue in his work as a Town Councillor. Coun Cowey thanked his fellow councillors for their support in electing him to this position and said he was looking forward to taking on this role. He hoped to enhance the sense of community in Ponteland and he had various ideas he wished to implement which he would discuss at a later date. Councillors paid tribute to the hard work carried out by Coun Ramsay during his term of office, saying he had worked tirelessly for the Council and the community and had overseen various changes and projects which had improved the area. See article on p3.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor David Butler was elected Deputy Mayor for another year. He thanked his fellow colleagues for their support.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Ponteland 41 Club

The Council agreed a grant of £192 in respect of the annual Wheelbarrow Race.

Holy Saviour Church, Milbourne

The Council approved a grant of £300 to assist with grounds maintenance costs.

DATES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillors agreed the list of Town Council meetings for the coming year. Meetings were scheduled for the second Wednesday in every month and would be published on the website.

MEETING WITH NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL RE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Coun Ramsay reported on a meeting he had attended with the Clerk and representatives of Northumberland County Council to discuss the transfer of certain services to the Town Council from 2012/13. Responsibility for Prestwick Cemetery would be transferred from next year, although there were various options in relation to how this service could be delivered. The County Council could continue to deliver the service on an agency basis, which would be paid for by the Town Council. The responsibility for public

toilets would transfer to the Town Council also in 2012/13. Again there were a range of options as to how this could be delivered if the service was to be maintained. Litter collection would continue as at present with the Town Council providing the litter bins. The Council agreed to set up a Working Party to deal with these issues and report back.

REQUEST BY FRIENDS OF THE PARK TO PLACE ENGRAVED PLAQUES ON THE FIELD OF HOPE

A copy of this proposal had been circulated to councillors and it was agreed that this work could go ahead.

ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

The Working Party had met on April 18 and had recommended submitting an application to Northumberland County Council in relation to the public right of way from Prestwick to Ponteland. This was agreed. A recommendation in relation to the use of the car park next to the Scout Hut by Galliford Try on a three month trial basis, subject to the conditions imposed by the Scouts and agreed by the Council being met, was approved. The Working Party also agreed to send the following message to the general public via Pont News: "The Council is delighted at the popularity of Ponteland Park during the good weather. However, users are reminded to use the litter bins provided or to take their rubbish home with them."

HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

The Working Party met on April 20 and discussed various issues including a draft letter to be sent to Northumberland County Council in relation to the congestion issues.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Veronica Jones reported that she had received a request for a speed indicator sign at the top of Western Way and she wished to discuss this with the Council with a view to purchasing the same type as the ones being installed by the Town Council in the near future. This would be discussed at the next Highways Working Party.

This column is based on the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on May 11.



DIABETES UK THANKS PONTELAND WAITROSE CUSTOMERS

Staff at Ponteland's Waitrose store presented a cheque for £433 to the regional branch of Diabetes UK.

Staff select good causes each month for their customers to support. This latest donation has gone into the Newcastle Volunteer Support Group funds to help with local research at the Diabetes Centre of Excellence in Newcastle and education about this not yet curable but manageable disease affecting more people in its Type 2 (late onset) form.

Denial is the worst enemy so it is worth checking with your GP; if you test positive it can be easily managed and we have one member just turned 90 - so it is only a killer if you deny its existence.

The support group covers an area of Newcastle and some of Northumberland. Our website is <http://diabetes-newcastle.org.uk> and has a lot of useful information and contact links. People may also contact diane@derepackham.plus.com or johnpearcy@yahoo.co.uk or call (0191) 285 0454.

TITLE TRIUMPH FOR UNITED

Ponteland United won the Northern Alliance Premier Division title on a dramatic final afternoon of the season.

United needed to win their last game of the 2010/11 term and hope that league leaders Alnwick Town lost. United took the championship after grabbing the vital three points while Town fell to a 2-1 home defeat against Heaton Stannington.

They left it late, getting the winner against Blyth Town in the final 10 minutes to overtake their league rivals and take the title by a point.



Rain fails to dampen the parade for Ponteland's Civic Service



The rain failed to dampen the parade for Ponteland's Civic Service.

Civic leaders joined community groups of all ages on Sunday May 22 for the annual march from the Memorial Hall to the service at St Mary's Church led by The Reverend Peter Barham, Vicar of Ponteland.

Pipers, the Boys Brigade and Girl Guides, local WIs and the village bowling club all took part, along with representatives of Northumbria Police, Kirkley Hall, Northumberland County Council and local churches.

Morpeth Pipe Band led the civic party, which included Ponteland's new Mayor Peter Cowey, the Chairman of Northumberland County Council Councillor George Todd and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Caroline Pryer, in parades to and from the Memorial Hall, where guests enjoyed afternoon tea after the service.

They included politicians, local businesspeople and representatives of a wide range of parish organisations, including charities and clubs.

Town Mayor Peter Cowey said: "This is the third year of this now popular event in Ponteland's calendar and once again it was great to see people of all ages join together for the community gathering. I'd like to thank everyone involved in organising such a successful event."

Photos by Trevor Walker

TV star launches Kirkley animal attraction

Countryside TV presenter Adam Henson opened Northumberland's newest tourist attraction Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens last week.

The presenter of BBC's Countryfile and Lambing Live entertained guests with stories from his farming career, before officially unveiling the attraction at Northumberland College's Kirkley Hall campus, near Ponteland.

Assistant Principal at Kirkley Hall Marcus Clinton introduced guests who included the Mayor of Ponteland Peter Cowey, business people from around the region, companies involved in the development of the site, and staff and students.

Visitors will be able to see over 100 species of animals including emus, wallabies, pygmy goats, marmosets, meerkats, alpacas 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.

There is also 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 attraction will be open weekends and school holidays 9am to 5pm from Saturday May 28, with reduced opening hours in the winter months, visit www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk for details.

Adam Henson is pictured with Chris Todd, Acting Principal and Chief Executive, (left) and Marcus Clinton. Cover shot by Trevor Walker



MP thanks public for support after brain tumour operation

Ponteland's MP Guy Opperman has thanked constituents for their support after an operation to remove a brain tumour.

Mr Opperman underwent successful surgery at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queens Square, London, to remove the benign brain tumour on May 5.

He is now recuperating with his family and his surgeon expects him to make a full recovery, but has stressed that time off

work and rest are vital after this type of surgery.

The MP's constituency office manager Jon Aydon and his team will continue to run the office and conduct constituency surgeries as usual. The 46-year-old, who was elected as Hexham MP last year, returns to Queens Square for a further check-up and review in mid-June when his status will be updated.

Mr Opperman said: "I would like to thank everyone in Ponteland who has sent me their best wishes in recent weeks and for their support. Never did I suspect I would be watching the AV referendum results

(and the Royal Wedding!) from a hospital bed after being diagnosed with a brain tumour.

"These past few weeks have in many ways brought it home even more - how lucky I am to be a Member of Parliament representing your area.

"I cannot thank you all enough for your support at this difficult time and promise to be back fighting fit championing Ponteland, and our region, as soon as possible."





Ponteland Golf Club

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Golf North East, 2008

Both playing & social memberships are currently being offered at Ponteland Golf Club. Membership categories start from the age of 10 and there is a range of payment options currently available for both ladies and gentlemen. There is currently no waiting list for ANY category. To discuss the available options and fees, or for further general information, please contact:

Secretary Greg Waugh at:
secretary@thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk
Tel: 01661 822689



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Lindsay is pictured competing at Richmond Horse Trials last month. Photo by Chris Lax Photography

Prize-winning Eventer Lindsay oversees new stables development

Eventer Lindsay Aspden is not only overseeing the development of an impressive new equestrian complex just outside Medburn – she’s also winning events.

The 29-year-old beat 35 competitors to win top prize in a BE100 event at Richmond, North Yorkshire, last month, and is now preparing for the biggest equestrian event Northumberland has ever seen – Burgham Horse Trials.

Lindsay is stable manager at South Dissington Stud, a superb new facility currently taking shape at South Dissington Farm.

Corbridge businessman Semore Kurdi purchased the 350-acre site to create a top class complex to breed and compete event horses.

It has a 42 stables, an 80x40 outdoor school, round pen, horse walker and a four mile long farm ride, complete with cross country jumps, will be ready for next Spring.

Lindsay, who hails from Clitheroe, Lancashire, moved to the region two years ago after several years working as an assistant stable manager in Hudson Valley, New York State in the US. She initially managed a riding school on Wearside before taking on the challenge at South Dissington last year.

She intends to take her Richmond Horse Trials winning six-year-old mare Mellifluous Minx to Burgham in July, along with five or six other horses from the stables, competing in various disciplines, including Eventing and in-hand Sporthorse.

She said: “Burgham is a really exciting prospect for competitors living in this region because generally we are at a big disadvantage because of the amount of

travelling we have to do, compared to riders in the south.

“It will be a big boost to the region and bring in more business. The whole industry will benefit – vets, farriers, horse dentists, physios – as well as the tourism spin-offs.”

Mr Kurdi and his business partner Sunil Mehra, from Ponteland, are the directors behind Burgham, a three day event being held at Burgham Park, near Felton, from Friday July 22nd to Sunday July 24th.

Competitors and spectators can find information on schedules and entry forms and reduced price tickets at www.burghamhorsetrials.co.uk

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



A mother's appeal for new children's play facilities, a fresh call for action on irresponsible dog owners and a thank you for charitable support in this month's letters...

Mum's call for tolerance – and a new play area for children

I am a resident of Ponteland, I read your monthly magazine, and would be grateful if you could include my letter.

I am a mother of three lovely boys who are aged 14, six and three years old. My letter is about children in Ponteland.

There are so many children in Ponteland who can't seem to play anywhere without residents complaining about them playing football etc. Police have even been called.

But I understand children; everyone has been a child themselves and some residents forget they have had children before and they were all the same when they were boys or girls.

I have been talking with the parents and other residents about the children and think we need to do something for kids in Ponteland so they can have somewhere to play, to play football - at school or a park - before the summer school holiday.

Children are lovely and kind; if you talk to them nicely they are nice to you as well. I don't know why some residents do not understand children. I want my children and their friends and families and children in Ponteland to grow up with a good life and be happy when they become good parents like us.

If anyone thinks they can help me find somewhere for children to play, they can get in touch with me via Pont News.

Lai Spratt
Elmwood Drive
Ponteland

Thanks for supporting our coffee morning

Thank you so much for advertising Bradbury Court's Easter Coffee Morning held on April 16 in Pont News & Views.

The event was really well supported by the local community and raised approximately £400. Through your generosity we are continuing to help disabled people lead as independent a life as possible.

Funds raised from this event will be put towards helping a number of Bradbury Court tenants to participate in the Great North Run this year.

Leonard Cheshire Disability is one of the largest providers of support services to disabled people in the UK and we work in more than 50 countries with local partners. Bradbury Court is your local supported living service for adults, which supports nine residents at Bradbury Court and a further four in the local community.

Whether it is specialist round the clock attention or a few hours rehabilitation a week, we aim to offer the level of assistance disabled people need to make their own decisions and be in control of their own lives.

Thank you again for your support on behalf of the many disabled people who will benefit from your kindness.

Helen Durose
Volunteer Coordinator
Bradbury Court
Leonard Cheshire Disability

Authorities need to take action on dog mess

Can I make a plea for more a responsible attitude from some dog owners within the Darras Hall estate?

I have been a resident now for four-and-a-half years, moving up from Cambridge, and over these years I have been alarmed at the apparent attitude some dog owners seem to hold and their inability to clean up their own dog's excrement.

On Easter Monday my three sons and I visited relatives at Larchlea and had the misfortune to cycle and walk via Woodside to Pinegarth. To my irritation my sons' bicycle tyres and shoes were covered in dog excrement and my younger son's buggy likewise.

Not only a potential health hazard to a young family, but an unpleasant time cleaning up all the mess.

Whilst such matters may appear trivial to some, is it not time the Darras Hall Estates Committee and Ponteland Town Council took this matter a little more seriously and provide "dog clean-up bins" and increase the penalties on those responsible for such actions?

I await your comments eagerly.

Guy Nicholson
Ashdale
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.

July issue deadlines: The July issue will be delivered on July 1 and 4. Deadline for all copy and adverts is Friday June 17. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the July issue.

What's on...

Northumberland Fuchsia Society

Our next meeting is on Thursday June 2 from 7.30pm at St. Matthew's RC Church Hall, Ponteland.

Ponteland History Society Help Desk

Are you doing a school project, researching family history, needing historical information on a date, building or person in the Ponteland area, or looking for an old local photograph? Then perhaps we can help. Our free help desk is open at Ponteland Library from 2.15pm to 5pm on Friday June 3, where we can give access to our own archives. For more information see <http://www.ponthistsoc.freeuk.com/page12.html>

Ponteland's weekly market

Ponteland's weekly market at Merton Way shopping centre is on between 9am and 4pm on Friday June 3, 10, 17 and 24.

Party in the Park

Ponteland Park, Sunday June 12 from 1.30pm. Entertainment for all the family. Hope to see you there. Admission only £1. Children under 5 free. See article on page 17.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

The next meeting is being held at Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, at 2.30pm on Monday June 13. Speaker Geoffrey Hughes will talk on the subject of 'Strange Tales and Ghostly Happenings'. Meetings are usually 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.

Kirkheaton Show

It is the 62nd Kirkheaton Show on June 18. A local agricultural/country show. A fun day out for all of the family with horse and pony classes, dog, terrier and hound classes, children's races, industrial tent with children's section, homemade tea's, bar, cumberland wrestling, terrier racing and trade stands. All enquiries can be made to Diane Todd, Show Secretary, at kirkheatonshow@hotmail.co.uk or on 07730 431627. Show schedules will be available from early May. Following the show profits are shared between local charities and groups, so please come and support us on the day.

ZUMBA Dance Summer Jam at Ponteland Memorial Hall

In support of one of Ponteland's most well known landmarks, the Memorial Hall, the Monday and Wednesday evening ZUMBA Latin inspired Dance Fitness Group are holding a one-off special 'Summer ZUMBA Dance Jam' in June. This special ZUMBA Latin inspired Dance Summer Jam will take place in the Memorial Hall on Sunday June 19 between 2pm and 4pm and entry to the event is by advanced ticket purchase only. Regardless of your ZUMBA Dance shaking ability and skills, novice or professional, this is

a fundraiser calendar event not to be missed! The 2 hour Jam ticket price is £10 and ALL monies raised will go direct to the Hall. We are delighted to accept a generous sponsorship offer from Paramount Windows and Conservatories who will price-match the monies raised in ticket sales £ for £. We thank Paramount, who can be found in Dobbies Garden Centre, Ponteland, very much for their kind support. There are only 100 tickets available – get yours by contacting Danny on 07921 910113, Carolyn on 07730 899234, or Ruth on 07769 748414.

Ponteland Floral Art Club

The next meeting is Tuesday June 21 starting at the usual time of 7.30pm at Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road. We have Elizabeth G. Helliher of Ecclesall who is giving a talk entitled 'Magic of The East'. New members are welcome to attend or contact Linda Bolam on (01661) 822504 for more information.

Ponteland Embroiderers' Guild

Ponteland Embroiderers' Guild's next meeting is Monday June 27 at 2pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road, Ponteland. We have an interesting talk on Japanese Embroidery by Bridget Lowe. A small charge is made to defray hall charges and coffee or tea are available after the talk. Additional information from Sheila Armstrong on (0191) 2667873.

Friends of Ponteland Park

The Friends of Ponteland Park are holding an open meeting on Thursday June 30 at 7pm at St Mary's Church Hall where garden writer Susie White will give a talk on Wildflowers of Northumberland – in

the wild and in our gardens. Susie is a lifelong passionate gardener who two years ago relocated from the Walled Garden at Chesters to the Allendale valley, where she is in the process of creating a new garden. She writes about this in The English Garden magazine. She also writes for The Northumbrian and many other gardening papers as well as designing gardens, running courses and lecturing widely. All welcome. There will be a small admission charge. For further information please contact (01661) 823766.

Music in the Park

Enjoy a picnic in the park with your family and a feast of musical entertainment. Hosted by BBC weatherman Paul Mooney, with performances by Sonia Michelle, Dunston Silver Band and Ponteland Community Band. Free entry, but donations requested for the ex-servicemen's charity Help for Heroes. From 6pm to 9pm on Saturday July 2, Ponteland Park. In the event of poor weather the venue will be moved to the Memorial Hall. See our poster on p18.

Pont Badminton Club

Pont Badminton Club meet every Friday evening from 8.30pm-10pm at Ponteland Leisure Centre, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, NE20 9EG. Adults of all ages will be assured of a warm welcome. Just come along or contact 07986 388 822 for more information.

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.



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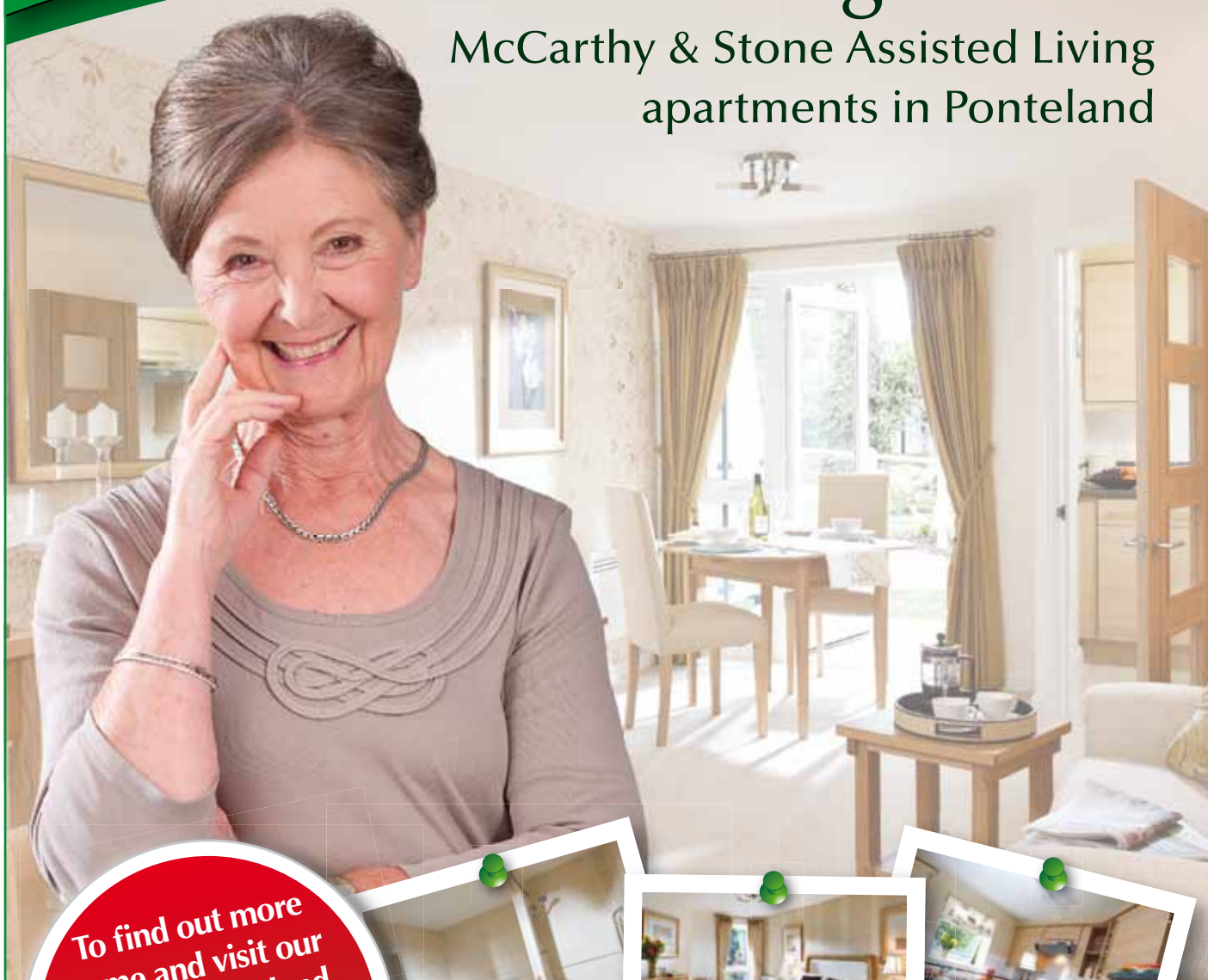
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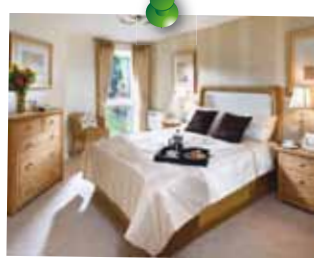
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Party in the Park on
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www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk

Coming soon, a new concept in retirement living

It's a familiar story...as we get older, for many there will come a time when everyday living in our own home starts to become a problem and a possible move to residential care rears its head.

This can prove to be particularly unattractive, not least because of a loss of independence. But now there is another possible solution, McCarthy & Stone's new Assisted Living development that is coming soon to Ponteland.

McCarthy & Stone Assisted Living enables home ownership to be retained, thereby preserving your capital and the flexible support services available can help residents maintain the independence we all value.



"They've thought of absolutely everything. We ran out of questions to ask!"

We're very happy we made the move. Both in our 80s, we look after each other as best we can but it's good to know now that there's someone on hand should either of us need help.



"It's perfect, just right for Mum."

Living on her own and so far away I was always worried for Mum. She struggled with everyday things but I couldn't help. Now she's on my doorstep and so well looked after. We're both really happy.



Flexible support services

Lunch is served every day in the waitress service restaurant and meals can even be brought to your apartment in the event of illness.

One hour's domestic assistance is included in the service charge but this service is totally flexible and extra assistance can be purchased to meet either long or short term needs.

The same applies to personal care which is also available, from the appointed care agency.

Tailor-made facilities

The facilities have been designed to ensure that you can do everything that you would do in your own home, but far more easily.



The apartments have a fitted kitchen, a level access shower in addition to a bath and full wheelchair access. Facilities also include a laundry and residents' lounge where you can socialise with fellow residents if you wish.

For entertaining visitors, there is a function room and a hotel style guest suite that is available if extra help is needed to put up friends or family.

Security brings peace of mind

Security is often a particular concern for the older homebuyer. The development will benefit from advanced security systems like a 24-hour emergency call service and CCTV at the main entrance.



Where else could you find such a balance of independence and convenience under one roof?

**North Road, Ponteland NE20 9GY
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For more news & information from the McCarthy & Stone Group send to: FREEPOST RSCB-BRLE-HYKJ, McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd, ALTRINCHAM WA14 5LX

Title _____ Name _____

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Enquiring on behalf of? Yourself Other


McCarthy & Stone
ASSISTED LIVING

Retirement complex named after former headteacher

McCarthy & Stone's newest Assisted Living development in Ponteland has been named Henderson Court in honour of a former headteacher who once taught at a school previously based near the site on North Road.

The title of Henderson Court was chosen from the host suggestions made by students of nearby Ponteland First School, after McCarthy & Stone ran a competition with them to find the development a name of local significance.

Both Lucy Naraine, five, and Alisha Ballantyne, seven, submitted Henderson Court as a possibility after their research showed that Mr Henderson was an influential figure at the old school, and that the Henderson family itself, once ran a locally renowned builders yard from the site of the former school kitchens.

Fiona Brooks, Regional Sales and Marketing Director at McCarthy & Stone, said: "Being able to work alongside the students at Ponteland First School has helped us to gain a better understanding of the Ponteland community as a whole, and we have been really impressed by the amount of valuable research they each put in to coming up with some great names.

"We chose Henderson Court as it clearly reflects a bygone era in the Ponteland's history that is still important to the area's residents. We really can't thank Lucy and Alisha enough for suggesting it."

When complete, Henderson Court will provide 59 Assisted Living retirement apartments designed exclusively for people over the age of 70 who might need some additional assistance with their daily lives. For further information log on to www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk or call 0800 919132.



Headteacher Lynn Blain is pictured with winning students Alisha Ballantyne and Lucy Naraine, plus McCarthy & Stone sales consultant Lesley Coultas

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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.

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School run parents punished for illegal parking



By PC Paul Henery
Ponteland Community Beat Manager

There have been a total of eight crimes reported in the Ponteland area in the period from April 19 to May 19.

They break down as follows:

- two thefts (including one theft of a pedal cycle)
- two thefts from motor vehicles
- one attempted burglary to a shed
- three criminal damage (including one damage to a motor vehicle)

There has been one arrest and enquiries are ongoing into all these offences which may lead to further arrests.

There have been a number of thefts from motor vehicles where windscreen wiper blades have been stolen and we would ask for any information about these crimes to

be passed to the police on 03456 043043 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A number of parents attended the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) meeting in May to express their concerns about the safety of schoolchildren attending schools on Thornhill Road, Ponteland.

They were concerned about some thoughtless parents who either park illegally or irresponsibly when dropping off or picking up children. Three fixed penalty tickets were issued by Police this week and we are working closely with schools and other partners to take action to address this problem.

The next Police surgery will be held on Saturday June 11th between 10am-11am in Merton Hall, Ponteland. The following

one will be on Friday July 1st between 11am-12noon at the Library, Thornhill Road, Ponteland.

The June Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) meeting will be held at 9.30am on June 14 at the East Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe.

EASTER FLORAL CROSS

By Ann Cooper

On Easter Sunday people attending Ponteland Methodist Church were asked to bring a flower with them.

The church was packed, and everyone, without exception, placed a flower in the Easter cross, celebrating the hope and joy of this beautiful season.

LUNCH LADIES ?

Matfen Hall
Ladies Luncheon Dates.



Meet with friends for morning tea or coffee and danishes, then enjoy a presentation by a guest speaker followed by a glass of wine with canapés and a delicious two course lunch at £27.50 per person.

Wednesday 20th July	HELEN SAVAGE - Wine Writer for the Journal. All you need to know about Rose Wine
Wednesday 24th August	THE TRAVEL BUREAU - Travel Inspiration with the Travel Bureau of Gosforth
Wednesday 21st September	STACIE STEWART - Cake decorating with Stacie Stewart
Wednesday 19th October	TIM HARDIE - from Experience North Country. Best Kept Secrets of Northumberland
Wednesday 23rd November	NORMA JAMES - Stylish Christmas at Norma James
Tuesday 13th December and Wednesday 14th December	JEAN HEPPLER - Florist. Christmas Past and Present

To reserve your seat, please contact: Fay Dowell - Sales Office Administrator, Tel: 01661 855712

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 Helen McArdle Care

Fun for all the family at Party in the Park

By Barry Shaw

The new Mayor of Ponteland Peter Cowey will launch a fun filled family afternoon at the ever popular Party in the Park on Sunday June 12.

The annual celebration has become a popular event in the town's annual calendar, and this year's entertainment includes Darras First School Choir, Whistling Sheep, North Tyneside Steel Band, Ponteland Sparkles, tea tent, BBQ and the arts & craft tent.

It is organised by the Christian Churches in Ponteland: St. Mary and the Virgin, St. Matthews Roman Catholic Church, Ponteland Methodist Church and Ponteland United Reformed Church.

The fun starts at 1.30pm and admission is £1 and children under 5 are free.

SUPERMARKET WORKER HELPS RAISE £500 FOR THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

Melanie Williams, along with five family members and friends, staggered a gruelling 10 miles from Cawfields to Housesteads Fort on Hadrian's Wall in under six hours and raised £250.

Thanks to Sainsbury's matched giving scheme called Local Heroes. Melanie, who works at the chain's Ponteland store, was able to increase the support they have given the charity with an additional £250.



Ponteland Sparkles cheerleading group perform at last year's event.
Photo by Trevor Walker



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Ponteland Park

Hosted by: **BBC's Look North's**

Paul Mooney

Music from:

Sonia Michelle

Dunston Silver Band

Ponteland Community Band

Bring a picnic and enjoy a fantastic evening's outdoor entertainment with friends and family.

In the event of poor weather, the event will be held at the Memorial Hall.

**FREE
EVENT**

Donations are
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All donations go to Help for Heroes

Optician sells business after 30 years

By Muriel Sobo

Mackley & Studdert has been the name of the opticians in the village as long as most of us can remember.



Neil Mackley took over from an ailing Mr Studdert in 1979 but kept the name and later expanded his premises, from upstairs in the Westminster Bank building, to the ground floor corner of Main Street and Brewery Lane.

Neil has gazed into the eyes of many Ponteland residents but he decided it was time to go into semi-retirement and he has sold the business to another optician in the village, Geoff Steven of Merton Way.

He will however continue to work part-time, three days a week, for Geoff, who has moved into the Main Street premises.

At the age of 62 years Neil says he will find more time for Rotary activities, practice his bowling and go off travelling with his wife Mary.

She has been very helpful at looking after the upkeep of the premises and making sure everything was in working order. We wish them both well.

The Art Tour

By Muriel Sobo

Four very talented local artists invite you into their studios as part of this year's Art Tour to view their work.

Anke Jackson

Born in Holland, Anke has lived in three continents, paints in oils, watercolour and pastels to capture the atmosphere and feel of different landscapes including her adopted Northumberland.

Address: The Hemmel, Smallburn (just past entrance to police HQ on Kirkley Road)

Open weekends: June 18/19, June 25/26 and July 2/3
Tel: 01661 871303

Marilyn Bint

Marilyn has a feel and empathy for the natural world and paints birds, animals and landscapes in vibrant, luminous colours. She has exhibited in a number of local venues.

Address: 2 Ashdale, Darras Hall

Open weekends: June 11/12, 18/19 and 25/26
Tel: 01661 824966

Christine O'Donnell

Christine creates amazing pieces of art to coordinate with interiors, making a unique ambience to a room and will match size and colours to fit any environment.

Address: 19 The Rise, Darras Hall

Open weekends: June 11/12 and 25/26
Tel: 07713 159621

Valerie Spencer

Valerie is a long term resident of Ponteland and after bringing up children and retiring from work she has returned to her childhood passion of painting. Valerie carries her sketchbook on travels and has found inspiration in African wildlife, gondolas in Venice and coastal scenes in Morocco.

Address: 20 Willow Way, Darras Hall

Open weekends: June 11/12, 18/19 and 25/26
Tel: 01661 824283

For more information see the Art Tour website at http://www.networkartists.org.uk/art_tour.php



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Brinkburn Music Festival

8 - 10 July 2011

Brinkburn Music Festival takes place at Brinkburn Priory for one weekend this July.

The 12th century Augustine priory resounds with great classical music, positioned in quiet solitude on a bend of the meandering River Coquet, providing a magnificent location for food and drinks between concerts.

Friday 8 July - 7.30pm - Northern Sinfonia

Saturday 9 July - 7.30pm - Gabrieli Consort

Sunday 10 July - 2.00pm - Iestyn Davies

Sunday 10 July - 4.00pm - Gabrieli Consort & North East Youth Chorale

Pre-order your picnic or book your table in the Brinkburn Bistro

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www.brinkburnmusic.org

