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FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Parents face action over dangerous driving

Former Mayor awarded MBE

Full programme for St Mary's Summer Festival

## Darras Hall dancer wins national title

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**Write:** Cian creative pr, 5 East Boldon Road, Cleadon Village, SR6 7SH

Produced by Cian creative pr

# Record breaking crowd at Party in the Park



By Muriel Sobó

**A record crowd of over 2,000 people made the 2011 Party in the Park the best yet!**

Despite a grey afternoon families and locals turned out in great numbers to enjoy a super community event. From kids in pushchairs to at least one centenarian, there was something for everyone.

Well, only if you got in quickly since the beef burgers and sausages sold out and the tea tent did great trade. The Darras Hall First School choir were excellent and helped with the family service as well.

The Ponteland Sparkles from the high school performed acrobatic breath-taking routines and the steel band from North Tyneside were consigned to the marquee at the end, just as the rain started to fall and the crowds quickly melted away.

The organisers made a smart move by reducing the entrance fee to £1 this year. Did this help numbers?

Members from all four local churches organise the event each year and do a great job. Newcastle Airport is our main sponsor, local businesses are very supportive and the Town Council helps in many ways.

**Photos by Trevor Walker**

# St Mary's Summer Festival: Saturday July 30 to Saturday August 6

By The Reverend Peter Barham

**Every two years St Mary's has a Summer Festival with lots of attractions over a very full week.**

There is a Flower Festival in St Mary's Church, Ponteland, and the church looks stunning. This year the theme is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, the Authorised Version, and the displays will reflect bible verses in the old language.

The King James Bible theme continues in a Marquee in the Vicarage Garden, where the national exhibition from the University of Sheffield will be on display, along with work from Richard Coates' School, and a display by Ponteland Local History Society reflecting Ponteland 400 years ago. There are also guided tours of the church and an evening of railway films.

Northumbrian Artists of Today exhibit in the Church Hall. Paintings by some of the leading Northumbrian artists, including people from Ponteland itself, are all for sale.

There are three musical events - the Baliffgate Singers, Katherine White and Alison Shiel, and an organ recital by Shaun Turnbull. Ponteland Library is involved this year with a talk "Monkey business at a medieval abbey" and a morning of Circus Skills with children in the Vicarage Marquee (before the displays go up!)

Refreshments are available throughout the week. There are special Church Services at 10am and 6.30pm on Sunday July 31, and The Rt Revd Frank White, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, is coming to celebrate Communion at 10am on Wednesday August 3.



*Floral display in St Mary's Church for the 2009 Festival. Picture by Trevor Walker.*

Admission to the Flower Festival, Picture Exhibition and History Marquee is free - donations would be appreciated. The Festival is in aid of three charities - Church Army, Newcastle Children's Hospital Charity, and St Mary's Church Organ.

More information at  
[www.pontelandstmary.co.uk](http://www.pontelandstmary.co.uk)

## Festival programme

### Friday July 29

11am - Circurama, a professional circus skills company in the Vicarage Marquee, for children ages 6-12. Tickets £3, booked through Ponteland Library (01661) 823594.

7.30pm - Private View of the Pictures. Tickets £7 includes a glass of wine and a finger buffet. For tickets call (01661) 824938.

### Saturday July 30

10am-5.30pm Flower Festival in Church, History in the Vicarage Marquee, Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall. Refreshments served throughout the day.

7.30pm - Concert by the Baliffgate Singers, directed by Hannah Barham. Tickets £5 to include a glass of wine.

### Sunday July 31

8am - Holy Communion in St Mary's.

10am - Festival Eucharist in St Mary's. Preacher: Dr Deb Rooke, from the University of Oxford.

2pm-5.30pm - Flower Festival in Church, History in the Vicarage Marquee, Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall. Refreshments served all afternoon.

6.30pm - Songs of Praise in St Mary's - United Service for Ponteland churches and Newcastle West Deanery.

### Monday August 1

10am-5.30pm - Flower Festival in Church, History in the Vicarage Marquee, Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall. Refreshments served throughout the day.

2.15pm - 'The Story of St Mary's' guided tour.

7.30pm - Railway Films in St Mary's. John Betjeman, John Piper, and Northumberland. Admission free.

### Tuesday August 2

10am-5.30pm - Flower Festival in Church, History in the Vicarage Marquee, Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall. Refreshments served throughout the day.

2.15pm - 'The Story of St Mary's' guided tour.

### Wednesday August 3

10am - Holy Communion in St Mary's. President: The Rt Revd Frank White, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle.

10am-5.30pm - Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall, History in the Vicarage Marquee. Refreshments served. Flower Festival opens at 10.45am.

2.15pm - 'The Story of St Mary's' guided tour.

3pm-4pm - Jane Lewis plays light music in the Marquee to accompany Afternoon Tea.

7.30pm - Concert by Katherine Shiel (soprano) and Alison White (piano). Tickets £5 to include a glass of wine.

### Thursday August 4

10am-5.30pm - Flower Festival in Church, History in the Vicarage Marquee, Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall, Refreshments served throughout the day.

2.15pm - 'The Story of St Mary's' guided tour.

7.30pm - Author Event - "Monkey business in a Medieval Abbey" by archaeologist Barry Mead. Tickets £2 from Ponteland Library (01661) 823594.

### Friday August 5

10am-5.30pm - Flower Festival in Church, History in the Vicarage Marquee, Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall, Refreshments served throughout the day.

7.30pm - Organ recital by Shaun Turnbull. Tickets £5 to include a glass of wine.

### Saturday August 6

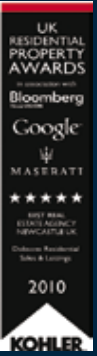
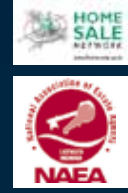
10am-5.30pm - Flower Festival in Church, History in the Vicarage Marquee, Northumbrian Artists of Today in the Church Hall, Refreshments served throughout the day.

Plant Sale in the Church Hall garden.

3.30pm - the Grand Festival Raffle will be drawn.

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## River Works

The Council had obtained preliminary advice from consultants in relation to various defects associated with the River Pont. These included cracking of the brick coping beside Waitrose bridge, undermining of abutments to footbridges, erosion of the river banks due to animals entering the river, scour of the river banks by flood events and scour near to the footbridge. In order to progress these works, further negotiations were required with the Environment Agency and schemes were to be prepared to enable works to rectify these problems to proceed to tender stage. The abutment undermining works were, however, urgent and it was suggested that this should be processed as a matter of some urgency and the use of sandbags could be carried out relatively quickly. The permanent works would require the removal of the bridge deck which would mean that the bridge deck reconstruction and the underpinning could be let as a single contract next year. Funding would need to be included in the budget for next year. The Council agreed to proceed with the design works and the temporary urgent repairs to the bridge abutments.

## Redesign of Footbridge Decks - Ponteland Park

The Council recently considered and agreed a report relating to the replacement of the footbridges in the park in the near future. As part of this process, detailed construction drawings were required and a sum was included within the budget for this year to enable this work to be carried out. The costs involved in the design

work were outlined and the Council agreed to appoint A J Davies as structural engineer to provide working drawings for the replacement of the bridge deck to the footbridges in the car park.

## Annual Audit of Accounts for 2010/11

The Clerk presented a report on the audit of accounts for 2010/11. The Council's records for the year have been examined by the Internal Auditor who is satisfied with the information provided and had no comments to make.

## Projects List

A list of projects included within the budget for 2011/12 was produced. Some were already underway, such as the CCTV which was nearing completion, and improvements to the planters at Broadway shopping centre. The Council agreed a project suggested by the Friends of Ponteland Park for improvements to an area of the park where recent footpath work had been carried out.

## Budget 2012/13 Wish List

Councillors were asked to submit any items, with approximate costs if possible to the Mayor and the Clerk and a meeting would be held to discuss these for possible inclusion in the budget for next year.

## Environment Working Party

The Council considered the report of the

meeting of the above Working Party held on May 23. Recommendations were approved relating to the display of 'No dogs allowed' signs in the Callerton Lane play area following complaints by users. It was also agreed to carry out some repairs/refurbishment at the Twizell Place play area. The Council also gratefully accepted an offer from Friends of Ponteland Park to donate another picnic bench for the picnic area in the park and the Council would place a further litter bin in this area.

## Northumberland County Council report

Coun Richard Dodd stated that he would like the Town Council to be very involved in the formulation of the Local Development Framework. The documents would be sent out for consultation within the next two months. Some communities were well advanced in the formulation of parish or town plans and it was important that Ponteland followed this example to avoid a plan being imposed by NCC. Coun Peter Jackson stated that a review of how the Area Committees were running in relation to parish and town councils was being carried out. It was felt that the two West Area Committees had performed well and they would be used as a template for the remainder of the county. The County Council is reviewing broadband provision across the county and it was reported that Ponteland was high on the list to have super fast broadband facilities.

*This report is based on the minutes of Ponteland Town Council's meeting held on June 8.*

## YOUR VIEWS SOUGHT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

**Ponteland Town Council wants to know what residents believe should be the authority's top priorities for next year when its budget is set.**

Town Mayor Peter Cowey said: "We are interested in public feedback on two levels. First are things that we can afford without any increase in the Precept. The second is for residents to tell us about a large project that they have in mind that would benefit Ponteland but would mean an increase in the Precept.

"To see what we currently do all year round please see our website at [www.pontelandtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.pontelandtowncouncil.co.uk) then select 'services'."

Coun Cowey is also seeking ideas for how Ponteland should celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year. One suggestion received is have a communal lunch, perhaps in the Memorial Hall.

To put your suggestions forward, write to Clerk, Ponteland Town Council, Unit 1, Meadowfield Court, Ponteland, NE20 9SD or email [enquiries@pontelandtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pontelandtowncouncil.co.uk)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL WINS NETBALL LEAGUE TITLE

**A Ponteland school dominated the opposition to win a Year 8 netball league trophy.**

It has been a long season, with the league organised by the Blyth and Bedlington School Sport Partnership starting in September and finishing in May, but Richard Coates Middle School have been very consistent by winning 12 and drawing one of their 13 games.



## Darras Hall dancer overcomes serious injury to win national title

**Darras Hall dancer Bethany Whittle has overcome a serious back injury to be named Miss Dance of Great Britain 2011.**

The 20-year-old was told she could be left wheelchair-bound if she risked dancing again after an operation to repair a prolapsed disc – a rare condition for someone so young.

The devastating warning came after Bethany had started to suffer back problems while a student at the Phil Winston Theatre Works in Blackpool, aged just 16.

But after surgery at Newcastle General Hospital and a lengthy period of rehabilitation in which she was unable to undertake physical exercise for months, Bethany vowed to get back on stage.

The former Ponteland Community High School pupil began competing again this year and after performing on the popular BBC1 Saturday night show *So You Think You Can Dance*, she has now beat off competition from 48 elite performers to be named Miss Dance of Great Britain 2011.

Her victory was, quite aptly, in front of 3,000 spectators at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, the town she was based in when she had the shock news about her back injury.

Speaking on route to London, where she is hoping to secure work as a professional dancer, Bethany said: "I started training again two years ago but it's been very gradual – it's only this year that I've got fully back into it.

"But with everything happening it's been like a whirlwind. I only just missed out on the last ten in *So You Think You Can Dance* but appeared in the auditions. It was a really good experience and (judge) Nigel Lythgoe is such a lovely person – so down to earth. He said I should come back next year."

Bethany, whose parents Paul and Karen and brother Ben live in The Rise, has been dancing since the age of three and trained at the Elaine Millbourne Theatre Dance School in Throckley. She now hopes to obtain commercial work or appear in the West End.

*Cover shot: Alan Thrower - Photos2U*

## PONTELAND TEENAGER CALLED UP FOR NATIONAL TRIALS BY ECB



**Ponteland schoolboy cricketer Alisdair Appleby has been selected for national trials by the English Cricket Board.**

The 13-year-old, who attends The King's School in Tynemouth, plays as a top all-rounder for both Benwell Hill and Northumberland County Cricket Club's under-13 teams.

If he passes the gruelling trials later this year, he will receive a programme of world-class training to prepare him for possible national cricketing stardom.

Alisdair said: "I'm really happy because this is another step towards my dream of playing for England. My grandparents bought my first bat when I was three and I've been hooked ever since."

The youngster was recommended for trials by Northumberland County CC coach, Dan Shurben, who said: "He is a great all-round player and one of the best for his age. We've been really impressed."

King's master in charge of cricket Phil Nicholson added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for any young player, but especially for Alisdair who works so hard. He's a stylish left-handed batsman and a strong wicket keeper too. He fully deserves this recognition."



## CONGRATULATIONS

Mary-Kate, sales negotiator at Dobsons Estate Agents, married Peter Mallon at St Mary's Church Ponteland on June 4th.

# Darras Hall businessman looks to build rankings at Burgham

He took over the reins at Tyneside property and construction business Metnor over a decade ago. But now Stephen Rankin is preparing to overcome an altogether different set of hurdles.

For the well known North-East business leader has revealed he is to compete at Burgham Horse Trials next month.

Stephen, chairman and chief executive of the Killingworth-based Metnor Group, took up Eventing last year after attending Hexham Horse Trials as a spectator, and has competed at events across the country since.

The 47-year-old, of Darras Hall, Ponteland, said he was looking forward to competing in the BE100 class at Burgham and paid tribute to Northumberland businessmen Semore Kurdi and Sunil Mehra, who are supporting the event.

He said: "I think it's absolutely fantastic. I'm delighted that Semore has such an interest in our sport, building a new cross-country course at Burgham. Eventers from this region have always had to travel as far as Skipton, Bishop Burton and the Midlands.

"Now, with Hexham and Burgham on the calendar, you get quite a nice variety of courses which means you can just about Event every weekend through June, July and August in an 80-mile radius.

"With the extra pre-Badminton Advanced qualifying event at Burgham next year youngsters coming through will be able to see the best riders competing here in the North-East, which will also attract a lot of visitors to the region."

Stephen will compete on his nine-year-



old 16'3 gelding Tomorrows Dream, which he has already ridden this year in BE90 classes at Hexham, Bishop Burton, Richmond, Northallerton and Eden Valley. He has enjoyed early success in his short riding career, achieving 3rd place at Askham Bryan last October, and now he's moving up to BE100 in time for Burgham next month.

Burgham Horse Trials Director Semore Kurdi said: "I'm delighted to hear Stephen is competing at Burgham and I hope he does well. We have received a lot of support and feedback from both the equestrian and business communities for what we are trying to achieve at Burgham, and with just a month to go we're looking forward to putting on a great event."

Burgham Horse Trials is being held at Burgham Park, near Morpeth, Northumberland, from Friday July 22nd to Sunday July 24th. It will feature top

class Showjumping including the £12,000 prize fund Burgham Classic Grand Prix, alongside British Eventing, Dubarry Burghley Young Event Horse, Burghley Event Pony, Pony Club classes, Sporthorse GB and British Show Pony Society Showing and Para Dressage.

Other attractions include a retail village, bar-restaurant, dedicated children's play area, and on-site facilities for competitors and spectators enabling them to stay the weekend including a caravan/camping site and stabling. High class hospitality is also available in the exclusive Members' Premier Enclosure.

Reduced price advance spectator tickets, accommodation booking and competitor schedules and entry forms are all available now on the event website at [www.burghamhorsetrials.co.uk](http://www.burghamhorsetrials.co.uk)

Stephen Rankin is pictured competing at Hexham Horse Trials earlier this month. Photo by Richard Dingsdale, Photo-Synergy.

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Secretary Greg Waugh at:  
[secretary@thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@thepontelandgolfclub.co.uk)

Tel: 01661 822689





# “Abusive” parents face action over dangerous driving

A Ponteland councillor has vowed to take action against “abusive” parents who drive dangerously during the twice daily school run into the village.

Northumberland County Councillor Richard Dodd met with the headteachers of Ponteland First School and Richard Coates CE Middle School, highways chiefs and concerned parents to discuss measures to address the problem of irresponsible driving.

New enforcement measures are now being investigated after efforts by both teaching staff and other parents to prevent driving on and blocking pavements met with abuse.

Coun Dodd said he had already spent £20,000 from his personal allowance for small schemes on yellow lines, new parking bays for elderly residents in the neighbouring bungalows and a new zebra crossing – all on Thornhill Road.

But after numerous exchanges between parents who walk to school and the parents being accused of dangerous driving, the meeting was held in an endeavour to find a solution.

Coun Dodd said: “The problem persists by about 20 or so parents who I believe do not live around here, parking on the pavements, driving along the pavements dropping off at the gates, using the bus lane, turning dangerously and in the main being abusive when challenged.

“I would like more enforcement so I am looking at extending the yellow line down as far as the shops. I am also going to look at

getting some planters that will be placed on the pavement and filled with flowers - it will make the place look better and prevent this blocking of the pavement. If more engineering is needed I will try and fund this.

“It is frustrating that people come to our village/town to use our excellent schools (the other schools have similar problems) and pay residents back with bad driving habits. Some I am sure would drive into the classroom if they could. It is a priority to get this sorted.”

In a joint statement, Lynn Blain, Headteacher of Ponteland First, and Paul Rusby, Headteacher of Richard Coates Middle, said: “Ponteland First School and Richard Coates C of E Middle School work closely together on many matters and we have worked collaboratively to improve traffic issues around our school site with Councillor Dodd, Northumberland County Council, local businesses, Northumbria Police, local residents and parents.

“We are very grateful to the majority of parents who now park away from Thornhill Road which is helping ensure pupil safety as they access our school site. We continue to encourage all parents to park with consideration for local residents and the safety of our school communities.”

Social worker Janet Dakers, whose son Matthew attends Ponteland First School, attended the meeting and has also contacted

MP Guy Opperman to see what action can be taken.

She said: “It personally makes me very angry indeed that there is no safe route into Matthew’s school. In my opinion it is only a matter of time before a child is seriously injured or even killed by this situation. It seems to me that each individual agency is too concerned about the cost of any changes – but what cost would you put on a child’s life?”

She wants highways chiefs to take a similar approach to Hartlepool Borough Council, which has targeted parents parking illegally using a new camera car. The vehicle automatically takes photographs of offenders and a £70 fine is posted out to the driver after using automatic number plate recognition. If paid within 14 days, the fine is reduced to £35.

Since its launch in May, 438 drivers have been prosecuted and there has been a considerable drop in illegal parking around schools in the town.

## What do you think?

Email: [pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk](mailto:pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk)  
or write to Letters, Pont News & Views,  
5 East Boldon Road, Cleadon Village,  
SR6 7SH.

## Former Mayor awarded MBE in Queen’s Birthday Honours

**Two tireless community servants from Ponteland have been awarded MBEs in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.**

Former Mayor Robin Ramsay received his award for services to the community in Ponteland and Stanley Cooke, Chair of Carers Northumberland, for voluntary service to carers and people with special needs in Northumberland.

Councillor Ramsay retired in May after four years as the village’s civic head, saying he was particularly proud of the Town Council’s achievements in introducing new community events and installing a new park entrance, children’s playpark and CCTV.

He said he was both surprised and pleased at the award: “I was really quite surprised

because I didn’t realize it was all going on in the background. When I saw the envelope from the Cabinet Office I thought maybe I’d got a response to one of our letters to David Cameron.

“I feel very pleased because I think it is recognition also of the hard work the council has put in over the past few years – it has done a lot for the community here. It’s nice that other people have looked at what we have been doing here and think it is worthy of recognition. I’m pleased at what we have achieved over the last four years.

Ponteland Mayor Peter Cowey paid tribute. He said: “Robin Ramsay’s MBE is a most fitting and well-deserved honour. He has worked tirelessly for many years to promote and improve Ponteland for the benefit of its residents. I am sure that I speak for the whole of Ponteland when I say many



congratulations and thank you.

“The whole Town Council would also like to congratulate Stanley Cooke for his MBE. Mr Cooke’s honour is for his 15 years work with the voluntary sector helping those with special needs through the Carers Northumberland organisation.

Coun Robin Ramsay is congratulated by Town Mayor Peter Cowey at Ponteland’s Party in the Park. Photo by Trevor Walker.



# Your letters

## Two messages to dog owners in this month's letters...

### Did your dogs savage my cat?

**On May Bank Holiday afternoon somebody had no idea of the exact location of two large dogs.**

It was half-term and they were roaming the rear gardens of Runnymede Road, possibly having come through from a garden on Darras Road.

Throughout the estate, gardens are usually substantial and secluded, with dense undergrowth often being the only boundary between neighbours. It is not safe to assume that an unsupervised dog can be relied upon not to stray from this kind of environment.

We have wire mesh netting around the perimeter but the dogs managed to get in.

On that afternoon, our cat Patch, who was deaf, was asleep on the lawn in front of the kitchen window. Two dogs came down to the house and enthusiastically savaged our family pet.

His injuries were so severe, we were forced into making the decision to have him put to sleep. He had been a much loved member of our family for almost 20yrs, and to lose him this way was heartbreaking.

Two days later these dogs appeared again, and they were also seen in other gardens on Runnymede Road. If dogs are allowed to stray once it can be looked upon as accidental, twice borders on lack of control on the part of the owner.

Regarding the breed of dog concerned, they may have been Pointers. They were running as a pair. One was brown, and the other white with dark markings. I would like to know of any other sightings.

**Beryl Park**  
Runnymede Road  
Darras Hall

### The Council always takes dog fouling seriously

**In reply to last month's letter by Mr Guy Nicholson about dog fouling, the Town Council always takes seriously the cleanliness of any footpath and or pavement.**

To that end the Town Council and Darras Hall Estate Committee has provided many dog litter bins and their emptying around Ponteland.

However, we must rely on residents who own animals to do the right thing and clean up after their dog.

So the Town Council strongly urges all dog owners to remember others and clean up after their pets.

**Coun Peter Cowey**  
Mayor  
Ponteland Town Council

### There are places for children to play in Ponteland

**I wonder if Lai Spratt (Letters June issue) has ever walked up Callerton Lane to the children's play area which, not so long ago, and at considerable expense was turned into a park with the younger child in mind.**

If she walks a few yards further on to the footpath just before the fire station and continues up that path, she will come to a large field where there are often football matches and other sporting activities at the weekends.

Whether this field is open to the general public for ball games or whether it is only for the use of clubs, I know not. No doubt Pont News can answer that question.

Perhaps her boys should consider joining a football club if they are keen on the sport?

**Anne Matthew**  
Dunsgreen  
Ponteland

## PONTELAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP 2011 AGM

**At the Annual General Meeting of Ponteland Community Partnership held on May 18, the following Officers and members of the Executive Council were elected to serve for the the next 12 months.**

Officers:  
Chairman - Brian Prickett  
Vice Chairman - Syd Cowan  
Hon Secretary - Shirley Hill  
Hon Treasurer - Christine Greenwell

Sub-Group Chairmen:  
Regeneration - Ray Sproul  
Environment - George Clasper  
Transport - David Cobb  
Youth - Matthew Gray.

Executive Council Members:  
Mike Brown, David Cobb, Frank Harrington, Sheila Campbell, Margaret Stainsby, Robin Ramsay, Raymond Sproul.

Co-opted members:  
Matthew Gray - Business  
Paul Henery - Police  
Peter Cowey - Ponteland Town Council  
Rev Philip Gray - Faith Representative.



**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.

**August issue deadlines:** The August issue will be delivered on August 1 and 2. Deadline for all copy and adverts is Friday July 15. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the August issue.

# What's on...

gentlemen aged over 55 who are not in full time employment. The annual subscription

## County Council surgeries

Your local Northumberland County Councillors Richard Dodd, Peter Jackson, Veronica Jones and Eileen Armstrong are available to meet constituents on the first Saturday of every month from 10am-11am at Waitrose supermarket, Ponteland. Their next surgeries are on July 2 and August 6.

## Ponteland's weekly market

Ponteland's weekly market at Merton Way shopping centre is on between 9am and 4pm each Friday.

## Railway films at St Mary's

"Railway Films - Signalmen and Engineers" - Saturday July 2 at 3pm and 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road, Ponteland. Admission free, retiring collection. Doughnuts in the interval.

## 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, St John's Singers from Wideopen 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.

## Northumberland Fuchsia Society

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

## Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

The next meeting is being held at Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, at 2.30pm on Monday July 11. Speaker Mrs Jane Crow will talk about St Oswald's Hospice. 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

is £10. For further details contact Donald Lloyd at donaldlloyd@sky.com or on (01661) 872661.

## Darras Hall WI

Our July meeting will be held on Thursday July 14 in the URC Church Hall. The meeting begins at 2pm and visitors are most welcome to come along, meet our members, and listen to Mr Andrew Sawyer talking about "The Shared Lives of Lord and Lady Armstrong at Cragside". Mr. Sawyer is the retired Head Gardener of the Cragside Estate, a popular speaker, one not to be missed.

## Ponteland Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting is on Monday July 18 at St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road, Ponteland at 2pm. We have a sewing activity with Jean Woodhouse on the theme of Book Solutions. This contains ideas for storing postcards, small sewing samples and covers. Please bring your sewing equipment although there will be spares if you forget anything. Everyone welcome. A small charge is made for visitors to defray hall costs. Tea or coffee and biscuits will be available. Further information from Sheila Armstrong on 0191 2667873.

## Ponteland Floral Art Club

The next meeting is Tuesday July 19 starting at the usual time of 7.30pm at Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road. Flower demonstration by Janet Hayton of York. New members are welcome to attend.

## Ponteland Memorial Hall AGM

The Ponteland Memorial Hall AGM will be held in the Hall Lounge at 7pm on Thursday July 21. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Anyone interested in joining the Committee and playing an active part in the management of the Hall should contact the Hall Secretary, Mrs. V. Robson on (01661) 822603.

## St Mary's Summer Festival

Saturday July 30 to Saturday August 6. See article on page 4.

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.



## CLUB BOWLS UP QUARTER CENTURY

Members of Dalton Carpet Bowling Club have celebrated the organisation's 25th anniversary.

They met on May 14 – 25 years to the day when nine members of the surrounding area first got together and decided to form a club.

One of the original founder members was Duncan Thompson and he was appointed chairman at the club's first AGM, a position he has held ever since.

As well as running club competitions, the 23 members play friendly matches and county matches.

New members are always welcome – anyone interested should contact Secretary Brian Banks on 01661 831267. Club night is Monday and the new season starts on September 5 with the AGM in Dalton Village Hall.

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	WEDNESDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 7.45pm

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# Keep fit for Kenya!

By Muriel Sobo

**Ponteland people support many charities - not only by generous donations but also by giving their time and skills to organise events.**

A locally-based charity is supporting a number of projects, mainly in Kenya.

Ponteland Middle School has links with a school in western Kenya and the Health Centre is supporting work among the people there who have little access to health care.

Fitness enthusiast Janet Walton, whose day job is controlling the finances for the Ponteland Medical Group, was hugely impressed by the work of two doctors in the practice who had spent time in rural Kenya and with a minimum of equipment and drugs made a big impact on the local population.

She asked herself the question: how could I make a difference? The answer was Keep Fit For Kenya.

Janet is a qualified fitness instructor and she leads a ladies' weekly keep fit class in the URC at Broadway. Lots of fun and hard work! The £3 fee for the class goes to funds for Kenya and specifically to support an orphan, Deborah, who also has special needs.

Deborah's life chances were definitely negative until there was dedicated funding to pay her boarding school fees. Now she has confidence and a chance of a positive future.

To quote from Deborah's letter to KFFK, written for her: "I am working very hard in school and I keep all my dreams of life that one day I will be a teacher."



Janet's initial target was to raise £1,000 and £500 has already been raised and sent to Wanga to pay for Deborah's boarding school. Now the KFFK girls want to raise another £600; £300 to continue Deborah's education and £300 to buy drugs for the clinic. You can make a difference!

If you are reading this why not get fit and help to change lives? Phone Janet on (01661) 823433 - she will welcome your call.

Janet is pictured (5th from right/front) with the KFFK class. Inset: Deborah in school uniform with Dr Walters.

## Ponteland Town Centre Regeneration Scheme: project update

The first Ponteland update in the April 2011 issue of Pont News & Views advised that significant progress had been made on the regeneration project to deliver a new shopping centre and community hub to the village.

In the update it was indicated that subject to the Development Agreement proceeding as expected it may be possible to go out to a Public Consultation on MK Partnership's proposals sometime in the period June to September 2011.

However information given by Northumberland County personnel at a recent project meeting stated that whilst good progress is being made on all matters pertaining to a draft Development Agreement between

Northumberland County Council and the MK Partnership, this process is not yet completed.

Authorisation/ratification must also be obtained from County Councillors at various management committees to this Agreement which, due to the meeting programme, will take the process into the Autumn.

As a result the MK Partnership cannot now put forward their proposals for the Town Centre scheme until later in the year.

When any further information is known to the Community Partnership, it will be published in Pont News & Views.



### 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:

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By email:

fiona@fionahallmep.co.uk

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Pictured in the new garden are Sam Wiltshire, Caitlin Herbert, Alex Wilkinson, Maddie Falcus, Guy Stewart, Sana Nosratihehrani, Sophie Rainey and Ben Fretwell.

# Neighbourly gesture by retirement housebuilder

**Retirement housebuilder McCarthy & Stone has teamed up with students from Ponteland First School to create a new pond and garden.**

It is the second time that the school has joined forces with McCarthy & Stone, after students entered a competition to find a name for the developer's newest Assisted Living apartment scheme on nearby North Road.

Henderson Court, as it is now known, was originally planned to have a footpath run across the back of the development to give students access to Thornhill Road.

However, when plans changed, McCarthy & Stone decided to develop the school grounds instead, giving the pupils not only some scenic landscaping, but also an area where they can learn from studying garden habitats.

Fiona Brooks, Sales and Marketing Director for McCarthy & Stone North, said: "We wanted to do something for the school that would say thank you for the support it has given us since construction of Henderson Court commenced. It has been really rewarding for us to then see the students get so involved in making the garden all that they wanted it to be.

# Former headteacher no relation to building firm

By Muriel Sobo

**Henderson Court, a good choice of name for the new McCarthy & Stone care facility growing rapidly on the site of the former first school.**

But, a little confusion between Henderson the builder and Henderson the head teacher in last month's story in Pont News. They were not related at all.

Edward Henderson started the firm in 1840 when he lived in Eland Grange which fronts the North Road. He was a joiner, coffin maker and undertaker and he used the land behind his house as a storage yard. The junior school was built next to his yard.

The family firm prospered for many years but in 1960 it went bust and the yard was taken over to build an extension for the then junior school. A kitchen, hall and staff room were built. Molly Henderson, the only local survivor of the family firm, worked as a secretary for them after the war, and now in her 90s, lives at Abbeyfield.

Kenneth Henderson, a gentle and enthusiastic teacher was appointed head in 1975, a post he held for 19 years. According to a member of staff at the time he brought out the best in everyone.

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## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH CELEBRATED WITH CAKE

By The Reverend Peter Barham

Nine years ago St Mary's Church set up a website. June Atkinson, the webmaster, had been on a web course, and used her new-found skills to put together a site for the church.



In the nine years since launching it has never been off-line. June wished to retire, and was replaced by three people - Tina Kelly, Gareth Barham and Maureen Hodson. They went back to square one, gave the site a total make-over, and went live on Pentecost.

The site, with a new address - [www.pontelandstmary.co.uk](http://www.pontelandstmary.co.uk) - has an introduction to the church, and pages about history, activities, community. You can look at the week's noticesheets, church rotas and all the forthcoming events.

There is information for those wishing to marry in church, or who want their child christened. There are easy links to all the other Ponteland churches and the schools - and it is easy to contact the Vicar and Administrator.

## Memorial Hall fund hits £8,000

By Muriel Sobo

**There is now more than £8,000 in the fund to save the Memorial Hall.**

There have been many donations, ranging from a collection at a funeral service to the proceeds of a Cantonese evening. In June the Zumba fitness group held a one-off Summer Special to raise funds.

The local Lions and Rotary clubs have made donations but there is still a long way to go so ideas, events and money are still needed in spades.

*Lions' joint Presidents Muriel Sobo and Anke Jackson hand over a £1,000 cheque to David Cobb, Hall treasurer and Eric Marshall, member of the Hall committee.*

## AMI WINS THIRD COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP



**Ponteland golfer Ami Storey picked up her third Northumberland County Championship at Arcot Hall.**

The 22-year-old golfer, who was the youngest to win the title with her first win in 2006, beat Tynemouth's Kim McKenna 6&4. The 28 entries faced 36 holes of qualifying played in a gale and cold conditions.



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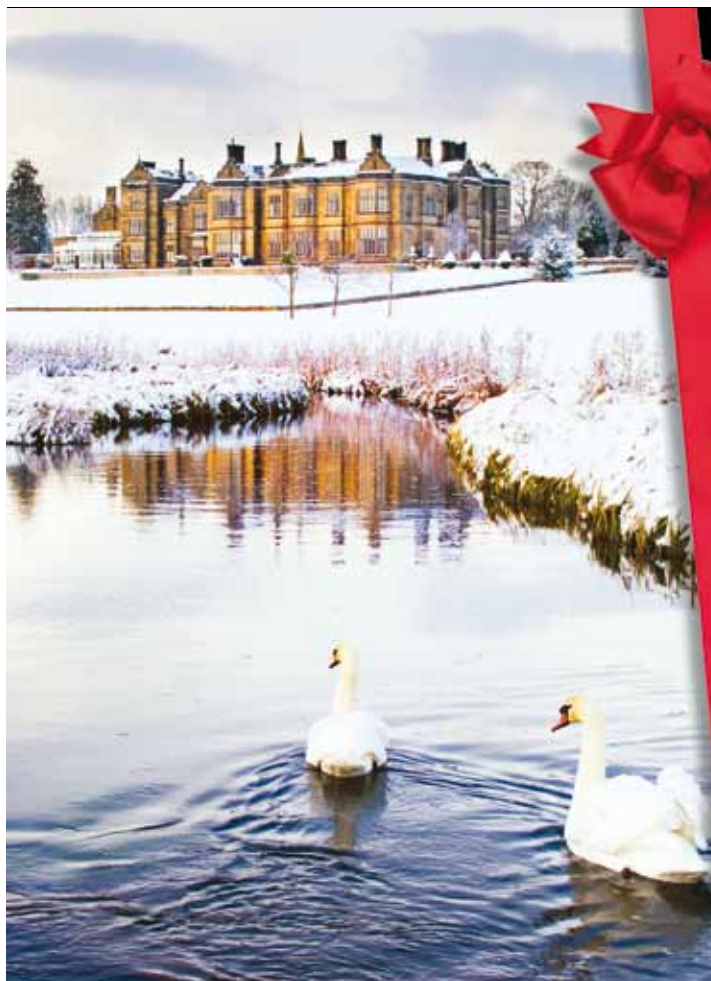
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