



Just occasionally, when the offerings arise, SC likes to lighten the mundane, albeit necessary, diet of Parish Council news and adverts by passing on stories of and by local heroes. Here's the first for 2018...

... I Was That Smart Officer. by John Aitkenhead

When I joined Northumberland County Constabulary in February 1966, I should have realised that Traffic Control and Point Duty were going to play a significant role in my subsequent 30 yrs of service.

My Initial 13 week Induction Course, took place at RAF Dishforth in North Yorkshire. The Home Office at that time, had taken an option on Dishforth to create a new Police Training Centre, and to keep their option open needed to fill a course as soon as possible. Consequently, when I became a member of Syndicate 3B, at Dishforth, I was one of only five other coppers from the North East. The rest of the two syndicates, 3A and B were made up of guys from Forces from all over the country who had been taken away from their own Training Centres, to make up the numbers at Dishforth. As part of our contribution to the grand Passing Off Parade, held in one of the hangars, we provided a display of "Traffic Signals to the Motorist" as a drill movement. Equipped with white cotton gloves, and elbow length white sleeves, (just as you would have seen in a Highway Code of the day) we made a splendid sight. I should have realised then, that this was going to haunt me forever.

First posting, was at Blyth. A vey busy station in those far off times: a bustling town with heavy industry, mines, a thriving (yes, it was then) fishing fleet, docks and harbour, and the shipyard. At 12 noon every weekday, on 1 Beat, there was a Traffic Point on the Main Street at the junction with Bowes Street, to get the shipyard raffic off Main Street and turned right, against the flow onto Bowes Street, and away home for their lunch, and whatever else they may have felt like getting up to for an hour! Talk about a "Life Threatening Experience"

The Shipyard Traffic comprised solely of pedal cycles in various forms of disguise. One thing they all had in common, without exception, was their total lack of brakes. There wasn't only one or two of these hungry stevedores either - there were hundreds of them! It only took about ten minutes, tops, to see them away, but you had to be seen on the point. As in any situation, there was always some public spirited type who would notice the non-attendance of the Pointsman and make it his business to let the supervision know.

So my career progressed.

No matter where you were stationed in the county, there always seemed to be a Traffic Point needing attention. I must have waved my arms about , demonstrating my skilled, Drill Standard Traffic Signals, to motorists, at Point-to-Point meetings, ship launches and innumerable other events. Following the subsequent amalgamations of all North East Forces, to eventually form Northumbria Police, I progressed to performing in the Big City, on Special Duties at Football Matches! The Big Time!

I wouldn't dream of putting myself in the same class as the likes of Arthur Aitken, he who controlled the traffic at the end of Jesmond Road at Barras Bridge. He was a legend. All on his own, he kept the traffic flowing without the need for lights and signals, and was very highly thought of by the motoring public. As I understand it, he was once invited to Oslo in Norway to perform traffic duty in that city as part of some civic exchange. I would also not put myself in the same league as the guys who manned the crossing on Blakett Street at the rear entrance to Fenwick's.

During these times, I also had occasion to be asked to experiment and try out various devices, dreamed up, one can only imagine by the police equivalent of "Q", to help with these onerous tasks. I can recall two in particular.

For duty at Gosforth Greyhound Stadium, which if you don't know, was on the main A1 road where it ran past what is now an Asda Store opposite Gosforth TA Centre, some Brainbox had dreamed up an old ex-County helmet, with a flashing blue light superimposed on the top of it, powered by an extremely heavy and cumbersome battery which ran down your back and was clipped to your belt. I recall that the local Intelligentsia used to shout "Hey Dr Who" at the unfortunate wearer.

The other one which rapidly was kicked into touch, was for use on the Traffic Point on match days at Stanhope Street Foot outside The Black Bull. This was a sort of bandolier which was worn over one shoulder and had a series of flashing blue lights that chased each other along the thing. "Torchy Torchy The Battery Boy" was the humorous merry repartee handed out to the unfortunate wearing this one!

The only good idea, dreamt up by one of my Senior Officers, in relation to Traffic Points, occurred at a Football Match I attended at Berwick. Berwick Rangers had drawn Glasgow Rangers in one of the Scottish Cup Ties, and fortunately Gold Command erred on the side of overkill to protect Berwick Towns citizenry. At some stage during the afternoon of this busy day, a Superintendent, no less, spotted me and another cop on "Standby" at the Pringle wool factory, which had been commandeered as the temporary Incident Control. The other cop happened to be Joe Harkness, the Stamfordham Polis of the day. He detailed the two of us to go and acquire a Personnel Carrier from the Car Pool. He then got hold of a hot water urn and a supply of Maxpac drinks (they were plastic cups allegedly containing dehydrated refreshing fruit drinks), and sent us off around all the Traffic Points in Berwick to relieve the guys on duty and let them have ten minutes in the van for a smoke and a hot drink. In all sincerity, I thought that that was quite a good bit of Man Management on his part. But now we come to the pinnacle of my Traffic Point career.

We look forward to the second part of John's saga next month.

..... and so, back to the mundane albeit necessary.....

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Telephone: 07841 511674



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YOUTH GROUP

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For more information
Contact Helen or Philip on ☎ 825669



STAMFORDHAM ART GROUP

Meetings are in the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons from Noon until 3pm (to avoid driving home in the dark).

This year's sessions started on 3rd January.

It is a group of friendly artists of all abilities, who enjoy the opportunity and discipline to meet regularly to work, compare, discuss and learn from others.

There is no tutor, but anyone painting alone or wishing to rekindle the urge to paint again will be welcome and given encouragement and support if wanted.

The cost is £35 per 12-week session (£2.90/week, including tea/coffee)

Anyone interested should contact our Secretary Norman Lees on ☎ 01434 633894

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Stamfordham Parish Council – A Parking Issue

It has come to the Parish Council's attention about inappropriate parking along North Side (The Green) whereby vehicles are being parked at an angle to the road, as opposed to being parked in a straight line.

Parking a vehicle at an angle onto the grass is causing the verge to become excessively eroded, and also the body of the grass on the green becoming damaged. There have been several incidents where vehicles have protruded further onto the road at an angle – this being particularly noticeable along the middle part of North Side. This has caused obstructions, not only for larger vehicles, as in the Refuse Collection vehicle, and also the possibility of an ambulance or fire engine unable to gain access. Some vehicles have been parked onto the grass in a dangerous way whereby they are facing down the slope. Human and mechanical error on occasions do occur, the hand-brake can fail and if not correctly applied can result in a vehicle moving down the hill and causing an accident. Refraining from parking in this manner will remove the risk of an accident occurring.

It is the Parish Council's request that all residents along North Side refrain from parking their vehicles in the manner described and to park in an orderly and considerate manner straight along the side of the road, thus avoiding any damage to the grass, verge and causing obstruction.

The Council appreciate that there are now more cars and vehicles per household along North Side and this has caused problems with lack of parking space. When this occurs residents along North Side have on many occasions used the lay-bay adjacent to the Village Hall and those on the western edge, have parked in the area near the Bay Horse.

The Council would appreciate all residents heeding this request. For those who may need some reminding, photographs of offending vehicles will be included in the next Stamfordham Communicator.

The Sir Thomas Widdrington (Educational) Trust

Charity Number 505788

Vacancies for TRUSTEES

Following the retirement of Mr. R. Nichol and Mr. E. Elliot after many years, there are vacancies for two Trustees.

The Trustees meet about four times a year to run the Charity, mainly dealing with applications for grants to those people who are eligible.

The object of the Charity is to promote the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years, who are resident in the area comprising the Parishes of Stamfordham, Belsay, Capheaton and Matfen or who have a parent or parents so resident or who have at any time attended as a pupil at a school in Stamfordham or Belsay, and who are in need of financial assistance.

If you are interested in filling these positions, please contact Miss Linda Boylan, 42 Grange Road, Stamfordham, NE18 0PF by 15th March 2018.

STAMFORDHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Wednesday, 14th March

**Charles Enderby, Queen's Bodyguard
of the Yeomen of the Guard**

Competition: Royal Memorabilia

For details, please contact

Anthea on ☎ 886669 or Jane on ☎ 886214

+ + +

Stamfordham WI was formed in 1918. We are still going strong and looking forward to our big birthday. If anyone has any memorabilia relating to our WI, we should like to hear from you. Please contact Lorna Telfer, Stamfordham WI, on ☎ 886275

+ + +

SWI calendar of events for may be seen at
www.stamfordhamvillagehall.co.uk/wi.htm

Crafty Reivers

Meetings at Stamfordham Village Hall.

Saturday 24th February at 10am

All crafters welcome. Bring a packed lunch and your chosen craft. This is a supportive self help group.

Cost £3 to members and £6 for visitors to cover room hire and refreshments.

Ponteland Wildlife Group

Atholl Swanson will give a talk about 'The River Coquet from Source to Mouth' on Tuesday 6th March at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall, Thornhill Road.

For both above: Admission £2 including refreshments. Open to all.

Thanks are due this month....

...for donations of £12 each for advertising, to J. Robson, Acton Heating & Plumbing, Tyne Valley Foot Care and D. Chadwick, and to D. Freeman-Griffith for £10 donation for private advertising.



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during the first seven days of the month,
except July when no orders are taken, to either

Roy Hollis ☎ 886343 ✉ royanhollis@gmail.com

or

Steve Noble ☎ 886223 ✉ consultsnoble@aol.com

NOTE: To reduce the chance of losses of messages,
emails should be sent to both e-addresses and
if telephoning an order, it is essential
you speak to Steve or Roy personally.



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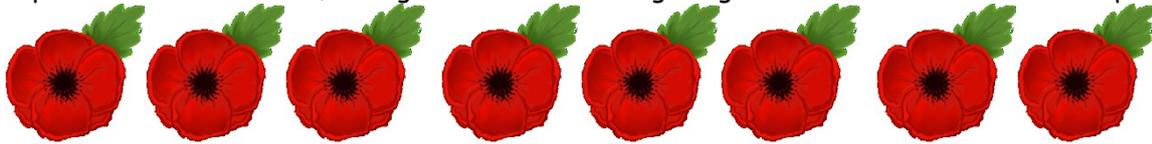
www.northumbrian-turf.co.uk

From WOOLLY HATS to COMMEMORATIVE POPPIES

For some time, there has been a box in both St Mary's, Stamfordham and at Holy Trinity, Matfen for the donation of yarn and knitted or crocheted items. The focus has been on warm hats, which are added to the shoeboxes, collected in the autumn, for those in need to receive at Christmas. A simple pattern is available in the box, or use any pattern of your own choice.

Alternatively a comforter muff can be made to give to Newcastle Hospitals to warm the hands and relieve

distress in patients with dementia, during an admission. A large bag full was taken to Freeman hospital | last



summer following the generosity of our community. Again, patterns are available in the box.

For this year in particular, we are recalling the anniversary of the end of the Great War. Across the country and within our community, poppies are being knitted and crocheted to contribute to displays of remembrance. If you have red yarn or black buttons to spare, please place them in the boxes in the churches. Patterns are available if you feel able to make flowers, or please feel free to use your own. If you need materials, please collect what you need from any donations in the box.

Using our skills to give to others is not only good for the receiver, but also good for your own wellbeing. Knitting and crochet have been studied and found to be of benefit to people suffering from low mood, a problem suffered by some at this dark time of year. So being generous with your resources and skills will benefit you in kind. It is hoped that as many groups and individuals as possible will take up this project allowing people to come together and share their skills, while getting to know fellow villagers.....more opportunities for crafting to be planned

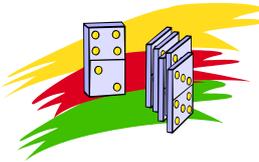
Sue Parker

Advanced Notices

KEEP THE DATE
SUNDAY 13th MAY 2018
THE YELLOW RIBBON WALK
 ... in memory of family and friends.
 Based on the countryside around Kirkharle Courtyard and organised by the Friends of Marie Curie Hospice, Newcastle, to fund a family suite for patients with terminal illness and their families. Please come and join us and enjoy a walk and afternoon tea.
 For further details
 rsvpfriendsofmariecurie@gmail.com
Further information to follow.



The Northumberland County Council iNorthumberland team has responsibility for the deployment of superfast broadband throughout Northumberland.
 As part of our demand stimulation and community engagement work, we regularly attend and host events throughout the county to provide information on broadband and digital inclusion.
 We are hosting a number of events around Northumberland to provide this advice and information, and will be at Stamfordham Village Hall on Tuesday 10th July from 5:30 to 6:30pm.
The date and time of this event will be confirmed later.
 NCC



Prizes
Raffle

STAMFORDHAM Wi
DOMINO DRIVE
 Friday 23rd March
 7.00pm in the Village Hall
£5 entry includes refreshments.

All Welcome!

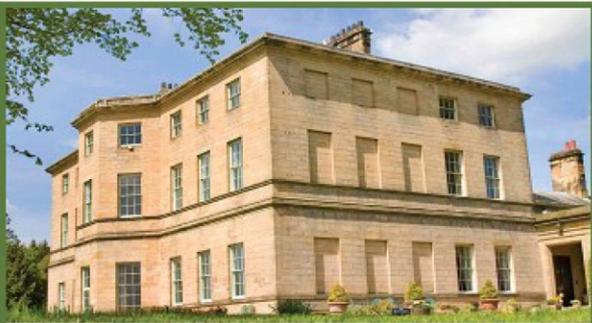


WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY 2nd MARCH at 2.00pm
in the UNITING CHURCH
(CHURCH ON THE GREEN)

The colourful Service, entitled "All God's creation is very good!" has been written by the women of Suriname, South America.
 Come and be part of a great global wave of songs and prayer. The same service being held in 6,000 churches in the British Isles and in 170 countries across the world.
 Men, women and children are all welcome.
 Refreshments to follow.

In this Edition, look out for

- **New Advertiser on page 2.**
- **Temp. Shop times page 8 & 9.**
- **Activities at Mowden Hall School p. 9**
- **Volunteering - page 3**
- **Donating – page 8**



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Stamfordham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th January 2018

Those Present Cllr Trevelyan, Chairman; Cllrs Boylan, Fitzpatrick, Sharp, Wilson and Bushby
C Miller (Clerk), County Cllr V Jones

1. **Apologies for absence** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2017** The minutes were agreed as a true record.
3. **To confirm the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 4th January 2018** The minutes were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes, not otherwise on the Agenda** Clerk had emailed British Telecom regarding public telephone box cleansing and possibility it would close, and would follow this up.
5. **Planning Matters: Amended Application received: 17/01950/OUT, land west of Stannerton House. Applications Approved:** Mr W Crichton, land north west of 25 The Oval, one No dwelling; 17/04040/FUL: Dr K Duffield, North Lough Farm Cottage – construction of two storey rear extension to provide additional bedrooms and study; 17/04649/FUL: Mr & Mrs Nicholson, construction of single storey rear and two storey side extension, Herondale, 22 Grange Road, Stamfordham - supported
6. **Benches** Replacement benches could be of recyclable material, however wood is more appealing. Prices had been secured, and benches that require replacement to be confirmed. Clerk to provide photographs of recyclable benches in Rothbury.
7. **Financial Matters Expenditure Authorisation:** D Stanley 184 £89.79 ; D Stanley 185 £64.96
To discuss request from Ponteland Town Council for bus service subsidy Annual request had been received from Ponteland Town Council regarding the PC subsidising the Saturday Evening Bus Service 74, and it was agreed to contribute £400 to the service. Improvements to rural issues regarding transport could be available in the future.
8. **County Councillor's Report**
 - Tree had been trimmed at Grange Road.
 - Planning permission had been granted for Ponteland school/leisure complex.
 - Community Chest funding open for community groups to apply.
 - County Council budget being finalised, despite year on year cuts to council, funding sources have increased to the council, with balancing available to budget with no major cuts.
9. **Correspondence**
 - Northumberland County Council – Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PHA) Consultation
 - Acknowledgement of grant received from Great North Air Ambulance
 - North of Tyne Devolution – Governance Review Consultation – devolution to bring in £20 million per year over 30 years, with Northumberland to receive education funding
 - Ross Keady – pizza van service within the parish – it was agreed the Parish Council would support this service
 - CPRE – newsletter
10. **Proposed closure of Stamfordham Surgery, 12 Grange Road**

The Parish Council regret the decision the surgery is to close on 31/3/18. PPG meeting scheduled for 14/2/18 where questions can be asked regarding future arrangements. Correspondence had been received from person attending the surgery who was confused to the issue being of NHS funding and finding insufficient doctors to stay with the practice, as the list of doctors at the practice had increased recently. They believe the surgery is a wonderful service and well appointed, with these comments echoed even by patients from Ponteland who choose the practice as their preferred option. It is certainly an important village amenity worthy of any support that can be mustered with the authorities responsible and would be happy to promote its continuity. However, the Parish Council agreed it was ultimately the White Group's decision to close the surgery.
11. **Annual Review of Risk Assessment** It was agreed the Risk Assessment was acceptable for the current needs of Stamfordham Parish council
12. **Other business admitted by the Chairman as urgent**
 - **Parking** along North side of concern with vehicles parking at an angle, which would lead to churning up the grass verges, with some vehicles causing an obstruction. It is becoming habit forming, and it was agreed an

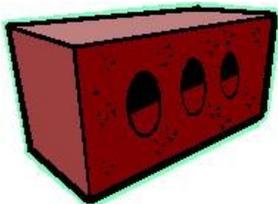
article should be placed in the Communicator, with Cllr Sharp to compile with the addition of photographic evidence.

- No **road signage** reported for Stamfordham at Dalton road end, at T junction, turning left at Limestone Lane, which is within Ponteland Town Council. County Cllr Jones to report.
- **Accident** had occurred at school with refreshment of road signage required.

13. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 15th March 2018 commencing 7.30pm in Stamfordham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm



'BUY A BRICK'

SUPPORT YOUR NEW PAVILION

Donate £100 toward the cost of the amazing new pavilion and your name will be engraved on a brick that will form a wall inside the pavilion and become part of Stamfordham Village history.

Many of you will have seen the new pavilion going up at the Stamfordham playing field over the past few months and hope you will agree that it looks pretty impressive. It offers a great facility for the village and can be hired for parties (children can wear themselves out running round the playing field!) and functions as well as sports events. A grant from Sport England has supported the construction of the building along with some excellent fundraising efforts by Stamfordham Playing Field and Village Hall Committee and the Cricket Club together with some generous donations from a number of residents. We are now very close to the final stages and to complete the project we are offering everyone the chance to become part of Stamfordham history by buying a brick that will be engraved with your name and will form part of a 160 brick wall inside the pavilion. Over 100 bricks have already been reserved so you will need to act quickly to reserve YOURS.

Contact Chairman Bill Telfer on ☎ 01661 886265 or
Treasurer Edward Trevelyan on ☎ 01661 886225

If you can Gift Aid your donation it will mean an extra £25 for every brick which we can claim back from the Taxman. Please ask Bill or Edward for a Gift Aid form.

Alternatively email Sue Noble our secretary at sueandstevesbox@aol.com who will send you one by email.



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Then Kody will be in the pub from 4.30pm if you require anything from the shop.

We sell a wide range of household goods: Daily papers, some magazines, greetings cards, bread (loaves,



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Stamfordham's Got Talent...

.....is coming back for a second year and will be 28th April 7pm in the Village Hall. Please let us know asap if you or your children have a talent to share and it's not too early to book your seats! Last year it was a wonderful event and everyone had a great evening. We would love to hear if you have a talent - singing, dancing, karate, telling jokes, doing sketches or something we might not have thought of.

You can contact Revd Rachel on

r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org or

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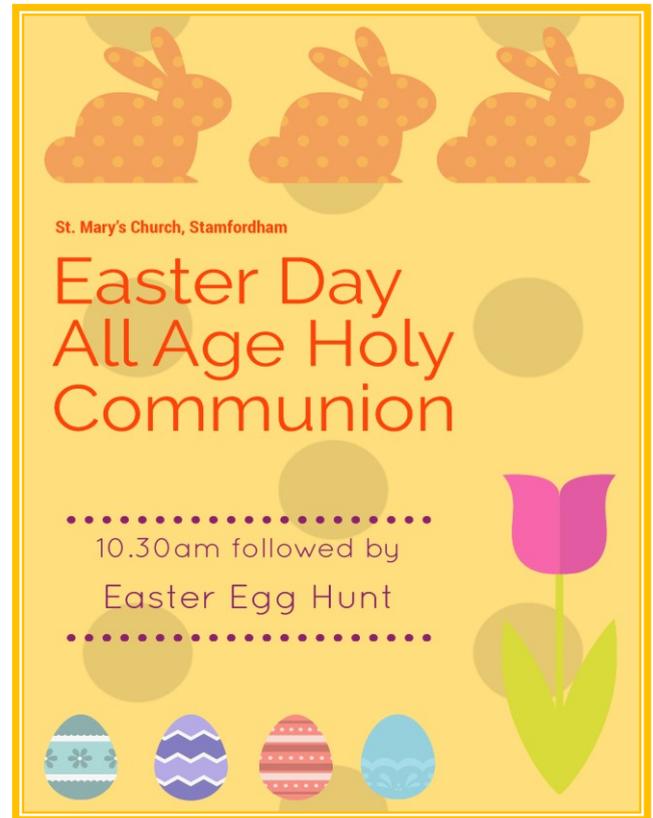


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For more information contact Revd Rachel
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St. Mary's Church, Stamfordham

Easter Day All Age Holy Communion

.....
10.30am followed by
Easter Egg Hunt
.....



Mother's Day Service

We will be holding the All Age Service in March at Holy Trinity Matfen (as St. Mary's will still be closed for heating installation). We will be thinking about saying thank you and making thank you gifts for our Mums and people we love. All are welcome!

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday - 29th March
St. Mary's Church Stamfordham 7pm

Good Friday - 30th March
Church on the Green 10am

Easter Eve - 31st March
Matfen Village Hall followed
by Holy Trinity Church 7pm

Easter Day - 1st April
Holy Trinity Church Matfen 9am
St. Mary's Church Stamfordham 10.30am



A LESSON LEARNED *by Ed David & Phil de Spesse*

A year ago or so, I was driving to Ponteland and approaching the T-junction at Dissington to turn left. I went through the motions and admit that doing this over nearly 50 years probably meant I was a bit 'on automatic'. As I approached the Give Way line, I was looking to the right, as other vehicles may come along, hidden until late-on by the estate wall. Nothing was coming and I started to continue round the left turn. On turning my head and looking round to the left, I realised with some horror that there was a cyclist right in front of me. Fortunately, I was not travelling very fast and was able to brake quickly and without further incident. BUT, up to that point: "Sorry, I didn't see you!"

Which leads to this slightly technical, longish, but very informative article, which at least for me is a revelation and may be so for other drivers and cyclists:

www.londoncyclist.co.uk/raf-pilot-teach-cyclists

Items for S.C 188 to Editor by Sunday 11th March, 2018, please.

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