

Stamfordham Communicator

Next deadline **strictly: Fri 15th Dec 2023** EMAIL: stamfordhamcommunicator@gmail.com

This publication is mainly available in digital format. If you know of anyone who would like a paper copy, please email their name and address to: stamfordhamcommunicator@gmail.com



Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year



Dates for your diary

December 2023

- 1st Dec - Frosty's Fish & Chips
- 5th Dec - Holiday Clubs
- 9th Dec - Christmas Pop Up Café 2.30 with Santa & children's film
- 13th Dec - WI Christmas meal
- 23rd Dec - Crafty Reivers : 10-4 West Room
- 31st Dec - NYE Holy Communion 10.30am St Andrew's, Heddon

- Every Monday - Stamfordham Carpet Bowls 7pm Village Hall
 - Every Tuesday - Stamfordham Art Group, Village Hall 10am-12.30pm
 - Every Wednesday - Pilates 12.30-1.30pm West Room, Village Hall
 - Every Wednesday - Karate, Village Hall 6.30pm and 7.30pm
 - Every Thursday - Dance for Children 4pm Village Hall
 - Every Thursday - Hatha Yin Yoga 7pm Village Hall
- (advisable to contact organisers re dates during holiday season)*

Forthcoming events

January 2024

- 14th Jan - Family Church
- 15th Jan - Stamfordham Choir
- 27th Jan - Burns Supper
- 31st Jan - Pub Quiz



Stamfordham Pop-Up Cafe

CHRISTMAS POP UP CAFÉ

9th DECEMBER 2.30pm onwards



Stamfordham Pop-Up Cafe

With a special early visit from Santa Claus!

PLUS - a special showing of the lovely and very humorous children's film called "The Star"

Look out for more information on Stamfordham Matters Facebook page



Advent Holiday Club Extra

Holiday Club Extra with Pizza Tea.

Tuesday 5th December

(We will collect from school)

3:15-5:45pm

Stamfordham Uniting Church

For registration form contact Pip Forsyth:

07921 843732

pip@theforsyths.plus.com

Is your child in Reception or years 1,2, 3 or 4?

Come and join the fun, Bible stories, games and crafts of
Holiday Club Extra and hear what Christmas is really about.

FREE EVENT

Advent Holiday Club Xtra Tuesday 5th December 6-8pm

If you are in years 5,6 or 7

Join us for Pizza followed by, fun, games, Bible stories and crafts with
friends old and new, and find out what Christmas is really about.

Registration forms from Pip Forsyth: 07921843732 or
pip@theforsyths.plus.com

FREE EVENT

To attend register by Friday 1st December



Stamfordham Women's Institute

Christmas Meal on Wednesday 13th December 2023



DISRUPTION TO ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Winter is on its way with the increased chance of losing our power supply. The village and surrounding area are not always all affected at one time so that small areas only may be cut off.

IN THE EVENT OF LOSS OF POWER PLEASE RING 105 AND REPORT

TO NORTHERN POWERGRID

If you are a resident who needs power to provide assistance in their home or for medical equipment you need to ring 105 and register as a Vulnerable Resident to obtain a priority service. You still need to ring this number in the event of loss of power.

Stamfordham Parish Council



Do you enjoy singing and would you like to join the new choir
Stamfordham Singers?

We need a village choir! Other local villages such as Heddon, Wylam, Ovingham & Hartburn all have their own lovely choirs and we feel there will be many signers hidden away in Stamfordham! Singing is a therapeutic activity which reduces stress and improves mental health. So come along and sing the winter blues away and feel joyful!

We are having our first meeting on Monday January 15th from 7-9pm and plan to meet on alternate Mondays. There will be a small fee payable half-termly or termly.

Venue is yet to be decided but we will probably meet in the church, which will be warm, with refreshments provided in the short break. The Village Hall may be an option, depending on how many singers we will have.

We plan to sing a variety of genres and will welcome suggestions so we can gauge what people want to sing.

If you are interested, please let me know so we can start to make plans and choose music etc. I will send out a questionnaire to those who express interest.

Please contact Sue Bolton on 07809461899 - (ring or text)
or email susanbolton658@gmail.com



STAY ALERT ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE
This is the time of the year when scammers are most active

Stay safe!

A local resident reported receiving a scam phone call which claimed to be about a survey looking into providing care for the elderly. If you can, block the number 01142998359.

1) You can get advice here about protecting yourself when shopping online:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/black-friday-bargain-hunters-warned-of-enhanced-online-scams-after-millions-lost-last-year>

2) And advice from Ofcom about calls and messages here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/scams>

We require a number of extra staff to assist us for the May 2024 elections at the polling stations.

The possible positions available include Presiding Officers currently paid £324.41 and Poll Clerks currently paid £223.76.

You do not need to be a Northumberland Council employee and full training will be given in advance, particularly for the Presiding Officer, as this role carries a greater level of responsibility.

We will endeavour as always to employ staff as close to their home as possible.

If this is something you may be interested in taking part in or if you would like any further information or details of how to apply for the above roles or any others we may have, please contact electionstaff@northumberland.gov.uk

Elections team, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Telephone: 01670 624811

Website: www.northumberland.gov.uk

Seeking Support for Grant applications

At St Mary's church we are coming to the end of the replacement of the chancel roof, supported substantially by a generous grant from the church commissioners. Our next project will be to secure the structure of the tower which in part is 1000 years old. Whilst a good deal of fundraising has been done and continues to be done, for this and other projects, grants will be needed to do the work. Do you have experience of applying for money, perhaps as part of your employment? We would be very grateful of any advice and support in writing grant applications from anyone willing to share their skills.

Thank you.

Sue Parker - 01661 886384 - sue@parker-towers.co.uk

Sue Bolton - 07809 461899 - susanbolton658@gmail.com



Growing God's Garden



St Mary's Churchyard is undergoing some refurbishment.

The plants growing against the church are being moved out to reduce the risk of dampness and the plants conserved in new flower beds. In some areas the weeds have become overgrown, and some clumps of more vigorous species need dividing and sharing in the new beds.

If you are dividing plants in your garden this autumn, please put a plant in a pot or bag, to be planted in the churchyard. Gardening days to come in later and next spring.

For more information contact Sue Parker on 01661 886 384

STAMFORDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Stamfordham Parish Council are beginning to develop a plan for the Parish. When complete and accepted by Northumberland County Council it will become a point of reference when applications for planning etc are made.

The points to be covered are:

- New Housing
- Conversions
- Design
- Local Green Space
- Heritage Assets
- Landscape
- Settlement Boundaries
- Community Facilities

This will take quite some time to put together and will involve all residents in the parish for comment to enable progression. A questionnaire will be circulated in due course.

The council are able to involve individuals who have expertise / experience with any of the areas to be covered or who would like to be involved. We would be pleased to speak to anyone wishing to offer assistance.

Please contact: Linda Boylan tel: 01661 886612 email: lindaparishcouncil@gmail.com

GREEN STAMFORDHAM

In an attempt to do our bit for Climate Change the Parish Council has so far planted 20 free trees, from Northumberland County Council, at Bridge End. They are under the heading of "Natures Harvest" which consists of a mixture of Crab Apple, Hazel, Rowan and Elder. These are not large trees and are ideal for rewilding sites to give nature a helping hand as well as being good for our climate.

We have applied for another ten this autumn and would welcome suggestions of sites to plant them. This does not have to be all ten in one place, but thought must be given to sight lines for traffic and pedestrians alike.

A Flowering Cherry is also to be sourced to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III and suggestions are also welcome for its positioning.

There are several mature trees in the village with none coming on behind. In the event of future storms, such as Storm Arwen, we could lose some of the older stock, we welcome contributions to plan the succession of the current mature trees in terms of species, location and number of trees that the village would plan to introduce on the green.

Contact Linda Boylan either by email lindaparishcouncil@gmail.com or drop a note through the door at 42 Grange Road by November 30th.

FROSTY'S FISH & CHIPS

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER 2023

You can pre-order by phone 07393987130

Calendar: <https://www.frostysmobilechippy.co.uk/>





Stamfordham Bonfire & Fireworks

Saturday 4th of November was this year's bonfire and fireworks. It was another successful event with people enjoying it and leaving great comments on the Facebook page



We did the bonfire slightly different this year, we normally lift the turf then relay it. But with the ground being so wet we were going to struggle to lift it. We made the decision rather than not do the bonfire we built it straight onto the grass. We are buying turf to replace it.

The cost of the event is just over £3000, the major part of this is the fireworks coming in at £2600. Public liability insurance £250, first aid cover £200. We also buy the flashy glowing novelties to sell so we get that money back along with a little profit.

This year we raised just over £3200, the biggest part of that is the hog roast. The collecting buckets and the flashy things also make up a decent proportion. On top of that we get a fee from both the Ice cream van and the coffee van.

This year we have also done something we have not done before, that is make a charity donation. This is something we are looking at doing every year. This year we gave a £50 donation to the Teenage Cancer trust.

We have to say a massive thank you once again to Scott's Catering & hog roasts who give 100% of the profit from the hog roast. Collingwood marquees once again provided the tent for the first aid, this is free of charge. The Swinburne Arms run the weekly bonus ball draw and provide the location for the hog roast.

Without the continued support of these local family businesses the event simply would not happen. So please support them!

Have to say a big thank you to those that help on the day setting up and the day after clearing up. A special mention must go to Tom Henderson for his effort and help on the clean up it was really appreciated.

Thanks to Stamfordham first school for making the guy again this year.

On the night there are the bucket collectors who do an extremely important job, without them again we would struggle to keep the event going. Was good to have members of Stamfordham Young Farmers back helping with the buckets. I could try and name everyone, but I will probably miss someone.

This help is great and appreciated, but for future years we do need more. A few more bucket collectors, but also a handful of people to help with the tidying of the firework firing area. Its not the most glamorous of jobs but needs to be done.

Thank you all once again for supporting our village bonfire and fireworks

Stuart Wilson



New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service

10.30am
St. Andrew's Church
Heddon

Please note there are no services at Stamfordham, Matfen or Ryal that day.



Grounds / Handyman

required 1-2 days per week

Dissington / Dalton

Looking after the grounds, includes gardens, fencing, stable area.

Various jobs dependant on day / needs.

Competitive pay.

Please call Stephen on 07590 077666 or email s.d@sky.com

Stamfordham Walking Group



No walk this month

We are so excited about the start of afternoon church on the second Sunday of the month which will primarily be for families.

Do get in touch to join our WhatsApp group about this or ask to be added to the weekly church emails.

The first dates are:

- 14th January
- 11th February
- 10th March
- 14th April



NEW FOR 2024
FAMILY CHURCH

2ND SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH

4.30PM

ST. MARY'S
CHURCH, STAMFORDHAM

For more details follow @upperpontchurches on facebook and Instagram or WhatsApp 07916681128

Ponteland Wildlife Talks

7.30pm, St Mary's Parish Centre, Thornhill Road, Ponteland, NE20 9PZ

All welcome, £2 includes refreshments

Tuesday 5th December: Gil Thompson "Waders in the Northumberland National Park"

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 : George Dodds "College Valley Estates : The Cheviot Jewel"



Wool Crafting

No meeting in December

Swinburne Arms

QUIZ

No Quiz in December

The next Quiz will be on Wednesday 31st January 2024

**Brighten up the dark winter months with another joyous and uplifting
Burns Supper on
27th January 2024**

Help will be needed with setting up the village hall, preparing and serving food, providing a bar service and entertaining us with speeches and poems. If you are willing and able to help please email markmccaldin@btinternet.com for more details.

Tickets are limited in number and offered on a first come first served basis, so please email soon if you wish to attend.

Stamfordham Burns Supper 2024



@ Stamfordham Village Hall
27th January 2024 7pm - 11pm
Haggis Neeps and Tatties
Toasts Speeches and Poems
Piper and Ceilidh Band
Cash Bar and Raffle



FREE to reserve a table
Email markmccaldin@btinternet.com
Donations on the night in aid of
St Mary's Church & Stamfordham Village Hall



This Christmas, please collect your used stamps, it really does make a difference

R N I B

See differently

There is a collection box on Lord Stamfordham's desk at the back of St Mary's Church, or pop them through the letterbox at 34 Grange Road, Stamfordham

Anne Williams



PONT NEWS & VIEWS

FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW TO FIND OUT WHAT IS
GOING ON IN PONTELAND

<https://www.ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views/>

Veronica Jones, who is the County Councillor for Stamfordham, Matfen and the other surrounding villages, attends the Pop-Up Café to hear any concerns or issues about County Council matters from residents, and would be delighted to meet you. If you need to contact Veronica you can email her:

Veronica.Jones@northumberland.gov.uk



Crafty Reivers

meet on Saturdays in the West Room of Stamfordham Village Hall from 10am to 4pm



Last meeting of 2023

23rd Dec

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.

Sue Parker

Stay connected to your community

Are you living with sight difficulties and finding it hard to read the local newspaper? Perhaps you know a relative or friend who is visually impaired who might enjoy listening to local news?

To find out more please contact Ed, the Registrar, on 07400 096937 or www.ttnweb.uk or check out Facebook.

TTN is a charity (1034087) run entirely by local volunteers.

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tel: 07946541304



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For all ages and abilities. Come and strengthen your core!

Wednesdays

West Room, Village Hall

12.30 - 1.30pm

Mats available but bring your own if you have one

Contact: Libby on 07515489798 if you have any queries



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- Befriending service
- Cleaning/laundry
- Meals/nutrition
- Attending appointments
- Accessing the community/socializing
-

As a small family run support service, we are happy to offer support in and around the Tyne Valley area.

Being able to help to improve day-to-day living, allowing you to remain at home safe.

Please contact: Vicky Burnett to discuss Mobile: 07771449796 Email: carebyeffies@gmail.com

THE POST OFFICE THURSDAYS
11.00AM—1.00PM
VILLAGE HALL, WEST ROOM



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Thank you again to those who made donations to the Stamfordham Communicator. This has allowed us to print a few copies and deliver to those who don't receive a copy via email.

Advertisers and supporters You can now make your donation via online banking:-

- ◆ Account name: Stamfordham Communicator
- ◆ Account no: 38135868
- ◆ Sort code: 30-91-91

The Editor does not endorse any advertisement in SC. No anonymous correspondence will be published or entered into. Any notices for the next edition should be sent by

Friday 15th December 2023 via email to stamfordhamcommunicator@gmail.com

I am sorry to say I cannot accept anything after this date, if you send something it will go into the following month's edition. Emergency notification emails only will be sent from the Communicator email account.

Thank you, Anne Williams



Hatha Yin Yoga

Thursday 19:00 - 20:30
 Stamfordham Village Hall
 Meditation
 Breath
 Asana
 All abilities welcome
 Bring your own mat
 £10 a class
 Contact Raffy: 07540549708
 See you on the mat...

STAMFORDHAM ART GROUP

Meets every Tuesday in the village hall
 from 10.00am to 12.30pm



Contact: Andrew Banfield email
 AHBanfield@icloud.com

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AJS Landscaping Team

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Perspectives Men's Breakfast

2nd December 8.30-10am

Chris Curry : The changing face of funerals

Hexham Abbey Priory Building (above the Refectory Café). English breakfast costs £12.

More information and booking details at: perspectivescvfm.org.uk



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STEPHEN LAVERY

Ponteland u3a

Meetings and talks at St Mary's Parish Centre are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm.

Our next two meetings will be:

Wednesday 6th December:

Songs & Stories of Christmas with faith tea by Geoff Hughes

Wednesday 3rd January:

The Japanese Experience - Culture and Lifestyle by Denise Howe

We welcome enquiries from anyone wishing to join Ponteland u3a - please call the membership secretary on 01661 824953

Ponteland Health Walks

Meet every Tuesday at 10.30am
 outside **Ponteland Leisure Centre**

The free walks take 60 to 90 minutes on local footpaths. A good opportunity to walk safely, improve fitness and make new friends.

Assistance dogs only please.

Contact: **Gordon Allan**
 on **07936 135469** for more information
 or just turn up, no notice required.



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Small Dogs £10.00 per day

Large Dogs £12.00 per day

XLarge Dogs £16.00 per day

Cats £7.00 per day.

These prices include; all food, walks, private use of the outdoor run, pick up and drop off if required.

Drop off and pick up times are very flexible.

We come highly recommended, please see facebook for our reviews and ratings

Contact


Christine Green 07719 379921

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Ponteland

Northumberland

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fix.northumberland.gov.uk

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Stamfordham Parish Council

B A B Y S I T T E R

Available in Stamfordham, Matfen and surrounding villages

Experienced with children (I have my own!). I am also a trainee nurse.

Please contact: Rachel Paynton on 07894 732 223 for availability and costs.

References available on request

Town and Country Canine

Town and Country Canine is a fully insured, professional and reliable pet care service, Providing dog walking in a group so your pet can play, make friends, be well rounded and socialised or individual walks are also available. Not forgetting home visits for puppies, cats and small pets. I have over 7 years experience as a professional dog walker and understand how important your pets are and meeting their daily needs when busy schedules take over or due to work, illness, injuries or just when we need an extra pair of hands.



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If we can help contact us: 07983619615

<http://dogwalkingnortheast.co.uk>



Heather Hughes | Director

e: h.hughes@homeinstead.co.uk

w: www.homeinstead.co.uk

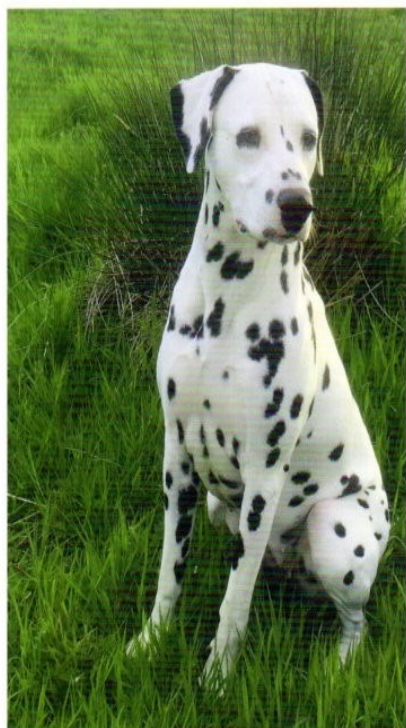
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Hexham

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us in ways that we would not have expected. Our lives have changed considerably and the past months have presented many challenges for us all.

We are a charity running a counselling service that see clients face to face, on Zoom and by telephone - and our professionally qualified counsellors would be happy to support you towards better mental wellbeing.

We cover areas such as anxiety, depression, bereavement, stress and many others.

We offer a donations-based service in the hope that excellent counselling will be available to all.

Please visit our website

www.sycamorecounselling.com or our Facebook page

@sycamorecounsellingservicehexham or call 07939 49 30 30 to find out more about us, or to make an initial appointment.

Jenny Tabori – Manager

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Comedy Night

After a pretty successful comedy night in April we thought we would do another. Saturday 18th November was the night Steffen Peddie, who was comper at the April show, came and did his solo show "Ridiculous Man". I think all that were there will agree Steffen provided plenty of fun and laughter, he enjoyed himself just as much as everyone else. Great to have comedy suitable for all.

Ticket sales started a little slow but gradually increased leading up to the show. On the night we had 75 people attend which we were very happy with.

Once again Scott's Catering & hog roast did the catering offering a selection of hot food.

Fundraising wise the night was a success bringing approx. £700 to the firework fund.

Once again a big thank you to those that stayed and helped with the clear up making sure the hall was ready for the karate event on the Sunday.

We are looking at doing another comedy night in April providing it's something people want and we can secure suitable comedians to come along for the right price. If we do another we are looking at splitting the money made with the village hall to help keep this excellent village facility going.

Stuart Wilson

Stamfordham Oil Buying Group

Orders taken up to the end of the previous month, i.e. for January, orders should be placed by 31st Dec. Please remember that orders should be sent to both Peter Reynolds (oil@bluebark.com tel: 886855) and Roy Hollis (royanhollis@gmail.com tel. 886343). You will always receive an acknowledgement from one of us.