

# pontnews&views

FREE monthly magazine for Ponteland and district

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## ***Squirrel stunner scoops photo prize***

***Pont man lands criminal record after benefit fraud***

***Milbourne miracle family hold charity fundraising night***

***Peacock on the loose in Darras***

***Full contacts list for new parish councillors***

***Meet the new faces behind Community Partnership***

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Margaret Richardson

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## Park celebration for Scouts centenary

### Appeal for new adult volunteers for Ponteland group

By Muriel Sobó

**One hundred years ago Lord Baden-Powell took 20 young boys on a camp and started an organisation which is still extremely well supported worldwide.**

Here in Ponteland we have 150 boys from the age of six to 18 years in the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, all continuing the outdoor activities so beloved of Baden-Powell and working for their many and varied badges.

The older ones are able to go as far as Gold for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They are very lucky to have such good facilities with an impressive HQ in the Park and an extensive area around it available for imaginative play. The photo shows a rope bridge they built across the Pont and proved it can take their weight!

The Scout Group can only work when there are adult volunteers to lead and in Ponteland we have dedicated leaders, but never enough. Are there parents and perhaps grandparents in our community willing to get involved with these young people? The acting Group Leader is Richard Walker, telephone (01661) 823458.

The centenary will be celebrated by a weekend camp at Dilston at the end of June and a **Camp Fire on Saturday 14 July in Ponteland Park** at 7.30pm when all members, their parents, and any past members are invited along to have a rousing sing song!



Peter Beardsley gets the launch of the Ponteland branch off to a flying start!

## Your Ponteland Branch announces grand opening prize draw winner.

On Friday 11 May 2007 the doors officially opened at the Ponteland branch of Newcastle Building Society, which had been closed since a car crashed into the building on 12 December 2006. To mark the reopening, celebrity guest Peter Beardsley released 1,000 balloons from Darras Hall First School, watched by over 400 pupils and staff.

Our special biodegradable balloons each carried a competition slip for the chance to win a £150 cheque. **They were carried far and wide** - with one balloon even found near Naestved in Denmark! We are delighted to congratulate the winner, who is much closer to home, Mr K. F. Gibson from Ponteland.

If you haven't already, please drop in to your new and improved Ponteland branch where staff will be pleased to welcome you.

Please contact the Ponteland branch on 01661 821828 or visit [www.newcastle.co.uk](http://www.newcastle.co.uk) for information on our products and services.

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# Benefit fraud lands Ponteland man stiff fine and criminal record

**A Ponteland man who claimed thousands of pounds in Council Tax Benefit after failing to declare over £50,000 in savings has landed himself a stiff fine and a criminal record.**

Reginald Baty, of Fairney Edge, claimed over £3,000 from Castle Morpeth Borough Council over a three year period.

He was caught after routine cross-checks between the authority and the Department for Work and Pensions, which can access HM Revenue & Customs tax records.

Bedlington magistrates heard the 58-year-old had £55,000 spread between two savings accounts which he should have declared when claiming the benefit.

Baty admitted fraudulently claiming Council Tax Benefit at South East Magistrates Court and was ordered to pay a £1,200 fine, £50 costs and compensation to the Council of £3,145, all within 28 days.

Over the last year, the Council has issued 10 cautions, had six successful prosecutions and is claiming back overpaid benefit of over £18,000.

Coun Nic Best, Executive Member for Improvement, said after the case:

“Benefit cheats give a bad name to legitimate claimants who are entitled to receive benefits. This latest court prosecution again signals our determination to catch people who are defrauding Council Tax payers in the borough.

“A simple, routine cross-check netted this latest offender and he has been given just 28 days to pay a court bill of well over £4,000, while gaining a criminal record.”

Castle Morpeth Borough Council runs a Benefit Fraud Hotline, allowing members of the public to anonymously report suspected cases of fraud.

Call (01670) 794777.

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# Latest NEWS from Ponteland Parish Council



*This report is based on the minutes from the Council's annual meeting held on May 15.*

## ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Frank Harrington was in the Chair as the retiring Chairman of the Parish Council and he called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Coun Robin Ramsay was elected Chairman of the Parish Council and took the Chair. He expressed regards and appreciation to those who were no longer members of the new Council. This included Frank Harrington, Sheila Campbell and John Colvin, who had been stalwarts of the Parish Council for a long period of time. He also extended thanks and good wishes to Mrs Vera Lonsdale and Chris Matthew.

## ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Coun David Butler was elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mrs Anne Harrison raised a question querying why the splash pool at Ponteland Leisure Centre had been closed for a long period of time. This pool was much needed by certain users of the pool. She outlined details of correspondence she

had sent to both the Leisure Centre and to Castle Morpeth Borough Council and asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do to assist. The Chairman said he had spoken to the Borough Council's Director of Customer Services that afternoon and he had indicated that a letter had been sent to Mrs Harrison on 25th April. Mrs Harrison had obviously not received this letter and the Chairman arranged for a copy to be sent to her immediately. It had been agreed that a meeting would be arranged between a representative of the Borough Council, the Leisure Centre Manager and Mrs Harrison in an attempt to deal with this matter to the satisfaction of users. Councillors Ramsay and McKay would also attend this meeting.

## APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and councillors Joyce Butcher, Archie Cave, Harry McKay and John Worth were appointed to the Accounts Committee for the purpose of authorising all payments made by the Council

on the Council's Deposit Account and the Community Projects Account.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

It was reported that that a new Model Code of Conduct came into force from May 3. A copy of the Code had been circulated with the Declaration of Interest forms. The Code had to be available for public inspection and a notice placed in the local newspaper indicating that the Code had been adopted and listing an address at which it could be inspected.

## APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS Ponteland Youth Service

Request for funding towards cost of providing detached youth work  
A grant of £5,000 was approved towards the cost of providing a detached youth service to young people in Ponteland by Ponteland Community High School Youth Service.

## Request for funding towards cost of providing a Youth Centre

A grant of £10,000 was approved towards the costs of

providing a new youth centre in Ponteland by Ponteland Community High School Youth Service. The funds will be released once construction works had commenced. Coun Ramsay declared a personal interest in the above items and took no part in voting.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

### Letter from Chief Executive of NCC re a single council for Northumberland

A letter had been circulated from the Chief Executive of Northumberland County Council regarding the proposals for a single unitary authority for Northumberland. He had offered to come and make a presentation concerning their proposals to a meeting of the Parish Council. The Chief Executive of Castle Morpeth Borough Council had agreed to come to the same meeting and present the proposals for two unitaries for the county. It was agreed that the two officers be invited to attend the same meeting on a date to be arranged and give a half hour presentation each.

## PONTELAND PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

**ADDRESS:** The Verger's Cottage, Main Street, Ponteland, NE20 9NR

**TEL:** (01661) 825092

**Email:** [pontelandpc@btconnect.com](mailto:pontelandpc@btconnect.com)

**Web:** [www.pontelandparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.pontelandparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Clerk to the Council:** Judith Oliver

**Deputy Clerk:** Kathleen Mavin

### Councillors:

WARD	NAME	ADDRESS	TEL NO
North	David Butler	8 Ladywell Way, Ponteland, NE20 9TB	823664
	Archibold Stafford Cave	17 Kirkley Drive, Ponteland, NE20 9QP	823368
	Edward 'Peter' Charleton	26 Beechwood Place, Ponteland, NE20 9QR	823503
East	Mrs Eileen Armstrong	Hillcrest, Prestwick Village, Ponteland, NE20 9TX	824544
	Peter Melvin Armstrong	Hillcrest, Prestwick Village, Ponteland, NE20 9TX	824544
	Thomas 'Alan' Chilton	Field House, Prestwick, Ponteland, NE20 9TX	825456
South	Mrs Irene Brumwell	13 Greenacres, Ponteland, NE20 9RT	823304
	Robin Guy Ramsay	11a The Rise, Ponteland, NE20 9LJ	821877
	John William Worth	95 Errington Road, Ponteland, NE20 9LA	821267
West	Mrs Joyce Butcher	16 Meadowvale, Ponteland, NE20 9NF	871148
	Harry McKay	Paddock House, Medburn, Ponteland, NE20 0JS	871931
	Mrs Elizabeth E Thompson	211 Western Way, Ponteland, NE20 9ND	872394

## News in brief...

### PLANTS PLEASE!

Ponteland Parish Council would very much appreciate donations of unwanted perennial plants for its community garden.

Collection can be arranged - please contact the Council office on (01661) 825092.

### PONTELAND LITTER PICK SATURDAY JULY 7

Volunteers are asked to meet at 10am in the Memorial Hall Car Park. Litter pickers and bags will be provided.

Refreshments are available.

# Family firm fits out Ponteland for 50 years



By Muriel Sobo

**Three generations of a family have worked as carpet specialists in local business Bonner & White, which celebrates its Golden Anniversary this year.**

Chris Gray is the family connection with the founders - her father Matty Bonner and her uncle Benny White set up as carpet fitters in 1957.

They worked from the old Scout Hut next to Miss Smith's Café on the West Road, which had to be tidied up every Friday night so that the Scouts could hold their meeting.

After Benny White retired in 1967 because of ill health, Chris started work and when she married her husband Bill Gray he also joined the business. Their son Matthew is now the third generation working in the firm and uses his talents developed during his degree course in media communications.

Bonner & White moved above the fruit shop when it was new in the 1960s, then to premises which are now Poppies. In 1991 they took a much larger shop in Merton



Chris and Bill Gray, and son Matthew celebrate the family firm's 50th anniversary

Way, where they still run the business today.

The three partners are Chris and Bill Gray and son Matthew and they have loyal customers who are sometimes second and even third generation. They pride themselves on their reputation for service and satisfaction and offer very competitive prices since they belong to a national buying group for sourcing their floorings.

## News in brief...

### SCOOBY DOO

Visits Ponteland

Did you see Scooby Doo in Ponteland?



The famous TV dog made a fleeting visit to Ponteland with his colleagues in the Environmental Dept. of Castle Morpeth. They were promoting Noise Action Week 2007, helping owners to deal with noisy, barking dogs. If you have a problem dog it is possible to talk to Gary Park at Castle Morpeth by ringing First Call on (01670) 535000.

## 50 YEARS GROWTH

CELEBRATING OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE

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**Ponteland**  
**01661 824647**

**bonner & white**  
est. 1957  
 CARPET AND FLOORING SPECIALISTS

Lucy, pictured with parents Zoë and Stephen, and brother Jack, is now the picture of health



# Milbourne's miracle baby thriving

**A chance decision to spend a night at the in-laws in Walton probably saved the lives of Zoë Bell and her unborn daughter Lucy.**

Zoë, 22, was living at the time with husband Stephen and their baby son Jack in remote Allendale. Stephen, 27, woke to find her lying in bed at his parents' home in a pool of blood.

An ambulance was called and rushed Zoë to Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary, where Lucy was born 14 weeks premature on September 9, 2005. Her due date was Christmas Eve.

Lucy weighed just 900g, or 2lb. The picture here shows just how tiny she was. Stephen, a civil engineer, said: "Lucy was about the size of a knife or fork, or a toastie bag – my wedding ring could fit around her shoulder."

She was transferred straight to the special baby care unit, put on a ventilator, and at ten days old was taken to the Freeman Hospital for a heart operation to close up a duct.

Parents hold appeal night to raise funds for hospital charities





The couple had been aware there may be problems with the pregnancy, having been told there appeared to be insufficient fluid around the baby in the womb. Doctors thought she may not go full term, but no one was expecting this Christmas present to come quite so early.

Zoë said: "Had we been in Allendale that night, neither of us would be here today. And having been diagnosed with bleeding on the brain and lung disease at birth, we were worried Lucy would not survive. We are so, so lucky."

Lucy was kept at the RVI until early November, when she was transferred to Hexham General Hospital, but after just two days she had stopped breathing and had to be rushed back to the special baby care unit in Newcastle.

She fortunately made a full recovery and was allowed home for Christmas. Lucy is now 21 months old, and a very active, intelligent and happy girl who lives with her family at Town Farm Cottage in Milbourne.



The couple stayed at one of The Sick Children's Trust's 'Homes from Home' - Crawford House at the RVI during Lucy's three month stay in hospital. This meant they were just moments away from her bedside, rather than a two hour return drive, with a direct phone to the special baby care unit.

Zoë said: "They were absolutely fantastic to us - we received the most amazing care and she wouldn't be here but for them."

To express their gratitude to the hospital and the Trust for the care and attention they all received, Zoë and Stephen have organised a "Charity Night" at The Highlander pub near Belsay, where Zoë is assistant manager.

**The event is being held on Friday 3rd August,** beginning at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 each. There will be a buffet, disco and also an auction and raffle. All proceeds go to the Sick Children's Trust, and also the Tiny Lives Fund - the RVI's special baby care unit charity.

Prizes already donated include a flight for two around the Northumberland coast, the use of the pub's head chef for an evening dinner party at your home, and a chauffeured minibus for a day.

Zoë wanted to particularly thank her manageress Gillian Kendall for hosting the event and Ponteland Print for producing promotional material free of charge.

**For more information on the Charity Night or to donate prizes, contact Zoë at [zobell2@btinternet.com](mailto:zobell2@btinternet.com) or on (01661) 881702.**

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TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON 01661 824711  
OR FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

Ponteland Community Partnership held its AGM on Wednesday 30th May. After some slight changes to the constitution the Partnership is made up of 16 Executive Council members made up of four Honorary officers (chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer), seven elected members and five who were co-opted. Here are the members elected to serve you for the next year.

# Introducing *your* on Ponteland Comm

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS



**THE CHAIRMAN:**  
**Brian Prickett**

The meeting was well attended and resulted in a new Chairman – Brian Prickett being elected. A chartered electrical engineer by profession, Brian moved to the region in 1973 to take responsibility for the electrification of the Tyne and Wear Metro, from its original concept through to full passenger service. He joined the Northern Regional Health Authority in 1986 as chief electrical engineer of the Regional Design Group, until early retirement in 1995. Brian has been chairman of Ponteland U3A for the last two years and Treasurer of PCP since 2003. He has also run the U3A choir for five years and is musical director for the U3A Northumbria Region choir.



**THE VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**Syd Cowan**

Syd will serve for another year as Vice Chairman. Syd is a retired agricultural consultant and represents Ponteland Methodist Church, where he acts as chairman of the 'Care and Share' Charity Fundraising Committee. Syd is also the longstanding chairman of Ponteland Parish Flower Show.



**THE SECRETARY**  
**Christine Greenwell**

Christine takes over the role of Secretary from John Hewett, who has been forced to resign due to work commitments. Christine is a retired national training manager, representing the parishioners of St Matthew's RC Church. Christine has been married for 39 years, has three children and eight grandchildren. She was nominated by Father Vincent Melia, who praised her community work.

There was no interested party in the role of Treasurer and this post remains vacant until further notice.



**THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Frank Harrington**

Frank will represent Ponteland Lions Club. Formerly a lecturer at Kirkley Hall, Frank has lived locally for 40 years. He served on the Parish Council for 24 years, retiring as Chairman in May. He has also been a Borough Councillor for 20 years.



**Margaret Stainsby**

Margaret represents the Friends of Ponteland Park. She was in full time education for 34 years and is an active member of Northumbria Wildlife trust (on committee for nine years). Margaret is also a member of Ladycross Nature Reserve, Slaley and the RSPB. She is a 'helper' at Merton Hall and helped to form the Friends of Ponteland Park, which she chairs.

*This is your partnership  
and all of the above people are  
working on your behalf to make  
Ponteland a great place to live  
and visit.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

“To identify things that really matter to people who live and work in the Ponteland District in that they affect their quality of life”



**Ponteland  
Community  
Partnership**

# representatives Community Partnership



**David Cobb**

David will represent the Ponteland Memorial Hall Committee. He has lived in the village for 25 years and has served as the Honorary Treasurer of Ponteland Memorial Hall for the past seven years.



**John Michael Brown**

Mike will represent the newly formed Civic Society. The retired 57-year-old father-of-two has lived in the village for almost 20 years and is a governor at both Ponteland Community High and Middle Schools.



**Sheila Campbell MBE**

Sheila will represent Merton Hall. The former Borough and (longest serving) Parish Councillor is secretary of Merton Hall and a Board Member of the SENRAC youth facility.



**John Hunter**

John will represent the Youth Service and Young People.



**Raymond Sproul**

## THE CO-OPTED MEMBERS



**Matthew Gray** - above, left  
Matthew will represent businesses in Ponteland

**Jon Gray** - above, centre  
John will represent the Police Authority



**Robin Ramsay** - above, right  
Robin will represent the Parish Council

**Alma Dunigan**  
Alma will represent the Darras Hall Estates Committee



If you have anything that you would like the Ponteland Community Partnership to look at please forward your query to any of the above members c/o the Parish Offices, Main Street, Ponteland, or the contact details below.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

**Chairman: Brian Prickett**  
Address: 19 Darras Road, Ponteland, NE20 9PD.  
Tel: 825129 Email: [brpandajp@talktalk.net](mailto:brpandajp@talktalk.net)

**Vice Chairman: Syd Cowan**  
Address: 30 Callerton Court, Ponteland, NE20 9EN.  
Tel: 824459 Email: [syd.cowan@tesco.net](mailto:syd.cowan@tesco.net)

**Secretary: Christine Greenwell**  
Address: Station Lodge, Station Cottages, Ponteland, NE20 9SR.  
Tel: 821488 Email: [ca.greenwell@btinternet.com](mailto:ca.greenwell@btinternet.com)

There is a vacancy for the Faith Representative.

Honorary Officers will be elected on a yearly basis and Executive Members will serve for three years. All posts are filled on a voluntary basis and that no form of payment of any kind is paid to any member of the partnership.

# Ponteland Big Day Out

Come and join us for our summer fête and family fun day

Ponteland Community High School

Activities will include:

games face painting

skate park arts and crafts

samba drumming cheerleading

BOUNCY CASTLE CIRCUS SKILLS

The Ponteland Partnership in association with Adult Learning and Ponteland Youth Service

Contact Rachel Weallans @ PCHS for more information on **01661 824 711**

**Saturday  
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## Kirkley Hall



Kirkley Hall is set in picturesque tranquil grounds with four main function rooms available for hire for any type of corporate or social event including weddings, conferences, and private functions.

### *Forthcoming Events*

#### *~ Carvery Sunday Lunches ~*

3 Course meal, coffee and mints,  
£12.95 per person.

**1st July, 22nd July, 12th August**

#### *~ Sunday Tea Dances ~*

Tickets are £5 per person  
to include Tea and Biscuits.

**8th July, 5th August  
3pm - 6pm**

**Booking is essential for the above events** For more information or to make a reservation please contact our Operations Team on: Tel: 01670 841235 Email:hg.kirkley@northland.ac.uk



Our stunning cover shot this month is courtesy of local photographer Peter Curran, and was the worthy winning shot in a contest run by Dobbies Garden Centre.

## Peter wins Dobbies Garden Wildlife Photographic Competition

The Dobbies Garden Wildlife Photographic Competition was well supported, with many photographic entries covering a wide range of wildlife found in local gardens.

Peter took the £50 first prize with his photograph of a red squirrel. The picture here shows him presenting a framed copy of the winning entry to Claire of Dobbies, who organised the competition.

Peter is fortunate enough to see red squirrels

come into his garden every day and takes many photographs.

Ponteland Red Squirrel Society [pontelandsos@fsmail.net](mailto:pontelandsos@fsmail.net) works hard to raise money for red squirrel preservation. Peter supports this by supplying red squirrel photographs, framed or unframed for the society to sell and these can be seen either on the website at [www.pontelandredsquirrels.co.uk](http://www.pontelandredsquirrels.co.uk) or by contacting [petercurran@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petercurran@yahoo.co.uk)



By Sally Hardy

**We need your help! We are carrying out a Spring Squirrel Survey and need everyone to report recent squirrel sightings!**

Please take the time to telephone, email or visit our website to log your sightings as soon as possible. Your sightings will help us gauge current numbers and locations of red squirrels in our area. It will also determine the whereabouts of any grey squirrels in the district.

Results of the survey will help us with our research and will be sent to the Wildlife Trust Save our Squirrel Project to add to their national database.

As you may be aware, our native red squirrel is under threat of extinction in Northumberland (one of the last counties on mainland UK to be home to red squirrels). Increasingly effective efforts are underway to protect this beautiful creature in our area and across the North East and West.

The **Red Squirrel Protection Partnership** is continuing to work hard to control grey squirrels, NWT SOS are helping raise awareness and local groups, such as Ponteland Red Squirrels, new groups Squirrel Action Greenhead and Ulgham Red Squirrels in Northumberland, along with several well established local Cumbrian groups are providing a vital life line for our little red friends. Above all though, our efforts would not be as effective without the cooperation and help from residents, local people and landowners

**Please telephone, email or visit our website to log your sightings giving:**

**name**  
**address seen**  
**date last seen**  
**number of squirrels**  
**type, ie. red or grey.**

Please give other information such as whether it is a regular sighting, if numbers have increased/declined. If it is a grey sighting please indicate if you would be prepared to have a trap.

**For more details please contact us:**

**EMAIL:** [pontelandsos@fsmail.net](mailto:pontelandsos@fsmail.net)

Sally Hardy: 824785 or 07878 061880

Penny Hewitt: 825052

Margaret Stainsby: 824609

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.pontelandredsquirrels.co.uk](http://www.pontelandredsquirrels.co.uk)



Letters on all issues are welcomed by Pont News & Views. The Editor reserves the right to amend any submitted letters published, for legal or other reasons.

# Your letters...

**As Ponteland Community Partnership begins work on a design brief to go out to tender to the private sector, an industry journal appraises the original regeneration masterplan.**

Your readers may be interested in a Review of the Nathaniel Lichfield Report "Ponteland Village Masterplan" which eventually appeared on May 4 in the *Regeneration & Renewal* supplement to *Planning, the Journal of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)*.

Given the status of the RTPI and the professional background of the reviewer, it must surely be a matter of public interest that the contents of this review should be made known to the people of Ponteland.

Submitting proposals to peer review by qualified professionals will help to

ensure that a sound, deliverable plan which maintains the character and heritage of the Village can be arrived at.

We would suggest that any proposals be discussed with the Government's Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) at an early stage.

*Philip Ham  
Chairman, Ponteland Civic Society*

### JUNE DEADLINE

The July magazine will be delivered the week beginning July 16. Deadline for all copy/adverts is Friday June 29.




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## Peacock on the loose in Darras

### Appeal for witnesses to house fire



By PC Jon Gray,  
Community Beat Officer, Ponteland

**The reports of property crime have remained low since the last publication, with no house burglaries reported at all during this period.**

A premises on the Meadowfield trading estate was broken into and scrap metal was taken. Two garden sheds were broken into on Darras Hall.

The majority of offences were reported during the last week in May, including a car being stolen from Thornhill Road, another damaged in Merton Way, damage to some noticeboards/windows (not high value) and five assaults.

All the violent offences have 'positive lines of enquiry' which are being followed up.

Readers should be reminded that in most of the assaults that take place in this area, the injured party will know the offender. They will often involve school pupils who will fall out over various things, a small core group of teenagers who think that the best form of social advancement is to pick on other teenagers (but always when the odds are in their favour), domestic assaults, and drink-fuelled disagreements amongst adults.

It is very rare that a total stranger will attack you without warning. It has happened in this area, but it is not the norm.

On 27th May, a fire occurred at a house under renovation on Whinfall Road during the early hours of the morning. This one is under investigation. Any information would be

welcome about this offence.

Staying with damage offences, two youths were detained in connection with the numerous windows broken at the High School last month.

Finally, a resident from the Moor Lane area of Darras brought our attention to a peacock that is living in the area of Moor Lane and Sandringham Way. There is a strong division of opinion amongst the area's residents, with a pro and anti peacock lobby (along with a resident dog fox whose views are firmly decided).

This is just to make the owner aware that some people are bothered by this bird, which has been around for sometime now and - with the absence of a feral leopard on the estate - could be around for sometime in the future.

The complaint has been passed to Castle Morpeth Borough Council's environmental health department.

Take care, keep reporting things.

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