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Ami holes Kansas scholarship

Major opposition to restaurant licence bid

Deer 'burglar' trashes house

Pop star launches Pont fame academy

Fresh anger as planners deluged by new house bids

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THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN

Ponteland golfers claim county titles

Ami off to States for prestigious four year golf scholarship

Story and cover shot by Muriel Sobo



Ami won the best gross prize at the Captain's Day event and is pictured here with Captain Barbara Riddell. Inset: Lesley Marsh.

Ponteland lady golfers have won two of the County Championship titles this season.

Lesley Marsh is the veteran's champion and Ami Storey is the ladies' county champion. Lesley, a retired tax specialist, has won the veterans title for the over 50s for the sixth time and played for the county vets' team for more than ten years.

Ami won both the junior and the ladies' titles last year and entered the record books as the only person to do this. She plays off scratch and beat her 20-year-old opponent from Hexham in the ladies' final by a convincing margin.

The 18-year-old former Cramlington High School student has also been sitting her A-levels and next month she is off to the States, where she has been awarded a four-year golf scholarship by the prestigious Kansas State University.

'k-state' is a centre of excellence and Ami will train for primary education as well as join their sports programmes. Kansas don't usually offer places to foreign nationals as there is plenty of talent and competition for places among their own, so Ami has done exceptionally well to gain a place. Nearly all her costs of tuition, board, equipment and local travel are funded.

Congratulations to both Ami and Lesley. We hope the men will bring some County silver soon!

News in brief...

Rotary Club of Ponteland raises £1,266 for the Stroke Association

Following an emotive talk by The Stroke Association's regional fundraiser Amna Ahsanuddin, the Rotary Club of Ponteland decided to help the cause by taking part in their Jail 'n' Bail event. This involved a Rotarian joining three Newcastle businessmen and a Tyne Tees Television presenter to be arrested and dragged through Newcastle, thrown into the Castle Keep prison until 'bail' of at least £500 each had been raised. Rotarian David Walters volunteered to be the 'felon' and the Club agreed to pump-prime the fundraising by contributing £250 towards his effort. David managed to raise £1,266 out of a total raised of £4,000 - the biggest single effort. So on behalf of Rotary, five times the original sum went to the Stroke Association. The Sheriff of Newcastle, Sheriff Arnold officially pardoned David and returned him to the care of Rotary. The money raised by David will, at Rotary members' request, be used entirely in the North-East to support two Dysphasia (loss of speech) groups and three family support groups. It proved to be an enjoyable and fruitful way of raising money.

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28 Kirkley Drive, Ponteland

Restaurant licence bid sparks mass protest

Dozens object to live music and dancing for Bell Villas venue

Owners of a new Italian restaurant due to open soon in Ponteland have been forced to shelve plans for live music and dancing after mass opposition.

Dozens of objections have been received by Castle Morpeth Borough Council's licensing sub-committee, which was due to determine the application by Ristorante Fratellis Ltd on July 13 as we went to press.

The applicants wanted to be able to put on live music and salsa dancing shows for diners up until 11.30pm, seven nights a week.

But residents from the neighbouring Cecil Court and Mayfair Gardens, backed by Ponteland Parish Council, lodged nearly 40 objections.

The restaurant owner was forced to withdraw the live music and dancing bid,

but many objectors remain unhappy with the prospect of late drinking, background music and TV/DVD showings, given the close proximity to properties mainly occupied by elderly residents.

The 200-cover restaurant is on the first floor of the new Sainsbury store by the police station at Bell Villas. See the August issue for an update.

Darras developers keep planners busy

Anger as four new housing schemes hit July committee

Thirty residents have objected to the latest batch of new build housing developments planned for Darras Hall.

Castle Morpeth Borough Council's development services committee had no less than four separate applications from the estate to determine at its July meeting last week.

The first was for the demolition of a two

storey house and replacement with a "significantly larger" dwelling at 230 Western Way, which was refused as it would dominate adjacent properties.

The second proposed the demolition of the existing bungalow at 66 Woodside and replacement with a two-storey house. Three neighbour objections were received but planning officers recommended approval.

Councillors approved the largest application, for three dwellings to the rear of 53

Edgehill, which attracted 12 objections. This is the site of the original Darras Hall and an outline application for four dwellings was refused in February.

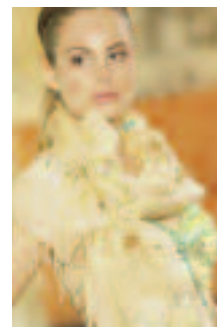
The final application considered was for a demolition and rebuild at 9 Runnymede Road. Objectors included Ponteland Parish Council and four neighbours. The planning officer's report said this was an identical application to one refused in January. Decision: refused.



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Pop singer Kat Haslam has launched a new theatre school in Ponteland - helping more youngsters to dance, sing and act their way to the top.

Pop singer

launches Ponteland dance academy



Kat celebrates the launch of her Ponteland academy with 'dancing' students



Dancing Academy, which opened its doors on June 13, follows her already hugely successful academy based in Jesmond.

Newcastle-born Katherine, from all girl band Sirens, and business partner Linda Forster co-founded the Newcastle academy seven years ago.

There they teach dancing, singing (hence the name Dan-sing) and drama to children and youngsters aged between three and 16.

Of her recent acquisition, Kat said: "I'm offering children in Ponteland and surrounding

areas the opportunity to experience the fun, affable and exciting atmosphere of Dancing Academy - giving them the chance of self expression and gaining confidence, whilst sharing the experience with new friends."

Keen to follow on from the fantastic achievements of their Jesmond academy, which saw the children performing a sell out production at The People's Theatre - and the recording of their first mini album, Kat added:

"We want to emulate in Ponteland the success of our original academy - my main inspiration being the amount of talented, vibrant and passionate children we already

have in Jesmond's academy, who are an absolute pleasure to be around."

So, could these youngsters tune in to Kat's success? Well, in Katherine Haslam, their pop star mentor, they have an excellent chance - with Sirens, collectively Kat, Karina and Lea, recently completing their second album after spending the last year working mainly in Los Angeles and Copenhagen.

Dancing Academy classes are held in Jesmond and Ponteland. A new adult class is also available. For further information email info@dancingacademy.co.uk or call 07745 005624.

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Latest NEWS from Ponteland Parish Council



This report is based on the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on June 13.

PLANNING

Report on recent planning decisions

The following decisions were reported:

Blackbird Inn: Request for smoking shelter	Withdrawn
66 Edge Hill: Erection of dwelling	Granted
Kirkley Hall: Erection of two wind turbines	Granted
Former Mink Farm and land to rear of 53	Deferred for site visits
Edge Hill Rosehill Cottage – Dissington Lane	Granted

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Holy Saviour Church – Milbourn

A grant of £300 application was approved for assistance towards the cost of grass cutting and upkeep of the Churchyard.

Ponteland Community Middle School

A grant of £100 was approved for replacing trees in the wildlife area that had been damaged by vandalism.

PROPOSED UNITARY STRUCTURES IN NORTHUMBERLAND

A report summarising the presentations by Northumberland County Council and Castle Morpeth Borough Council to the Parish Council relating to the above subject had been circulated. The Council was asked to consider whether it wished to formally respond to the Government consultation in which case a response would need to be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government by June 22. It was agreed to send the following response to the DCLG:

"The Parish Council supports the two unitary structure for Northumberland as it recognises the divergence of interests and views that are present within the County Council area at the moment. The reason for this viewpoint is that the south east of the County is an urban area and it is felt that Ponteland has an affinity of interest with the towns located in the rural west of the County."

ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

Broadway Shopping Centre – Darras Hall Estate Committee

The Council is awaiting the outcome of a meeting between the Estate Committee and the landlords of the shopping centre.

Incidents at Merton Way Shopping Centre

The Council is to wait until the end of June to find out if an Inspector for Ponteland had been appointed and then if this has not happened, request a meeting with the police to discuss this matter.

Quotations for new perimeter fencing at Callerton Lane Play Area

The Council's Chairman, Clerk and any available Councillor from the Environment Working Party are to meet with the contractors who had quoted for the works to determine exactly what would be required.

Friends of Ponteland Park

Information Boards - members were delighted with the design and looked forward to seeing the information boards in place.

Commemorative seats in the park: It has been agreed to fund the installation and ensure that the five new seats were placed to both the Friends' and the Council's satisfaction.

Callerton Lane Play Area

To confirm appointment of Fencing Contractor: It has been agreed to appoint the contractor who had submitted the lowest quotation in the sum of £1,092 plus £720 for the installation of a new self-closing gate into the play area.

Hedging: it has been agreed that the hedge be lowered by 2m adjacent to the gate to improve surveillance of the play area and reduction of vandalism.

Additional Seating: when spare seats became available, these would be installed in the play area.

Ponteland Park entrances

Councillors Mrs Brumwell, Mrs Butcher, D Butler from the Environment Working Party volunteered to be part of a working group to consider the proposals in more detail.

Confirmation of request for dog waste bin to be located beside the lay-by on Kirkley Drive/The Glebe

It has been agreed to purchase a bin at a cost of £198 for this site, and the Council's dog waste collection contractor is to be asked to empty this on a weekly basis.

Allotments

Request for water supply – Tenants' responses: it was agreed to acquire an updated cost of two metered standpipes that could be used to maintain troughs for the allotments on both sides of the road.

Update on situation regarding access track

It was agreed to contact the Council's Solicitor to seek his advice on the best way forward to prevent any potential new owners keeping the access blocked off, and acquire details of the house sale.

Requests for three commemorative seats

The committee is to consider placing two of the new seats on Coates Green (adjacent to river bank) by replacing the existing ones in order to create a standard design around the perimeter of the Green. The two seats removed could then be re-used in the play area. A site for a third seat would be decided at a future meeting.

Request from Merton Hall Management Committee for waste bin on Merton Way (by seat opposite CIU Club)

It was agreed that there was no need for an additional waste bin in this area as there several in the shopping centre and one at the bottom of the path.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY PROPOSED CHANGES

The Parish Council had been asked to comment on the proposed

changes to the draft revision of the above document. Members were reminded of the comments submitted by the Parish Council in relation to the original document. Responses to the document were required by August 6. It was agreed to submit this response:

"The document refers to the protection of Ponteland from the Green Belt but does not state clearly that it should be protected from the airport sprawl and the Parish Council suggests that this is included within the document. Ponteland has been omitted when referring to community hubs although other towns in this area have been listed such as Hexham and Prudhoe. Request that the omission should be addressed and suggest that Ponteland should be classified as a service centre. There is no consideration given to the potential for Ponteland to be a 'Gateway' despite having the A696 road running through the centre of the village. Propose that this be considered by Government Office North East in relation to the strategy for tourism. It is suggested that protest should be made at the lack of reference to the proposed Ponteland by-pass road, and there are a significant number of vehicles travelling through the village on the A696."

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Mrs Jones reported that the review of the Home to Schools transport was awaited. Consultants had been asked to investigate this matter following overspends on this item. The report would go to the County Council Scrutiny Committee in July.

There had also been overspends on the provision of school meals which was also being examined. It was also reported that a review of the Local Transport Plans was being carried out and all Parishes had been supplied with a list of current ongoing requests.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS

Ponteland Party in the Park

The Chairman reported that he had been asked to open the above event and it had been a great success. On behalf of the Parish Council he offered his congratulations to the organisers.

St Mary's Ponteland Summer Festival

28th July to 4th August

"NORTHUMBRIAN ARTISTS OF TODAY"

The thirteenth biennial exhibition of original paintings in the Church Hall



FESTIVAL IN THE CHURCH

The Church will be beautifully decorated with flowers and displays illustrating the history of the Church and Village. *The story of St. Mary's* – a conducted half hour tour of the church – will be held at 2.15pm each day from Monday 30th to Saturday 4th.

Refreshments all week

Morning coffee, Ploughman's Lunch and Cream teas. On Wednesday 4th August Music of Northumbria will be played on the pipes and harp by Myrna and Martin Luff whilst afternoon tea is served.

Saturday 4th August

High quality craft stalls, plant stall and a stall from the Care Village.

CONCERTS

Monday 30th July at 12.30pm

Lunchtime concert. A group from the Caprians will provide light entertainment. Tickets: £4 including refreshments.

Wednesday 1st August at 7.30pm

Windy Gyle: Traditional and modern approaches to Northumbrian piping and fiddling. Tickets: £6 including wine.

For concert tickets phone (01661) 825899 or church office (01661) 824770.

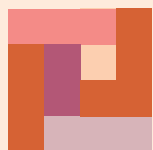
All from 28th July to 4th August 10am to 5.30pm each day except Sunday (2pm to 5.30pm)

All proceeds to charity: the Diocesan Appeal Partners in Community Action, Cancer Research and The Northern Counties Kidney Research Fund.

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Village talents showcased at annual party in the park

By Muriel Sobo and Margaret Stainsby

Ponteland is a village of talents and diversity, celebrated at the annual Party in the Park on June 10.

This happened when we still had some summer, before the monsoon season now currently drowning out nearly all outdoor activities.

The Churches together organised this communal fest and many sponsors and volunteers worked to put on a great show. Newcastle Airport was the main sponsor but many of our local businesses made a significant contribution.

Members of the Friends of Ponteland Park manned a gazebo and three tables. Information Boards had photographs illustrating various projects and other exhibits included labelled specimens of native trees, plants and seedlings of wild flowers grown by members, an example of a bird feeding station, aquaria containing local pond and river life and a garden trug filled with a collection of wild flowers which could be found in the park.

The aquarium representing examples of aquatic life from a local pond was undoubtedly the 'star of the show'. Youngsters (and some adults) were intrigued to watch at close quarters the antics of waterboatmen, tadpoles, newts and dragonfly nymphs, while caddis fly larvae and pond snails moved at a much more leisurely pace.

The main aim of our exhibition was to show how different parts of the park could be managed to create different habitats for wildlife. Hopefully our efforts will encourage fellow Pontelanders to take more interest in supporting local wildlife in the park, by joining the Friends of Ponteland Park. Call the secretary on 823766.

The Pongos and Richard Coates School added a musical dimension.

Another local craft demonstrated was the making of proggy mats.

The Methodist Ladies of the bobbin lace group are Jill Dye, Val Michell and Pauline Groves.



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How it all started and what we do

By Brian Prickett, Chairman, Ponteland Community Partnership

Many people have asked:

- “What is the Ponteland Community Partnership (PCP)?”
- “How did it come into being?”
- “What does the Partnership do?”

The PCP is an unincorporated association established in accordance with the precepts of the Local Government Act of 2000, which are to give communities a greater say in local government affairs.

The present PCP was brought into being in 2003 as the result of the endeavours of an Interim Steering Group and the Parish Council.

The Partnership is one of four sub-groups of the Castle Morpeth Local Strategic Partnership (CMLSP) which in turn is overseen by the Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP), as outlined in the diagram below:



The objects of the Partnership are:

- to identify the things that really matter to those who live and work in the Ponteland District (corresponding to the Parish of Ponteland) which affect their quality of life
- to work with all interested and involved parties to develop acceptable ways of meeting these needs.

Membership is open to every resident or person who works in the Ponteland district.

Also, any organisation which supports the objects and is interested in furthering the Partnership’s work may appoint an individual to represent it on the PCP.

There are four honorary officers and an Executive Council comprising up to eight elected members who represent the various strata of the residents of Ponteland, and five nominated members appointed to represent major organisations active and interested and involved in the Ponteland community.

The Partnership currently has the following sub-groups:

Environment • Transport • Young People • Regeneration • Editorial.

These sub-groups report back to the monthly PCP meeting which is held at 7pm on the third Wednesday of the month at Ponteland Leisure Centre.

To date, the PCP, in conjunction with the Parish Council, has supported successful funding applications for the Memorial Hall, the Methodist Church, Friends of Ponteland Park, the United Reformed Church and Ponteland Cricket Club, as well as publishing *Pont News & Views*, which is the only community newsletter for the Parish.

Contributions to *Pont News & Views* are welcomed from all sources.

Currently, the PCP Regeneration sub-group is working to produce an acceptable Design Brief for the Merton Way Regeneration project.

We hope to present up-to-date brief reports from the sub-groups next month.

If you wish to raise any matter with the Partnership, please make contact as follows:-

**Ponteland Community Partnership,
c/o The Verger's Cottage,
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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...

The wait for news on the village revamp and the growing number of caravans in Darras Hall feature this month.

Broadway has bigger need for redevelopment than Merton Way

On reading 'Why develop the village centre' (January issue) I began to wonder why so little new information is forthcoming on the proposed Option 4.

The article to which I refer was written in the name of the Steering Group, although to where they are steering us seems to be something of a mystery. What is no mystery is the fact that, and I quote:

"...if the scheme does not stack up financially for the private sector, who will be funding it, redevelopment will not happen and that will be a huge missed opportunity for all villagers".

I think that statement speaks volumes. These so-called developers are not developers at all – they are speculators, and as such are only interested in financial gain. In other words, no profit; no deal.

Previous attempts to improve the village seems to have been anything but successful, judging by the many adverse comments in previous issues of Pont News.

All our officials seem to do is denigrate Merton Way Shopping Centre. I agree some work needs doing, but I also think that the Broadway shopping centre is in a much worse state of repair.

In fact, it looks shoddy, so why not start redeveloping this rather rundown centre, then perhaps the rest of us will see what can be done in the way of improvement.

Of course, there will be no rush of developers and speculators, because there doesn't appear to be much land to build on.

As I said earlier, no profit; no deal.

Concerned resident, Ponteland

Estates committee must take action on caravans

As a child I lived in Darras Hall and have recently come to live here with my new family.

I am shocked when I see bungalows being sold and turned into monstrosities. These days there seems to be no need for planning agreements; everyone seems to go ahead with whatever alterations they feel like doing and blow the byelaws.

My worst hate is that Darras Hall has now turned into a caravan park.

I have no objection to residents parking their caravans on their drive overnight whilst they load but I strongly oppose having caravans parked all the year round, because residents cannot afford the parking fee for a caravan site.

Most houses on this estate are now selling at £500,000 upwards and I, together with other residents, strongly object to paying these prices to live on a caravan site.

I hope the contents of this letter will be minuted and acted upon at the next Darras Hall Estates Committee AGM, otherwise what is the point in paying the annual rent charge?

A disgruntled resident

**What do you think?
Write to Pont News &
Views**



August deadline

The August magazine will be delivered the week beginning August 20. Deadline for all copy/adverts is Friday August 3.

News in brief...

A big thank you...

...to all those residents who kindly donated plants for the Parish Council's community garden scheme. Your generosity is much appreciated. Particular thanks go to a resident of Darras Road who donated over 20 plants from her garden. To everyone who turned up for the Litter Pick held on 7 July – it is great to have your support in supplementing the work done by both the Borough and Parish Councils in keeping Ponteland clean and tidy. To all those wonderful gardeners who help to make Ponteland a delightful place in which to live and work. Hopefully Ponteland will be successful again in its entry into Northumbria in Bloom.

Waste Collection...

Free garden waste collection service

Bio bags for garden waste which are collected free of charge by the Borough Council are available to purchase from the Parish Council HQ during opening hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm, Mon to Fri. The bags come in bundles of 10 for £1. To get free collection, non-green bin users must put out a minimum of 10 bags at a time up to a maximum of 100 bags per year and must ring the Borough Council's FirstCall centre to say how many bags are being left out. Customers with a green bin can put any number of bags alongside their bin but FirstCall must be informed by telephone of how many bags are being left.

Please ensure you ring FirstCall on (01670) 535000 by 4pm on the day prior to your collection.

Clothing collections

Have you put clothing and other items out for collection recently in response to a flyer requesting these items for third world countries? You may be interested to know that the information on the flyer is completely false. There is no company under the name of E-Flower Ltd, nor is the telephone number connected. There are a lot of words about helping people in third world countries but what this firm is doing is collecting quality clothing and other goods and selling them for profit. Containers of these goods end up in the markets in towns in West Africa and their contents are for sale to the local people. You are asked to help the profits of such dishonest companies. You may be happy to do this but there are plenty of opportunities for disposing of unwanted clothes and goods to local charities and organisations.



Deer roe deer

Bonkers buck jumps through kitchen window



By PC Jon Gray,
Community Beat Officer, Ponteland

Twenty-one crimes have been reported in Ponteland and the immediate surrounding area during the period covered in this column (June 4 to July 4).

After our dry period of house burglaries, two offences were reported, one on West Road and one at the south end of Cheviot View. Luckily, in both offences, no items were stolen.

The West Road offence took place over a Saturday night/Sunday morning, when the thieves removed the beading from a window and entered the kitchen, but then left without taking anything.

The second offence took place around 2pm on a weekday in mid-June, when a house was targeted on Cheviot View. The two offenders went to the back of the house, forced open a porch door, and then broke through the lower wooden panel of the back door.

All the rooms were searched, but they were disturbed by the neighbours and fled empty handed. The car they used was described as a maroon coloured K-reg car including the nos. 224 or 223, and in very poor condition. There are some leads to follow up on this one.

Car crime low

Vehicle crime has remained low. Two cars were broken into at Bolam Lake, during a Saturday afternoon, diesel was stolen from yard tanks at a farm near Belsay during the early hours of a Monday morning.

Isolated incidents of low value damage have been reported during some of the weekend nights in June, no doubt caused by teenagers who have drunk too much. They are in the minority, as most of our local teenagers are well behaved. But as has been said before, hard liquor will exaggerate the moods and the normally considerate person will take their frustrations out on a garden fence, hedge, wheelie bin etc.

Think about it - a lot of the people who have reported this sort of damage have been elderly and it will frighten them, apart from annoying them. Remember, it is not a question of the value being low, it is the principle behind the actions. If caught you could get a caution, fine or conviction.

Door-to-door tradesmen warning

Colleagues have asked if the following two topics can be covered in the column, the first being the issue of 'door to door' tradesmen, the second being letters asking you for money.

Please remember that there are local businesses that cover most, if not all, household/ garden requirements in this area. It

would be advisable using them, rather than the people who will come and knock on your door. They may be cheaper to hire, but they will be very hard to find if something goes wrong with the work later.

Please remind your older relatives that they do not have to buy, sign or commit themselves to anything on the doorstep. Politely tell the caller that you either use someone you know, or that a member of the family has the matter in hand. There are many legitimate tradesmen who will call at the house, but they will normally leave a leaflet and will have firm contact details.

Beware overseas letters pledging cash prizes

Some of you will have received letters from overseas, saying that you've won some cash on a lottery and asking you to send banking details, cash etc to an address, often a PO box no. People are still being taken in - be very wary, work on the assumption that you get nothing of that value for free.

Oh deer!

To end with, I'll return to the topic of reckless acts of damage, and to one particular incident that took place on June 26 at around 5pm.

Two Ponteland High School lads, Jake Salkeld and Scott Carruthers decided to wind down at the end of a day's hard studying by kicking a football about on the Coates field, which backs onto one of their houses.

To their surprise, they saw a Roe deer buck (male), leap out of the bushes and run to the fence towards Grange Road. The deer bounded over the fence into the back garden of a house in Grange Road, and went out of sight. Seconds after clearing the fence, the boys heard a loud bang and the sound of breaking glass.

They ran to the fence, looked over, and saw a large hole in the centre pane of the kitchen window of this house. No sign of the deer. The neighbours were alerted and the police were called. No one had seen the deer make off, so it was assumed that the deer was hiding in the kitchen, possibly injured.

The owners of the house were away on holiday, so help was called for from the RSPCA and from Brian Hepple, whose knowledge in handling wild animals has been invaluable to us in the past.

This strange siege action went on for 30 minutes, until the keyholder arrived and the decision was made that the officer attending and Brian would quietly enter the house, and try to make contact with the deer.

If any readers have tracked/watched or stalked

our native wild deer in places such as the forests of Harwood, Gaick or Rothiemurchus, then you will imagine somewhat incongruous feeling of stalking a wild Roe in someone's kitchen/dining room.

Happily, the deer was not there. The scene examination showed that the buck had come through the window, onto the sill, and then onto the dining table (nothing particularly unusual with a Roe being on a family dining table, but normally it's with wild cranberries, greens, brandy sauce etc), pirouetted around, and went straight back out through the already broken window.

A small amount of blood showed that the buck had cut himself, but not too badly. When the RSPCA inspector arrived, a search was made of the area, and this peculiarly capable cervid was found galloping and bounding around the Coates school field, none the worse for its ordeal.

It immediately stopped play amongst a group of 10-12 yr old footballers, who cleared off the field of play with a speed and willingness that many a red card waving referee could only dream of.

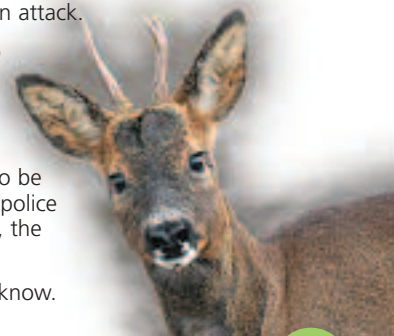
The deer was contained for a short time on the field, before again showing off its prime condition by leaping the high hedge into Rowan Drive, where it disappeared. It would have spent the rest of the evening in cover, then moving off when things became quiet, around nightfall.

Roe deer are numerous around here, as they are in a lot of other parts of the country. You may not see them often, but they are about. At this time of year, the bucks will be very territorial with each other, this one could have been driven out of its old grounds, and came looking for a new home in Grange Road, before deciding that there were too many humans around.

Why it jumped through the window could be down to a few theories: it just panicked and hit the window accidentally; the window was a gap of light reflecting the garden and a pathway between the two dark walls; or the window reflected the buck, who would have assumed that its reflection was a rival coming towards it in an attack.

Like most who commit acts of reckless damage, he didn't want to hang around to be caught by the police or, in this case, the RSPCA.

We will never know.



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