Contnevs & Views FREE monthly magazine for Ponteland and district



SOLARFOLD doors, open up your home and bring the outside in



A set of folding/sliding doors can complement any building and provide exciting glass wall solutions.

SOLARFOLD doors remove barriers between the outside and literally bring the outside in, opening up a room in a way that traditional patio and French doors cannot achieve. Whole walls can now be literally and effortlessly swept aside in seconds enabling any room to embrace the great outdoors

Open up your home - call 0191 478 4700 email info@solarfolddoors.co.uk or log on to www.solarfolddoors.co.uk



PETER ATKINSON MP for Hexham

Constituency Office:

1 Meal Market Hexham Northumberland **NF46 1NF**

Tel: 01434 603954 Fax: 01434 601659

Westminster Office:

House of Commons Westminster London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0207 2194013 Fax: 0207 2192775

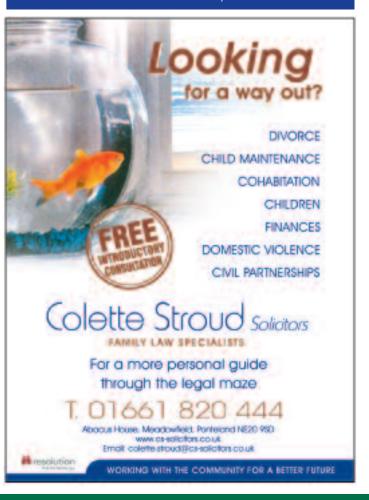
Web: www.peteratkinson.com

If there is an issue you are concerned about please do not hesitate to contact me. I hold constituency surgeries in Ponteland and can also be contacted through my Westminster or Constituency offices.

Alternatively you can keep up to date with my latest news and send me a message by logging on to www.peteratkinson.com.

WORKING FOR YOU www.peteratkinson.com





Manufacturers of all types of wrought iron gates & railings. For further information and no obligation quote. Call or visit

our automated showroom.

<mark>Tel:</mark> 0191 264 2519

Mobile: 07765 864 888

Unit 3 Gradys Yard, Ponteland Road, Throckley, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 9EP news&views



By Coral Wilmot

The Friends of Ponteland Park have secured a £9,250 grant from the Lottery Fund's Breathing Spaces Scheme to create a summer flower meadow.

Last January we sent off our application with detailed plans for the creation of the meadow in Ponteland Park, full of local wild flowers to attract birds, bees, butterflies, insects, and provide a spectacular view for visitors to the park to stop and admire.

Work starts in earnest mid-August, but at the moment we are planning ways to involve local schoolchildren, cubs, scouts, guides and local residents young and not so young in various projects linked with the meadow creation. So watch this space.

Margaret Stainsby, Chair of Friends of Ponteland Park, said: "We are thrilled and delighted to have been given this Award. We are looking forward to an energetic and tough year ahead to achieve our aim - in 2009 a summer meadow to delight and encourage all, visitors and wildlife alike."

If you would like to be part of this exciting development please contact the FOPP Secretary, tel. (01661) 823766.

Photo:

Friends help to plant a young Acer tree. FOPP meet every Tuesday at 7pm in the Memorial Hall car park to work on a variety of projects. All are welcome. Pic by Muriel Sobo.



Tributes paid to charity champion

Tributes have been paid to Ponteland charity champion John Colvin, who has died at the age of 75.

The Darras Hall resident, who devoted his life to serving his community, passed away after a long battle with ill health.

Mr Colvin was well-known for his dedicated service as a Borough and Parish Councillor and phenomenal fundraising

He was a Trustee of the Darras Hall Estate, Treasurer and Fundraising Champion for Ponteland Lions Club and an active member of St Mary's Church in Ponteland, where he had served as warden.

The former Proctor & Gamble accountant was helped in all his duties by his beloved wife June and the pair worked side by side organising various events to collect around £100,000 for good causes.

The couple were due to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary in September.

Tributes to Mr Colvin have been led by Castle Morpeth Mayor Irene Brumwell, a long-standing friend. She said: "John was a smashing chap. He was 6ft 5ins tall and a big character. In fact, his character was as big as he was. He was a wonderful person to know and he really worked hard for his

community. He was an excellent person to be with," she said.

Mr Colvin was a member of Castle Morpeth Council for 12 years, taking a keen interest in planning matters, and served on Ponteland Parish Council for about 20 years, only standing down at the last election due to his failing health.

Ponteland Town Council Chairman Robin Ramsay said: "John was very much a good local councillor and did a lot of work for Ponteland. Certainly he was involved in a lot of activities in the community and he will be remembered with much affection and gratitude for what he did."

One of Mr Colvin's main interests was serving St Mary's Church, where he held a number of charity events and worked for the Church Army. Together with June, he also helped to organise 13 of its flower, music and art festivals, concentrating mainly on the art aspect.

Also a long-serving member of Ponteland Lions Club, Mr Colvin continued his charity work and was responsible for setting up the annual fundraising swimming marathon

PANACHE FASHION SHOW RAISES £1565 FOR THE MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL



Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to raise over £1500 in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal supporting Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The event was well supported by many local businesses including Ponteland Print, Sainsbury, Ponteland Leisure Centre, Kirkley Hall, Elliott's Greengrocers, Parklands, Bonner and White, F.H Hardy Florist, Look Twice and Crown Millinery, who provided some fabulous hats and fascinators! We were also delighted to welcome Daphne and her Hearing Dog Pip to the event.

Of course huge thanks go to our fabulous models and to everybody who helped behind the scenes.

For details of future fashion shows and events at Panache please visit our website: www.panachefashions.co.uk.



Swimming club wins silver

By Helen Mason, Team Manager

It's the region's biggest city and boasts its only Olympic sized swimming pool. So Ponteland's Amateur Swimming Club can be proud that out of 19 teams, only Sunderland was able to top its score at the annual junior gala. ponteland amateur swimming club

Coach John Nicholson, myself, three parent helpers, the boys' Team Captain and 41 swimmers left Ponteland ready to commence battle in the Durham and District Junior League Division II final at Felling.

In 2007 Ponteland competed in Division III of the League, but gained promotion to Division II by coming second in last year's final.

The Diddy League is for swimmers aged between nine and 12 years. There are currently 19 clubs from Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham and Cleveland in the league, which has three divisions.

Carouse

During March and April each year teams compete in three first round galas against five other clubs from their division. The top six teams in the division compete in the final.

Ponteland competed in three qualifying rounds – coming second at the first gala, third at the second gala and second in the third gala. At each gala Ponteland came behind City of Sunderland by a substantial number of points.

We knew as the final day approached it was almost an impossibility to beat the City of Sunderland, but we hoped to be able to finish in second position.

The gala got underway with a spectacular parade of the six teams in the final. The Durham & District Junior League celebrates its 30th year in 2008 and the teams recognised this achievement by balloons, posters, t-shirts and banners.

The atmosphere at the gala was electric; the swimmers were particularly amazed at the noise from both the 300+ spectators and also support from their own teams.

Ponteland were in joint 3rd position after 30 events, fighting against other clubs from the area. These included City of Sunderland, Consett, Wear Valley, South Tyneside and Tynedale.

After a tiring and nail biting 1 hour 30 mins, Ponteland were ecstatic to come second, losing to City of Sunderland. This is an enormous achievement for Ponteland ASC – well done to all swimmers that competed.

If you are interested in being part of Ponteland ASC or want more information visit www.pontelandasc.org.uk or email admin@pontelandasc.org.uk.



MENS GIFTS • SQUARE MILE • JEWELLERY • PANDORA HANDBAGS GIFTS • NOUGAT • CRABTREE & EVELYN STATIONERY • YANKEE CANDLES • BALLOONS • TOYS





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. All letters submitted should include the writer's name and address.

A real mixed postbag this month, with the ongoing debate on the park gates, disappearing koi carp and one naughty poodle's antics all featuring.

Council not consulting properly on park gates plans

In the April issue of Pont News & Views the proposed new entrance to the park and bridleway on Main Street was shown.

It was also stated that the design had been endorsed by the Council for comments from the whole community. From this statement it could be implied that following community comments, the design could be amended to meet the wishes of those responding.

The proposed new park entrance design as shown in PN&V is architecturally not in keeping with the existing Main Street. The design as shown by the photo-montage is incomplete as it does not show its relationship to the Somerfield building nor does it show the extent of the wall and railing to the west of the new park entrance. It also does not show its relationship to the new bus shelter and the junction of Darras Road.

Clearly without these overall design relationships the design is flawed from the outset and its endorsement by the Town Council as a worthwhile addition to Ponteland cannot be sustained.

Taking the park entrance element shown on the photo-montage, this itself is not in keeping with the stonework of the Somerfields building or its access ramps and handrails. Approval of the finishes of the Somerfield building was sought from the Royal Fine Arts Commission at the planning stages in respect to its location on Main Street, yet the proposed new park entrance which is a continuation of Main Street has no affinity to the principles that were established at that time

The published response to date in the PN&V from the Chairman of the Town Council to all the design criticism has been very low key, stating that the comments received may be given consideration.

In the June issue of PN&V, in the section dealing with Ponteland Town Council News there is set out a list of committed projects, the first of which is the park entrance. The word committed would seem to indicate that any changes would not be considered and the work will proceed.

There is also reference in 'committed projects' to the bus shelter; as the park entrance and bus shelter are integral to the Main Street scene no changes to the overall design concept are envisaged. This view is supported by the fact that a wooden bus shelter has been ordered by the Town Council, indicating that work will proceed regardless of the adverse expressed comments by the people of Ponteland.

This is not democracy in operation and would the Town Council make a clear statement that the proposed design will be reviewed, and every comment and suggested amendment of those that have taken the time to set them out in correspondence will be given full consideration.

Would the Town Council also publish in PN&V the number of responses they have received in favour of the proposed design and those that have extremely critical including this letter in the latter category?

Let me make my position clear, I am not against having a park and bridleway entrance. I am however of the opinion that a low key design with stone similar to that of the Somerfield building without railings, including a bus shelter of similar materials, would be more beneficial to Ponteland Main Street.

Raymond Sproul Stonehaugh Way, Darras Hall

Dismayed at park gates plans

It is with considerable interest, coupled with an element of profound dismay, I note the proposals for a new entrance to Ponteland Park

It is often said that any design is only as good as its brief and therefore I do not wish to belittle Mr Rawlinson's proposals. May I however point out that the design is more befitting to that of a municipal park e.g. Leazes Park in Newcastle, Roker Park in Sunderland, or the Albert Park, Middlesbrough.

Does the Ponteland Park possess numerous formal flower beds along each side of long, straight footpath vistas which are terminated by an ornamental lake and fountain or statue? Perhaps a bandstand, tempettio or pseudo folly is envisaged.

Ponteland Park is surely a fenced parkland with delightful informal footpath walks which cross a meandering River Pont with simple unsophisticated wooden bridges.

The existing character of the Park relates to an historic village and I would suggest a far less formal design be considered.

Whilst the National Westminster Bank may have somehow influenced the character of the proposal, I would point out that directly opposite the entrance stands two listed rural dwellings circa 1825 and therefore of greater historic importance.

Finally, should the proposed entrance attract not only local residents but passing tourists on the A696 looking for a picnic site, what provisions for car parking are envisaged?

Harry Earp Crossfell, Darras Hall

Never mind park gates, what about Prestwick Cemetery?

With ref to the park gates Ponteland, don't you think we should have some proper gates at Prestwick Cemetery?

The gates that are on are house gates; it doesn't look like a cemetery. When we recently buried a relative there and we told friends to meet at Prestwick Cemetery they all thought it was a pet cemetery. Please give us some proper gates. Awaiting your reply.

Rosalinda Wright Beech Court, Darras Hall

I was another victim of disappearing koi carp

Welcome to the disappearing fish club Mr and Mrs McCall (article June issue).

I, like many more residents of Ponteland and Darras Hall have had large expensive koi etc taken, but the thieves are not either feathered or two legged but are of the four legged variety, namely mink.

These are the culprits who have cleaned out my pond and other ponds in the area. In fact, in my case they left two large koi but returned the next night for these also.

The mink obviously escaped or were let out from the mink farm that was at Kirkley and have continued to multiply in large numbers ever since.

I really don't think there is anything to deter them as once they know where there is water they will obviously return, so I have had to admit defeat and have filled in my pond which I have had for over 30 years.

Mrs PT Royle Errington Road, Darras Hall

A big thank you

My husband and I would like to thank the two ladies who helped us on the morning of the 5th June.

Our young standard poodle bitch escaped from the house when a workman called to start a job when the doors were opened to allow for his ladders etc. to be brought in, she shot out like a 'bat out of hell'.

Having been spayed two weeks previously, her exercise had been acutely curtailed, (no galloping around the park with her canine friends). Hence, the open door was too much of a temptation for all that pent up energy. She darted down Darras Road zigzagging from one side to the other, my husband and I, both in our seventies, in hot pursuit.

What a sight we must have made, my husband, who, through illness finds it difficult to walk, but probably egged on by the rush of adrenaline, was lolloping along as best as he could on one



August deadlines

The August issue will be delivered the week beginning August 11. Deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday July 27.

side of the road with myself, an asthmatic, gasping and shuffling along in floppy slippers on the other side.

As I was hurrying down the road I was shouting our pet's name at the top of my voice - I must have sounded like a fish wife. Of course she was being selectively deaf.

A very kind woman stopped her car, jumped out and gave chase, to no avail, as soon as she neared our poodle; the naughty scamp dodged her and crossed the road.

Another very considerate lady stopped, told me to jump into her car and gave me a lift down the road, she also provided me with chocolate as a bribe to catch her.

By now our poodle had ran down a gentleman's drive, and the naughty scallywag chased his cat up a tree, before reluctantly conceding to approach me, the chocolate being too much of a temptation to resist.

This gentleman was very concerned about my husband and kindly asked if he needed to rest in his home to recover, but we assured him he was

all right and slowly made our way home, myself gripping tightly onto the dogs collar.

I would also like to thank the drivers, who, being aware of the situation, slowed down, I dread to think what could have happened if they had not.

Once again a very huge thank you to all.

Wyn Jackson Darras Road, Darras Hall

Town Council title "tosh"

Apropos your December issue, I read with some interest the article outlining the case for re-classifying Ponteland as a Town

It strikes me that there is a degree of "pretension" attached to this projected change. The idea that appears to be implied is that a parish council is subordinate to a town council and therefore necessitates we change "to raise our status"

I presume that this measure would also be viewed as raising the status of those personnel

elected to represent us. What tosh!

We are already greatly over-represented at the various levels of government, from Westminster (in particular) down, with people who appear to suffer from delusions of grandeur.

To intimate that we may in future need to raise the status of our own locally elected representatives by referring to them as a town council, and in the process, probably justify the requirement for a Mayor to head our locally elected politicians is ludicrous.

Although a resident of Ponteland for a mere 10 years I nonetheless feel that to refer to Ponteland as anything other than a village (in common parlance), that is mainly happy with a parish council, fails to recognise (or pay credit to) the harmonious and close community feel that exists within the populace and our local area.

Keith Mannings Eastern Way, Ponteland

New vicar for Ponteland

By June Atkinson

A new vicar has been appointed to take over the vacant position at Ponteland.

Parishioners at St Mary's, Ponteland, and at Holy Saviour, Milbourne, were told on Sunday July 5 that Merton College, Oxford, has offered the benefice of Ponteland to Reverend Peter Barham, and he has accepted the offer.

Peter is Canon Pastor at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. He and his wife, Julie, who is a Reader, have four children, the youngest being a small baby.

Peter has asked us to tell you that he and his family are very much looking forward to coming to Ponteland and getting to know everyone. They have visited Northumberland and Durham on many occasions and are familiar with the area.

They plan to move in late August, and Peter's Institution will take place in September.

Force plans new Ponteland HQ



NORTHUMBRIA Police has announced plans to build a new headquarters on the outskirts of Ponteland.

The police authority is to submit an outline planning application in the autumn for new premises on its current 70-acre site a mile east of the village centre. Surplus land would be sold for housing.

Under the plans, listed 'cottage homes' on the site built over 100 years ago would also be kept and refurbished as new housing. Other buildings would be demolished.

Chief Constable Mike Craik said current 'outdated' buildings were 'long past their best'.

The Communications Centre, which was completed in 1999, is said to be the only building on site which is able to meet the technological needs of modern working.

Mr Craik added: "We need a headquarters which is fit for 2020...which should reflect our position as one of the UK's top performing forces and not be housed in a variety of buildings, many of which have long been past their best for any purpose.

"I also think it's essential that we show prudent management of public money, by not continuing to spend money maintaining outdated buildings and failing to capitalise on our assets."

Ponteland Town Council





Pride in Ponteland

FORMER BOROUGH AND PARISH **COUNCILLOR JOHN COLVIN**

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Council stood for a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor John Colvin who had sadly died recently.

PLANNING

Reports on recent planning decisions

There were no planning decisions to report. It was reported that a Licensing hearing had been held recently in respect of Fratellis restaurant and the licence had been awarded.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS Holy Saviour Church, Milbourne

Two grant applications had been received from the above Church. The first related to the annual request for assistance towards the cost of maintenance and upkeep of the Churchyard in the sum of £300. Secondly, urgent repairs were required to the Church clock in the sum of £1,310 and the Council had been asked if they could assist in this matter. The applicants had indicated that they would be willing to forgo the maintenance grant if necessary.

RESOLVED - A grant of £300 be made towards the maintenance of the Churchyard and a further grant of £900 be approved towards the costs of repairs to the Church clock.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON RECENT EVENTS

Resurfacing of Callerton Lane Play Area

It was reported that the resurfacing works had been completed.

Party in the Park 2008

The event had been most successful and the organisers were to be congratulated for their hard work.

Play at Ponteland High School

The Chairman had been invited to attend a play at the High School that pupils had written, rehearsed and performed within seven days which had been a tremendous success. It was suggested that an article be placed in Pont News & Views.

REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL **ORGANISATIONS**

Councillor Mrs J Butcher gave a comprehensive report in relation to her recent attendance at the Airport Consultative Committee. The issue of car parking charges was discussed and the decision of the Airport to reduce the pickup/drop off time to five minutes. This was creating traffic and parking problems in areas outside of the airport. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Airport voicing the concerns of the Town Council and the problems being experienced in the vicinity of the Airport i.e. Prestwick Cemetery.

This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council's June meeting.

Ponteland litter pick -Saturday 19 July

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

Summer judging -Northumbria in Bloom

The Summer judging for the Town Council's entry into Northumbria in Bloom will take place on Wednesday 23 July 2008 starting at 10am.

Town Council office relocation

Ponteland Town Council will soon be moving to new offices at 1 Meadowfield Court, Meadowfield Industrial Estate, Ponteland, NE20 9SD.

The offices will be fully operational from this address as from Wednesday 30 July, however the move will be taking place in the week before this and therefore a presence will still be at the Verger's Cottage offices until that date.

The new offices are located opposite the Tofco factory and Health Centre and will be signposted. They are also accessible via the footpath from Kirkley Drive.

Our telephone numbers and opening hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm remain unchanged.

Tel: (01661) 825092

Fmail:

enquiries@pontelandtowncouncil.co.uk

News in Brief

Andy takes over main role at Lions

A very successful joint presidency lasting two years for Ponteland Lions Club has just ended when President John Harvey and President Jim Robertson handed over office to the in-coming President Andy Anderson. During the joint presidency the Club celebrated 25 years since its charter and welcomed five ladies into the membership. The Lions are active in the community both fund-raising and organising events.

They welcome new members to help in these activities and to enjoy social occasions of all kinds.

The pic shows John and Jim welcoming Andy at a lunch party in the garden by the Pont.



End of a tradition

Who won the anuual bowls match between the Mayor and Councillors and the Ponteland Bowling Club? It's doubtful if anyone remembered the score

but everyone enjoyed a balmy summer's evening of bowls and banter. Irene Brumwell, the last Mayor of the soon to be abolished Castle Morpeth Council, was an enthusiastic captain and supported by a number of councillors played the match in a friendly fashion. The players and guests were invited for refreshments afterwards, at the invitation of the Mayor, to the Rock in the Diamond Inn.

Irene Brumwell, Mayor, is pictured concentrating on her shot.



Ponteland students raise over £400 for special school

Students from the Ponteland Kumon centre have raised more than £400 for the Percy Hedley School in North Tyneside. A recent Mathathon saw £413.60 raised for the Forest Hall school. Kumon centres offer additional out-ofschool tuition in maths and English.

GREY alert!

By Sally Hardy

Recent sightings of grey squirrels in the area have caused alarm and worry for the safety of our red squirrels.

If we are to keep Ponteland red it is essential that grey squirrels are kept out of the area. Please contact us immediately if you see a grey squirrel.

Please remember to clean your squirrel and bird feeders regularly to stop the spread of, not only squirrel pox, but other diseases.

Why are grey squirrels such a threat to reds?

Unfortunately, red and grey squirrels cannot live in harmony. Grey squirrels are competing with the reds for habitat and food. As prolific breeders, they have spread across the UK at an alarming rate. Grey squirrels have overrun the countryside and parks across mainland England and have over recent years begun to take over the last strongholds of the English red – Northumberland and Cumbria.

Greys are twice as heavy as reds, more robust and have a much stronger digestive system. They carry a disease called squirrel pox virus – although harmless to greys, it causes an horrific death for reds.

CARPET AND FLOORING SPECIALISTS

50 Merton Way, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9PS

Is it red or grey?

Red squirrels are very pretty and have a very distinctive reddish/brown coat. They have large bushy tails, often darker in colour, although they can also be much paler too. Reds have tufted ears with a slender body, approx. 18-22cm long (plus tail length approx. 17-20cm). Grey squirrels are much larger with a definite grey coat, although this does have tinges of brown/red. They have a stocky body approx 22cm-28cm long (plus tail 18-20cm). Greys never have tufted ears and their tail is grey/brown with white hairs on the edge. Greys will eat a much wider range of food and are very bold.

For more information please contact us:

Email: pontelandredsquirrels@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 07846 900924 or (01661) 824785/825052/824609

Web: www.pontelandredsquirrels.co.uk



Fantastic range, great prices, unrivalled experience – why shop anywhere else?

products and negotiate the best deals for our customers.

50 YEARS of dedication, pride and customer care that

only a family-run business can provide.

Cub SCOUTS enjoy visit to Woodhorn

By Chris Longfield

Members, leaders and parents from Ponteland's Monday Cub Scouts visited Woodhorn Colliery Museum to discover about the history of scouting and mining in Northumberland.

...and a trip

The trip was to support their work towards the Northumberland Centenary Scout Challenge.

After an enthusiastic tour of the exhibition, they travelled to Newbiggin by the Sea for a picnic lunch and to build sandcastles in the new sand. Luckily, the weather stayed fine and the Cubs were able to relax and play on the beach.



On Monday 23 June the Cub Scouts rode their bikes round the Darras Hall area to complete their Cyclist Badge and on 30 June they visited Ponteland Fire Station as part of their Community Challenge Badge.

The Monday Cub Scouts meet on a Monday evening at 6:15pm at the Ponteland Scout HQ and new members are welcome.







By Sarah Comerford

Budding antiques enthusiasts can join the Antiques Roadshow's expert Eric Knowles at the historic Kirkley Hall near Ponteland in August.

The event which will begin at 1.30pm on Monday 4th August will see Eric give a talk on antiques then a valuation service on items visitors bring with them.

Eric inherited a love of antiques from his parents. In the early 1970s he worked for a firm of antique shippers and in 1976 he joined Bonhams, the London auctioneers, working first as a porter in the ceramics department, and becoming head of department in 1981. His rise to the top

was swift and in 1985 he was offered a full directorship.

Eric became a regular TV face in the 1990s with appearances on programmes such as 'Crimewatch UK', 'The Great Antiques Hunt', and 'Jim Davidson's Generation Game.

As well as presenting and appearing on radio and TV, he has written books on subjects such as Victoriana, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Royal Memorabilia. He remains a frequent contributor to the BBC 'Homes and Antiques' magazine and Collect it and is antiques expert for The Sunday Times.

Eric's visit is part of an exciting new programme of events for the summer and autumn at Kirkley Hall. In October well known interior designer George Bond will revisit the hall to give his expert advice on decorating your home after a popular visit back in May. Proceeds from the events benefit the development of the student facilities and activities at Northumberland College's campuses.

Tickets cost £10pp and booking is essential to guarantee entry. For further information or to book a place on Eric's inspiring talk, call the operations team at Kirkley Hall on (01670) 841235 or email: enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk

History society celebrates 40th anniversary

By J. Michael Taylor MBE

Ponteland Local History Society recently hosted the Association of Northumberland History Societies annual 'Round the County' Day at the Memorial Hall.

Charles Wesencraft, Ponteland History Society President, opened the day by welcoming the 130 delegates.

Professor Richard Bailey, past chairman of the North East Region of Heritage Lottery Fund then gave a presentation St. Mary's Church -Monuments, Men and Mayhem and this was followed by Charles' talk on The Vicar's Pele.

After a buffet lunch, writer and photographer Steve Newman gave a talk entitled Hidden Histories of Northumberland.

Delegates then had the opportunity to examine a display of local history archives and undertake the 'round the village' walk devised by PLHS to include many of the historic buildings in the village

centre, and described on the society's latest leaflet publication.

PLHS's 40th anniversary celebrations continue throughout the year with a particular

highlight being a local history day, when over 60 local organisations have agreed to display photographs, memorabilia and other historic items at the Memorial Hall on 1st November. Display boards are being provided by the Society with funding support from the Town

Further information about the History Day, the PLHS programme of events and meetings, and details of membership and how to obtain copies of 'round the village walk' are available from the society's website at www.ponthistsoc.freeuk.com



Call into our showroom at MOTOR COMPANY 37 BROADWAY, DARRAS HALL Tel: 01551 822288 Mob: 07779 927920 www.tripleeightdarrashallgarage.co.uk

K V A

FORTHCOMING HALL





Antiquarian Services

For those of you with an interest in antiques, dig out those valuables as the Antiques Road Show's very own Eric Knowles visits Kirkley Hall in August.

Eric will give a talk on antiques and then a valuation service on various items brought in by visitors.

A recognised expert in his field, Eric is a well-known face in the world of antiques. As well as the BBC's Antiques Road Show he has appeared on many other TV and radio shows and is antiques expert for the Sunday Times.

Monday 4th August 1.30pm onwards

£10pp - pre-booking is essential to guarantee entry. Book early to avoid disappointment.

We have lots more exciting events this year including wine tasting, salsa classes and Christmas festivities. Please call for more details.



www.ericknowles.co.uk