

Activities

There are many benefits in joining local activities including improving the health, well-being, mental agility and making new friends.

Sport, Leisure and Recreational activities may involve individuals, small groups, teams or whole communities and are relevant to people of all different ages, abilities and levels of skill. The types of activities people participate in vary greatly depending on local context, and tend to reflect the social systems and cultural values.

They are an enjoyable and effective way to improve health and well-being; they can relieve stress, increase fitness, improve physical and mental health, and prevent the development of chronic diseases. They bring people of all ages and abilities together and provide the opportunity to demonstrate their strengths, abilities, and promote a positive image of disability. Whilst giving the opportunity to demonstrate their strengths and abilities.

Participation in sport, leisure and recreational activities may be one of the few opportunities that older people and those with disabilities have to engage in community life beyond their immediate families. As with culture and art, people with disabilities may choose to participate actively (e.g. as team members of a basketball team), or passively (e.g. as spectators at a football match) they provide the opportunity to demonstrate their strengths and abilities, and promote a positive image of disability.

Communities that participate in sport, leisure and recreation develop strong local social bonds, are safer places and the people who live in them are generally healthier and happier than places where physical activity isn't a priority. One of the many hidden benefits to participating in sport and recreation is the way it helps connect people in communities.

There is a wide range of activities available in the Civil Parish and opportunities for groups and individual recreation. The variety shows, more of selection for adults, particularly for mature adults, which reflects the age groups and the leisure time they have available.

The Sport, Clubs and Leisure Recreational Activities provision is quite diverse with no central point of access for this information; it has been gathered from a variety of sources and presented by the provider's venues, named group or club and other facilities:

Venues:	Ponteland Leisure	Ponteland Methodist Church
	Ponteland St Mary's Church	Ponteland United Reform Church
	Ponteland Catholic Church	Ponteland Library
	Memorial Hall	Merton Hall
	St Mary's Hall	Dalton Village Hall
	Kirkley Hall Agricultural College	

Ponteland Leisure Centre is a multi-use sport and fitness complex, providing a range of fitness opportunities and local events to visitors and the community. Many of the local community sporting clubs meet at this venue as well as the relocated library with a free parking for users of the centre.

Leisure Services

A varied programme of activity sessions for children and young people includes local grassroots sports clubs and community groups to managing Northumberland Sport, which is the County Sports Partnership, part of the support network for clubs and sport's National Governing Bodies.

Helping people to make healthy lifestyle choices offering a range of health related programmes, such as our nationally recognised GP exercise on referral scheme.

Ponteland Library

Ponteland Library has been relocated from the village centre to the Leisure Centre offering support for the development of arts, events, heritage, tourism, and the creative industries; this is seen that culture is a vital part of people's lives, enabling them to have fun, meet people, develop skills, keep fit and achieve aspirations.

Ponteland Methodist Church

Ponteland Ladies Choir meet Mon 7.30 pm - 10pm

The Girls' Brigade is a Christian organisation for girls aged 5 to 18. Girls have the opportunity to work for badges covering a wide variety of subjects. They offer fun and fellowship within a full and varied weekly programme. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening during term time.

Explorers group (5 to 8 years old) 5.30pm to 7.00pm.

Company Section (8 to 18 years old) 6.15pm to 8.15pm.

The Ponteland Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline and Self-respect and all that leads towards a true Christian Manliness. The programme includes a full Boys' Brigade activity plan of educational, games and outdoor pursuits leading towards the appropriate achievements and awards for each age group. Meetings are held every Tuesday during term time as follows:-

Anchor Boys from 5.45pm to 6.45pm.

Junior Section from 7.00pm to 8.15pm.

Company Section from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Men's Forum meets on the 3rd Thursday in each month. They have a wide variety of speakers on both educational and social topics. The aim to formulate a Christian perspective through friendly discussion about the issues raised.

Carpet Bowling Club open to all

Woman's Fellowship Women of all denominations or none are invited to meet regularly for friendship and worship and to hear speakers on a variety of subjects. Meetings are held in

the church hall at 2.30pm on alternate Tuesdays. The speaker for each meeting is announced in the weekly notices. Women's Focus is intended for women of all ages who enjoy meeting in a friendly Christian environment, for talks, discussions, visits, chats etc. They meet on alternate Thursday evenings at 7.30pm and they promise you both an interesting evening and a very warm welcome.

Ponteland St Mary's Church see St Mary's Hall

Ponteland United Reform Church

Provides facilities for all ages and activities include Yoga, Dance School, and exercises for chair bound participants, Guides and Brownies. There is also a nursery for youngsters and week day activities for school children. A "Friday Lunch Club" open to all and a coffee shop open term time Tuesdays & Wednesday's. The Darras Hall WI uses these facilities for their meetings.

Ponteland St Matthews Catholic Church

Activities happy Days events, Friday Lunch Club

Memorial Hall

Organisations and activities that regularly meet are:

Tots Baby Sensory, Baby Bond Massage, Mum & Baby Yoga, Pregnancy Yoga Club, Youth: Youth Theatre

Adults: Creative Art, Terrapin Embroiderers, Art Appreciation, Embroiderers Guild, Contact Bridge, Tuesday Bridge Club, North East plant Heritage Group, Callerton Garden & Flower Club, Pont WI, Ponteland Floral Art Club, Art Appreciation, Senior Gents Club, Yoga, Zumba classes, Repertory Society, Ponteland Charity group.

Merton Hall

U3A activities with a membership of 37 groups including, Art Group. Learner Bridge and Bridge Groups, Photo Group, Inner Wheel, Ponteland Floral Art, Beading Group, Wine Tasting, Moo Music, Ponteland Ladies Group, Social Eyes, Slimming Club, Meditation Group, Country Market. Ponteland Village Bridge Club Mon 8.30-10pm

St Mary's Hall

Activities for Children:

- Rugby tots - Monday 1 - 2.30 pm term time
- ART Venturers Thursday 1.30 - 2.30 pm term time
- Rainbows Thursday 6 - 7 pm term time Little Kickers – Friday 10 am – 12 noon term
- Brownies – Friday 6 – 7.45 pm term time

Activities for Adults:

- U3A - first Wednesday of month 2pm

- Northumberland Wildlife Trust – first Tuesday of month 6 – 10 pm
- Clarsach Society - as and when
- Alpine Society – second Monday of month 7 - 9.30 pm
- Fabulous 50+ fitness - Monday 10 - 11am and Tuesdays 10 - 11am
- Tai Chi - Thursday 10 - 11am
- Tai Kwon Do - Monday 4.15 - 5pm
- Ponteland Village WI - second Tuesday of month 7.30 pm
- Line dancing – Wednesday 7 - 8.15 pm
- Quilters – first and third Thursday of month 2 - 4 pm
- Ponteland History Society – third Thursday of each month 7 - 9.15 pm
- Ponteland Wildlife Group Tues 7.30pm

Dalton Village Hall

Mon Dalton Carpet Bowls Club Wed & Thurs Indoor Croquet Club
 Tues Scottish Country Dance Group, Dance & Live Music Group
 Wed & Thurs Indoor Croquet Club Many community events

Kirkley Hall Agricultural College

Kirkley Hall is a college for agricultural and land-based training since the 1950's some for 50 years and started to diversify in the early 2000's. Apart from having 2 working farms for students to gain firsthand experience of a wide base of agricultural skills, these also host full cost training in the local area. The Zoological Gardens are open to the public with an Orangery Tea Room for refreshments.

More recently a variety of private events and functions are available in Kirkley Hall a Grade 11 listed building suitable for hosting weddings, events, conferences, meetings and corporate Events. There is a strong business link supported by a Team Building Activity Centre, Office Space to rent, "start up" business workshops and, Co-working "Hot Desks" for hire.

Regular Hosting Events:

Farmers Markets each month
 Annual Garden Show Sept
 Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Championship Show
 Countryside Christmas Fair Nov
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 Countryside Christmas Fair Nov

Ponteland Local History Society

This Society was formed in 1968 to promote an interest in local history and bring together all those who shared this passion in the history and traditions of the community.

They share a wealth of local knowledge and promote Leslie Almond author of “Through the Twentieth Century” and “One Thousand Year History” twice a year the society publishes “Pont Island News” there is an outstanding archive collection on local history complete with old photos of Ponteland and the surrounding area. The group meets regularly at St Mary’s Church Hall where they show old railway films.

Ponteland Civic Society

Civic Societies are *Amenity Societies* and they exist to provide an accepted public voice on all urban development. Many were set up following the Public Amenities Act 1967 and there are now approximately 750 in the British Isles, with membership numbers per Society varying between 8 and 6,000. The total number of individual members across the country is in excess of 250,000 although only about one tenth of this number can be described as active.

The Objectives of Civic Societies are laid out in their Constitutions and they all follow a similar format; a summary of the Objectives of the Ponteland Civic Society can be found under the heading of our website and is placed at the head of all our Programme Flyers.

Since the passing of the 1967 Act, the Civic Society Movement has been taken up most enthusiastically in the South-East of England, followed by the South-West, the London area, Yorkshire/Humberside and the North-West, with the North-East – unfortunately – trailing behind. Some six years ago, in response to the Government’s setting-up of Regional Development Agencies, a number of regional groups of Civic Societies were formed to help co-ordinate the work of individual Societies in those Regions. The Ponteland Civic Society is a member of the North-Eastern Federation of Civic and Amenity Societies, which numbers 14 separate Societies.

Locally, one of the largest Civic Societies is that at Hexham, and the nearest to us are the Corbridge Village Trust, the Morpeth Civic Society and the Northumberland & Newcastle Society (N&N). The latter is a very well-established and prestigious organisation with more than 500 members and nearly 50 associated groups including local businesses, Amenity Societies (such as ourselves) and Parish & Town Councils. The Ponteland Civic Society was formed in 2007 with help and advice from the N.E. Federation and the N&N Society and has approximately 100 Members.

If Local History Societies may be described as concerned with the history and heritage of their area, Civic Societies can equally well be thought of as concerned with the future of their area. Much of the work by Civic Societies involves looking at planning applications, and we regard it as particularly important that any development which takes place in long-established communities preserves the character and ethos of the area.

Within this overriding vision it is essential to ensure that a sustainable balance is maintained between factors such as: building design, shops, housing, civic amenities, transport, and open spaces, care of the elderly, education and employment. There can be few people in Ponteland to whom none of these factors is important, and we would hope that those who are able to do so would join us and add weight to our efforts.

Monday evenings - All the talks take place in the Church Hall and commence at 7.30 p.m. They are free to members, visitors always welcome for whom there is nominal charge. Tea/coffee provided after the talks give an opportunity for informal

Ponteland Rotary Club

Meets on Tues at the Golf Club and raises money for many charities as well as organising various events such as concerts, duck races and winter markets.

Ponteland Lions Club

Meets at Merton Hall Wednesday each month. This Club was founded in 1982 and serves the community by arranging fund raising events and using money to support local people, organisations and Lions projects overseas. The club is part of a worldwide organisation in 200 countries with Headquarters in the United States.

The Lions run a bookstall once a month outside Waitrose on the main street. Unwanted spectacles are also collected for recycling to poorer countries. The club takes less able people to Panto's, entertains older members of the community and liaises with the local schools on a number of projects

Ponteland Golf Club, 18 hole Golf Course

This golf Club is located in Ponteland approximately 10 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne, set in one of the North East's most exclusive towns, off the A696, and just 20 minutes drive from Newcastle City Centre, Ponteland Golf Club is a perfect setting to play golf.

The traditional Club was established in 1927 and a cornerstone of the Newcastle and District Golf Union. Ponteland Golf Club has hosted many regional and national events over the years and the club is renowned for its warm welcome to all visitors. This picturesque parkland course offers easy walking as well as a memorable challenge to players of all abilities. It has built quite a reputation for the quality of the course, it is kept in magnificent condition by the green staff and the greens are renowned for both their slickness and trueness.

It was one of the first Clubs in Northumberland to be awarded the Golf Mark award, with juniors being the future of the sport and the club gives a clear commitment to the development of junior golfers.

Ponteland United

Ponteland United FC is over 100 years old and is highly respected well run local football club. It is an FA charter Standard Community Club and runs teams throughout all the age groups from Under 7's to Under 18's. The adult First team plays in the northern Alliance Football league with the Reserve Team starting its fourth season in the Tyneside Amateur League.

Ponteland Archery Club

Meet at the Leisure Centre

Ponteland Rugby Club

Currently fields 3 senior sides that play in a Durham & Northumberland league or a Northumberland County league on Saturday afternoons. The Colts, U17 and U18, play their league fixtures on a Saturday but their friendly fixtures on a Sunday. They have age group teams from U6 to U18 teams, with the exception of an U16 team, that either train or play matches on Sunday mornings. They have a developing girl's rugby squad which is an integral part of the club. All teams from U10 to senior players train during the week with training sessions being held from Monday to Thursday. They currently have 95 senior players, in excess of 200 mini, junior and youth registered players with 50 social members.

Ponteland Cricket Club

Currently runs five senior teams and four junior teams (juniors ranging in ages from 8 years to 19 years) with a junior membership of over 100. There are 1st and 2nd team league sides that play on a Saturday afternoon throughout the summer from mid-April through to mid-September. The friendly team plays its' fixtures on a Sunday afternoon. There are two senior league teams that play on weekday evenings from 6pm to 9pm. In addition, there are a number of cup fixtures that take place on midweek evenings. The under 19 and under 15 teams also play fixtures on midweek evenings when the senior sides do not have a fixture. The under 11 and under 13 junior teams play their matches predominantly on a Sunday morning. Both seniors and juniors have training on evenings when there are no fixtures. During a normal season there will be between 60 and 70 fixtures taking place on the ground.

Ponteland Tennis Club

Ponteland Lawn Tennis Club is one of the top tennis venues in Northumberland. All standards and ages including beginners are catered for. There is a strong family atmosphere.

Ponteland Bowling Club

The club was founded in 1923, it is owned by the members and run by a committee elected annually. The bowling green is maintained to a very high standard and is considered to be one of the best in Northumberland. The Club aims to serve the bowling needs of the local community and they are particularly keen to attract younger members to create a more balanced age profile. It is hoped that this will help to promote the game of bowls in the local area and ensure the Club continues to flourish in years to come.

Ponteland Runners and Ponteland Tri

Ponteland Runners is a very friendly local running & Tri club meeting in Ponteland. They have a current membership well over 100. Ponteland Runners have a well co-ordinated and active group of England Athletics Qualified Leaders leading the runs. They also have 2 level 2 British Triathlon Coaches & British Cycling Coaches providing Tri related sessions as appropriate and have worked in partnership with England Athletics, Tony Blair Sports Foundation and Triathlon England to provide support and funding for these qualifications.

Many of the club members compete in local events including, park runs, fun runs, 10k, half 7 full marathons, duathlons and triathlon England to provide support and funding for these qualifications. Members also participate in fell running, road cycling, mountain biking and multi-sport challenge at both individual and team level.

Ponteland Runners was formed in 2005 when a number of local people decided that they would like to improve their fitness and run in and around Ponteland. The first event the club took part in was the 2006 Blaydon Race. The original participants were mostly married couples giving the Monday night run to the ladies and then later that evening the men's run, this was to enable childminding. The Club affiliated with England Athletics in 2007. The Blaydon Race and The Great North Run are still major events for the club. These and other local races now form part of the annual Club Championship completion.

Other less formal activities:

Ramblers Association

Creative Writing Group

Contact the Elderly Group

Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen Families Association

British Red Cross Society

Action on Hearing Loss

Ponteland Red Squirrels Group

Diamond Inn Darts League

Davis Art Group

U3A Leisure Learning

Senior Gentlemen's Club

Local History Society

Wed 9.30am at the Post Box

Prestwick Residents Association

Ladies Lifeboat Institution

Inner Wheel Club

Riding for the Disabled

Darras Hall WI

Diamond Inn Leek Club

Horticultural Society

Repertory Society

WI Ponteland

Other recreational areas:

Ponteland Park Major importance to the community and visitors an area of 18 acres of mixed use space managed by the Town Council including a natural park feel, areas of woodland, open grassland, wildflower meadow and riverside paths. Friends of the park (FOPP) winners of an outstanding “It’s your Neighbourhood” Award. Used by dog walkers, walkers including school children walking from the village to both the Middle School and High School on Callerton Lane, keep fit enthusiasts, informal recreation and location for annual community events “Party in Park”, “Music in Park’ and charity events ‘Duck Race’

Callerton Play Area Specifically for the young and youth

Skate Park Area specifically for the young and youth

Coates Institute Garden Very small historic garden tucked between two buildings in the village centre

Ladywell Way Green Community recreational space

Thornhill Rd Green Community recreational space

The Green, Jackson Ave Community recreational space

Twizell Place Play Area Specifically for the young and youth

Glebe Close Valuable area of recreation space in the estate.

Coates Green This is an important open space in the heart of Ponteland, and is identified as such in the Community Character Statement. It forms the setting for St. Mary’s Parish Church in the centre of Ponteland and has historic significance within Ponteland.

The Green at the Police Headquarters This green space in the heart of the Northumbria Police Headquarters site is an important green space for existing and future residents. It has historic significance and provides an important setting to the listed buildings grouped around the space.

Ponteland Allotments Located in Prestwick, with 24 well used plots.

Old Railway Line. Is a well used recreational space by dog walkers, walkers and joggers. Although this space does not have a 'name' as such, it is well used by the local community as a recreational space, particularly since other open spaces at the leisure centre have been fenced off. It is easily accessed along the railway line and also provides an important semi-natural wildlife habitat. This site is currently safeguarded land in the emerging Core Strategy, and so will not be built on during the Plan period.

The site itself lies behind the leisure centre on the Fairney Burn between Cheviot View and the old railway line and will be shown on the Proposals map for Ponteland.

Darras Hall Grassland This is referred to in the Biodiversity section in the Local Green Spaces paper SSSI site. This is an open space in the heart of Darras Hall Estate and is accessible to the public providing a quiet oasis in the middle of the Darras Hall.

Casual recreation for the Youth

Although there are approximately 1,000 places for young people to take part in organised sport activities in Ponteland which indicates a reasonable level of opportunities; a provision of casual use facilities is limited with very few locations available for youth recreation.

Organised Activities available for specifically for “young people” in Ponteland

Youth Club
Girls Brigade
Boys Brigade
Ponteland Methodist Church
Ponteland Beavers, Cubs
Girl Guiding UK
Scouts
Army Cadets
Ponteland United Football Team
Young Farmers

Activities open to the Youth at Ponteland Leisure Centre

Archery
Badminton
5-a-side football
Tennis
Rugby
Football
Gym
Squash
Swimming
Fencing

Ponteland First School “out of hour’s clubs”

Art Club	Yr 3/4	Tues
Young Sports Leaders Course		Mon
Key stage 2 Choir	Yr3/4	Tues
Junior Choir Club		Thursday
Website Wizards	Yr 4	Tues

Casual Informal Areas for the Youth

Callerton Park Play Area
Twizell Play Park needs renovation
Callerton Park Skate park

Other less formal activities:

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Local History Society

Creative Writing Group - Wed 9.30am meets in members homes

Contact the Elderly Group

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Casual Informal Areas for the Youth

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Callerton Park Skate park

Friends of Ponteland Park now have 240 members.

Ponteland Park has an active group of volunteers, the Friends of Ponteland Park, formed in 2005 to assist with improvement of this popular space. Since that time the Friends have raised funding for benches throughout the park, signage, the creation of a wildflower meadow and the building of a boardwalk and dipping platform at the oxbow lake. Residents of all ages have joined in events organized by the Friends including meadow planting and the making of a new area of woodland, the Young People’s Wood. Daffodil, snowdrop and crocus bulbs have been planted to enhance the park in spring and many bird and bat boxes have been provided to encourage wildlife. The park is a popular venue for local events, hosting “Party in the Park”, Ponteland’s Annual Summer Fair, usually 3,000 visitors “Music in the Park” and the local “Duck Race”. It is visited by ever increasing numbers of walkers, runners, nature lovers and residents exercising their dogs.



Ponteland Park is a "jewel in the crown" for Ponteland Town Council who own and manage it with help from the Friends of Ponteland Park. It is for all-walking or meandering, running or jogging, babies in prams or dogs on a lead (or not), to sit or to meditate. Here you can find otter, kingfisher, heron, wild flowers and trees. See it in sparse winter or abundant summer or from the promise of spring to the colours of autumn. Come for whatever reason, enjoy, observe and learn.