

## WHAT WE DO

Anyone who knows Corbridge well would agree that it is an exceptional village – a beautiful, thriving, accessible, family-orientated country village with outstanding cultural, social, shopping, transport and educational facilities.

It is also the product of more than 2,500 years of human habitation. Much of its unique appeal lies in the history you can read at every turn, written in Saxon lanes and Roman stone, medieval 'pants' and place names, coaching inns, cottages and Georgian elegance, the three-dimensional record of 20 centuries of development, expansion, disaster, decline, recovery and prosperity.



The Corbridge Village Trust was established in 1965 by residents who were determined to preserve the character of the village, and promote the future development of Corbridge with due respect for its history and the people who live here. We continue to safeguard our village, and we hope that if you live in or close to Corbridge you will join us and support our efforts now and in the future.

One of the Trust's early major projects was to ensure that the 'temporary' steel girder bridge erected alongside the seven-arched **medieval stone bridge** across the Tyne in 1965 was eventually removed.



The steel bridge was installed to alleviate traffic while a bypass bridge was being built at Riding Mill. The Trust campaigned to prevent the girder bridge from being retained permanently, and in 1981 the old stone bridge was restored to its former, uncompromised glory.

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE ...

Since 1965, the roll-call of projects and campaigns we have undertaken has grown too long to list here, but it includes many successes that are an accepted part of the Corbridge landscape today, and many more that you would not notice: footpaths restored and upgraded, gullies cleared, improvements to green spaces, wastebins provided and the rationalising of traffic flows, parking and signage to name just a few.

Many of our successes have taken years of pressure, fundraising, negotiation and persistent campaigning.

A year after the Trust was established, we joined forces with the Parish Council to modify the plans for the **Crofts Estate Development**. We persuaded the planners to reduce the density of housing per acre and to change the flat-roof design of the houses to a conventional roof.



### DID YOU KNOW...?

Some of the village's stormier past is commemorated on this sign in the Marketplace.

Here, it says, Ethelred King of Northumbria was slain in 796, and a Danish King defeated the English and Scots in 918. Corbridge was burned down by William Wallace in 1296 and again by Robert the Bruce in 1312. But the present bridge, built in 1674, was the only bridge along the length of the Tyne to survive the devastating floods of 1771.



In 1966 we also first proposed two more important projects: the need for new playing fields for the village, and floodlighting to show off Corbridge's beautiful church in the heart of the village.

In 1978 a plaque was erected on the pathway to the **Hippingstones Field** to commemorate the medieval rig and furrow system. **Floodlighting St Andrew's Church** took rather longer. Work was completed in 1983.



## PROMOTING PRIDE

The Trust has always tried to communicate the importance and fascination of the history all around us.

- Since 1965 we have arranged over 200 talks on history, archaeology, architecture and many other subjects of local interest.
- We have created a series of guided walks around the village, and sold over 40,000 copies of our leaflet: *A Walk of Discovery Around Corbridge*.
- We have hosted exhibitions of photography of Corbridge past and present.
- We have installed information boards and plaques commemorating historic places and people around the village.

In 1972 we raised the issue of the restoration of the **Old Pottery and Bottle Kilns** on Milkwell Lane. Following a visit by the Department of the Environment's Industrial Archaeological Adviser, conservation was secured in 1976.



Also In 1972 the Trust made three approaches to the authorities about **flood protection**. We cooperated with the Northumberland & Newcastle Society to negotiate the least obtrusive line for new **pylons** to the north of the village.

And we persuaded the Parish Council to restore the **Cross and Ball** that had been removed 100 years earlier from the **Marketplace Pant**. (A pant is a trough used for watering horses – not a practical facility nowadays but another intriguing historical legacy.)

## ...PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE

In 1978 the Trust suggested that Barclays Bank should give the village the tract of land providing access to the riverbank from the Marketplace, now known as **Barclays Garden**.



We helped to rediscover, restore and return the 13th century **Market Cross**, now located by the Pele Tower.



As a **Millennium** initiative, the Trust commissioned a design to transform **Coign's Corner** from an unattractive waste area where the Walter Willson's shop had once stood, to a peaceful garden at the entrance to Middle Street.

We have consistently encouraged the owners of neglected buildings to restore them and bring them back into full use. Work has recently finished on one of the most notable examples in the **Marketplace**. It has taken 40 years to achieve this landmark success. One of the last 'buildings at risk' is **Bridge Bank Cottage**. We hope that work will begin on this in the near future.



### KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE PLANNERS

Behind the visible signs of our activities over the years, the Trust has constantly monitored and frequently challenged the hundreds of planning applications and development proposals that would affect Corbridge.

Developers now increasingly consult the Trust before the planning stage, to allow us to respond to the suitability of their proposed designs.

## WHY WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT...

The projects and campaigns described in this leaflet demonstrate how effective the Trust can be when we can prove to the authorities that we have the active support of a significant number of residents. The more members we have, the more effective we can be.

### ...TO COMBAT THREATS

Today those threats include changes to local and national planning policies with respect to the development of green belt land, and planning applications for inappropriate developments within the village boundaries.

### ... TO PROMOTE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

We are working to ensure the village keeps its wide diversity of shops, and we are continuing to encourage the building of affordable homes for local young families.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Simply by becoming a member you add your weight to our influence, but if you would like to become more involved, you could:

- **Join and make your family members too**
- Encourage friends to join
- Spread the word
- Suggest new projects and campaigns
- Support our events
- Join the committee

We have achieved a great deal for Corbridge so far, all of it due to the commitment of local people.

**With you behind us, we can do a great deal more.**

## OUR CURRENT CAMPAIGN

The Trust has been campaigning for some time to improve the footpath and steps at the east end of Hill Street, which are both dangerous and unsightly.

We have attended several meetings with the Local Authority, and we are now confident that this work will be carried out in the near future.



## SPONSORS

We are very grateful to the sponsors who have contributed to the development of our literature and presentation.

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Aerial photography of Corbridge by courtesy of  
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**Please support our local businesses.**

[www.corbridgevillagetrust.org.uk](http://www.corbridgevillagetrust.org.uk)



We actively support other groups working to promote and develop Corbridge:

Corbridge Parish Council  
Corbridge in Bloom  
Corbridge Heritage Trails  
Corbridge Youth Initiative  
Corbridge River Watch Group  
Campaign To Protect Rural England (CPRE)

### We also support local authors:

Gillian Dickinson: *Corbridge – The Last 2000 Years*  
David Waugh: *Historic Corbridge – Its Streets and Buildings*

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE



## PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE

**CORBRIDGE VILLAGE TRUST**  
Charity No: 517017



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