



Corbridge Matters is published periodically by Corbridge Parish Council and distributed free of charge in the village. Any comments or opinions expressed in this or any edition of Corbridge Matters do not necessarily represent the views of the Council. The display of advertisements for services and products does not indicate that they are endorsed, approved, recommended or promoted by the Council.  
Editor: Ian Wylie (ian.wylie@btconnect.com)

# CORBRIDGE MATTERS

April 2019 Issue 48  
[www.corbridge.ukpc.net](http://www.corbridge.ukpc.net)

:: DESIGN : © 2019 PETER RODGER : 07550011001 ::: PRINT : ROBSONPRINT : 01434 602975 ::

Most photos from Ian Wylie



## Parish Council INFORMATION

Clerk of the Council: Mrs Mandy Senior  
Tel: 07950 297634

Corbridge Parish Council next meets on  
Wednesdays April 24 and May 22 in the Parish  
Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge at 7pm.

[www.corbridge.ukpc.net](http://www.corbridge.ukpc.net)

# Council Notes

Spring has arrived and the village is once again displaying a wonderful array of flowers and tree flora. It is unfortunately being blighted by litter and dog fouling. I would encourage you all to take part in doing your bit to help tidy the village by taking part in a litter pick. A massive thank you to all of you who have already taken part.



The development of new houses between Cow Lane and Milkwell Lane is likely to commence on site soon and once we hear an exact agreed timeline I will pass this on to you all. During the works there will be a need for everyone who uses the area either in vehicles or by bike or on foot to take greater care to ensure the safety of everyone involved is maintained at all times. If anyone has any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing at pace. However we would welcome input from residents. You are therefore invited to the Parish Hall for a consultation evening on Wednesday 24th April between 5pm and 7pm.

Parking remains a major challenge at peak times in the village. I would urge you all to respect the parking and road traffic laws that are in force. But moreover respect local residents' parking on streets where inconsiderate parking can be an issue of safety if blocking access for emergency vehicles and blocking safe access on footpaths. We all know where these areas are! We are on the case trying to implement improvements but these do take time. So please be patient. Finally if you see any issues around the village, no matter how small, please get in touch.

**Marc Horn**

*(Parish Council Chairman)*



The Northumberland County Council transport investment plan for 2019/20 has been agreed including resurfacing works for Middle Street, carriageway repairs around Stagshaw Roundabout, resurfacing on Aydon Road as it leaves the village, initiatives to reduce speeding on Newcastle Road and works on the corner of Hill Street and Princes Street - a total investment of over £200,000. There are other areas that I am pushing for but we are starting to catch up on the backlog of works in the west of the county.

Highways England's latest proposals for the Hexham roundabout are a serious concern for residents and businesses in Hexham and could have major knock on effects for traffic in Corbridge. By the time you read this I will have met with Highways England to reinforce the call to revert to the original proposal. Vegetation clearance has started and other works on the Milkwell development by the Middle School will start soon. If any issues arise please do get in touch.

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan continues. There will be a consultation evening at the Parish Hall on April 24 for initial feedback as detailed in Marc's column.

Consultation is ongoing in relation to the legal process for a scheme of management in the Market Place which would allow us to introduce parking controls and begin to improve the hard landscaping in what should be the centrepiece of our village.

At a county wide level Lugano have withdrawn both their planning application and their legal action in the High Court related to their aspiration to build over 2,000 houses not many people want near Ponteland. This has been a major distraction and now senior staff and councillors can be entirely focused on implementing some very ambitious plans right across the county following budget approval in February.

**Nick Oliver** (Northumberland County Councillor)

*Don't hesitate to get in touch - [nick.oliver24@outlook.com](mailto:nick.oliver24@outlook.com) or 07779 983742.*

# Always Sing Your Song



Corbridge Camerata is a young people's chamber choir making waves in the music world. Or as Bethany Fisher, Head of Music at Corbridge Middle School, says: "The girls are beginning to put Corbridge on the map."

Officially formed in September 2018 and based at St Andrew's Church in Corbridge, the choir - directed by Bethany - currently consists of girls from Year 8 at Corbridge Middle School and Year 9 at Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham.

They have already performed at Durham Cathedral and The Sage in Gateshead. Plus at St Andrew's both alongside the award-winning Voices of Hope choir in December and in March when they sang nine songs in the first half of a 'Vocal Concert' which also featured the acclaimed Durham University Gospel Choir (pictured below).

The Camerata's performances in the March recital of items like 'Always Sing Your Song' and 'O Happy Day' was met with a standing ovation at the end of the first half. With yet more applause when they were invited back on to the stage at the finale of the gospel choir's second half.

With plans to expand, Corbridge Camerata's future could be summed up in the words of another song they sang at St Andrew's last month: 'Joyful Joyful.'



# Absolutely Fabulous Finale

A Corbridge business at the heart and 'sole' of the local community has won a top national award. Finale Shoes and Accessories was named Fashion Independent Footwear Retailer of the Year at the 2019 Footwear Industry Awards in Birmingham. Run by mother and daughter team Lynn and Faye Clark, the small shop in Middle Street triumphed against much bigger award rivals from across the UK.

"It's pretty amazing for a small village shop like ours to win a national award. When you consider the size of our shop and some of the other stores we were up against," said Faye.

Customers travel to visit ladies' shoes and accessories retailer Finale from across Britain and the rest of the world. Added Faye: "One of the first emails we had congratulating us on the award was from a customer in New Zealand. A lot of people who holiday in this part of Northumberland come back year after year and are regular customers."

Her mother Lynn said: "I bought the business 15 years ago and my daughter Faye joined six years ago and helped move us further into the 21st century with all of the social media side of things, the website and so on."

Customers are attracted by over 200 styles sourced from 20 different suppliers around the world, including Italy, Austria, Germany and Spain. Lynn explained: "We go to Milan in Italy twice a year to source products that aren't sold in the larger stores. We visit smaller companies, often independent manufacturers. We also still buy from a lot of British based companies who we also get really good support from. I've had a

lot of my suppliers since the time I started."

The awards, held at the National Conference Centre, are voted for within the industry. "To be acknowledged like this by the industry after 15 years is wonderful.

So many people came up

to us to say, 'What a well

deserved award,' While

Facebook, Twitter and

Instagram have gone mad,"

added Lynn, who also has a

team of four part time staff.

Faye said social media is

important in the success of

the business. "It allows you

to market to a wider customer

base. It's about being able to let people know you are there. They click through and see how much is on offer in a place like Corbridge. And they will then make the trip here. The ability to talk direct to customers from anywhere at any time is amazing. You're building on the loyalty and giving something back. Engaging them and bringing them in to the whole process."

Both mum and daughter said the number of acclaimed independent businesses in Corbridge is also crucial in the face of doom and gloom elsewhere about the future of our high streets. "Corbridge is a vibrant community. At the moment there is so much angst about the high street. This is an award for independent shops. And our message is that many independent shops and businesses are surviving and thriving," said Lynn.

Added Faye: "You cannot survive as an independent on your own. So the fact that we have a cluster of fantastic independent shops working together in Corbridge is amazing. The extra work we all put in to work together as traders to make Corbridge a destination is really important.

"You have to have something that makes people want to spend a few hours or even a day here. Bringing other members of the family or friends. There is a perfect mix of independent businesses in Corbridge. There is something for everybody - male, female, adult, children.

"It's all about bringing unique things to the high street with excellent customer service. Everyone comments on how friendly the shops are in Corbridge and how good the customer service is. Each one of us works very hard in our business and we get to know our customers. It's a real personal experience. And that is what the high street is going to have to turn into.





“Chain stores and so on can be replicated online. Our online offering complements us. But to be able to come in to a physical shop, speak to people and engage with them is the most important thing.

“There is that social aspect to this as well. Having a hub of independent shops with knowledgeable owners and staff is crucial, All of us working together. This award comes on the back of continued support from our customers and a hub in Corbridge that independents can thrive in. Other places are now using Corbridge as an example of how they want to develop.

“If you promote and sell somebody’s product well, they want to be stocked in your store. In theory we have more people who want to be stocked in Finale than we can actually fit in. You wouldn’t be able to place such good orders within the industry if you weren’t able to sell them.

“So it all comes back to the customers and the community. People want places to thrive in their local area. They want to be proud of it.”

# Corbridge Church Times

## St Andrew's Church

### Saturday April 6:

10am Ecumenical Prayer Group in the Methodist Church New Room

### Sunday April 7:

9:30am Parish Communion / 6:30pm St Matthew Passion sung by The Bishop's Consort

### Palm Sunday April 14:

9:30am Procession and All Age Communion with dramatic reading of St Luke's Passion

6pm: Faure Requiem

### Good Friday April 19:

11am to 1pm Messy Church  
1:30pm Prayers and Walk Of Witness from the Market Place Cross (with Corbridge Methodists). Followed by a 2pm joint service at the Methodist Church

### Easter Sunday April 21:

5:30am Service of Light and Dawn Communion followed by bacon sandwiches in the cottage  
9:30am All Age Easter Communion  
6pm Easter Praise. Joint service with the Methodists at St Andrew's

### Sunday April 28:

9:30am Parish Communion / 6pm Evening Prayer (Said)

## Corbridge Methodist Church

### Saturday April 6:

10am: Ecumenical Prayer Group in the Methodist Church New Room

### Sunday Service:

10:45am every week

### Maundy Thursday April 18:

3pm Holy Communion

### Good Friday April 19:

1:30pm Prayers and Walk Of Witness from the Market Place cross (with St Andrew's). Followed by a 2pm joint service at the Methodist Church

### Coffee Morning

Every Tuesday from 10am to 11:30am

### Forum with speaker

2:30pm on the second Wednesday of every month

## Corbridge Pentecostal Church

Meets 11am on Sundays at Corbridge Parish Hall and 8pm on Mondays in Corbridge Methodist Church. All welcome. Prayer and help available

## NOTICE BOARD

Notice from Northumberland County Council: "Our gully cleansing staff have reported that several gullies in Corbridge have dog waste bags stuffed into them. Although this has been encountered on several streets in Corbridge, the Synclen estate appears to be the worst with one gully having nine dog waste bags in it. Not only does this cause health and safety issues to our staff, it could also cause line blockages in the system."

## Burn Brae LODGE

CARE HOME

Prospect Hill, Corbridge

*The  
hidden  
gem*



*Enjoying an excellent reputation, Burn Brae Lodge is a small, friendly and family owned Care Home set in magnificent surroundings.*

*High quality care is provided and we now provide a respite bed that can be booked in advance. This will help carers have a much needed break or holiday.*

For an informal visit or further information please contact: Paul Howard (owner/manager) on

**01434 632022**

[www.burnbraelodge.co.uk](http://www.burnbraelodge.co.uk)

Burn Brae Lodge has no connection with  
Burn Brae Medical Group or Burn Brae Care Ltd.



## THE BARN LUNCH

IN OUR STUNNING BARN RESTAURANT

**Two courses for £10 / Three courses for £13**

Served Monday to Friday 12noon - 2:30pm

**To Book Call 01434 632119**

Angel QUALITY | Amazing VALUE | Great CHOICES

St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge.  
NE45 5AA

## Wedding Fair



Sunday 28th April 2019

12noon to 4.00pm

This event will bring together, in the impressive St. Andrew's Church, a range of exhibitors displaying and explaining their wedding products and services.

Further details  
[www.corbridgechurch.org.uk](http://www.corbridgechurch.org.uk) or email  
[admin@corbridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@corbridgechurch.org.uk)



Corbridge First School head teacher Jennifer Ainsley has spoken about her new role as executive head at both the First School and Broomhaugh First School in Riding Mill.

The 'Shared Leadership Model' was approved by governors. "It was an opportunity to work together and build the strengths of two schools in shared leadership and partnership. There is a lot of benefit in doing things together," she explained.

"But we are still different schools. Corbridge and Broomhaugh. Each school is brilliant because of the families where they are located. They are separate and retain their individual identities. It is going to be beneficial to all. The children won't really notice any difference. They will see me as much as ever."

After Easter Sarah Gray is moving from Broomley First School to become Executive Deputy Head Teacher at Corbridge First School. "The children will not see a great change in school on a day to day basis but will benefit from a second senior member of staff supporting them," added Miss Ainsley.

The move follows Northumberland County Council's consultation last year on the future of some of its schools. Although the main proposals were scrapped, the local authority did urge schools to explore ways of working more closely together.

Miss Ainsley is pictured in the recently completed central outdoor quad at Corbridge First School. "We have created a beautiful and inspiring area which we hope all members of the school community will access and utilise. The space houses a pond with a bridge and waterfall feature as well as a stage area. We have planted fruit trees and will be growing herbs and scented plants to develop sensory work."

## J.S. BACH *St Matthew Passion*

**The Bishop's Consort**  
Evangelist: Philippe Durrant  
Jesus: Ben Kazes

Players and singers one to a part  
Directed by David Stancliffe

6.30pm on Passion Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April  
**St Andrew's Church, Corbridge**

ADMISSION by Programme £12  
£10 Concessions, £5 Students, Children free

# interview

Sally Urwin



*'Pint Sized Farmer' Sally Urwin talks to Ian Wylie*

"It's just what I'd always wanted. But I didn't know it." Sally Urwin smiles as she recalls her second date with, now, husband Steve. Helping out on his farm in the middle of lambing. "I had no experience of farms at all and was just blown away by it because it was outside and doing something with animals. Actually making a difference rather than just sitting in an office."

Some 15 years, two children and countless adventures later, Sally, 44, now runs the sheep and arable farm near Matfen with Steve, works part-time at Charlotte Straker in Corbridge and is about to publish her first book - the already critically acclaimed 'A Farmer's Diary: A Year at High House Farm.'

The book is a celebration of life and survival in difficult times and makes clear how much Sally and Steve care for their animals and the countryside. Woven through with humour, honesty and a fat Shetland pony called Candy. While it radiates the joy of "golden days" in the Northumberland countryside, it also does not shy

away from the reality of daily life on a farm. As Sally says, "It's not Disneyland out here."

Born in North Shields and raised in Tynemouth, Sally - described by her publisher as "probably" the shortest farmer in England - went to the now closed La Sagesse Convent School in Newcastle run by what she recalls as "mad nuns". Going on to A-levels at what was then The King's School in Tynemouth followed by a history degree at Durham University and postgraduate qualification in tourism management at Newcastle University.

Her father Richard Dixon retired when she was in her mid-20s. That's when her dad and mum Jill moved to Corbridge and Sally found herself on a 1990s' office treadmill. "I dotted around with jobs and lived in Leeds and Harrogate. Then I moved up to Newcastle for a marketing job. I hated it.

"I'm just not set up for business. I did marketing for lots of companies, like engineering and this dreadful insolvency business. It was just not me at all. It was so depressing. Five days a week and your life passes

you by while you sit under bright lights. You'd be in a meeting and everyone was so serious. I found it a waste of time and didn't enjoy it at all.

"But then that's what you're expected to do. You go to university, you get a good job and you go out in the Bigg Market on a Saturday night with my heels and blonde highlights. Not my thing at all. What I should have done is a writing course straight after university. I always wanted to write. But my problem is I have a terrible imposter syndrome. So you write something and think, 'That's rubbish.' It's all down to self-esteem. It took me a long time to start writing, just in the last few years."

An online dating site changed the course of Sally's life. "I went on DatingDirect.com after it had just opened around 2004. You could go through and say how tall you wanted your boyfriend to be. So I put 'under five foot eight inches' because I'm only four foot 10 and a half. Also which area he lived in. So I put Northumberland. And what job he did. So I ticked farmer. Plus how much money he had. I didn't care how much money he had.

"Two people popped up and one of them was Steve. I contacted him and then we had our first date - a drink at The Rat Inn in Anick. My dad came along in case Steve was an axe murderer. Only for the start of the date, mind you. I had a massive glass of wine. Then dad came back and picked me up."

That date at the farm during lambing followed. "Although Steve was a right grumpy old bugger because he was stressed and didn't have much sleep. I picked up the wrong lambs and he was shouting at me. But I loved it. And we married a year later in 2005. "Steve is very different to me. He's happy working on his own and with his own company. While I'm more bouncy and I like meeting people. But then deep down I'm very anxious and he's much calmer. So we complement each other.

"All of his tools are set out beautifully while everything is all over the place with me. He relaxes in the evening by watching tractor videos. And he's a real romantic. He bought me a 'KiwiCrook' for Valentine's Day. When I catch a sheep I get pulled because I'm little. So if I catch it with the crook it locks on to a leg and it stays with me."

Sally and Steve's daughter was born in 2007 and son in 2010. All the while she was on a very steep farm learning curve "I used to fall over a lot. Steve would say things like, 'Go and get the quad bike.' And I couldn't reach the clutch on the quad. So I would just tear around in second gear. I also can't reach the brake on the tractor.

"Even learning stuff like climbing in and out of pens and how to pick a lamb up. Steve was really patient. We've been married now for 14 years and it's only in the last five years that I've got my 'sheep eye' in. That I can look at a flock of sheep and pick out the ones that aren't well. It takes a long time to learn. But my kids have got it naturally.



"I only learn about things I'm interested in. I'm not interested in crops or tractors so I haven't got a clue about the arable side of the farm. It's so technical. Tractors are huge with all the array of computer controls with a fridge and air conditioning. Steve loves driving the tractor.

"I still look around at Hexham Mart and make sure I don't draw attention to myself. But I find it really interesting and I am learning more and more. I know all of the buyers and different farmers now. Plus the Mart serves the best fish and chips in Northumberland."

# interview

*continued from page 9*

The sheep farm also produces barley for beer, oilseed rape for cooking oil and bio diesel and wheat for animal feed. In 2003 Steve followed the government's advice to farmers and diversified, setting up High House Farm Brewery. And when Sally came along she helped with that venture. In 2006 the couple borrowed money to refurbish all of the buildings at the central core of the farm and also opened a cafe/restaurant plus wedding venue.

"Then we had the children and we were getting to the point where it was just too much. It was really stressful. So we asked Heather, who was the cook then, if she wanted to take over the brewery, cafe and wedding venue business. And she did. So now we rent the buildings to her. The government encouraged farmers to diversify. And that's great. But now we've got a 25-year mortgage we have to manage."

As Sally writes in her book: "Like most small farms our fields and stock aren't extensive enough to cover costs and bring in a living wage." The 150 acres at High House simply aren't big enough in scale to support Steve, Sally and their children. In Steve's father's day it was a different matter. But costs have risen so much and many farmers now find themselves close to the breadline.

That means both Steve and Sally have had to work part-time at jobs away from the farm just to make ends meet. Although Steve recently gave up his latest job. "It was torture for him to have to leave the farm for another job when he can see all of his neighbours out on the land. To go and sit in an office. He was working three days a week off the farm and coming straight back to work here. He was getting ill. It upsets me because all he wants to do is be a farmer."

The plan now is to diversify into another area of farming to, hopefully, boost income and avoid a repeat of what Sally says was the couple's lowest moment, which happened during the year she chronicles in the book. Steve had been made redundant from his latest part-time job, throwing their already under pressure finances into a spiral. "I just thought, 'This isn't right.' Here we are flogging our guts out and the kids are on free school meals. We had done everything we could. And we were always looking at new jobs. I could have gone out to work and done a full-time marketing job. But I think I would have got ill doing that as well as my

farm work and looking after the children."

The couple approached welfare charity RABI - the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute - and asked for help. "The lowest point was when Steve lost his part-time job and I thought, 'How am I going to pay for school shoes and the weekly shop?' The guy who came to see us from RABI was so nice. I was in tears and Steve was close to it. They sent us a cheque to help pay for household expenses."

Sally and Steve debated for some time about whether to include this story in her book. "The older generation's attitude is very much, 'You shouldn't wash your dirty linen in public.' But it's not healthy. There are a lot of people in farming who are suffering with anxieties and various illnesses because it's so stressful. Many other farmers are close to breaking point. But they don't talk about it. I think it's important to be honest."

And as Sally writes in the book: "It's important not to sugarcoat how tough it is to make money in farming. It's also important to show anyone else who is struggling that it is OK to ask for help."

She believes only the best type of people get anxiety. "I'm always rather jealous of those people who just swan through, don't have a lot of self-awareness and aren't bothered about stuff. Right from when I was little I always worried about everything. I've been on anti-depressants since I was 25 to try and cope with the anxiety, the OCD and the panic attacks. But it's only now, in the last four, five years, instead of feeling ashamed about it and trying to squash it down I've decided to let people know about it. It's not the main focus of my life. But it's always bloody there."

There's a real sense of anticipation about the April 4 publication of her book with interest from national newspapers, TV and distribution as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Canada. "It was really out of the blue. I was writing this Pint Sized Farmer online blog for myself and my mum, really, with about 50 people following it. Just about things that struck me as funny, different or unusual. And I got an email from Profile Books out of nowhere, saying, 'We're interested in you writing a book for us.'

"I thought it must be a scam. So I rang Helen Stanton at Forum Books in Corbridge and asked if she had heard of them. "Oh, yes," she said. "They're a very respectable publishing house." So I told them, "Yes,



# interview

*continued from page 10*

of course, I would like to write a book. But I've never done it and I don't know how to start.'

"So the woman from Profile Books came up to see me with a new pair of wellies and took me out for dinner. She explained what she wanted and showed me the last book they produced called 'The Diary of a Bookseller.' And said she'd like it like that. Then she said, 'We give you an advance and then you go and write it.'



"I thought, 'Oh my God, this is what I've always wanted.' So I went and wrote it. And kept sending it to her. Being me, asking, 'Is this OK? Is this what you want?' And she was like, 'Yeah, it's great.' In the end it almost wrote itself.

"Then they asked me down to visit their office in London. I've only been to London about five times and it worries me. When I got there I opened my handbag and there was a spanner and a lamb castration ring inside. But they were lovely. They picked me up off the train, clapped when I walked into the office and fed me champagne. Then the next day I was back washing pants."

Just one of the many contrasts in Sally's farming life. "I love those golden days on the farm when the sun is shining and you think it's all worth it. Yes, things are hard. But days like that where you see a buzzard or your dad is sitting there and having a cup of tea with you are lovely.

"Also having the children and for them to be able to enjoy an old fashioned childhood. They can go away

for a couple of hours and when they come back they are filthy. They have made a den and not seen anyone else. I was trying to explain to them how different it was from a lot of other children's lives. They have a lot of freedom and fresh air."

Yet there are also what Sally describes as "the sudden deaths and disappointments on a normal farm". Including the recent loss of several newly-bought sheep after they escaped and ate a poisonous plant. While last year a number of ewes were stolen from the farm. "A lot of people come here and say, 'This is a lovely place to live.' And I say, 'Yes, it is gorgeous.' But I bet you ask any farmer's wife and they'll all say, 'It's a lovely place to live but...it is hard work.'

"Lambs get their eyes pecked out by birds if they're not careful. One ewe had her ear gnawed off by a fox. Ewes can kill their own lambs." The book also makes clear how dangerous a farm can be for humans and lists the ways you can be killed. "In a potato harvester is the worst one."

But Sally is keen to stress there is also a lot to love about their lifestyle. That includes sharing the farm with some 200 ewes, lots of lambs in spring plus Mavis the collie, Cinders the kitten, Sumo the farm cat, Hammy the hamster, a sheep called 'Scabby Ewe' and the aforementioned Shetland pony Candy. One of the farm animals Steve refers to as 'field ornaments' because they bring in no income.

Candy is 28 now and came from a riding school. "I think they got rid of her because she'd had enough. She doesn't really like kids. I've got to watch around them because she'll bite them."

With Easter approaching, wedding season at the farm is in all but full swing. "Most weddings have the same music. I'm now word perfect to 'Come On Eileen.' Occasionally you'll have something really different, like a Pagan wedding which was fab. We work on the farm around them so I'm there in the background holding some scabby sheep."

The ambition is to move High House Farm into profit and good health for Sally and Steve's children to inherit. Both are already naturals around the place having grown up there.

But first there is a book to launch. How did it feel when the first box of copies arrived? "It doesn't feel real. I keep thinking of my granny because she was one of my number one people. And of how proud she would have been. And, of course, mum and dad are proud." Sally is launching the book at the farm on its publication date - "come and meet the lambs" - and is also off on the obligatory book tour, including the Hexham and Derbyshire Book Festivals. The plan, with official vet approval, is to take a pet lamb with her to signings and talks. "Then I'm thinking, 'What will the hotel say?'"

**That publication day Forum Books' launch is at High House Farm - 6:30pm for a 7pm start - on Thursday April 4.** Tickets from Forum in Corbridge or online at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/forumbooks](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/forumbooks)

Stocks most spirits as well as other alcoholic beverages.

*Let the fun be Gin!*

**GIN & TONIA**

Mobile Gin Bar

Tel: 07876 753115  
email: [tonia@ginandtonia.co.uk](mailto:tonia@ginandtonia.co.uk)  
web: [www.ginandtonia.co.uk](http://www.ginandtonia.co.uk)



Perfect for Weddings . Corporate Events . Festivals . Anniversaries . Parties . Anything you like ...

**Stephen Rutherford**  
Window Cleaner



**Corbridge resident, friendly, enthusiastic and hardworking using traditional window cleaning methods.**

**Services include:**

- External window cleaning
- Internal window cleaning
- Gutter cleaning

**Stephen Rutherford**  
17 Synclen Avenue  
Corbridge  
Northumberland  
NE45 5JF

**Mobile: 07725670089**  
[sruthie75@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sruthie75@yahoo.co.uk)



**ANTON ESTATES**

SALES & LETTINGS

01434 632 080  
[home@antonestates.co.uk](mailto:home@antonestates.co.uk)  
[www.antonestates.co.uk](http://www.antonestates.co.uk)

**DMc Gardening Services**



- Grass cutting
- Hedge cuttings
- Weed control
- Garden maintenance
- Tidy ups
- Green waste removal
- Trees and shrubs
- Fencing

Free quotes and best prices - Call 07534945828

Find us on Facebook @DMc Gardening services

**The Barber Bus**

is in Corbridge  
on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month  
Beside Corbridge First School, St Helen's Lane  
2.30 to 5pm

**OAPs & Under 6s £6. Haircuts £7.50**

Phone: 07712609057  
Find me on Facebook for other times & places



**CORBRIDGE PRIVATE HIRE**

RELIABLE, SAFE & LOCAL  
6-SEATER AVAILABLE

**07437 90 90 90**

Mark Robinson, 23 Cragside, Corbridge

**Yoga with Natalie**

Forrest Yoga Corbridge

A modern style of Yoga for a modern lifestyle

Beginners and Intermediate welcome

- Improve core strength and balance
- Increase flexibility
- Learn to breath in a way that releases stress and anxiety
- Move in a way that you are proud of
- Learn to consciously walk through life

Sunday 11am

Monday 7pm

Corbridge  
Youth Initiative

07874 891371  
[Inlinenatalie@gmail.com](mailto:Inlinenatalie@gmail.com)



The Natural PT



**PERSONAL TRAINING- PRIVATE FACILITY IN HEXHAM**

Training to improve/prevent lower back pain  
To return to life after cancer treatment  
To improve general strength or appearance  
Tailored weight loss plans available

Contact Steph for more information:  
07557342928 [s.92.wood@gmail.com](mailto:s.92.wood@gmail.com)

**SW FITNESS**



**Healing hands**

Suzanne Charlton  
Reiki practitioner  
[Charliesue30@gmail.com](mailto:Charliesue30@gmail.com)

07712646051



**Your Choice of Wine**  
**Ian Graves**

Ian Graves was born in St Helens, Lancashire but has lived in Corbridge with his wife Sue since 1973 and is a well known face in the village. Not least as a distinguished, long serving Corbridge optometrist but also as a member of St Andrew's Church Choir and his work for the Rotary Club of Tynedale. He recalls how passing the Spectacle Makers' Exam made him a Freeman of the City of London. "It enables me to drive my sheep over London Bridge."

Ian originally took over an optician's that had been based in Watling Street and eventually moved his business to what is now Croft and Graves Optometrists in Hill Street. He says: "After a lot of thought I have decided to retire from the occupation I have loved for so many years, having taken care of generations of families' eyes. I want to thank all of my past patients for that privilege."

"And my wine choice? When the kids were young, we used to spend our summer holidays in Provence. Travelling down in our old Volvo estate with our youngest, Peter (now a Sky Sports presenter) lying in the back amongst all the luggage. We set off from work and drove through the night. Arriving somewhere near Fréjus by teatime the next day. That's where we were introduced to

Provence Rosé, which we got from the local wine co-op. Filling our containers from what looked like a petrol pump.

This is still our favourite wine in the summer months.

Chilled with a dish of olives and cheese. When it gets a bit chillier we prefer a Malbec or a Sauvignon Blanc."

## Pinot Noir – A Delicate Creature



A few years ago we held a wine tasting that consisted entirely of Pinot Noir. There were nearly as many different tastes as there were wines. It depends on many factors including where the wine was made (country), environmental differences (terroir) and how old the wine is when drunk. Generally speaking Old World Pinot Noirs (Burgundy, Alsace, Germany - where it is known as Spätburgunder) have flavours of forest fruits, herbs and an earthy quality. New World Pinots (New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, South America, USA) tend to taste more of strawberries, cranberries with herbs.

Enthusiasts describe the best wines made from Pinot Noir as "hauntingly perfumed, silky and complex." The wine is light red in colour with soft, light tannins making it a good match for many foods such as game or chicken, mushrooms and cold meats. Many experts recommend serving it lightly chilled. An hour or two in the fridge to take the temperature down to 12C/14C should be enough. Don't overchill or you could lose some of the delicate aromas and flavours.

Pinot Noir is a black grape variety with a thin skin and a

delicate constitution. It likes moderate to cool climates so is not suited to very warm regions which would ripen the grapes too early before they had time to develop interesting flavours. Conversely, if it is too cool or damp the thin-skinned grape rots easily producing tainted wines. The classic region for the grape is Burgundy (Bourgogne). A Bourgogne AC should be medium-bodied with a balance of red-fruit and savoury aromas and light tannins. Premier or Grand Cru wines - eg from Nuits-Saint-Georges - though are rare and expensive selling at high prices. Better to look out for New World Pinot Noirs which give better value for your money than an average Burgundian Pinot Noir.

California and Oregon in the USA have suitable spots which are high and cool enough with mists rolling in from the Pacific to keep the delicate Pinot Noir grape from getting scorched. These tend to be full-bodied with red fruit flavours but some have more mature characteristics of animal or vegetal (leather, wet leaves). Take a sniff – some might say "farmyard" but it will taste better than it smells! High up in Chile they are producing intensely fruity Pinot Noirs with strawberry tastes and aromas. South Africa fans, look for wines from Walker Bay. Most of Australia is too hot for Pinot Noir but the wine I bought from Tasmania was perfectly fine. Some parts of the mainland (Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula) have suitable conditions to produce wines ranging from light and delicate to rich and fruity.

So if in the future you find it difficult to buy Burgundy, try one from New Zealand or Chile or one of the many countries which are now producing decent quality Pinot Noirs. Our local Co-op stocks a decent selection such as Cono Sur's Bicicleta from Chile for £7.95. Try also the Corbridge Larder for organic wines and a very interesting selection of English wines.

*"Many of you will have noticed that, sadly, Corbridge Wines and Spirits recently closed its doors for the final time. We wish Andrew and the staff well.*

*Caroline Burns*

# 43

Why not join the 43 local businesses who advertise in Corbridge Matters - delivered to every home in the village and available in shops too. To advertise please phone Mandy Senior today. 07950 297634

LUXURY LIVING WITH UNIQUE BATHROOMS & TILES



*Lakeland*  
BESPOKE INTERIORS

Showroom: The Former Co-op,  
Warwick Bridge, Carlisle CA4 8RN

**T: 01228 562322**

E: [info@lakelandbespokeinteriors.co.uk](mailto:info@lakelandbespokeinteriors.co.uk)  
[www.lakelandbespokeinteriors.co.uk](http://www.lakelandbespokeinteriors.co.uk)

*Exude warmth and refinement with dark colours*

*Slimming*  
WORLD



Corbridge First School  
Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm

Hexham First School  
Saturday 8.30am

Call Laura for  
more information  
07825 180494



**FORUM Books.**

Nothing like a real bookshop

The Chapel, Market Place, Corbridge, NE45 5AW | [www.forumbooksandkids.com](http://www.forumbooksandkids.com) | 01434 632 931

## Forum Books

April is a wonderfully exciting month for us with some brilliant book events we hope you'll love. As you might have already spotted, we are launching Sally Urwin's new book 'A Farmer's Diary' at High House Farm on Thursday April 4 and will have lots of signed copies for anyone that misses the event or can't make it. Read local!

We are genuinely thrilled to bring US crime writer and international best selling author John Connolly to Corbridge. The latest Charlie Parker thriller - *The Book of Bones* - takes the reader from the streets of Amsterdam to London, from Maine to Mexico and - get this! - to the moors of Northumberland where the body of a young woman is discovered near the site of a vanished church! So it seems more than appropriate to bring John to St Andrews Church in the heart of our Northumbrian village on Tuesday April 23. As well as a cracking crime writer, John Connolly is a brilliant, entertaining speaker and is definitely not to be missed.

The author of *Climbing Days*, and co-author with Robert Macfarlane of *Holloway*, Dan Richards is joining us to talk about his new book, *Outpost: A Journey To The Wild Ends of the Earth*. There are still wild places out there on our overcrowded planet; wildernesses, seemingly untouched, mountains, tundra, forests, oceans and deserts. These are landscapes that speak of deep time, whose scale can knock us down to size. Following a route from the Cairngorms of Scotland to the fire-watching huts of Washington State, from Iceland's Houses of Joy to the desert of New Mexico, and from the frozen beauty of Svalbard to a lighthouse perched in the Atlantic, Dan uncovers landscapes which have inspired writers, artists and musicians, and asks: Why are we drawn to wilderness? And how do wild places become a space for inspiration and creativity? Dan will be with us on Thursday April 11.

Finally, we have signed copies in store of Corbridge author Mari Hannah's latest book 'The Scandal' which is her eleventh novel and third in the acclaimed Stone and Oliver series. Mari is pictured here with ITV Tyne Tees interviewer Ian Payne at our March launch of the book - a memorable evening at Newton and Bywell Community Hall.

As ever, all of our events are listed on the Visit Corbridge website and tickets are available from the bookshop or online at TicketSource. See you soon!



www.katiekerr.co.uk

16 & 22  
Hill street  
katiekerr

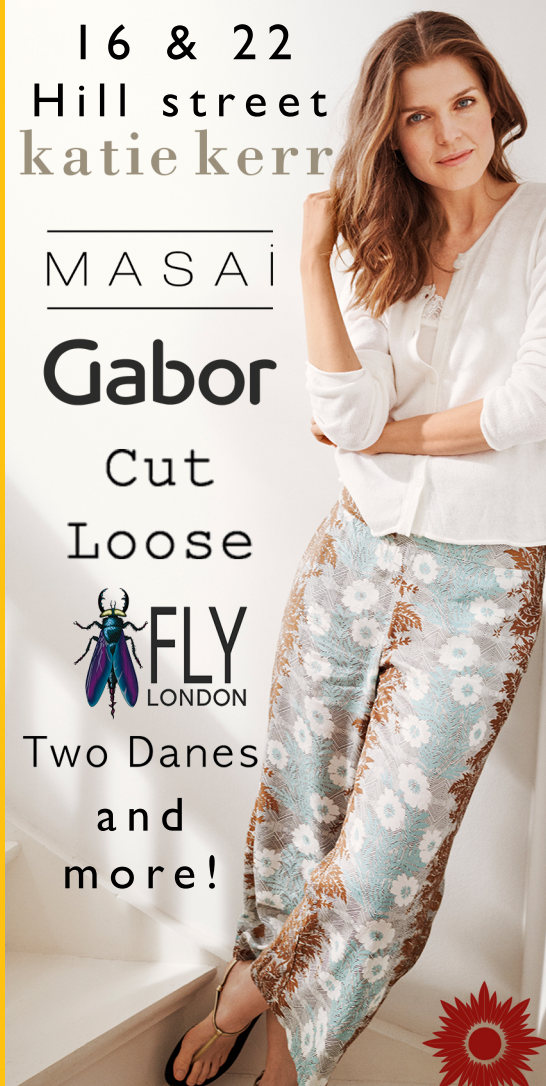
M A S A I

Gabor

Cut  
Loose



Two Danes  
and  
more!



DEREK  
**BIRD**  
Established since 2002  
*Decorating Services*

- Free estimates •
- No jobs too small •
- Friendly, professional service •



Tel. 01434 633356 / 07904 559952

THE  
**PILATES  
METHOD**

Improve your quality  
of life by enhancing  
your physical  
and mental sense  
of wellbeing

- ✓ Improve posture & flexibility.
- ✓ Suitable for all ages, fitness & experience levels.
- ✓ Classes held in Hexham, Corbridge & Newcastle.

Jacqui Jamieson **Certified Pilates Instructor**  
07960 484198  
thepilatesmethod.co.uk  
jacqui@thepilatesmethod.co.uk

A BEATTIE & SONS  
COAL MERCHANTS

ALSO SUPPLIERS  
OF FUELS FOR  
MULTI AND WOOD  
BURNERS

Tel: 01434 632104



**Corbridge Tandoori**

Bangladeshi Restaurant

Everyday dining :: Take Away service

Private functions :: Corporate bookings

Special occasions :: Outside catering

Open every day 5pm to 11.30pm  
including Bank Holidays

For reservations & takeaways tel 01434 633669

www.corbridgetandoori.com

8 The Market Place, Corbridge, Northumberland  
NE45 5AW

 **URWIN JOINERY**  
All Aspects of Joinery Undertaken

**Cameron Urwin**

07506 585138

urwinjoinery@outlook.com

**Massey's**  
Traditional tea room

Open 7 days a week  
for home-made soups,  
scones, quiches & cakes  
and we cater for gluten-free diets

26, Middle Street  
Corbridge  
t: 01434 633130



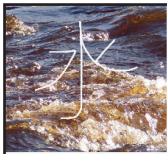
Follow us on Facebook

## Excellent Eyecare. Stylish Eyewear.

- OCT – State of the art eye scan technology
- Wide choice of carefully selected frames, including designer eyewear
- Convenient appointment times

Optometrists  
**croft & graves**

Woodburn House, Hill Street, Corbridge  
01434 632289 [www.croftandgraves.co.uk](http://www.croftandgraves.co.uk)



Psychotherapy  
Supervision  
Shamanic healing,  
workshops and training  
Traditional acupuncture

**Simone Silver Path**  
BACP (senior accredited), BAcC

**The Hut**  
Fawcett Farm Cottage  
Colwell, nr Hexham

contact: 07891 351665

[simoneofcragwell@hotmail.com](mailto:simoneofcragwell@hotmail.com)



### Spanish Classes for Children

#### Solecito Spanish - Riding Mill

La Jolie Ronde materials

Qualified languages teacher

Full DBS check

Contact: Paula Pocock at [solecitospanish@gmail.com](mailto:solecitospanish@gmail.com) or  
phone 07885 468 566

## RED DRAGON HANDYMAN

Corbridge Resident for 24 years  
Reliable, trustworthy retired Police Officer

Multi skilled. No job too small

From a tap washer to fully fitted kitchen or  
bathroom:

Joinery, hedge cutting and much more.

If you can't fix it or build it, I probably can.

Reasonable rates.

Call Dave on 07709 914586



Norma James



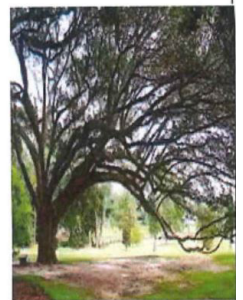
*Whether you are looking for  
something for a special  
occasion or you're in need of  
a quick fashion fix, we are  
passionate about style,  
individuality and special  
personal service.*

10-12 MIDDLE ST.  
CORBRIDGE  
Tel: 01434 632214  
[www.normajames.com](http://www.normajames.com)

### Philip Dixon – Tree Surgeon

- Tree surgeon / climbing to felling
- Pruning to dismantling
- Hedges to topiary
- Lawns to turfing
- Fencing
- Stone walling to patios
- Garden tidy ups
- Storm damage
- Clean sheds and garages
- Hardwood and softwood logs

24 hour call out



Licensed waste removal

Contact: Philip

Mob: 07766532841 Tel: 01434 632916



*Dora Macdonald*  
EYEBROW SPECIALIST

### Microblading eyebrows

Microblading, aka "brow embroidery" is a semi permanent makeup procedure. Whereas most eyebrow enhancements add colour only, this treatment draws individual hairs, perfect lines into the higher layer of the skin, giving the most natural look possible.

Whether your brows have thinned with age, are overplucked, are very fair or you simply want to improve their shape, colour, or make them fuller looking: this treatment is right for you.

Tel: 07494 637065 - in the French Beauty Lounge  
FB: Dora Macdonald eyebrow specialist, web: [www.doramacdonald.co.uk](http://www.doramacdonald.co.uk)

## CHRIS SEWELL Local Dairyman

Daily deliveries of Fresh Farm,  
Pasteurised Whole, Semi-Skimmed  
and Skimmed Milk. Also Cream, Fruit Juice,  
Farm Fresh & Free Range Eggs,  
Mineral Water and Soft Drinks

Tel: **600939** or **07776241357**



## Keith Sanders

FOR

ALL TYPES OF JOINERY AND UPVC FITTINGS

4 GLEBELANDS - CORBRIDGE

NORTHUMBERLAND - NE45 5DS

HOME: 01434 632560 MOBILE: 07973 850245

## Respite Care Service

at Charlotte Straker House, Corbridge.

- Providing 1 or 2 weeks short term respite care
- The service is free to users
- Contact us to discuss 2019 vacancies

### Who is eligible?

- Adults under 65 and adults over 65.
- Those who need care at home and cannot be managed easily without main carer.
- Those with long term conditions, and/or disabilities. e.g. Stroke, Parkinson Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer COPD, Diabetes.
- The frail and elderly.

**Please contact: Mrs Iwona Proszowska, Deputy Manager,**  
Charlotte Straker House, Corbridge

**Telephone: 01434 633999**

Registered charity No 102108



## Tyne Valley Foot Care

Foot care in the comfort of your own home

- |                       |                      |                   |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • General foot care   | • Corn removal       | • Foot healthcare |
| • Nails trimmed       | • Fungal infections  | advice for        |
| • Thick nails reduced | • Verruca treatment  | diabetics         |
| • Callus reduction    | • Ingrowing toenails |                   |



Karen McCarthy S.A.C. Dip.  
Registered Foot Health Practitioner

Email: [tynevalleyfootcare@gmail.com](mailto:tynevalleyfootcare@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07841 511674

## CORBRIDGE VILLAGE TAXI

private hire service

# 077 47 67 07 38

Roman Way, Corbridge

Professional courteous service



## Queen's Hall Arts Centre

## Feast of Fiddles

Wednesday 3 April 7.30pm



## Tin Foil Astronaut

Monday 8 April 11am & 2pm

Tuesday 9 April 11.00am

*Alba has made her own rocket,  
but can it be powered with crisps?  
For ages 3 years up*

## Mischief and Mystery in Moomin Valley

Magical puppetry, original music and interactive play on  
a journey to Moomin Valley. For ages 4 years up.

Sunday 14 April 11.00am & 2.00pm



Box Office 01434 652477

Book online at [www.queenshall.co.uk](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

Queen's Hall Arts Centre,  
Beaumont Street, Hexham. NE46 3LS.

## "Do your ears a favour!"

"Superb modern, professional service from Lisa. Everything clearly explained with no rush or fuss. The microsuction ear wax removal was quick, painless, excellent value and, in my case, what a difference!"



"Followed by a free audiometric hearing assessment and advice. The last time I had my ears checked was several decades ago when I was a child. Our hearing is so precious and yet many of us pay more attention in life to servicing our car. Do your ears a favour. With ongoing support and advice offered, I would recommend Lisa's expertise without reservation."

Do you suffer from some level of hearing loss? If so, don't suffer in silence any longer and call us. You may be a phone call away from making a huge difference to your quality of life. Just like Ian did.

**Book today, call 01434 213 632**



Croft and Graves Optometrists: Hill Street, Corbridge, NE45 5AA

Email: [info@lisagrahamhearingcare.co.uk](mailto:info@lisagrahamhearingcare.co.uk)

Mobile: 07421 707660

[www.lisagrahamhearingcare.co.uk](http://www.lisagrahamhearingcare.co.uk)



**NICHOLSON  
PORTNELL  
SOLICITORS**  
in Hexham since 1775

Contact us for **Specialist Advice** on:

- Conveyancing
- Wills / Probate
- Agricultural Law
- Commercial & Business Advice
- Landlord / Tenant
- Matrimonial / Children
- Civil Litigation
- Personal Injury Claims
- Licensing

Priestpopple House, Hexham  
Tel: (01434) 603656  
Fax: (01434) 608513  
[www.nicholsonportnell.com](http://www.nicholsonportnell.com)

## JOAN MACBETH

ITEC, IHBC, CERT ECBS

**REMEDIAL AND SPORTS  
MASSAGE & BOWEN THERAPY**  
Specialising in the treatment of

- Muscle strain
- Back and neck pain
- Shoulder problems
- Sports injuries
- Headaches & migraines

The Gelson Osteopathic  
Clinic, Corbridge

For more information or to book an appointment  
Telephone : 01434 632427 Mobile: 07714 759856

## DODDS of HEXHAM



*Complete Funeral and Cremation Service*

**PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST**

**A.J. DODD**

**MITFORD HOUSE**

**41 HENCOTES, HEXHAM**

**TELEPHONE: HEXHAM 603362**

## HANDYMAN

No job too small Indoor or Outdoor



Fully Insured & Police Checked

**I'll do your DIY for you**

Phone Steve 01661 844421 or 07788316866

## A. THOMAS

**Window Cleaner**

Established in Corbridge for 28 years

17, Forth Street, Quaking Houses, Stanley DH9 7HB

Telephone: (01207) 283141

Mobile: 0776 140 8041



## THE HAYES

Newcastle Road,  
Corbridge

Telephone

**01434 632010**

◆◆◆ Accommodation

☆☆☆ Self Catering Cottages

[www.hayes-corbridge.co.uk](http://www.hayes-corbridge.co.uk)

Overnight Accommodation

email:

[ctmm18@gmail.com](mailto:ctmm18@gmail.com)

# finale shoes and accessories

Love shoes  
as much as  
we do?

Visit our Corbridge  
shop for a truly  
personalised  
service!



[www.finaleshoes.com](http://www.finaleshoes.com)

Monday - Saturday : 10am - 5pm

Telephone: 01434 634 195

**8 Middle Street, Corbridge, NE45 5AT**

## Caring for Trees in Corbridge & Tyne Valley

Tree surgery - pruning - felling - dismantling

We can also help with "your growing space"  
from veg growing beds  
to woodland management

**GREEN MAN  
ENTERPRISES**

07854 694429 / 01434 689028 - [mark@greenman-ent.co.uk](mailto:mark@greenman-ent.co.uk)

**Fully trained & insured tree surgeons**

## BRIAN GOOLE & SON

EST 1967

### PAINTERS & DECORATORS

All aspects of Painting & Decorating  
by Time-served Tradesman  
Call

**Graeme Goole**

for prompt attention

Tel: (0191) 4138652

FREE ESTIMATES

[www.corbridge.ukpc.net](http://www.corbridge.ukpc.net)

Alexander Carrick  
*of* CORBRIDGE



Stunning kitchens designed and handmade by master craftsmen in Corbridge

Visit our workshop and showroom Monday – Friday: 9am to 4pm | Saturday by appointment  
Tinkler's Yard, Corbridge, Northumberland, NE45 5SB

01434 634 220 | [www.alexandercarrick.co.uk](http://www.alexandercarrick.co.uk)