



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

February 2020 Issue 53
www.corbridge.ukpc.net

:: DESIGN : © 2020 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

www.corbridge.ukpc.net

Corbridge Parish Council next meets on
Wednesdays February 26 and March 25 in the
Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge at 7pm

Council Notes



It is an honour to have been asked by my fellow parish councillors to take up the position of chairman and in accepting the role I will do my best to repay their trust in me.

The Parish Council offers particular thanks to Marc Horn, the outgoing chairman, whose energy and passion for the job was infectious. Marc showed real ambition in the projects he helped initiate such as commencing the Corbridge Neighbourhood Plan process and, with county councillor Nick Oliver, the review of car parking within the village. We wish Marc all the best for the future. The next few years will certainly be busy.

I first served on the Parish Council 20 years ago which coincided with my four years as a district councillor at Tynedale. I have very fond memories of that time and I would like to pay tribute to two of my predecessors in the chair - councillors Michael Priestley and Bill Grigg. I learned a huge amount from Michael and Bill about the workings of the Parish Council and what an active parish could achieve. Both were ideal chairmen, exhibiting a perfect combination of strong purpose, kindness and civility. I aim to work in the same spirit and, like them, to put the interests of the village first at all times.

Maintaining and improving the quality of our public realm will be my priority. I've worked in the built environment all of my professional life and believe the quality of our public places can and does contribute to well-being and happiness. The tidiness and appearance of Corbridge and of the environment in general is vital to the future of the village. There are always opportunities for an active Parish Council to seek and secure improvements - both large and small - if we dedicate ourselves to it. In the next few years we aim to improve the Market Place, to extend the Parish Hall and to make sure that new development respects the traditional character of the village.

I look forward to working with Nick Oliver and my colleagues on the Parish Council in the months ahead.

William Clouston (Parish Council Chairman)



Not everybody agrees we have yet entered a new decade so I will just wish everyone a belated Happy New Year. I am looking forward to making further progress in 2020 on some of the larger projects we have started - more car parking, Market Place improvements, community housing, Neighbourhood Plan and further road and pavement improvements.

I would like to congratulate William Clouston on becoming chairman of the Parish Council. William and I share, with the rest of the Parish Council, an ambition to make Corbridge the best place it can be. I would also like to thank Warwick Milne for his contribution whilst a parish councillor and we should also thank our clerk Mandy Senior who carries out most of the hard work very efficiently. We will shortly be upgrading litter bins throughout the village. Thanks to Corbridge in Bloom and Visit Corbridge for their support with this project. Since I became a county councillor in 2017 we have had two general elections, a North of Tyne mayoral election and a Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) election. Our administration will also be focusing on delivery between now and May 2021. The Queen Elizabeth High School development has been granted planning permission so it will be exciting to see work start on this £36m investment. There are many other projects including the recent upgrade to our Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham.

Work has commenced on the Milkwell Development and it has taken longer than expected to get the new road built at the site entrance. This has taken its toll on Milkwell Lane and at the time of writing discussions are ongoing about repairs to the damage.

Nick Oliver (Northumberland County Councillor)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch - nick.oliver24@outlook.com or 07779 983742.

Corbridge in Winter





Alone In Corbridge

Corbridge is a vibrant community with many people working behind the scenes to ensure it stays that way. But as with other villages, towns and cities, there will be people living here who are lonely or feel isolated. Loneliness can affect any age. But according to the Jo Cox Loneliness Study, levels of loneliness are higher among disabled people, those with mental health issues, people in poor health and those who live alone, especially older people. Official figures from 2011 recorded 347 older people living alone in Corbridge which was in line with the national average for the size of our community. Of course, many people are very happy living alone. But others may not be.

Independent Age reports that more than one in three people over 75 say that feelings of loneliness are out of their control. The British Red Cross states that over nine million adults are often or always lonely. While Age UK say millions of older people spend every day feeling lonely and forgotten, especially during Bank Holidays and religious holidays.

There is support for those feeling lonely in Corbridge. Parish councillor Mark Griffin says Corbridge is working towards ensuring this community is one of connection and kindness. Not isolation, separation and loneliness. "We are addressing loneliness through the many activities available in the Parish Hall and improving awareness of the support available through, for example, Age UK and our Health Centre. I believe there is a reservoir of untapped compassion, enthusiasm and energy in our community to do more to tackle and defeat loneliness in Corbridge."

Just having someone to talk to can make a world of difference. But we can all do more. For example by identifying people who are lonely, helping them take the first steps in reconnecting to the community, providing them with an awareness of the many clubs and activities here, encouraging them to develop new interests and benefit from the companionship available from our clubs, churches and so on. Everyone in Corbridge should have someone to turn to.



Corbridge Health Centre

The Campaign to End Loneliness reported in 2013 that three out of four GPs say they see between one and five people a day who have come in mainly because they are lonely. Everyone at Corbridge Health Centre is aware of the problems caused by loneliness and its impact on both physical and mental health. With this in mind the Health Centre has recently compiled two booklets, available in the waiting room, with information about community groups, clubs and activities in and around Corbridge in order to encourage more patients to participate in these clubs and activities. There is also a service where older patients can make an appointment in the Corbridge Health Centre to obtain advice on welfare benefits, housing issues, social care, wills, Power of Attorney, etc. GPs are not experts on these topics so we would encourage you to make an appointment with an Age UK adviser which can be arranged by contacting Corbridge Health Centre on 01434 632011 for more details. Also see the Age UK information within this article.

Age UK Northumberland

Age UK say: "Most people will feel lonely at some point in their lives. It's a deeply personal experience that - in most cases - will thankfully pass. But for a growing number of people, particularly those in later life, loneliness can define their lives and have a significant impact on their wellbeing."

The Corbridge Lunch Clubs are a long established part of village life and have been running since the 1970s. Every week on Mondays and Thursdays 11am to 1pm, at the Parish Hall, our Lunch Clubs are run by two teams of volunteers who provide a freshly cooked two course meal in a friendly setting. Transport to and from the hall is available. If you are an elderly resident who would like a wholesome lunch and social interaction once or twice a week, or you know someone who might enjoy this opportunity, please contact Age UK Northumberland:

Suzette Milne (Mondays) on 01434 632932 or warwick.milne@talktalk.net; or,

Vera Davies (Thursdays) on 01434 633597 or vera.davies8@gmail.com.

Age UK also provides free, confidential, impartial and independent advice for anyone over 50 and living in Northumberland, as well as their families and carers.



Our advisers are specially trained to help you on your income (including free benefits checks, help with applying for benefits and pension advice), your home (information on staying warm at home, home adaptations and how to prevent falls), social care (such as finding a care home or getting some help at home, and how it's funded), legal issues (such as wills, Power of Attorney, and how to deal with an estate), social activities (local leisure, health and educational activities) and advocacy (empower you to say what you want, secure your rights, represent your interests and obtain services you need).

We also have a high quality, specialist Welfare Rights team providing face-to-face appointments and home visits, to assist with benefits checks, form completion and appeals support. Contact the Age UK team on 01670 784800, Monday-Friday 10am-3pm.

Age UK operate a telephone befriending service, the Friendship Line, delivered by volunteers. Where seniors are matched up with a volunteer for a weekly 30 minute telephone call. Currently five volunteers and one member of staff provide these calls to the lonely in our community. Anyone over 60 and living in Northumberland can obtain this service or Age UK can accept referrals from family and friends. Call Age UK Northumberland on 01670 784 800 Monday - Friday, 10am-3pm, to request the Friendship service.

Corbridge Memory Cafe

Corbridge Parish Councillor Melvyn Stone writes: "The Memory Cafe stems from the initiative driven and approved by Corbridge Parish Council and is an offshoot of Working To Become Dementia Friendly Corbridge. We meet at the Parish Hall every third Thursday of the month throughout the year. The idea is to allow people living with dementia and their carers to come along and talk to other people who have similar problems. We have support workers and volunteers who also attend along with a mine of information to hand out about care in the community. Our cafe also provides music, film, shows, singing and prize bingo. Refreshments are provided free of charge including tea coffee and fabulous savouries donated by Grants the Bakers of Corbridge.

"We have just celebrated our fifth year and our intention in 2020 is to offer even more things to do for our guests. We would also like people who are living independently in the community who feel isolated to come and join in or any members of the public who would like to see what is available to them. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 07803 955148."



continued on page 6

continued from page 5



Corbridge Methodist Minister Marie Beard writes: "I remember singing in Sunday school, 'When I needed a neighbour, were you there? And the creed and the colour and the name don't matter, were you there?' Whatever our creed, colour, or anything else for that matter, the important part is being present to one another. To quote John Donne, 'No man is an island.' One of the things which is great about living in a community is that we do have the opportunity to be present to one another, to be aware of one another's needs. Many visiting friends, as well as my own neighbours, say what a great place Corbridge is to live in because there does seem to be an 'old fashioned' sense of community. Of course, that's not to say that people don't get lonely. It is still easy to miss the signs. So we really need to be aware of those around us, and especially those who perhaps are frail or on their own, of their needs and situation.

"There are so many opportunities in and around Corbridge - groups, societies, organisations and events where you will find a warm welcome. And I know that many of the older members of our community gain a great deal from all that is on offer. We can always do more. There are always those who may, out of choice or lack of awareness, find themselves lonely. But this is where the great community that we have in Corbridge can come to the fore.

"In the Methodist Church we have always had a strong focus on caring for one another which grew out of the small group system advocated by our founder John Wesley. Being a good neighbour should be hard-wired into the average Methodist, and I know many of our folk who keep an eye out for their neighbours. That is the job for us all to do, to be a good neighbour, to look out for those 'next door', ask if they are OK, offer to take them along, and to make sure there is a little less loneliness and a little more love in Corbridge.

Adele Kinsella compiles an excellent free booklet: 'Summary of Activities & Support in West Northumberland For Those Affected By Dementia and Memory Problems'. It can be picked up at Corbridge Parish Hall in St Helen's Street or at Corbridge Library in Hill Street. The booklet includes links and information to many organisations, including Corbridge Health Walks, the Corbridge Memory Cafe and Northumberland Cancer Support Group. And here are some links which may be of use:

Corbridge Gardening Society: Sylvia Pinkerton 01661 599345
Corbridge Lace Makers: Gil Dye 01661 824696
Corbridge Table Tennis: Richard Rayfield 01434 633092
Corbridge Cricket Club: 01434 633641
Corbridge Youth Initiative: Gillian Wood 01434 633186
Tynedale Rugby Club: 01434 632996
Corbridge Bridge Club: 01434 633447
Tynedale Scottish Country Dance Club: Ros 01434 604639
Tynedale Chess Club: Dave Humphreys 01434 694296
Corbridge Health Walks: Lorraine Oliver 01670 622368
Corbridge Tennis Club: Nick Steenberg 01434 608006
Corbridge Village Trust: Michael Cunliffe 01434 632431
Corbridge Youth Initiative: Gillian Wood 01434 633186

Current activities at Corbridge Parish Hall: Carpet Bowls, Zumba class, Yopalates, Art classes, Ladies' badminton, Karate, Bridge Club, Corbridge Community Choir, Lunch Club, Film Club (not weekly), Tynedale Chess Club, Tynedale Photo Group (fortnightly), Lace class, Corbridge Women's Institute (monthly) and Scottish Country Dancing. For Parish Hall inquiries contact Parish Council clerk Mandy Senior: 07950 297634 email: corbridge@ukpc.net

NOTICE BOARD

Durham University Gospel Choir: 7:30pm Saturday February 8 at St Andrew's Church.

Corbridge Film Nights: 'Apostasy' will be screened on Sunday February 9. 7pm for 7:30pm at Corbridge Parish Hall. Followed on Sunday March 1 by 'Foxtrot' and on Sunday March 22 by 'Capernaum'.

Corbridge Races: (Tynedale Point-to-Point) Sunday February 23. First race 12:30pm. At Downhills, three miles north of Corbridge.

St Andrew's Church Fundraising Fete: Saturday March 14 inside the church.

Charity Fashion Show: Tuesday March 24 at The Angel Inn.

Corbridge WI: Meets on the first Monday of every month, excluding Bank Holidays, at 2pm in the Parish Hall. New members welcome.

Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club: Why not come and join us for a game of carpet bowls in the Parish Hall? We bowl on a Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm and then between 7pm and 9pm in the evening. It costs £10 to join the club and £2 for each session. Previous experience strictly not necessary. We are in it for the fun so why not come along and have fun with us!

Corbridge Village Trust: Next talk at the Parish Hall is at 7:30pm on Thursday March 26 when Geoff Hughes presents: 'Be Amazed at Belsay.' Non members welcome: £2 on the door. Followed on Thursday May 28 by Frances McIntosh on 'Corbridge Roman Town'.

Corbridge Church Times

St Andrew's Church

Saturday February 1: Ecumenical Prayer Group at Methodist Church.

Sunday February 2: 10am Parish Communion / 6pm Holy Communion with hymns.

Sunday February 9: 10am Parish Communion / 3pm Messy Church / 6pm Evening Prayer (Said).

Sunday February 16: 10am Parish Communion / 6pm Evensong.

Sunday February 23: 10am Parish Communion / 4pm All Age Worship / 6pm Evening Prayer (Said).

Wednesday February 26: 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service - the Methodist congregation will be at St Andrew's.

Corbridge Methodist Church

Saturday February 1: Ecumenical Prayer Group.

Sunday Service: 10:45am every week.

Wednesday February 26: 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service - the Methodist congregation will be at St Andrew's.

Coffee Morning: Every Tuesday from 10am to 11:30am

Forum with speaker: 2:30pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

Corbridge Pentecostal Church

8pm on Mondays at Corbridge Methodist Church.

Corbridge Diary Dates 2020

Sunday Feb 23: Corbridge Races (Point to Point).

Tuesday March 24: Charity Fashion Show at The Angel Inn.

Saturday June 6: Charlotte Straker Summer Fete.

Saturday / Sunday June 13 / 14: Corbridge Steam Rally at Tynedale Park.

Thursday June 18 to Saturday June 20: Tynedale Beer and Cider Festival at Tynedale Park.

Thursday June 25: A Midsummer's Evening in Corbridge.

Friday / Saturday July 3 / 4: Corbridge Festival (Music) at Tynedale Park.

Friday July 24 to Sunday July 26: Corbridge Chamber Music Festival.

Sunday August 16: Northumberland Classic Vehicle Gathering at Tynedale Park.

Sunday August 30: Family Fun Day at Corbridge Cricket Club.

Saturday September 5: Corbridge Village Show.

Friday Dec 4 to Tuesday Dec 8: St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

Monday Dec 7: Christmas In Corbridge Late Night.

we need DISTRIBUTORS

Corbridge Matters is delivered to every household in Corbridge. If you have an hour or two to spare and enjoy a brisk walk around the village, you could join our happy team of volunteer postpeople every two months. Just contact Mandy Senior:

Mandy Senior 07950 297364



Visit Corbridge,
that's what they say,
go there, spend a blue-sky day,
in coffee shops and pubs,
club together,
whatever the weather,
Indie-shop 'til you drop,
in creative's spaces,
in unusual places.

Visit Corbridge,
that's what I say!
The village to be seen in,
the town to dream in.
It whispers come hither,
take a walk by the river,
revel in the atmosphere,
something rare these days,
it cares, Corbridge cares.

© Nicky Jones



CORBRIDGE
NORTHUMBERLAND

interview

Alex Clark tells Ian Wylie about her life as an artist



"I've always painted, drawn and been creative," says Alex Clark sitting in her Corbridge shop in Market Place. "People think I'm some kind of ruthless businesswoman. Anybody who knows me will tell you that simply is not the case."

She is first and foremost an artist who also just happens to run a multi-million pound brand - Alex Clark Art Ltd - based in a 15,000 square foot warehouse in Consett which handles over 3000 of her designs. Including cards, stationery, homeware, gifts, prints and much else besides.

"So many successful artists around now have developed a style that is instantly recognisable. And that happened for me by accident. A lot of people know I can paint. But it used to frustrate me endlessly that I was classed as more of a businesswoman than artist. Because I had to make money. I wasn't getting grants - I didn't do art college or art at university. So I didn't have the knowledge of getting grants, applying for funding. I never did that. My style was developed to make it instantly recognisable. It was a speed thing as well. Because I couldn't output

things that would take hours and hours to do.

"In an ideal world I'd love a couple of days in the week simply to work as an artist. Not all of the week because it can be quite isolating. I don't get a couple of days at the moment. I still binge and cram art work into a certain number of months. There are also things like catalogues and trade stands to design."

There is no doubt that Alex is a seriously talented artist who is underestimated by some. Her success in business has come via those instantly recognisable designs, including cats, dogs, birds and other animals, appealing to customers around the globe. Together with a lot of hard work. "People who have known me for years say, 'Why are you still doing the rosy cheeks and the smiley faces?' And I reply, 'I have 10 people working at the warehouse now whose wages rely on those rosy cheeks and smiley faces.'"

Her earliest childhood memory is of walking dogs by the river Derwent. "Something I still do today." Her dad Bill was a joiner and her mum Christine stayed at home to look after their

interview

children and four labradors. "Me and my sister always came second to the dogs," laughs Alex.

She was fascinated with birds from an early age. "I love birds. I used to feed them in the garden and have always liked painting and drawing. So they were the most accessible things to see. I did O-level and A-level art and then a foundation course in graphic design at Newcastle College. Then I realised graphic design really wasn't what I wanted to do as a career.



"I was always classed as the arty one at school. It was just something I did and was always assumed I would go down the art route. So I rebelled a bit in my late teens and decided I wasn't going to do that. I did really well in my A-levels in more academic subjects. So I thought, 'No, I'm going to do a science degree.'" Alex studied biology for three years but then found she couldn't get a job. "I wanted to go into educational conservation work. I did voluntary work for the Forestry Commission, all sorts of things to try and get experience. But fresh out of university it was tough."

Her destiny was in art. "I had always funded college and university with pet portraits and things like that. So that carried me through. I developed that while I was looking for work. Every August Bank Holiday weekend I used to do - and still do now - the Snods Edge Art Festival. From when I was about 14. I would work all year and get work done. It funded me for months. I'd get my contacts there just to keep me going throughout the year. Then we passed Prudhoe one day and saw a sign for

a fine art printers. That started me off. You could put as many designs on a sheet as would fit. I got it run off and then booked a few local craft fairs.

"I was living at home at the time and didn't have any overheads. I continually kept re-investing money I made on a weekend into more products. I did four cards. That was the start of my greetings cards. I took the plunge, met a few people at the craft fairs who egged me on.

"I'm pretty laid back. Most people when they see my business now think I'm some sort of businesswoman. I'm really not. I've just been very fortunate. I've got quite a good work ethic which I inherited from my parents. I just keep slogging away. Artist-wise, there are so many people who could do what I do. But I think I've had a bit of resilience and I've stuck in there. Just kept turning up for things."

The word most often used to describe Alex's style is 'quirky'. It was inspired by a basic drawing her younger sister Liz did. "She claims the rosy cheeks and smiley face was her style. Which it kind of was. But she does all right out of it. When we go shopping she always reminds me.

"It's a style characteristic to me. Everything in my past was detailed. Really anatomical. Like detailed pet portraits. And I just couldn't keep that up. There are so many people who can do painting like that. Almost photographic. When I exhibited at my first trade fair I showed both styles side by side. And it was that new recognisable style which attracted people.

"The first trade fair I did was at the NEC at Birmingham and I've been doing that now for almost 20 years. The NEC spring and autumn fairs. A week at a time. In the first few years I went I wasn't even covering costs. But people have to see you a few times. A lot of people straight out of art college now give up before that actually kicks in. You've got to pay your dues and stick with it. People expect it to happen straight away and it just doesn't. I'm pretty stubborn. I keep going.

"I actually can't really remember much of my 20s and 30s, because it was all work. We travelled all of the time. Driving on motorways for hours on end every day there and back because we couldn't afford to stay in a hotel. That's why when I take members of staff down now to the NEC Spring Fair we stay on site in a nice hotel. The staff think that is the norm. And I keep telling them it really is not."

Her first retail outlet opened in Stanhope almost

interview

20 years ago. An old stable building which was completely derelict. "My dad helped do the building up for me and my mum mucked in. I was away doing craft fairs in places like Windsor and Sandringham. Then I'd come back with money to pay the guys to do the roof or sand the floor."

Alex opened her Corbridge shop some seven years ago and recently moved to a retail space better suited for her business just a few paces away from the original premises. Moving into a location vacated last year by Delight & Wisdom. "I've always loved Corbridge. As everybody does. I couldn't afford to open a shop here to start with. It's such a big commitment. We used to eat out here a lot. And then we opened the shop."

Most of her business is wholesale via the warehouse dealing with trade customers both in the UK and around the world. "I'm very much independently driven. I supply a few multiples. But they are mainly garden centres - out of town places. I'm strong in places with a big independent shop culture. And Corbridge is at the top of that tree."

"I've got agents out on the road in the UK and distributors worldwide. You're always searching for that new country. We have representation in countries like Australia, New Zealand and Canada. America is ongoing and you're always searching for that new country. I have come across my work in random gift shops in Malta. Ferries in Canada. All sorts of places. It's really satisfying when I see that. But I stay incognito quite a lot. Although sometimes people I'm with will make a fuss about it. I'm endlessly tidying displays. Of course some people don't get what I do. But there is a vast age range in the people who do buy it."

Alex now lives near Shotley Bridge where inspiration is still just outside the window. "I'm so lucky. I live on one of these farms that's not a farm anymore. In the farm house. About half a mile off the main road. Surrounded by wildlife. I love it. Every day."

Spending some time when she can meeting customers in the Corbridge and Stanhope shops is important. "In Corbridge I'm not really known for my art work. In Stanhope I sell way more originals. We're not just a card shop in Corbridge. My mum is in charge of the shop in Corbridge and I have another brilliant lady in Stanhope. But most Saturdays I'm at one of the shops."

Now Alex is aiming to become more recognised as an artist again as opposed to her business interests. She's also spending more time at home.

"My partner Erik wanted to get to 100 countries and we finished that in May 2018. That was enough for me. I've always been a home bird. When you travel you realise how nice generally the people are in this area. And how the places I work in still have a very villagey feel. I have a lot of loyal customers. The roads aren't crowded. I love the fact I can tootle around and not be sat in traffic. The landscape is so diverse. With having dogs I'm out and about a lot. I love the countryside. And absolutely adore the coastline. I don't think there is a better bit of coastline."

Congratulations_x



"I've got one dog myself and my parents have two. They come as a little pack and whoever is around takes the dogs. Betty the black Labrador is still around. My dog is Buddy - he's a Labrador rescue dog. Chocolate lab."

Has she been impacted by well documented high street woes? "Luckily my business has not really been affected up to now because I'm not on the high street. I'm in the market towns, the garden centres and farm shops. That is how I've continued to grow. My business has grown at the same time these out of town places have grown. That was totally unintentional. It just happened."

"There is a great cluster of independent shops and businesses in Corbridge. Things aren't all rosy here, of course. But people come here to shop because it's such a pretty location with lots of interesting places to visit. You can buy something different here in a variety of independent shops. And also get really good coffee and good food to eat. It's a lovely place to be."



Be The Best



Corbridge Church of England First School has received accolades in two new reports. Ofsted rated the school as “good” and SIAMS - the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools - reported it as “excellent”.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspection took place in early November. Their subsequent report said: “Staff and pupils live by the school’s motto of ‘be the best that we can be’. Pupils, parents, carers and staff are pleased to belong to this happy, welcoming school. Leaders have high expectations. They have created a strong sense of community. Pupils are proud of their achievements and enjoy learning.

“Behaviour is good. Pupils behave well in lessons and as they move around the school. Pupils develop strong moral values. They show good manners and are polite. Staff are kind and reassuring. They know pupils and their families well. Staff care deeply about pupils. The headteacher and deputy headteacher are a strong team.”

The SIAMS inspection, which took place last October, also praised the school. Among its many positive comments it said: “The headteacher is passionate about the school, its pupils, staff and parents and is supported by an equally dedicated teaching team. Their leadership is transforming the lives of the pupils, enabling all to flourish.”

Headteacher Jennifer Ainsley said: “We could not be more proud of the feedback we received. It is so pleasing to see how our fantastic children have been recognised - made possible by amazing staff and families helping them to be the best they can be!”



That We Can Be





ASH FENCING
Northumberland

Fencing, Decking, Pergolas, Gates & Sheds

Free Quotations Fully Insured
Call Ash on 01434 632 528
[f facebook.com/ashfence](https://www.facebook.com/ashfence)




MY LITTLE PLACE

Role Play

Session Times

- 9.30AM until 11AM
- 11.15AM until 12.45PM
- 1.30PM until 3.00PM
- 3.30PM until 5.00PM

Price per session

- £5 per child
- one Adult free with one paying child
- AND EXTRA ADULTS ARE £1 EACH

You are welcome to arrive at the beginning of a session and if we have spaces you can join us.

We serve light lunches, home-made cake and snacks.

We do after school and weekend parties.

How to find it

St Mary's Wynd Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1EW

01434 600 937

where IMAGINATION is CHILD'S PLAY

The Gardening Society has had a busy and exciting year.

Our plant sale was held in May, with various plants and vegetables for sale to members and the general public. Our members have been on a variety of day trips and a holiday in the summer months. We host spring and summer shows and fun sociable evenings. We have donated money to help local gardening projects.

Over the winter months we enjoy hearing speakers on the third Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall.

We currently have 280 members and welcome new members from around the local area, for a yearly subscription of £5. Please check our website for 2020 dates of interest.

www.corbridgегardeningociety.com

Will Dean



Deepa Anappara



Matt Wesolowski



Forum Books



We love it when Spring is sprung in the bookshop. With lots of fresh new paperbacks - including some favourites like local superstar **Sally Urwin's** 'Diary of a Pint-Sized Farmer' (out March 5) - and a packed events programme of authors, book club, writers' group and story times - we hope we've something for everyone!

Starting with our events, we're thrilled to kick off our 2020 program with the latest instalment of Six Stories and a scintillating debut. **Matt Wesolowski** joins us on Thursday February 13 with his chilling new thriller 'Beast' - it's a return to Northumberland with a grisly murder committed during the Beast from the East.

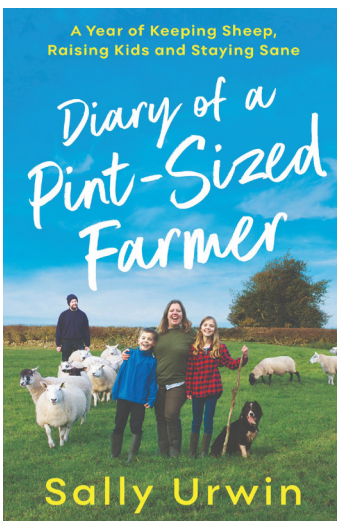
Then on Tuesday February 18 we're joined by **Deepa Anappara** who will be in conversation with journalist Sarah Shaafi. We've sweet treats and more to make this a special evening to celebrate Deepa's debut novel 'Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line'.

March really couldn't be much busier. Thursday March 5 is World Book Day AND World Towel Day! We always celebrate World Book Day with school visits, stories and LOTS of books - this year's selection is the best yet - check out worldbookday.com And DON'T PANIC - it's the 42nd anniversary of 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy'. Celebrations start with World Towel Day.

Will Dean returns to Corbridge on Monday March 9 - we really can't get enough of his Swedish heroine Tuva and his new one 'Black River' does not disappoint. On Wednesday March 11 **Kiran Millwood Hargrave** is here to talk about 'The Mercies' inspired by real events in Norway, the Vardo storm and the 1621 witch trials.

Newcastle crime writer **Trevor Wood** will be with us Thursday March 19 to celebrate the publication of 'The Man On The Street'. And we're delighted to again be part of The Tyne Valley Film Festival - we'll be showing 'Millions' based on **Frank Cottrell Boyce's** brilliant book on Friday March 27.

We're also relaunching our children's book club, and as ever our storytimes are at 10.30am every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Hopefully we've given you at least one reason to pop into the bookshop. See you soon!



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

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

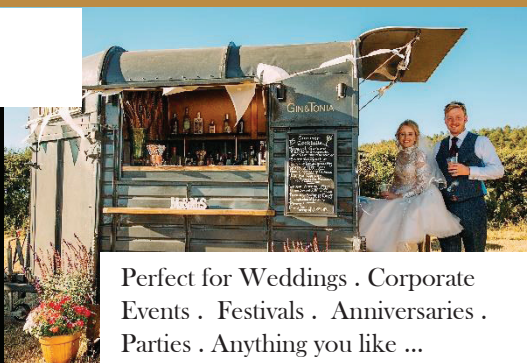
Find us on Facebook @DMc Gardening services

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
web: www.ginandtonia.co.uk



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



**ANTON
ESTATES**
SALES & LETTINGS

WHY CHOOSE US

- We are a local, family owned & managed agent
- We sold & let more properties in Corbridge than any other agent in 2019
- We give honest & reliable advice
- We do not over promise or underachieve
- Our standard fee is fully inclusive of professional standard photography, brochures and marketing on property portals
- We don't ask for payment upfront; we are confident in our ability to sell your property
- We spend time nurturing relationships and leads as well as negotiating for the best price on your behalf
- We will do more and work harder to sell your property; as this is our business, we only get paid when we finish the job!

01434 632080 | @antonestates

www.antonestates.co.uk | home@antonestates.co.uk



Healing hands

Suzanne charlton
Reiki practitioner
Charlesue3O@gmail.com
07712646051



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

38

Why not join the 42 local businesses who already 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

Stephen Rutherford
Window Cleaner



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

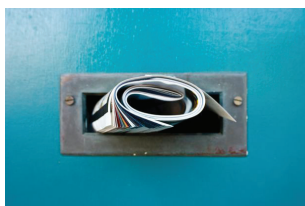
Services include:

- External window cleaning
- Internal window cleaning
- Gutter cleaning

Stephen Rutherford
17 Synclen Avenue
Corbridge
Northumberland
NE45 5JF

Mobile: 07725670089
sruthie75@yahoo.co.uk

Spread a little happiness



be a distributor
See page 7

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
www.lakelandbespokeinteriors.co.uk

Exude warmth and refinement with dark colours



FORUM Books.

Nothing like a real bookshop

The Chapel, Market Place, Corbridge, NE45 5AW | www.forumbooksandkids.com | 01434 632 931

Nick Judson Jungian Psychotherapist

Creative Therapies - Sand Tray, Waking
Daydream Therapy, Guided Imagery,
Active Imagination.
Workshops and Training

Aydon, Corbridge NE45 5PL
contact: 07948125035

nickjudsonpsychotherapy@gmail.com

*"often
the hands solve a
mystery that the
intellect has struggled
with in vain."*
C. G. Jung

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**

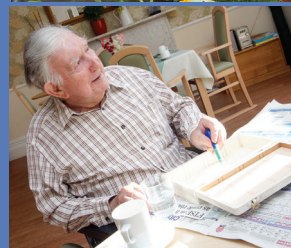


The Charlotte
Straker Project

COMMUNITY RESPITE CARE BED

**Short term, respite
care breaks, fully
funded by the
Charlotte Straker
charity**

- Respite care for adults over 65 years of age, living in Northumberland
- The frail or elderly, or those with long term conditions or disabilities that need 24 hour nursing



Now taking bookings for 2020!



Please contact our Deputy Manager on

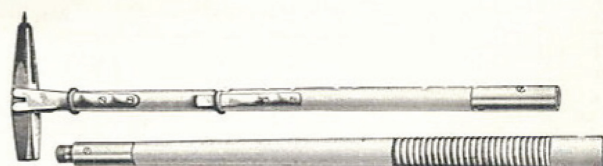
T: 01434 633999

E: office@charlottestraker.org.uk

Or find more information at
www.charlottestraker.org.uk



A MYSTERY OBJECT



Can you identify our mystery
object?

What is it?

What connection does it have with
Corbridge?

Why are you unlikely ever to need
to use one?

(Turn to page 23 and all will be revealed)

awards



Alexander Carrick of Corbridge

Alexander Carrick of Corbridge has won the Living North Designer Maker Award 2019. The maker of hand crafted Northumbrian kitchens and furniture was singled out from hundreds of nominations for its creative flair and imaginative design with a Northumberland flavour.

Also praised for “keeping the art of cabinetmaking alive in the region” though its unique apprenticeship scheme. Terry Carrick, who heads the family business, said: “The nominees were all exceptional so it was an honour to be nominated for the award, let alone to win it. The company’s workshop and showroom at Tinklers Yard in Corbridge is home to a small team of designers and master cabinetmakers who hand make all of the kitchens and furniture. Added Terry: “Alexander Carrick has been working with discerning customers for 38 years and we do it with passion, pride and craftsmanship.” That also includes a passion for teaching the skills of cabinetmaking to young people. “To see a young person develop as they learn an age-old craft is incredibly rewarding and ensures the skill of Northumbrian cabinetmaking is not lost to future generations.”

Grants of Corbridge

Grants of Corbridge has received the Craft Bakery Business Award for best retail bakery in the north at the Baking Industry Awards in London. The popular business in Market Place missed out on the national award but

had already been named regional winner in northern England. Judges visited Corbridge to see what Grants had to offer and came away impressed. Owner and award-winning continental patisserie chef Andrew Cotterell described the award as “amazing”.



Excellent Eyecare. Stylish Eyewear.

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

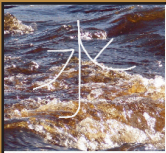
croft & graves Optometrists

Woodburn House, Hill Street, Corbridge
01434 632289 www.croftandgraves.co.uk

A BEATTIE & SONS
COAL MERCHANTS

ALSO SUPPLIERS
OF FUELS FOR
MULTI AND WOOD
BURNERS

Tel: 01434 632104



Psychotherapy
Supervision
Shamanic healing,
workshops and training
Traditional acupuncture

Simone Silver Path
BACP (senior accredited), BAAC



The Hut
Fawcett Farm Cottage
Colwell, nr Hexham

contact: 07891 351665

simoneofcragwell@hotmail.com



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

DEREK **BIRD** Established since 2002
Decorating Services

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



Tel. 01434 633356 / 07904 559952

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

finale shoes and accessories

Love shoes
as much as
we do?

Visit our Corbridge
shop for a truly
personalised
service!



www.finaleshoes.com

Monday - Saturday : 10am - 5pm
Telephone: 01434 634 195
8 Middle Street, Corbridge, NE45 5AT



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

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

DODDS
of **HEXHAM**



Complete Funeral and Cremation Service

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST

A.J. DODD

MITFORD HOUSE

41 HENCOTES, HEXHAM

TELEPHONE: HEXHAM 603362



URWIN JOINERY

All Aspects of Joinery Undertaken

Cameron Urwin

07506 585138

urwinjoinery@outlook.com

Philip Dixon – Tree Surgeon

- Tree surgeon / climbing to felling
- Pruning to dismantling
- Hedges to topiary
- Lawns to returfing
- 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

Keith Sanders

FOR

ALL TYPES OF JOINERY AND UPVC FITTINGS

4 GLEBELANDS : CORBRIDGE :

NORTHUMBERLAND : NE45 5DS

HOME: 01434 632560 MOBILE: 07973 850245

Microsuction Ear Wax Removal



SINGLE
EAR
£50*

The safest and most comfortable method
of removing excess and impacted ear wax.

BOTH
EARS
£75*

Book your free hearing check today

You have regular checkups for your
teeth and eyes. So why not your ears?



Croft and Graves Optometrists: Hill Street, Corbridge, NE45 5AA
Email: info@lisagrahamhearingcare.co.uk
www.lisagrahamhearingcare.co.uk

*Prices correct as of 01/12/19

Book today, call 01434 213 632

Tyne Valley Foot Care

Foot care in the comfort of your own home

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



Karen McCarthy S.A.C. Dip.
Registered Foot Health Practitioner
Email: tynevalleyfootcare@gmail.com
Telephone: 07841 511674

CORBRIDGE VILLAGE TAXI

private hire service

077 47 67 07 38

Roman Way, Corbridge

Professional courteous service



NAMASTE

WELL Woman

...

At Namaste Well Woman we aim to
provide the highest quality service for
competitive prices to enable you to feel
your best and continue on your journey.

...



Massage

Including: Chakra, Hot Stone, Reiki and Hot
Coconut Oil.

Skin

Including: Facials // Micro Zone, Dermalogica,
Age Smart, Ultra Calming and Chromawhite.

Mind

Including: Reiki, Chakra Psychology.

Call Lisa on : 07903804304

Located in the centre of Corbridge
in tranquil settings.



www.namastewellwoman.co.uk

BRIAN GOOLE & SON

EST 1967

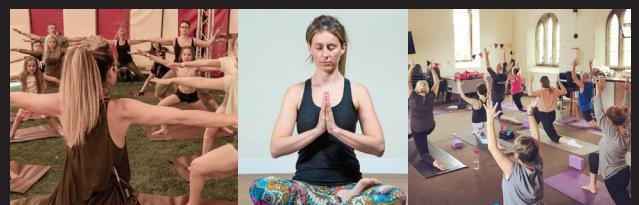
PAINTERS & DECORATORS

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

Graeme Goole

for prompt attention
Tel: (0191) 4138652
FREE ESTIMATES

Yoga with Natalie



Corbridge Youth Initiative

Monday 7pm

Thursday 7pm (back to basics)

Sunday 11am

07874 891371

yogawithnataliecorbridge@gmail.com

TheNaturalPT

katie kerr



Sale now on

16 & 22 hill street | corbridge
www.katiekerr.co.uk

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 Reach & Wash System

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

THE HAYES
Newcastle Road,
Corbridge
Telephone
01434 632010

◆◆◆ Accommodation
☆☆☆ Self Catering Cottages
www.hayes-corbridge.co.uk
Overnight Accommodation
email:
ctmm18@gmail.com

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

What is it?

Our mystery object is a Bill Poster's Hammer. American in origin, these specialised hammers were used to "post" handbills and advertising cards well above the normal reach of the user, or potential remover or defacer, making them both easier to see and less subject to vandalism or being posted over. These hammers are cleverly designed with two clips. The upper clip holds the tack while the lower clip holds the bill, card, or poster to be tacked on to a pole, wall, or tree. Once the initial tack and posting was in place, it could easily be further secured with additional tacks held aloft by the magnetic hammer head.

The varying lengths of the hammers were achieved by the use of wooden segments that screwed together, if the length was beyond one single handle reach.

What connection does it have with Corbridge?

It really has nothing to do with Corbridge.

Why are you unlikely ever to need to use one?

You'll be unlikely to need one because Corbridge Matters offers a much better alternative for your advertising. No need for a bill poster's hammer. No need to shin up telephone poles. Just contact Mandy Senior for all the information you'll ever need.

Mandy Senior 07950 297364

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

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

The Corbridge Picture



Sunrise on the Tyne at Corbridge