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CORBRIDGE MATTERS

October 2020 Issue 56
www.corbridge.ukpc.net

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Most photos from Ian Wylie

Reeling in the Autumn

Parish Council **INFORMATION**

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

www.corbridge.ukpc.net

Corbridge Parish Council is currently using videoconferencing to hold its meetings. Dates of forthcoming meetings will be published on the web site

Council Notes



As winter approaches we now face renewed Coronavirus challenges but I'm certain that the volunteer infrastructure we've put in place with our partners will be helpful if required. As always, we will take government advice in managing the Parish Council's public facilities.

In any event, we will plan for the future and hope for the best.

On a positive note, we'll soon be planting

trees. As part of its 'Free Tree Scheme' Northumberland County Council is giving away 10,000 specimens to residents, schools and community groups. The Parish Council has selected a pack which includes 30 trees including Silver Birch, Rowan, Wild Cherry and Hawthorn. I will provide details of their location once this has been finalised.

Tree planting during challenging economic times has historical precedent. Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'Civilian Conservation Corps' was a highly effective work relief programme established during the Great Depression of the 1930's. It boosted public morale, employed over 3m young people and provided a legacy of new forests, recreation areas and public landscapes. Perhaps Britain could introduce a similar programme in response to the pandemic to help young people find employment and training at a time of need.

It's now approaching a year ago when fellow members asked me to Chair the Parish Council. It's been a positive experience despite the challenges brought by the pandemic. I will continue to focus on the task of trying to protect and enhance the amenity and beauty of the public realm in Corbridge which I think is unique. Much has already been achieved such as the refurbishment inside the Parish Hall and a great deal is planned, such as the new railings in front of the Co-op and improvements at Corchester Field. Special thanks are due to Mandy Senior who, as Clerk to the Parish Council, has been a great help as I've settled in to my role as Chair. Mandy's help, advice and expertise - as a single-handed civil service to the Parish - has been invaluable.

As the nights get darker let's continue to put prevention first and stay safe.

William Clouston (Parish Council Chairman)

Corbridge Coronavirus Community Support Helpline:
07519 599474

www.visitcorbridge.co.uk/coronavirus

Facebook: @CorbridgeCommunity



I hope you are all managing in the best way possible in these challenging and unprecedented times. I am not going to dwell on the latest Covid-19 measures because by the time you read this they will inevitably be out of date. The County Council is doing everything to respond to the needs of residents,

businesses and other employers in light of a rapidly changing situation. I am proud that Northumberland was the 4th fastest authority in dispersing grants to businesses with over £90m given to over 8,500 businesses across the county. Some have been tragically ineligible and I have been active lobbying government for more money and for flexibility. The Communities Together programme continues to support residents and community organisations.

At a local level Appletree Lane has been resurfaced recently and there are plans for some more resurfacing north of the village in Aydon and around Stagshaw. Work is ongoing with Karbon Homes to address dangerous trees. Council services have been impacted by Covid but we are working hard on retaining 'business as usual' - weed control, unblocking gullies and street sweeping are all top priorities. I have requested a meeting with our new Neighbourhood Police Inspector to discuss speeding and will keep you posted.

The Milkwell development is continuing at pace and we have managed to get Cow Lane reopened for walkers. The Council's rights of way officer is doing all he can to keep footpaths open as much as possible during this development. Access to the site along Milkwell Lane is now closed and I am pressing hard for resurfacing on Priory Gardens which should have happened in the summer holiday. I am working with chairman William Clouston and the rest of our Parish Council on projects to improve our public spaces - the railings outside the Co-op and Corchester Field being two in progress. Please stay safe and as ever don't hesitate to contact me: nick.oliver24@outlook.com or 07779 983742

I sit on the council's Climate Change Steering Group which brings together officers, external experts and councillors and there is an impressive range of work going on to reduce the carbon imprint of Northumberland - hydro electric schemes, solar energy, an innovative mine water energy scheme, electrification of the council fleet, higher standards for public buildings, addressing energy use of the council housing stock and much more. Investment into the Port of Blyth as a world centre of excellence for the offshore wind sector will create green jobs and more prosperity. While council officers are also looking at how we can connect Corbridge 'off-road' for cycling and walking.

We have some interesting local projects in Corbridge and I will keep everybody posted as they develop. In the meantime I'm always happy to speak to Corbridge residents and can be contacted on 07779 983742 or at nick.oliver24@outlook.com. Stay safe.

Nick Oliver (Northumberland County Councillor)



Money

For Nothing

Nicky Jones Furniture & Interiors in Middle Street was recently visited by the cameras for BBC1's Money For Nothing series. The programme saves things from being dumped and transforms them into valuable pieces which are then sold, making money for their original owners.

Nicky was filmed by Parvinder Gill from Glasgow-based Friel Kean Films after taking delivery of a coffee table transformed by London designer Daniel Heath.

Having recently moved from Hill Street to her new business location in the former Norma James' premises, Nicky said: "It was such an exciting day. Seeing the table in person was great as it totally exceeded expectations."

The programme is expected to be broadcast in a new series of the TV show in 2021.





L-R: Graham Curry, Paul Hagger, David Crompton, Fiona Forsythe, Maurice Hodgson and Nick Oliver.

Friends of Corbridge Station bring local people together and create a sense of pride in the station as part of our community. The group plays a critical role in making the station welcoming, pleasant and attractive for both residents, commuters and visitors alike and is about creating partnerships with local schools, community groups, charities and businesses to foster a sense of community spirit and promote access to and understanding of the railway across diverse groups.

Following the formation in 2018, the group has continued to meet, secure funds from various sources and arrange various additions to enhance the attractiveness and the experience of the station.

The initiative has enjoyed generous ongoing support and encouragement from Northern Rail, The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership, Visit Corbridge (which represents Corbridge's many businesses and organisations), and specific sponsorship from various local businesses.

The group is chaired by John Holmes and meets every couple of months in The Dyvels Inn which is close enough to the station for site visits. To date the improvements have included improved signage directing visitors to the village and the car park as well as the welcome addition of the very attractive village maps sited on both platforms showing the location of some of Corbridge's many amenities.

In addition the car park adjacent to the eastbound platform (owned by The Valley restaurant located in the old station masters house) is regularly tidied up, vegetation cut back, and litter removed. These working groups have convened three or four times a year and we would always be delighted to hear from anyone else who wanted to lend a hand. Litter picks take place on the station although Northern Rail's station maintenance contractors do a great job keeping things under control.

The new shelters on both platforms make the station much more welcoming and are a great improvement. The group maintains the Community Noticeboard on Platform 1 which displays details of local events in the



Chairman John Holmes with David Waugh



community and also successfully lobbied Northern Rail to remove the old unused cycle cages following the platform improvement works.

Following support with the supply of the plants from Visit Corbridge, the new planting boxes on the platforms have been much admired and these will be added to next season with further advice on species being greatly appreciated from Corbridge in Bloom.

There will be additional signage at the station later this year showing the Heritage Trail walks around Corbridge with the latest addition taking in the new Dyvels Bridge, following the great work done by David Waugh and other keen walking volunteers.

In the longer term the group is working with the developers of Tinklers Bank to incorporate an accessible link to Platform 2. The group is also having ongoing discussions with Network Rail, Northern Rail and the owners of the Tinklers Bank business park to look at the possibility of having a ramped access from Platform 2 to the business park car park.

It has been a challenging time for the village schools over the last few months but it is hoped that the pupils will benefit from the offers made by Northern Rail and the Tyne Valley Users Group for educational programmes including 'mobile classrooms' and visits to other station on the Tyne Valley line.

There is also a Facebook page which provides information as well as occasionally showing photos of Corbridge Station in years gone by. In the future we want to increase the provision of local information through more signage on the station to provide links and to promote our Hadrian's Wall heritage.

The group continues to liaise closely with Northern Rail and has been grateful for their ongoing financial support and also benefits from linking up with other Station Adoption groups from across the North to share best practice and glean other ideas for possible use.

For further information please contact John Holmes at holmes26@btinternet.com



VJ Day 75 Years on

The Corbridge branch of the Royal British Legion marked the 75th anniversary of VJ Day at St Andrew's Church on Saturday August 15. A short service by the Lych Gate war memorial was led by Sam Lohead followed by the lowering of the standard, a two minute silence at 11am and the laying of a wreath. The In Remembrance card read: "In memory of those who sacrificed all during Victory in Japan ending World War II. Forever In Our Thoughts. The Forgotten Army Shall Not Be Forgotten."



Remembrance

Ahead of the 2020 commemoration, this is an extract from St Andrew's Church vicar David Kennedy's sermon on Remembrance Sunday last year:

On the late afternoon of Sunday 7th December 1941, the Merchant Navy steamship SS Sauternes was lost off the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic and all 25 crew and passengers died. Its accompanying Royal Navy armed trawler HMT Kerrara survived.

SS Sauternes has an interesting history. Built in 1922, it was never designed for the often severe weather conditions of the North Atlantic. However, these were war years and so needs must. Its task was to supply the large British Army Garrison on the Faroes. The Faroes are a protectorate of Denmark, but Denmark was occupied. The British Garrison was strategic for the defence of the North Atlantic, to keep trade routes open as far as possible and as a first line of defence against the German fleet. The December visit of the ship was eagerly anticipated. It was called by the locals Jolaskipid, or 'the Christmas Ship', because as well as carrying 3,000 gallons of petrol, garrison supplies, 22,000 Danish Kroner, minted in Scotland, it was also on this December trip carrying Christmas puddings, Scotch Whisky, and Christmas gifts.

The ships arrived off the Faroes on the evening of 6 December. They could not reach the capital Torshaven because of a westerly Force 10 gale. Both ships were driven off course to the north east. The storm was worsening. The Master of the Sauternes telegraphed the Naval Headquarters in Torshaven, giving their position. Now there were two bays with very similar names, one was a relatively safe haven, the second in these conditions was treacherous. Tragically, through a misunderstanding, the Naval HQ Officer thought they were in the safe haven, whereas in reality they were in the eye of the storm near the open sea. Therefore the command to drop anchor was catastrophic. The gale increased to hurricane force. The Sauternes was being driven towards the open sea; it was taking a severe pounding, and 24 hours after arriving in the Faroes, it was overwhelmed as locals looked on helplessly from the shore.

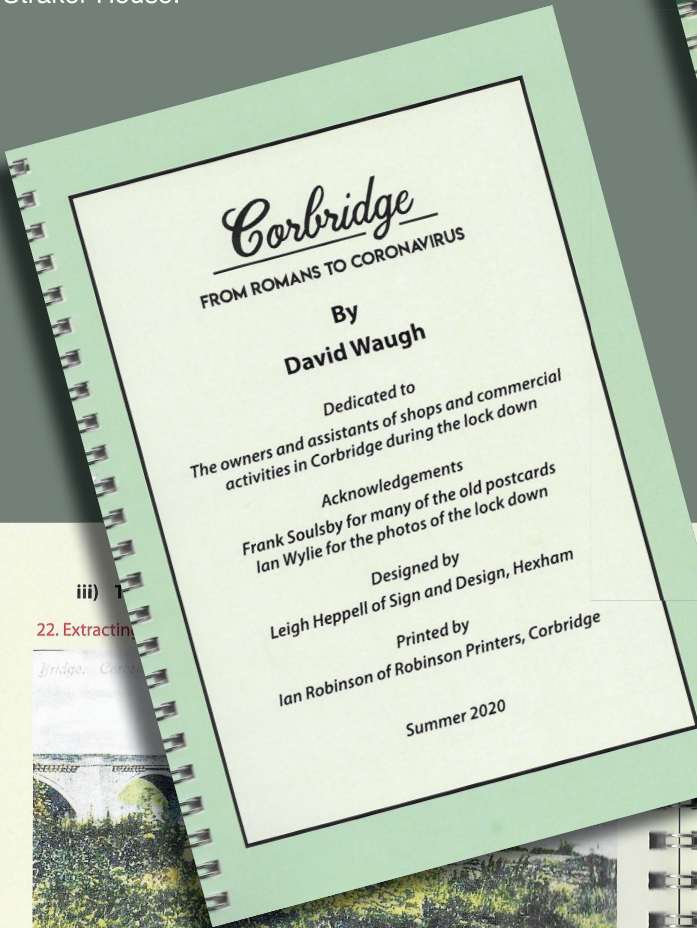
Most of the crew were young men in their 20s and 30s. The Master of that ship, Captain William Smith, was 69; the Master Chief Engineer, James Carruthers, was 44. Both of them were retired from active seafaring. In those days in the Merchant Navy, once you reached 40 you were assigned a land job. Both volunteered to go back to sea to

help the war effort. James Carruthers left a wife and two daughters, aged 11 and 9.

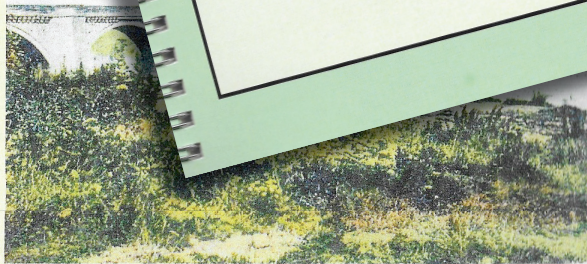
On the 15 July 2006, a small group of people stood on a grassy bank overlooking the place where the Sauternes was lost. There were two sisters, Irene and Margaret, now in their 70s, an Anglican priest, his cousin Gillian, Keith, a nephew of one of the ship's crew, and a wonderful Faroese policeman called Heri Andreassen, an expert diver, who in 2000 had found and excavated the wreck. Such was the esteem in which this ship was held by the Faroese people that a book about it had recently been published; they had never forgotten 'The Christmas Ship'. It was a bright and sunny day; the cliffs and the sea had a compelling beauty. Overlooking the sea, a service was held for the lost crew. Back in 1941, there was no funeral; the families of the crew were informed by telegram, there was little information. But now 60 years on, that was made good; all 25 names were read and remembered. A wreath was committed to the sea. The words 'They shall grow not old..' were solemnly read.

The reason I know so much about this is that I was the Anglican priest, standing with my mother and aunt and cousin; James Carruthers was my grandfather. For his late wife, Peggy, my grandmother, Remembrance Sunday was a sombre and tearful day, and while, as with so many of her remarkable generation, she had learned to live life as a widow with young children to bring up, hopefully and without quenching her amazing spirit, I learned at an early age the cost of war. You see, at the end of the day, all the thousands upon thousands of people we remember today, from those who served in the World Wars, to the more recent fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan, are real people, connected people, who loved and are loved. It compels me to offer my life to seek and serve those things in life that we most cherish: freedom, peace, reconciliation, tolerance, because it was those who gave their lives, often their young lives, who remind us so powerfully just how precious, how precious, this gift of life is. I can't imagine what living hell the crew of the Sauternes experienced in that fateful twenty-hours of fear, exhaustion, and despair in their so unequal struggle. And of course they died through human error and the ferocious power of nature, but they would not have been there in the first place had we not been at war. And what magnificence to come voluntarily out of retirement, as so many did. How proud we should be at such an example of selflessness.

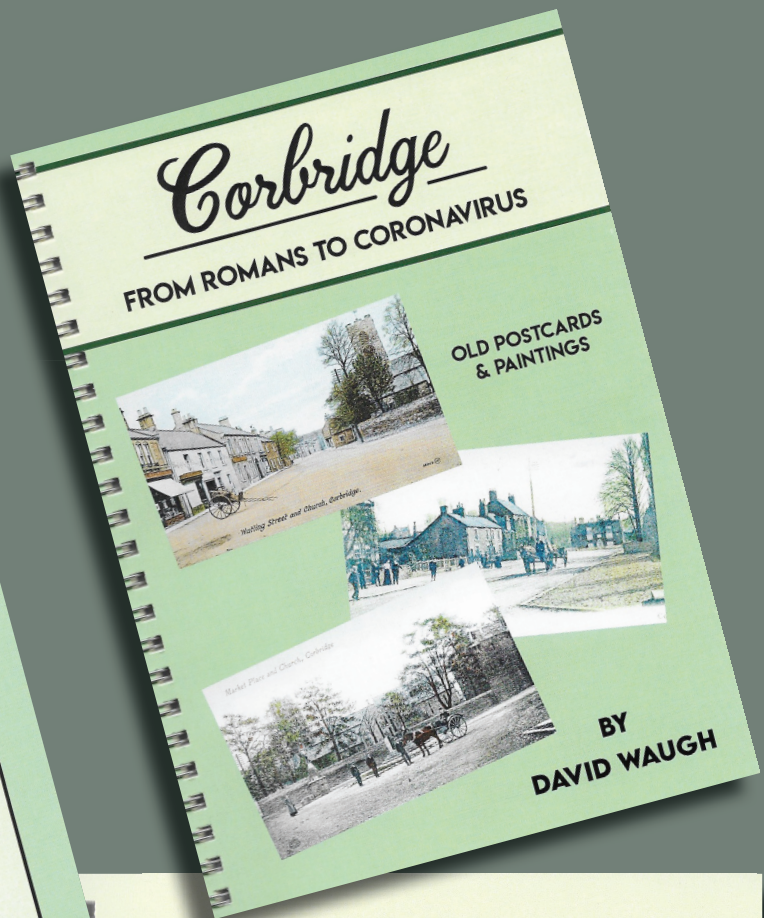
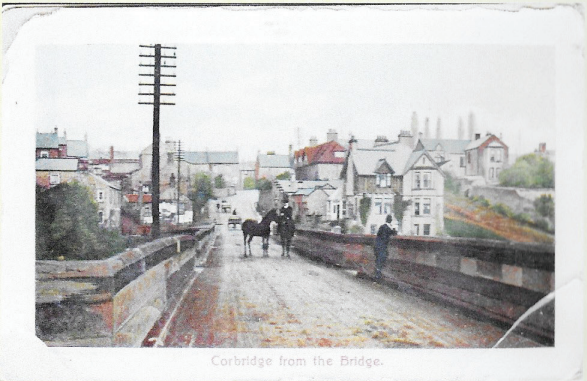
Just published. Featuring many images from Corbridge's historic postcard collection and detailed background information. Available now from Forum Books at The Chapel in Market Place. The price is £10, of which £5 goes to Charlotte Straker House.



iii) 22. Extract from
Corbridge, Corbridge



23. Looking north from the bridge to Corbridge (posted 1902).



iv) The Angel Inn

The oldest part of The Angel Inn, according to Pevsner and based on its architecture, is the left sided front doorway and the mullion window at its side (photo 24) which he said is late 17th century i.e. about 1680. This would be logical as it would follow soon after an increase in trade resulting from the opening of the present bridge in 1676. Certainly The Angel was open by 1726 which is the date on the sundial above this front entrance (The EWA stood for the owner, Edward Winship, and his wife Anne). However, recent correspondence with an American major suggests that his family acquired the land in 1569 when they lived at 'The Hole' (now Orchard Vale) and confirmed in Craster's 'History of Northumberland' (1913); Even so an inn, perhaps not called The Angel, must, due to its location, have existed here since the opening of the early 13th medieval bridge so as to provide the drovers, on their way to and from The Stagshaw Fair (page 10), with food, drink and probably accommodation. By the early 18th century it had become a posting inn and a stopping place for coaches between Newcastle and Carlisle.

24. The Angel Inn and the semis in Main Street (1910).



First School



L to R: Jennifer Ainsley, Sarah Gray

The start of term has brought additional life and laughter back to school and it has been so wonderful to have all of our children back in these first few weeks. For some children it has been a matter of weeks, for some it has been months and for others it's all brand new. No matter how long it has been, we are incredibly proud of the positive attitudes, huge smiles and enthusiasm that they have brought back into our school.

After such an unusual time during closure, our main priority is to ensure the children are settled and happy and we understand that this takes a different amount of time for every child. Many children are much more resilient than we expect and it has been very positive to see so many return to school ready for learning and happy to be back with their peers and teachers. As a management team we are very aware of the importance of supporting both staff and pupils through these unprecedented times and we have undergone some staff development to ensure we are prepared to give any support that may be needed over the coming term and indeed year.

As a staff we have been working hard to plan our curriculum which takes into account these most unusual times and ensures all children can be supported and challenged to continue to be the best they can be. Managing the changing rules and regulations and trying to advise parents as they seek advice from us, where the guidelines are not clear or open to interpretation, is taking a lot of time but it is with the support of our families and indeed the local community that we are working our way through challenges successfully and we can continue to provide the children with a safe and happy environment.

Some of the systems in school may be different for a while but the Corbridge Church of England First School spirit is alive and well. School is fun, engaging, practical, challenging and although we know this term is going to be exhausting, we are confident it will be equally fantastic!

Head Teacher Jennifer Ainsley / Deputy Head Sarah Gray

Corbridge Parish Council Grass Cutting Contract 2021-2024

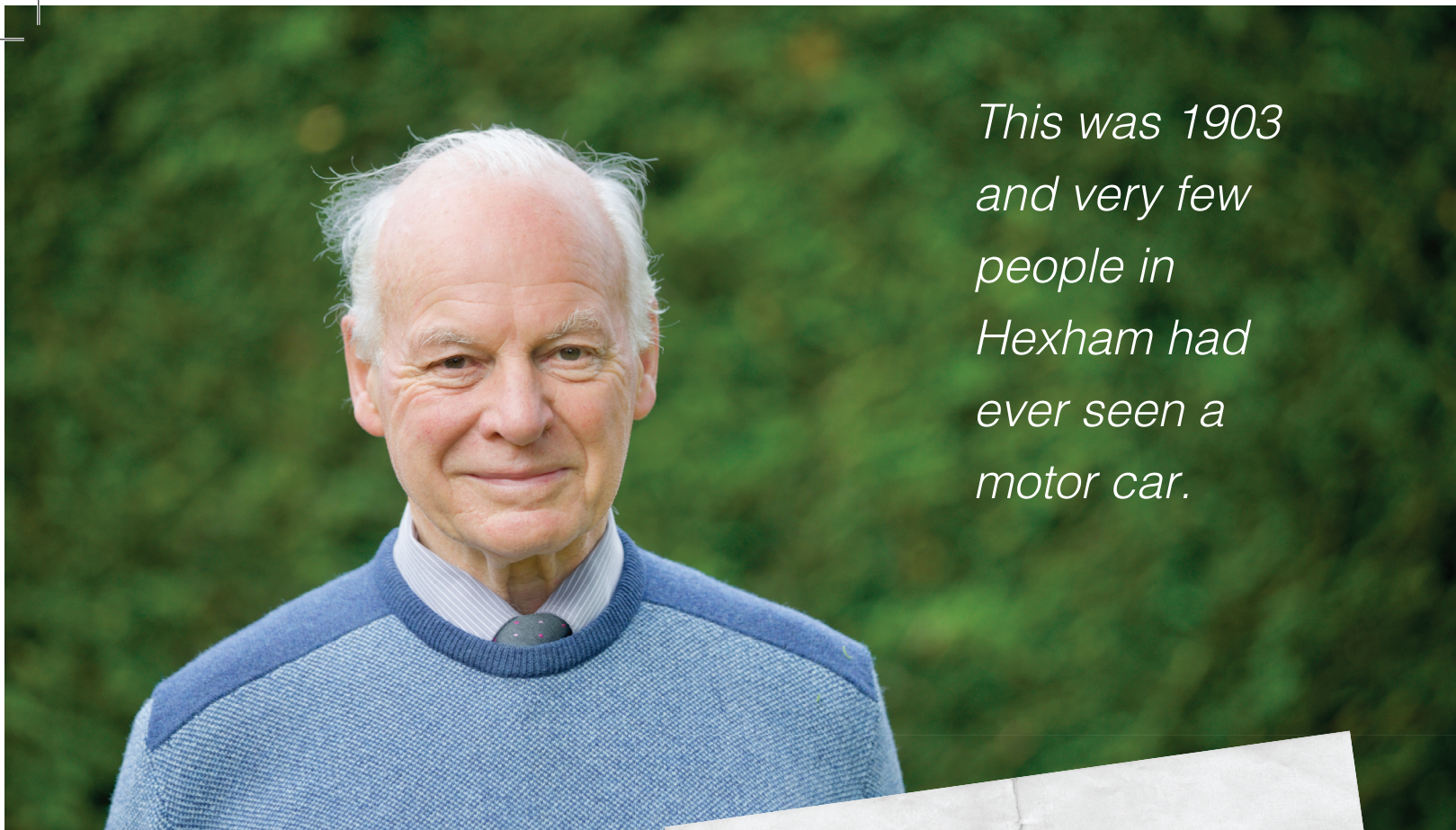
Tenders are invited for grass cutting and general maintenance in Corbridge Parish.

For further information and a schedule of works please contact:

Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council on 01661 852277 or 07950 297634.

Alternatively email corbridge@ukpc.net

Closing date 30th November 2020



*This was 1903
and very few
people in
Hexham had
ever seen a
motor car.*

Bishops Garage in Main Street marks its 100th anniversary on November 1st 2020. John Bishop reveals how its foundation was driven by love.

My grandfather John 'Jack' Bishop is the great grandfather of Julian Bishop, who is the present owner of Bishops Garage on Main Street in Corbridge. Jack was one of six boys in a crofting family living in the village of Ystradgynlais in the Welsh hills north of Swansea. Realising that being one of six children he didn't have a future in crofting, at the age of 14 Jack ran away from home to a deep mine and started looking after the cage and winding gear for a couple of years as a 'grease monkey'.

Then he heard that down in Swansea a Dr Parry had acquired a horseless carriage. This was around 1895, so very early days in the development of motor cars. Jack walked down from Ystradgynlais, found the home of Dr Parry and knocked on his door. When Dr Parry came to the door my grandfather said, 'Excuse me, sir. I understand you have a horseless carriage? I'm an engineer and I've come to look after it for you.' The doctor, to his eternal credit, said, 'I think you had better come in.'

Dr Parry realised this young lad had something about him and he educated Jack for a year or so, with his own children. Then when Jack was aged 16 Dr Parry rang a friend in Coventry - Maudslay - who was making motor cars and arranged for his friend to take him on.

Jack was with Maudslay for some years and really got to know motor cars, as they were then. In those days you not only had to make and sell cars, you then had

No. 52

MOTOR CAR ACT, 1903.

CITY AND COUNTY BOROUGH OF COVENTRY.

Licence to Drive a Motor Car (or Motor Cycle.)

John Bishop
30, Lough Street, Coventry
is hereby licensed to drive a MOTOR CAR (or MOTOR CYCLE) for the period

of twelve months from the 1st day of January
until the 31st day of December 1904 inclusive.

Maudslay
Chief Constable.

License Renewed
N.B.—Particulars of any endorsement of any licence previously held by the person licensed must be entered on the back of this licence.

THIS LICENCE IS HEREBY RENEWED, so as to be in force for twelve months from the _____ day of _____ inclusive. until the _____ day of _____

Chief Constable.

THIS LICENCE IS HEREBY RENEWED, so as to be in force for twelve months from the _____ day of _____ inclusive. until the _____ day of _____

Chief Constable.

THIS LICENCE IS HEREBY RENEWED, so as to be in force for twelve months from the _____ day of _____ inclusive. until the _____ day of _____

Chief Constable.

to teach the person to whom you had sold one to drive it. It wasn't as relatively simple as it is today. Because Jack was personable, Maudslay allocated him the task of delivering cars and teaching the people who had bought them how to drive them.

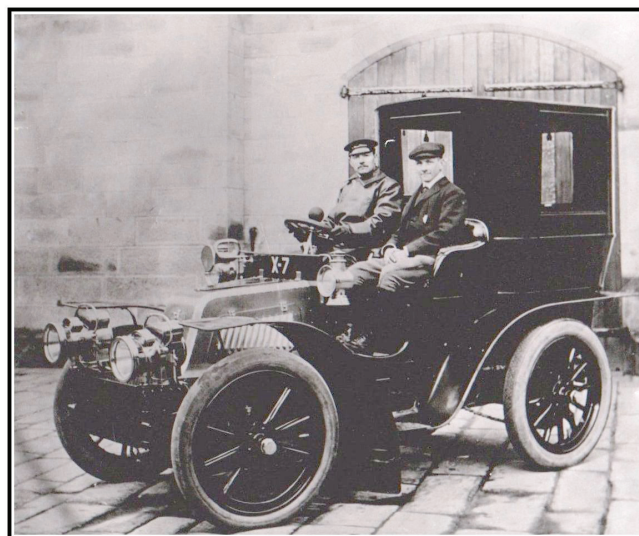
Bishops Garage Centenary

One of the people who ordered a motor car was Lady Dorothy Cuthbert from Beaufront Castle. So Jack accompanied the car on freight trains from Coventry to Hexham. He then drove it out of Hexham Station, turned right and then left up Hallstile Bank. Or Bull Bank as it was called then. One way down only now, of course.

When he got to the Market Place at the top he turned left and arrived outside a free house pub, which is now the Albert Edward Club. Inside was a barmaid called Ellen Lovat and he asked her the way to Beaufront Castle. She said, 'Why are you going up there? They're the land owners across the river.' And he explained he had a motor car to deliver there. She was amazed. Because she had never seen a motor car before. This was 1903 and very few people in Hexham had ever seen a motor car.

Ellen's father was a foreman at the Consett Iron Works on the steel making Bessemer plant. He had seen these horseless carriages and had told his daughter that he thought these were the future. So here she was, talking to a man who was the future. She gave him very precise instructions as to how to get up to Beaufront Castle. He would go back down Bull Bank, over the railway bridge, over the river bridge, up St Camillus Bank - with no Tarmac in those days - along the rear drive of Beaufront Castle and down into the courtyard.

The Cuthberts came out and told Jack to speak to their coachman, as he was the person who was going to drive this new car. So Jack started on the acetylene lamps, then went through the starting procedure with the starting handle, the gear change mechanism and so on.



Driver - John Bishop, Passenger - William Homsby, Car - 1903 Maudsley

But when he came to the manual advance and retard lever of the spark, Lady Cuthbert said, 'Stop, stop stop. My coachman knows all about horses. He's a very good coachman. But he knows absolutely nothing about this and he never will. So, if I am to have this motor car you must be my driver. Otherwise I don't want it. I've got nobody to drive it and you will have to take it back to Coventry.'



John Bishop Snr. (1879 - 1939) inspecting his workshop built in 1921

This was a problem. Because Jack knew the car was registered in her name. So he said, 'Can I have a couple of hours to think about it?' She replied, 'I think you should. It's very important to us and it's important to you.'

Jack and Ellen



“So back down the hill he went, over the bridge, over the railway, up to The Albert Edward Club, found Ellen and told her what had happened. Jack, who was quietly spoken, and Ellen, who had a business brain and did the accounts at this business, then had a good chat about the consequences of it all. Jack said, ‘I really don’t want to take this car back to Coventry because, if I do, my boss is going to say he gave me a new car and I’ve brought back a used one. That’s no good to him.’ So they talked and talked about it. And eventually they decided they would get married and he would take the job as coachman.

Ellen lived in Blackhill, Consett. So she had left home that morning, said goodbye to her foreman father and her mother, taken the train on the Derwenthaugh line from Blackhill to Blaydon. Changed in Blaydon and got the train along to Hexham, walking up Bull Bank to get to work. Can you imagine what Ellen had to say when she got home that night?

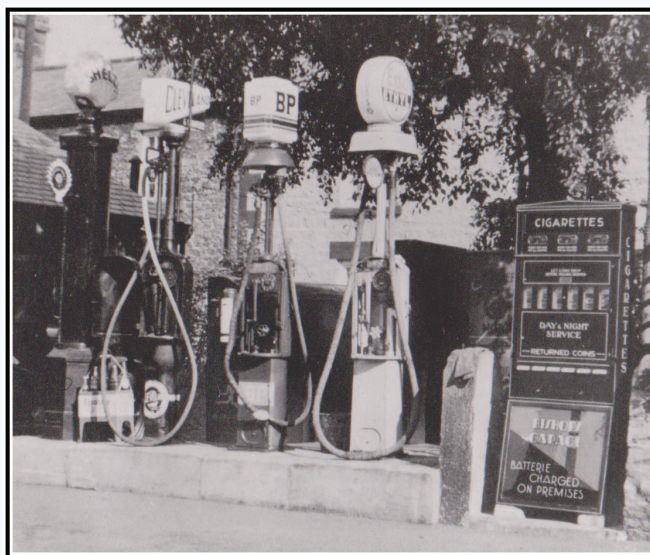


The Family in 1927 with the AA man and his bicycle

Jack and Ellen were married in 1906. The Cuthberts allocated them a house at Beaufront Woodhead. It was a very successful marriage. Their first son, my father, was born there in 1909.

In 1914 the First World War started and Jack was called up because he was a capable engineer and they were like gold dust then. He quite quickly was put in charge of a tank servicing division which employed some 450 men in a big workshop on the south coast. One day he was called up to head office. And while he was away a Zeppelin came over, bombed the factory and killed the group of people he had got together. Throughout his life he thought he should have been killed with his colleagues. He survived and after the war he resumed his duties.

In 1920 Jack and Ellen approached the Cuthbert family and asked them for a loan of £1,000 to start a garage in Corbridge. The Cuthberts, having always looked on the young couple with kindness and generosity, agreed. Jack and Ellen used the loan to buy the premises of W. Turnbull ‘Painter, Glazier and Paper Hanger’ and moved into Main House in Main Street where part of the garage forecourt is today.



Circa 1936 Petrol on offer: Shell, Cleveland, BP and Esso

Cars were initially fuelled using funnels and petrol cans, AKA jerry cans, which were gravity filled from a tap in a large tank standing above ground at the back of the premises. By 1928 the loan was repaid and shortly after four hand-operated pumps were installed. Motorists driving on to the pavement had a choice of Shell, Cleveland, BP or National Benzole petrol. Three revolutions of the pump handle delivered one gallon of fuel.

The sale of cars began in the early 1930s - mainly Morris and Armstrong Siddeley - and these were serviced in a wooden workshop at the rear of the premises which contained a pit to access



February 1947 - John Bishop with Sledge



1982

the underside of the vehicles. Plus a small tool room which housed a lathe, a pillar drill, both belt driven, and a grinding machine. A small heat treatment area was adjacent for the hardening and annealing (toughening) of steel parts after their manufacture.

By 1937, as repairs and servicing increased, lack of space became a problem which was solved by acquiring the property of A. Fairless, whose joinery business adjoined on the west side. This site enabled a new service department to be built, complete with electric hoists and pneumatic lubrication.



Demolition of part of Main House June 1983

Jack Bishop died in 1939 but Ellen and her two sons, Cecil and Stephen, were there to carry on the business as World War Two was declared. In 1941 the British Army requisitioned the new service department for the service and storage of its own vehicles. Younger brother Stephen was enlisted into the Royal Engineers and saw action in both North Africa and Italy.

After the war, in 1946, Bishops acquired the franchise to sell new Morris and Standard-Triumph vehicles which were much in demand. Petrol and diesel pumps were now electrically driven and in 1958 a new car showroom with offices above was opened behind a new forecourt which was

enlarged by the purchase and demolition of Mrs Rewcastle's sweet shop.

The business extended into Hexham and Bishops Garages became a private limited company. In 1968 Bishops took over the former workshop of recently retired plumber Archie Moffett. It is now Lawrence Stephenson Antiques.

The biggest change came in 1982 when the front of Main House was demolished to make way for the current four lane forecourt and new underground fuel tanks significantly increased the storage capacity. Pictures of this event show the price of fuel to have been 40.4p a litre.

In 1986 the large service department was divided into two units with a bodyshop equipped with full body jig and new air conditioning spray booth to the north and a smaller service department to the south. Most of the service work being concentrated in the Hexham business. The car showroom became a forecourt shop.

In 1998 Rover, now owned by BMW, announced the reduction of their rural outlets and both Corbridge and Hexham garages were advised they had no assured future selling the British product. This was a severe blow to the staff but the business continued to trade until March 1999, by which time future employment had been procured for all of the mechanics, parts men, body work staff and the office team. The forecourt shop became a SPAR outlet and the service department was converted into a showroom for Hedley Antiques, now The Corbridge Antiques Centre.

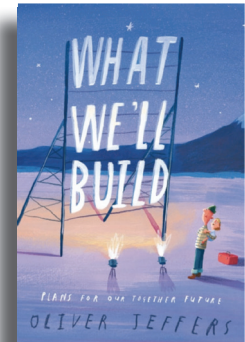
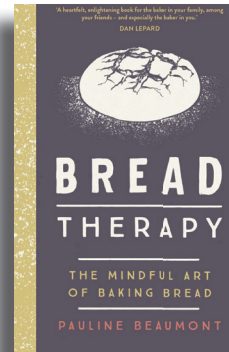
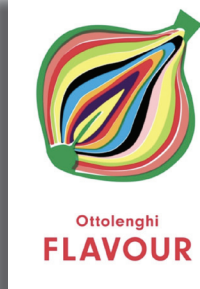
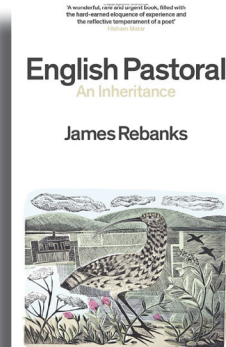
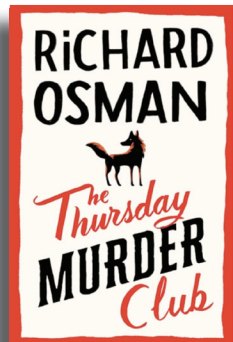
The family will have traded in Corbridge for 100 years on November 1st 2020. As has JD Hall Butcher in Hill Street which also marks its centenary this year. Yet despite all of the alterations and additions over the past century, tucked away at the rear (in RE:) is still part of the little stone built tool shop used by the founder of the firm...Jack Bishop

Forum Books On Screen

Forum Books at The Chapel in Market Place recently appeared again on BBC1's Look North programme when author Ann Cleeves was interviewed about her new Vera novel 'The Darkest Evening'. Forum owner Helen Stanton also featured in the report, talking about her appearance in Ann's new short story 'Frozen' which sees Vera investigating the case of a body found buried in the Corbridge bookshop, with Helen as one of the characters. Last month (September) Ann also launched her new DCI Vera Stanhope book at Forum Books via a virtual Q&A with Victoria Watson watched by a global online audience.



Forum Books



As the leaves turn, the days shorten and the nights fair draw in there seems no better time to fall into a comfy spot and curl up with a good book. And goodness, this Autumn there's a bumper crop of new books for you to enjoy.

Here are a few of our recent favourites we can heartily recommend:

No doubt you'll know **Richard Osman** from TV *Pointless* and *House of Games* - his first crime novel is an utter treat! We really can't think of anyone who wouldn't love 'The Thursday Murder Club' a fabulous murder mystery set in a retirement village just off the A19 in Kent. With touches of thoroughly British wit, bags of charm and a cast of characters that are great company... and best enjoyed with a slice of lemon drizzle cake.

A good page turner is always a good idea and another skilful murder mystery is 'Eight Detectives' by **Alex Pavesi**. Satisfyingly puzzling and brilliantly intriguing - just loved it.

There's also a good supply of chillers in paperback - some atmospheric, gothic grippers include **Andrew Michael Hurley's** 'Starve Acre', 'Pine' by **Francine Toon** and 'The Only Good Indians' by **Stephen Graham Jones** will all set a tingle down your spine and keep you up past bedtime.

Ben Macintyre's spy books read like a blistering Le Carre novel; 'Agent Sonya' is the incredible, true story of Soviet spy Ursula Kuczynski aka Mrs Burton who cycled round the Oxfordshire countryside gathering & transmitting intelligence.

'English Pastoral' from **James Rebanks** is beautiful passionate writing on farming, heritage and our countryside, and a way of life currently threatened. 'The Wild Silence' is **Raynor Winn's** much anticipated follow-up to the wildly popular 'The Salt Path'. And we have a huge soft spot for inspiring teenager **Dara**

McAnulty whose 'Diary of a Young Naturalist' recently won The Wainwright Prize.

In case your culinary repertoire needs a boost **Flavour** the latest cook book by **Yotam Ottolenghi & Ixta Belfrage** is out now and **Nigella Lawson** is back too with *Cook, Eat, Repeat*. A new favourite by Northumbrian author **Pauline Beaumont** 'Bread Therapy' is proving delicious reading too.

Local lad **Harry Pearson** makes a sentimental return to his first passion, the North East's football, in 'The Farthest Corner' - total result.

And we're completely spoilt for choice for children's books too from **Philip Pullman's** new hardback 'Serpentine' and 'Book of Dust' in paperback to **Oliver Jeffers's** 'What We'll Build' as a father and daughter set about laying the foundations for their life together, **Abi Elphinstone's** second instalment of *The Unmapped Chronicles* with 'Jungle Drop' and a brand new funny one from Tom Gates author **Liz Pichon** 'Shoe Wars'.



After Hours Browse: This month we are introducing after hours browsing to help you find your next favourite read, or even - dare we say it? - a Christmas present or two. You can book a half hour slot to browse at leisure with a helpful bookseller on hand for recommendations after hours from 5pm til 8pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout October and November. Please contact us to reserve.

Happy reading!

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Piano Recital



Due to the current Coronavirus situation, the series of public Autumn Music concerts at St Andrew's Church on Friday lunchtimes in aid of the church organ appeal had to be cancelled. But the first two weekly events did take place with audiences: Marc Bryant's organ recital on Sept 11 was followed by Cristo Harijan's (pictured) piano recital on Sept 18. Cristo is a budding 19-year-old pianist currently studying with Murray McLachlan at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Cristo was born in upstate New York and moved to the UK at the age of 12.

Fashion Show



L-R: Angela Jones, David Crompton and Rosemary Rayfield.

The cancelled Corbridge Charity Fashion Show, which was to be held at The Angel last March, raised a net total of £1,920. The trustees of Corbridge Youth Initiative and the Charlotte Straker Project thank all those who supported by donating the cost of their ticket and by purchasing raffle tickets. This enabled each charity to achieve a benefit of £960. Thanks also go to all of the local businesses for their support of the charities and for the donation of the raffle prizes.

*Rosemary Rayfield
(Corbridge Youth Initiative)
Angela Jones (Charlotte Straker)*



Charlotte Straker Project

With a wealth of over 30 years of nursing and NHS management experience, we are delighted to announce that Pam Crawley will become the new Registered Manager of Charlotte Straker House after Marilyn Hunter, our current manager, retires later on in 2020.

Pam has a wealth of nursing and care home management experience and she will take responsibility for the day to day management of the care home and charity. Pam started her career in the NHS as a registered general nurse and since then has worked in a variety of different private and NHS environments, whilst gaining qualifications in Education and Care Leadership and Management.

Berenice Groves, Our Chair of Trustees, said, "Pam is an experienced and motivated manager, whose strengths include managing people and providing high quality services in a care home setting. We are delighted that she has accepted the post of Registered Manager and know that her skills and knowledge will be a real asset to Charlotte Straker House."

"She is clearly passionate about making sure our residents receive exceptional care and that our hardworking staff are supported as much as possible. Marilyn has been an outstanding Manager and when she announced her retirement, we knew we needed to find someone who was as engaged and committed as she has been throughout her career in our nursing home. Pam will be a worthy successor."

Pam said, "I am absolutely delighted to have been given the chance to become part of the team at the Charlotte Straker Project. I have been thoroughly impressed with the standards of care and service and the commitment of every staff member. I am looking forward to working with colleagues, residents and families to ensure that the Charlotte Straker Project continues to make a difference to the lives of its residents and remains an essential part of the local community."

Marilyn will be retiring later in the year, and until then, Pam and she will be working in tandem, to ensure a smooth handover of the management of Charlotte Straker House.

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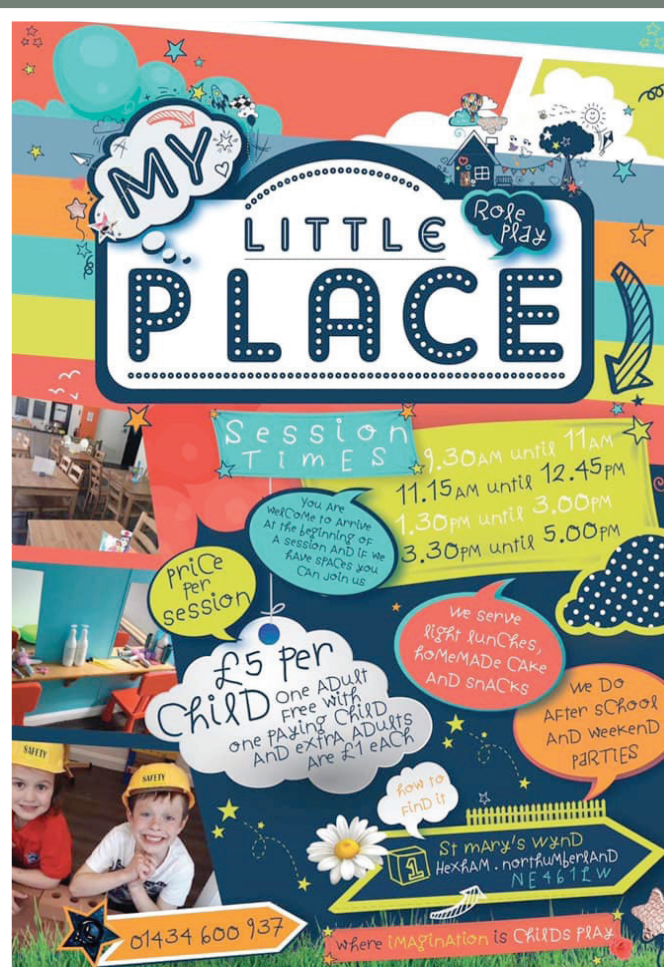
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