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CORBRIDGE MATTERS

December 2021 Issue 62
www.corbridge.ukpc.net

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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 at 7pm on Wednesday
January 26 and Wednesday
February 23 2022. Meetings are
held in the Parish Hall, St Helen's
Street, Corbridge.

Council Notes

Regrettably, the Parish Council's October meeting had to be cancelled because our Clerk Mandy Senior contracted Covid-19 earlier that month. I'm delighted to report that Mandy is on the mend but it's a stark reminder that the virus is still very much with us and that people can contract it even if double-vaccinated. Let's hope that our relatively high immunity and vaccination levels prevent difficulties this winter when the NHS is under strain.

Use of the Parish Hall is practically back up to pre-pandemic levels and the few organisations which have not continued operation have been replaced by new occupants. It's encouraging to see so much activity and I've been pleased to hear so much praise for the refurbishment work undertaken by caretaker Chris Urwin during the months of the lockdown. The forced closure of the Parish Hall turned out to be a great opportunity in this respect and I doubt we'd have done quite as good a job if we'd done the work in fits and starts. Silver linings.

Informal proposals for the refurbishment of the Victorian pavilion at Corchester Field were due to be presented to the Parish Council Meeting on November 24. I'm aware that some people think that the building should not be saved but I disagree. It's a historic building and I think it would be a great pity to lose it. I believe it has great potential to become a focal point for informal recreation - particularly in the summer months when families can enjoy good weather together. I will report back on our progress.

The Parish Council has created a Community Housing Scheme within the new housing development north of the Middle School. It will deliver a bungalow and three houses which we will let once completed. It is anticipated that the first of these houses - the bungalow - will be completed by Easter next year. Council house building has declined significantly over the decades and I hope that community councils such as ours can make a contribution to a much needed revival in the sector.

William Clouston
(Parish Council Chairman)



Huge thanks to local resident Michael Office who has initiated and coordinated a fibre broadband contract with Openreach for Aydon Road, Drive, Crescent & Way, Beech Drive, Bilberry Way, Craggside, Deadridge Lane, Jameson Drive, Milkwell, Milkwell Lane, Siskin Drive and Woodside Avenue. When I met with a Director of Openreach recently (the company that installs the broadband infrastructure that BT use) they assured me that work will start in the next few months, that the rest of Corbridge is included in their commercial plans and they will do all they can to roll out sooner rather than later. I will keep a close eye on this and continue to make the case.

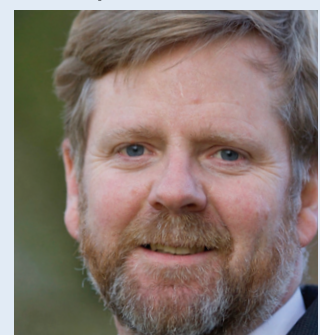
Feedback from pupils, parents and staff on the new facilities at QEHS is excellent although there are some snagging issues. Corbridge Middle School will soon have new modular classrooms and a new track for the 'Daily Mile'. I supported this project financially with my councillor's allowance because I passionately believe that fit and active children learn more and have better mental health. CMS head teacher Jane Kennedy will be moving on at the end of this term and I'd like to wish her all the best and thank her for the excellent work she has done. She will be a hugely missed by pupils and staff. Chair of Governors Jo Holmes stepped down a few months ago and she will also be missed – an extraordinarily hard working and committed governor. I'm sure the new regime will build on the excellent work Jane and Jo have done.

As William has reported, progress is being made with the Community Housing Project I initiated in 2018. This is an innovative and exciting project that will help people stay in the village when rising prices might have otherwise driven them out. I'm looking forward to the Parish taking the keys for the first unit next year.

Since the last column the pavement on the south side of Main Street, the road and pavement near the Dilston crossing and the bits missed on the Crofts Estate have all been resurfaced.

Another project I'm proud to have supported with my councillor's allowance is the refurbishment and enhancement of the St Andrew's Church organ which is now complete. I'd urge anybody interested to get a long to a service or a recital – the sound is beautiful.

As ever, don't hesitate to contact me if I can help - nick.oliver24@outlook.com or 07779 983742 **Nick Oliver**
(Northumberland County Councillor)



Remembrance 2021



Poppy Appeal volunteers led by Corbridge Royal British Legion chairman David Burnett at the St Andrew's Church Lych Gate war memorial. A newly married couple had earlier left their own tribute to the Corbridge men who were killed in the First World War. Photos of the Remembrance Sunday Parade will appear in the next edition.



Church Clock



(L-R): Mike Collins, Michael Rae and Paul Morris.

The St Andrew's Church clock was stopped for just under two days recently for the installation of automatic winding units. This brought to an end almost 125 years of manual winding of the clock mechanism installed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The original church clock was instigated in 1767 with two faces, as now, but only the hour hand. The minute hand was not added until 1861. The new mains powered electric winders were installed in the clock tower by William Scobie-Youngs and Daniel Todd of the Cumbria Clock Company.

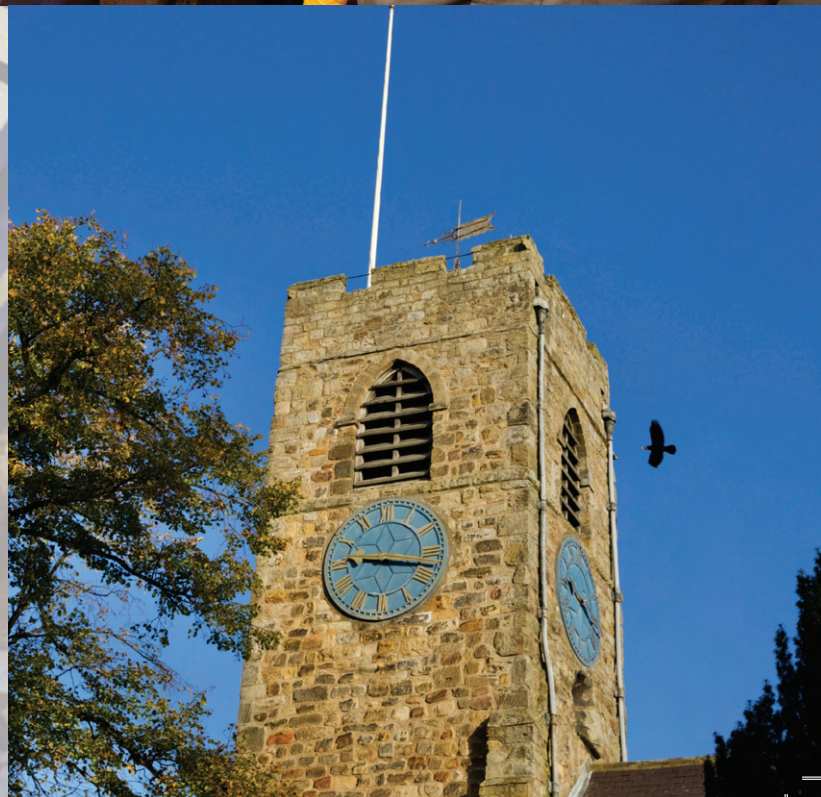
Church warden Jean Wilks said: "Last year it was agreed that we should automate the clock so we asked for funding from village organisations and from charitable trusts. Although the stairs, steps and handrails are in good order, the climb and the effort of winding are a potential safety hazard for our volunteers and one which we have been eager to avoid."



(L-R): William Scobie-Youngs and Daniel Todd.

Michael Rae, one of five members of the volunteer team who previously climbed the tower to wind the clock, explained how the procedure was done at least three times a week. "The weight that drove the quarter chime was extremely heavy so winding it after more than two days was really hard work."

The project has cost around £7000, funded by Corbridge Parish Council, Corbridge WI, Corbridge Village Trust, the Allchurches Trust, Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust and the Ecclesiastical Trust.



The First School is now in the final weeks of the 2021 Autumn term and we are so happy to have been together again in school, serving our children and families. This term we have welcomed new staff who have become part of the Corbridge CE First School family and we continue to live out our vision of being the best we can be.

Following the difficult challenges in managing the pandemic and its impact we are beginning to return to incorporating community and family events back into our calendar and ensuring the children and families can safely enjoy all school has to offer. Special lunches, including inviting our families to school, have been a blessing this term and I thank in particular Mrs Dobson, Mrs Steele and our kitchen and office teams for their work to make these events so successful.

Our Eco Council and School Council have both been elected and they are working hard with our new Executive Deputy Head Mrs Hart to ensure our vision to make a positive difference

Corbridge CE First School

can be realised. 'Be Bright Be Seen' and our 'Walk to School' month in October included a range of fun events, refreshed our commitment to safe and sustainable travel and doing all we can to raise awareness and make good choices. We've enjoyed being back in St Andrew's Church for our Harvest and hope to celebrate Christmas with them very soon.

Donating to our local foodbanks, raising money for the Royal British Legion, supporting Children in Need, Save the Children and the Children's Society (to name a few) are achievements which make us so proud of the children. They are learning each day how they can make a difference and we know they will continue to grow and remain assets to their communities as adults.

This year, following so much disruption, we are all enthused about delivering our progressive, exciting and broad curriculum in school. Autumn term has definitely seen super progress and exciting learning. The families and staff worked hard during home learning and I am so grateful for all they achieved. Being back together is invaluable and for this we count our blessings. We are still being responsible and working under restrictions to manage the risks associated with COVID-19 but the children are once again learning together. We have enjoyed this term developing social skills, being back in our school family and we continue to watch children flourish with the support and commitment of our fantastic staff team.

This term Corbridge CE First School became part of a hard federation as the shared leadership partnership with Broomhaugh CE First School in Riding Mill became officially recognised. The staff teams are already benefitting from sharing practice, working together and supporting each other...we are stronger together. We are excited for a continued bright future for our Federation of Broomhaugh and Corbridge CE First Schools.

Jennifer Ainsley, Executive Head Teacher



NOTICE BOARD



St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge.

Tree Festival Information 2021

The festival will take place between Friday 3rd and Tuesday 7th December (inclusive).

Opening Times

Friday	3 rd December	9.30am to 7.00pm
Saturday	4 th December	9.30am to 7.00pm
Sunday	5 th December	11.30am to 4.00pm
Monday	6 th December	9.30am to 8.30pm
Tuesday	7 th December	9.30am to 5.00pm

Refreshments will be served between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

Opening times and safety assessments may have to be altered if there is an increase in covid.

www.corbridgechurch.org.uk

Corbridge Church Times

St Andrew's Church

Parish Communion at 10am every Sunday plus:

Sunday Dec 5 at 4pm: Songs of Praise among the Christmas Trees.

Sunday Dec 12 at 3pm: Messy Church / 6pm Evening Prayer.

Sunday Dec 19 at 6pm: Service of Reflection and Hope for Christmas.

Thursday Dec 23 at 7pm: Carols For All in the churchyard.

Christmas Eve Friday Dec 24 at 2pm: Crib Service / 6:30pm: Candlelight Carol Service / 11pm: Midnight Communion with candles at the crib.

Christmas Day Saturday Dec 25 at 10am: All Age Family Communion

St Stephen's Day Sunday Dec 26 at 10am: Parish Communion

Please note that these services may have to be altered if there is a change in the Covid situation. Up to date information will be on our noticeboards, church website and Facebook page.

Corbridge Methodist Church

Service at 10:45am every Sunday, including December 26.

Corbridge Pentecostal Church

Meets at the Parish Hall at 11am on most Sundays. See the Parish Hall listings.

Christmas In Corbridge

This year's 'Christmas In Corbridge' night will consist of village shops staying open for festive late night shopping on Monday December 6 when Hexham Brass and the Prudhoe Gleemen will be performing from early evening in the St Andrew's Church yard. The 2021 St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival will also be open until 8:30pm on that Monday night. See their poster on this page for more.

Corbridge Gardening Society welcomes new members. We have monthly lectures over the winter months, and over the summer months we have various social events, shows, open gardens and day trips. including a holiday. For more information visit our website: www.corbridgegardeningociety.org.uk or telephone 01434 633138.

Corbridge Parish Hall December 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
16:00 - 17:30 Zumba Kids	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	10:00 - 13:00 Lace Class	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Badminton	10:30 - 01:00 CS/CYI Christmas Extravaganza	
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	10:00 - 15:00 Tuesday Art Group	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	10:30 - 12:30 Singing	13:30 - 14:30 Pilates, Dance and Therapy for Posture	10:30 - 01:00 CS/CYI Christmas Extravaganza	
19:00 - 20:00 Dilston WI - committee meeting	10:00 - 12:30 Lace Class	15:30 - 20:45 Corbridge School of Dance	13:30 - 16:30 Art Group	17:00 - 19:00 Karate		
19:30 - 20:45 Corbridge School of Dance	13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago		17:00 - 18:00 Supastrikers			
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club		19:30 - 21:30 Piper Badminton			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge WI	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	10:00 - 13:00 Lace Class	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Badminton	09:00 - 17:00 Charity Event	10:00 - 14:30 Corbridge Pentecostal Church
16:00 - 17:30 Zumba Kids	10:00 - 15:00 Tuesday Art Group	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	10:30 - 12:30 Singing	13:30 - 14:30 Pilates, Dance and Therapy for Posture	19:30 - 21:30 Tynedale Scottish Country Dancing	15:00 - 23:45 Music Event
16:30 - 18:30 Life Drawing Class	13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago	15:30 - 20:45 Corbridge School of Dance	13:30 - 16:30 Art Group	17:00 - 19:00 Karate		
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club		17:00 - 18:00 Supastrikers			
			19:30 - 21:30 Piper Badminton			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16:00 - 17:30 Zumba Kids	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Badminton		10:00 - 14:30 Corbridge Pentecostal Church
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	10:00 - 15:00 Tuesday Art Group		10:30 - 12:30 Singing	13:30 - 14:30 Pilates, Dance and Therapy for Posture		18:30 - 22:00 Corbridge Film Nights
	13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago		13:30 - 16:30 Art Group	17:00 - 19:00 Karate		
	13:15 - 15:00 Corbridge in Bloom - Committee Meeting		17:00 - 18:00 Supastrikers			
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club		19:30 - 21:30 Piper Badminton			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	19:00 - 21:00 Parish Council Meeting		00:00 - 23:45 Christmas Closure		
	13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago			00:00 - 23:45 Christmas Closure		
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club			00:00 - 23:45 Christmas Closure		
				00:00 - 23:45 Christmas Closure		
				00:00 - 23:45 Christmas Closure		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Christmas Closure						

diary

Corbridge A Z U M A

A London to Edinburgh Azuma train passing through Corbridge Station recently during one of a number of weekend diversions along the Tyne Valley line because of upgrade works on the East Coast Main Line north of Newcastle. The Friends of Corbridge Station group has continued to look after the station planting boxes this year and these have recently been planted out for the winter with generous donations from Visit Corbridge. The shelters on both platforms are due to be decorated again for Christmas while the group has also been promoting the Corbridge Heritage Trails.



Corbridge Apple Juice

"A great community effort." That was how one of those involved described a sparkling new enterprise in aid of local charities Charlotte Straker and Corbridge Youth Initiative. The idea was to make use of Corbridge apples that might otherwise go to waste to produce Corbridge Apple Juice to then be canned and sold. A community apple pressing weekend at Corbridge Cricket Club in early October attracted a large number of apple donations. They were then washed, pulped and pressed by volunteers to produce juice in a Corbridge Community Partnership project in association with Hadrian Border Brewery at Newburn.

Almost 1400 cans of Corbridge Lightly Sparkling Apple Juice were subsequently produced by the brewery at cost price, with almost half the stock sold within a week - both direct and at a local community fair. The cans cost £2 each or £24 for a box of 12. But at the time of writing this it is not known if any will be left for sale in December. An update on stocks / sales will be provided in due course on the Corbridge Community Facebook page.

John Maude, who helped lead the project, said: "Huge thanks to the 30 or so local households who brought apples or allowed us to raid their gardens - accosted by just one irate householder who'd heard there were some dodgy looking old blokes nicking her apples. Her husband having the day before agreed we could! Thanks too to Corbridge Youth Initiative, Charlotte Straker and Corbridge Community Partnership for their volunteers who joined the excellent picking, cleaning, pulping and pressing squad over the first weekend in October, a great community effort.

"Among the many who helped, two deserve a special mention: Chris Roberts who has been with me in appreciating the joys of apple pressing for many years now and whose idea it was to can the apple juice. And Andy Burrows of Hadrian Border Brewery who popped in to drop the brewery van off on the Saturday morning and ended up staying the entire weekend, doing much of the pressing, as well as bringing all of his experience and care to canning the juice for us at the brewery."

Over £2000 is expected to be raised in total, to be split between the two charities. With plans to repeat the project next autumn and, hopefully, produce larger stocks of Corbridge Apple Juice if even more people come forward with donations of apples.



Apples at the Cricket Club



John Maude



Apple helper Chris Stewart



John Maude & Chris Roberts



Apple helpers



Andy Burrows



Production at the Brewery

Church Organ



The new pipes



John & Malcolm Lightbown

St Andrew's pulls out all the stops

Work to refurbish and enhance the St Andrew's Church organ is now complete. The organ console was fully restored while a short distance away every pipe was removed and cleaned. With the exception of the 16 foot basses, which were treated in place. The work was carried out by Malcolm Lightbown of John Lightbown and Sons in Tynemouth. An Organ Restoration Celebration weekend was held in October, including brief talks and recitals to demonstrate the refurbishment and enhancement of the organ given by Organist Emeritus John Ross (adviser to the project), John Roper and Marc Bryant. Among those attending were Malcolm Lightbown and his father John, who carried out the last restoration in 1979. A Service of Celebration with the Rededication of the Church Organ was held the following day. It also featured a special cake baked by Lynn Ward.



The special cake baked by Lynn Ward



John Ross, John Roper and Marc Bryant

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T	Forrest Yoga 09:30-10:30	Core Strength 18:30-19:00	Restorative Yoga 19:15-20:15
W	Meditation 09:00-10:00	Forrest Yoga 10:30-11:30	
TH		NHS Only 17:30-18:30	Forrest Yoga 19:00-20:15
F	Restorative Yoga 09:30-10:30		
S	Monthly Workshops - See www.yoga-with-natalie.co.uk		
SU	Forrest Yoga 11:00-12:30		



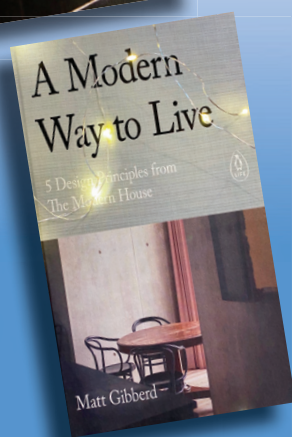
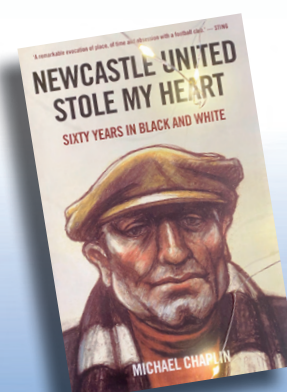
07874 891371

hello@yogawithnatalie.co.uk

Primlea Air Ambulance Event



A recent coffee morning at Primlea Court in Corbridge raised £542.95 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service. The organisers would like to thank all of those who supported and helped. Pictured are (L-R): Jean Proud, Judith Taylor, Mo Lucas and Pauline Cunningham.



Forum Books

Hello readers. Season's greetings and readings! At this time of year we love to share our suggestions for your festive gifts - I'm sure you'll agree that books are the best present to find under the tree.

We start with a hat-trick of unique memoirs sprung from the author's obsessions. First up, football. Most of you will have a friend or family member who's been excitedly discussing the new owners of the Toon and how they might spend their millions: for them - at a fraction of the cost of a replica strip - look no further than **Newcastle United Stole My Heart** by **Michael Chaplin**. In this football memoir with a difference, the celebrated playwright and screenwriter tells the story of his six-decade love affair with the club through eleven iconic matches: the players who graced them, the men in the dug-out, as well as the backdrop outside the stadium - of an ever-changing Newcastle itself. A must-read for football fans.

From footy to foodies and an actor many of you will recognise from roles in films like *The Devil Wears Prada*, **Stanley Tucci** - he is also a food obsessive and his new book - **Taste: My Life Through Food** - is an utterly charming look at his life in and out of the kitchen. Written with wry humour and real emotion this is a nourishing and irresistible read for anyone who appreciates the importance of a home-cooked meal. Each morsel of this gastronomic journey - through good times and bad, five-star meals and burnt dishes - is simply delicious: as Nigella says, "It's impossible to read this without becoming ravenous." You've been forewarned, keep biscuits and cheese close at hand.

Haruki Murakami's books are beloved by millions around the world and many readers know about his 10,000-strong vinyl-record collection and his obsession with running, but few have heard about a more unusual passion: his T-shirt-collecting habit. In **Murikami T: The T Shirts I Love** the literary icon opens his eclectic closet. Alongside beautiful photographs of his extensive collection are essays that reveal a side of the writer rarely seen by the public; revealing much about Murakami's multifaceted and wonderfully eccentric persona.

Other beautiful books we would be as happy to gift as receive include **A Year Unfolding: A Printmaker's View**, a gorgeously illustrated guide to nature through the seasons by the much-loved printmaker **Angela Harding**. It's a truly stunning work, a celebration of the artist's prints and the changing seasons.

A Modern Way to Live is another lavishly illustrated book, telling the stories of some remarkable living spaces, and demonstrating how you can apply just five principles of design to enliven your own space in ways both large and small. Revolutionary in its simplicity, and full of elegance, humour and joy, this book will inspire you to find happiness in the place you call home.

Rooted in River Cottage's tradition of seasonality and sustainability, **Christmas at River Cottage** brims with inspirational and indispensable recipes for the festive table. Combined with **Lucy Brazier's** gorgeous ideas for crafting and decking the halls, planning ahead and feeding a crowd, it really is the perfect book to curl up with and get Christmassy.

Sofia Nordgren's stunning location and food photography in **The Nordic Baker** is so beautifully distracting you might not notice these are all plant-based bakes. You'll find thumbprint cookies, rhubarb galettes, cardamom rolls and cinnamon bun muffins, blueberry cheesecake, Swedish butterkaka, lemonades and ice creams...seasonal and simply inspired by nature, it's one to embrace.

And, should you need a little help to get into the Christmas spirit, look no further than **The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories**. An eclectic selection of the most magical, moving, chilling and surprising Christmas stories from around the world, taking us from frozen Nordic woods to glittering Paris - now in a beautiful clothbound edition.

Whatever you gift or cosy up with I hope it brightens your Christmas. Thank you so much for sticking with the bookshop this year and here's to a wonderful Christmas time and the very best in 2022!

Helen



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Due to Covid having a massive impact on our fundraising activities, we need to raise £30,000 to contribute the funding of our Respite Care Bed for the next 12 months.

Our respite bed is now fully open and provides free of charge short-term respite care to those that need 24 hour nursing. It is a vital service to the local community and is entirely funded through charitable donations and grants.

For more information and to donate please visit
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Thursdays 5pm & 6:30pm

Corbridge First School

St. Helen's Lane NE45 5JQ

Contact JANE 07814 805464

For more information, visit our facebook page
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