



# CORBRIDGE MATTERS

April 2023 Issue 70

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

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# Council Notes

What makes a high trust community? The state of care and repair says a lot about the morale of a place and its people. It's something you can sense in a city, town or village upon arrival. We're fortunate to live in a high trust community. In relative terms crime is very low in Corbridge. It is - and should be - the type of place that a bicycle can be leaned up against a wall for a few minutes without it disappearing and many of you may have seen me put this idea to the test on a daily basis. High social trust, to some extent, has become an urban/rural distinction across the world. I remember a friend telling me about buying a house a few years ago in the remote Limousin region of France. He asked the seller - had there been any crime in the locality? The seller, looking a little sheepish, replied - 'yes, someone stole a ladder in 1967!'



With regard to care and repair, I've been encouraged that so many people have stopped me in the street to register appreciation at the work done by Parish Council handyman Andrew Cunningham. If you see freshly painted black railings, steps brushed down, signs mended or path edges cleared the chances are that Andrew has been at work. I can't emphasise enough how important these little things are in making our village the special place it is. The sterling efforts of Corbridge In Bloom also make the point. The spaces they have created on Aydon Road and on The Chains are magnificent and will improve as the shrubs and trees they have planted grow in future years. Likewise, the day to day efforts of Chris Unwin at The Parish Hall - inside and out - are appreciated by everyone using and visiting it. It's the little things which really count in the upkeep of civic buildings.

Can you build a civilisation on trust? Well, some certainly think so. I love the story of a young Lee Kuan Yew - who later became Prime Minister of Singapore - visiting London in the late 1940s. He came out of the tube station at Charing Cross and was very impressed to see a bundle of newspapers for sale and a box with coins in it. The newspaper seller had gone away for a few minutes. The system worked on honesty which made Lee Kuan Yew reflect, 'this is really a civilised society'. Sadly, I think things have changed a little in this respect since the 1940s but that is the sort of society we want to build and maintain in Corbridge. A place where people look out for each other, participate, take pride in their community - and where a bike can be propped up against a wall for a few minutes without being pinched.

**William Clouston**  
(Corbridge Parish Council Chairman)

The first of our Community Houses for rent - a bungalow - is now occupied and by the time you are reading this we will have completed the further purchase of three semi-detached houses. This innovative project gets a small community organisation (Corbridge Parish Council) involved in providing housing at a very local level. It's a modest project and if it could be replicated the length and breadth of the country it would make a real difference addressing the national housing shortage. This is a point I will be making at every opportunity to those with influence in these matters.

The consultation has taken place on the plans for the Market Place and we are considering the feedback with a view to next steps. A key theme of feedback has been potential loss of car parking. Parish Council chairman William Clouston and I met with the Leader of Northumberland County Council Glen Sanderson, Cabinet portfolio holder John Riddle and a senior council officer to find ways to accelerate delivery of more car parking for Corbridge. I will report again after our follow-up meeting.



Parish Council handyman Andrew Cunningham is making a real difference with the jobs he is doing around the village and we are really pleased to have him on board. A few people asked me for a fence around the Riggs play park and Mandy has organised that so that young children can play in a secure area. Karbon Homes have been in touch to say they will be managing their grounds maintenance themselves this year. This means we can expect a better standard on The Chains, Milkwell, Synclen, The Riggs and Roman Way. I hope it also means there will be no need for regular calls and meetings.

I've been in touch with WeFibre who are proposing to deliver more fibre broadband to Corbridge. They are finalising their plans but as soon as I know where, when and how much I will let everybody know.

I am pushing hard for resurfacing on Glebelands and have reported potholes at the entrance to the Crofts where there has been some patching. A footpath will be created on the short stretch without one at Farnley this year so that people living up there can walk into the village safely. The long awaited 20mph zone in the centre of the village will also be created. We are currently in discussions with the County Council about the area it will cover.

As ever please contact me on 07779 983742 or [nick.oliver24@outlook.com](mailto:nick.oliver24@outlook.com) if I can help.

**Nick Oliver**  
(Corbridge County Councillor)



# Corbridge Bake Off 2023



## The Great Corbridge Coronation Bake Off



- \* Simply bake your best cake - of any kind - and bring it along to St Andrew's Church between **10am and 2pm on Friday May 5.**
- \* Cakes do not need to have a Coronation / Royal theme.
- \* Four categories: **Adult / Under 11 / Aged 11 to 16 / Professional.**
- \* A panel, chaired by **BBC Look North's Carol Malia**, will then carry out **private** judging with all cakes tasted.
- \* The results will be available at the church from **4:30pm** on that Friday.
- \* **ALL** cakes will then be sold (**cash only**) at the church between **5pm and 6pm** with proceeds going to The Charlotte Straker Project and the Corbridge Youth Initiative.
- \* **Entry to the Bake Off is on condition that your cake will be available for sale in aid of the two named charities.**



Having been cancelled last year after the death of The Queen, The Great Corbridge Bake Off returns next month (May) on the eve of the Westminster Abbey Coronation of King Charles III. Although this is reflected in the the 2023 event title, cakes do not need to have a royal theme. See the poster on this page for full details. There will also be cake at the Coronation Day Tea Party organised by the Parish Council at Corbridge Parish Hall between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday May 6 - the day after the Bake Off. All welcome.





As we prepare for Corbridge Cricket Club's 137th season, we look forward to welcoming Corbridge villagers to the beautiful Stanners ground. If you haven't found us yet, we're just over the bridge. Then a little walk down river. Or drive carefully to the end of The Stanners Lane from the junction for the station.

Every Saturday afternoon from 15th April we have a league game at the ground with plenty of seats to enjoy some village cricket. And the bar is open to all for a cup of tea, ice cream or something stronger. Our wonderful sponsors are Hadrian Border Brewery, run by Corbridge residents Shona and Andy Burrows. They play an active part in the club, not least in ensuring our draft Tyneside Blonde and Tyneside Pils are served in perfect condition!

The 1st XI captained by Chris Fowler has recruited new players Matthew and James Percival, Adam Newton and Dan Owen this year. We also welcome back our popular Kiwi Tom Palmer. So we are looking to improve on last year's 5th place in the Northumberland and Tyneside league Division 3. Graeme Tiffin's 2nd XI should move up Division 6, while Mattie Thompson's newly promoted mid-week team aims for another top table finish. We are always looking to recruit new players – just get in touch!

Karen Chomse has done an outstanding job in developing cricket for women and girls, now very much a mainstream sport. This year we have women's senior softball (a fun, popular sport) and hardball teams, and an Under 13 girls' team. As well as all our other squads and teams, which are mixed. Practices for all on Friday evenings. New players welcome, no experience necessary.

165 juniors were actively involved playing cricket at Corbridge last year. Most of the junior coaching is on Fridays when lots of families enjoy a social evening at the club. Many children have fun playing on the field long after their session has finished. Leading our coaching we are lucky to have Russell Perry, a highly qualified coach and Northumberland County (and Corbridge!) player. Tony Robson, formerly English Cricket Board (ECB) head of coach education, supports our great squad of qualified coaches, most of them Corbridge team players.

The club is run almost entirely by volunteers. We have 240 active sports players, 12 teams, our own ground and pavilion, and annual spend of £60,000. There is always plenty to do!

We welcome anybody who would like to help, and we can promise a lot of fun at the same time. There are lots of opportunities. For an hour or two, or more, to suit you:

- On the playing side: coaching, junior team organisation, scoring, umpiring.
- In support: bar and catering, grounds/buildings maintenance, member and general admin, finance, social media, fundraising, marketing, events.

# Corbridge



Main activities: see website for more information and on-line sign-up for most programmes.

Age Group	Programme	Date/time	Lead
<b>Junior Coaching (all mixed apart from specific girls only sessions)</b>			
Reception to Year 3	ECB AllStars Programme, an introduction to cricket with lots of fun games.	Fridays 5 – 6 pm from 19 <sup>th</sup> May for 8 weeks	Mattie Thompson
Years 4 to 6	Under 11's squad, with separate groups by age/ability	Fridays 6 – 7 pm from 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Mattie Thompson
Years 7 and 8	Under 13's squad	Fridays 7 to 8 pm from 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Wayne Denham.
Years 9 and 10	Under 15's squad	Thursdays 6 to 7 pm from 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Tom Weston
Girls only years 4 upwards	Girls only squad	Fridays 4.30 to 5.45 pm from 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Karen Chomse
<b>Seniors</b>			
Women and older girls as invited	Women's Softball	Fridays 6 to 7 pm from 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Karen Chomse
Adults and older teenagers as invited	Senior Nets	Thursdays 7 to 9 pm from 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Chris Fowler Graeme Tiffin
Adults Informal cricket	Just turn up and play an informal game	Thursdays 6 to 8 pm, alternate weeks to be confirmed	
Quoits	Club practice – just turn up and have a go	Sundays from 2 pm; Tuesdays from 6 pm, from April	Mike Robinson





# Cricket Club

We look forward to seeing you at the Stanners soon!



Do get in touch with Ian Haggie and get involved with the minimum of formality. For some roles we'll need to arrange Safeguarding checks. As an ECB Clubmark accredited club, we take safety and welfare very seriously.

Although proudly a village club, we are determined to have excellent quality playing facilities: Over the last 30 years we have built and extended changing rooms and replaced the pavilion after Storm Desmond in 2015 saw off the old one. As well as investing in sight screens, covers, an electronic scoreboard, rainwater harvesting, solar PV panels and playing surface improvement. Next on the agenda we plan to replace and extend our well-used practice nets. Soon we will launch a fundraising appeal, spearheaded by club President Chris Jowsey.

We have good playing facilities and a lovely ground, and (we hope) provide a warm welcome. So we are a popular venue for County junior and Over 50 and Over 60 games. We look forward to hosting the Durham and Northumberland Over 60's against Scotland on 20th April and against Lancashire on 2nd May. Spectators most welcome.

It's not just cricket. The thriving Corbridge Quoits Club has regular and very convivial practices and three teams in the Allen Valley League. We host Corbridge Anglers who use one of our rooms and the car park, as well as yoga and a sewing bee/crafts group. We are very happy for local people to use the car park for a riverside walk, and the ground for recreation.

The popular family fun day raising funds for Corbridge Youth Initiative and the Charlotte Straker Project is on Sunday August 27th.

Like everyone, our costs are increasing. We aim to raise income to add to bar surpluses and player subscriptions. The club room is a great venue to hire for parties, meetings and training sessions. Sponsorship boards are available and the ground itself can be hired. Please get in touch if you are interested.

For more information go to our website [www.corbridge.play-cricket.com](http://www.corbridge.play-cricket.com) or scan the QR code.

You can contact us at [corbridgecricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:corbridgecricketclub@gmail.com). Or ring our secretary Mike Robinson on 07470 571006, business lead Ian Haggie on 07890 414033 or chair John Maude on 07791 590814. For quoits, "young Mike" Robinson on 07775 503872.





Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fortnight was a successful two weeks of fun, learning and investigating. **Professor Brainstorm** performed his 'Fantastic Forces Show' for us and it was truly fantastic - from huge spud guns to magical hovering ping pong balls...he proved that 'SCIENCE IS FUN'! It was an absolute delight to see so many grown-ups join us for the open afternoon and get a feel for the children's sheer excitement.

We held our very first Rainbow Day. The children made a beautiful rainbow on the playground, showing that we can all be different but work together as a fantastic community. **Reverend David** and **Reverend Sam** also spent time with the children, sharing the life story of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and reading to classes. At Corbridge CofE First School we proudly say that it doesn't matter what you look like, what you believe or who you love: LOVE HAS NO LABELS!

The rapper and actor, **Kema Kay**, who visits schools to inspire young people to achieve their dreams and fight prejudice came to see us. Kema shared the story of his life: leaving Zambia at the age of three to move to Newcastle where he was, "The only black skinned child in the school." He said that, through music, he was able to share his experiences and make others understand who he was. Kema involved the children in a forum theatre workshop where they acted out and resolved a bullying problem. He was absolutely blown away by the kindness and mature attitude of the children at CFS.

World Book Day was a resounding success with so many wonderful costumes on display. We loved walking down to Forum Books to spend our vouchers and felt very lucky to have such a fantastic resource on our doorstep.

**Suzanne Hart**  
**Executive Headteacher**





# First School

"We have had  
a wonderful  
Spring Term  
at Corbridge  
First School so  
far!"





# NOTICE BOARD

# 2023 diary dates

## St Andrew's Church

**Palm Sunday April 2 at 10am:** Parish Communion with procession of palms.

**Maundy Thursday April 6 at 7:30pm:** The Communion of the Last Supper.

**Good Friday April 7 at 11am:** Messy Church.

**Good Friday April 7 at 2pm:** Ecumenical worship.

**Easter Day April 9 at 5:30am:** Service of Light and Dawn Communion.

**Easter Day April 9 at 10am:** Family Easter Communion with Easter eggs.

**Easter Day April 9 at 4pm:** Ecumenical Easter Praise with Corbridge Methodists.

### After Easter Day:

Parish Communion at **10am Sundays**.

Evening Prayer at **6pm Sundays**.

Holy Communion at **10am every Wednesday**.

RIVER service: **4pm on Sunday April 23**.

## Corbridge Methodists

(See also the Ecumenical services listed above)

**Maundy Thursday April 6 at 10am:** Service at St Andrew's Church.

**Thursday April 27 at 10am:** Service at St Andrew's Church.

## Tynedale Christian Ministries

Welcome to our Christian Church at Corbridge Parish Hall.

**Each Sunday 10:30** Coffee followed by 11:00 Service  
Ring 633532

Weekly House Groups

Follow us on Facebook – Tynedale Christian Ministries

## Saturday / Sunday June 10 / 11

Corbridge Steam Rally at Tynedale Park.

## Thursday June 15 to Sunday June 18

Tynedale Beer & Cider Festival at Tynedale Park.

## Thursday June 22

A Midsummer's Evening In Corbridge.

## Thursday July 27 to Sunday July 30

Corbridge Chamber Music Festival.

## Sunday August 20

Northumberland Classic & Performance Vehicle Show.

## Sunday August 27

Corbridge Family Fun Day at Corbridge Cricket Club.

## Saturday September 2

Corbridge Village Show at the Parish Hall.

## Friday December 1 to Tuesday December 5

St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

## Monday December 4

Christmas In Corbridge.

All listings on this page and in the Parish Hall diary are subject to change.



## Organ Recitals

at St Andrew's Church at 12:30pm to 1:15pm on the following Fridays:

**April 21:** Hexham Abbey organist Michael Haynes.

**May 12:** Assistant Director of Music at Newcastle Cathedral Kris Thomsett.

**Coronation Day Tea Party:** 2pm to 4pm on Saturday May 6 at the Parish Hall. Hosted by Corbridge Parish Council. All welcome.

**Tea and Chat:** 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday April 12 at the Corbridge Community Hub (former Methodist Church building) in Princes Street. All welcome to come along for this informal social gathering organised by St Andrew's Church which may become a regular event if there is a demand for more.

**Corbridge Community Partnership Public Meeting:** 6:30pm for 7pm Tuesday April 25 at the Community Hub (Former Methodist Church) in Princes Street.



# Corbridge Parish Hall

April 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
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 Tynedale Christian Ministries
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	16:00 - 19:00 Private Booking	16:00 - 20:45 Corbridge School of Ballet	10:30 - 12:30 Charlie's Choir	13:30 - 14:30 Line Dancing & Spiral Pilates		
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club		16:00 - 21:30 Corbridge Gardening Society - Spring Show	17:00 - 19:00 Karate		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge WI	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	17:00 - 19:00 Karate	10:00 - 15:00 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries
16:00 - 17:30 Zumba Kids	13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago		10:30 - 12:30 Charlie's Choir			
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	16:00 - 19:00 Private Booking					
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	17:00 - 19:00 Karate		10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries
	13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago					18:30 - 22:00 Private Booking
	16:00 - 19:00 Private Booking					
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	13:30 - 14:30 Line Dancing & Spiral Pilates	09:00 - 17:00 Formal Dress event	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries
	13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago	16:00 - 20:45 Corbridge School of Ballet	12:45 - 14:00 Guide Dog Puppy Class	17:00 - 19:00 Karate		
	16:00 - 19:00 Private Booking					
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	13:30 - 14:30 Line Dancing & Spiral Pilates	09:30 - 13:30 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries
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	16:00 - 19:00 Private Booking					
	19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club					

diary

St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge

## St. John Passion J.S. BACH

Played and sung by The Bishop's Consort  
Directed by David Stancliffe



6.30pm

Palm Sunday 2nd April

Admission £15.00, £10.00 concessions, £5.00 Students,  
Children free

Tickets may be purchased from Forum books, or on  
line ticketing: [www.wegotickets.com/](http://www.wegotickets.com/)





# Green Shoots

## **Corbridge Gardening Society**

*Founded 1887*

# Saturday 20th May 2023

## **ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



**At Corbridge Parish Hall, St Helens Street  
From 10.00am – 11.30am (or until plants run out)**

**Cash Only Admission Free**

**Shrubs; Trees; Fruit; Herbaceous; Houseplants; Misc.  
Plants from the rare and unusual to everyday tough plants and good doers.**

### **NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME**

**The Society aims to promote, encourage and further all aspects of amateur gardening. A social friendly group, we have a wide range of activities including talks, Spring and Summer shows and garden trips.**

**Membership is open to all local residents with annual subscription of £10**

*To find out more go to [www.corbridgegardeningssociety.com](http://www.corbridgegardeningssociety.com)*

Corbridge Gardening Society, which meets once a month in Corbridge Parish Hall, has returned strongly following the challenges of the last couple of years through Covid. The society continues its aims to promote and encourage all aspects of amateur gardening and to help everyone get more out of gardens and gardening. It takes every opportunity to persuade all members to be actively involved in its running and development.

A social friendly society with over 250 members, we have a wide range of interests growing plants, flowers, vegetables and fruit, running spring and summer shows where the social aspect dominates. Garden photography is also encouraged. Visits to gardens by way of day trips, self drive trips, an annual three to four day holiday and our own member gardens are arranged.

We run a series of winter Zoom meetings with talks on a variety of gardening topics by nationally recognised speakers to supplement the summer talks.

Our annual Plant Sale to which members contribute plants will be held at the Parish Hall on Saturday May 20. See the poster for more details. It raises funds to support the society's activities and enables us to make donations to local good causes.

Membership is open to all residents of Corbridge and surrounding areas and costs £10 a year. Our members range from old hands to those just starting out.

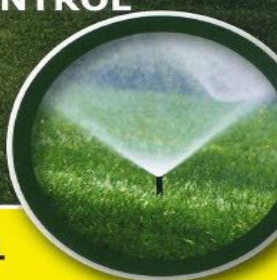
For more information go to <https://www.corbridgegardeningssociety.com> or scan the QR code.



## **MOLE HILLS ON YOUR LAWN? PEST CONTROL FOR MOLES...**

**PAUL ARMSTRONG GARDEN  
SERVICES AND PEST CONTROL**  
**IS YOUR LAWN LOOKING  
LIKE A MINE FIELD?? FOR A  
FAST AND EFFICIENT  
SERVICE TO ELIMINATE THE  
PROBLEM..**

**CALL PAUL ON 07901997071**





# Corbridge Community Hub



If you've walked past the Corbridge Community Hub in Princes Street recently then you will have noticed some changes.

There is new signage outside the former Methodist Church building and work has also been going on in both the hall and the 'New Room'.

The former has been painted with new lighting installed while the latter has been turned into the Corbridge Heritage Centre, due to open soon.

Initial core users of the Hub building have been found but more are needed, along with volunteers to make this project for the whole community work in the long term.

That includes volunteers for the Heritage Centre with flexible dates and hours available. All will be briefed on Corbridge history. If you think you might be able to help, please contact us for more information via the email address at the bottom of this text.

Corbridge Community Partnership, working with the local Methodist Circuit, hope this historic building can be saved for community use rather than it becoming an expensive house or apartments.

The CCP has the support of both the Methodist authorities and Corbridge Parish Council with the aim of providing space for local organisations and activities in addition to the Parish Hall. With the CCP currently in the process of becoming a registered charity.

A public meeting will be held at the Community Hub at **6:30pm for a 7pm start on Tuesday April 25** with all welcome to discuss future plans for the use of the building as well as taking a look around.

And as part of the long Coronation weekend we will be participating in the '**Big Help Out**' event on **Bank Holiday Monday May 8**. It aims to highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities.

Local charities Charlotte Straker, Corbridge Youth Initiative and Tynedale Hospice at Home, as well as the CCP, will be at the Community Hub from **11am to 3pm** on that day to provide information about what they do along with opportunities for volunteers.

In the meantime you can contact us at:  
[corbridgecommunitypartnership@gmail.com](mailto:corbridgecommunitypartnership@gmail.com)

**Maurice Hodgson**  
CCP Chairman





# Down By The River



Corbridge Riverside Sports Club held its traditional annual ceremony on February 1st to mark the start of the salmon fishing season on the Tyne. We started with an excellent breakfast at Corbridge Cricket Club followed by a walk down to the riverbank where our chairman recited a couple of fishing poems, and we toasted the river and the salmon with a 'wee dram'.

The club was formed in 1934 as a village club for swimming, rowing and fishing and by 1948 had become solely devoted to fishing. It is now one of the few remaining traditional village clubs on the Tyne and has thrived, growing to over 60 members. We have access to several miles of trout and salmon fishing on the south bank of the Tyne extending below and upstream of the bridge along with some local trout fishing. We pride ourselves on being a friendly local club, and hold various events during the year, culminating in our annual dinner and trophy presentation.

We are always looking for new members from the village and are particularly keen to welcome juniors, ladies and beginners. This season we will consider applications from Riding Mill and Bywell Parishes as well as Corbridge.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information please visit our website at [www.crscfishing.co.uk](http://www.crscfishing.co.uk) or scan the QR code. You can then fill in a contact form and we will get back to you. You can also find us on Facebook.

Alternatively you can email us at [info@crscfishing.co.uk](mailto:info@crscfishing.co.uk)





# All Our Yesterdays

## QUEEN VICTORIA.

\*\*\*  
It would be impossible to present this first number of the "Corcestrian" to its readers without making allusion to the event which saddened the beginning of this year for all in our vast Empire, and without paying some tribute, however feeble, to the wonderful qualities of the great and good lady who ruled England and the Empire, and influenced the destinies of the whole world for so many glorious years. We are enabled to present our readers with a portrait of our late beloved Sovereign, taken during her visit to Ireland last year. No doubt it will be given the place of honour in the picture gallery which adorns the cubicles of so many amongst us.

## THE CORCESTRIAN

March, 1901.

Contents.

Portrait of Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria.

Editorial.

Letters to the Editor.

The Proclamation of the King.

Queen Victoria.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE.

\*\*\*  
THE Memorial Service at Corbrigg Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 2nd, was attended by so many people that our seats were invaded by those who could find no room elsewhere. The second form of authorised service was used, and it certainly seemed from the demeanour of the congregation that it was a personal loss which had been sustained and that it was not a mere official function. Beethoven's Funeral March was played at the beginning of the service, and Handel's Dead March in "Saul" at the conclusion, all standing.

Royal events of today were echoed in the very first edition in March 1901 of 'The Corcestrian' - a new magazine for Corchester School in Corbridge, now Corchester Towers apartments.

It included a tribute to Queen Victoria, whose death on January 22 of that year had ended a reign of 63 years and 216 days. Only surpassed by Queen Elizabeth II whose death last September came after 70 years and 214 days on the throne.

There was also a report on the journey some of the school pupils had made from Corbridge to Hexham to witness the Proclamation of King Edward VII, eight days after his mother's death.

Known as Bertie, the King's Coronation was held at Westminster Abbey on August 9 1902 but his reign was relatively short. He died on May 6 1910.

*The postcard shows the scene in Market Place before a Memorial Service at St Andrew's Church on May 20 1910, the day the King was buried at St George's Chapel, Windsor.*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KING.

HAVING learnt that the Proclamation of Edward VII. as King of England was to take place at Hexham on Wednesday, January 30th, we as loyal subjects, putting aside all idea of Football, Hockey, or any

other form of amusement, determined to be present on an occasion which was an unique experience for all of us. The journey to "The Heart of England" being duly accomplished through the slush and frozen snow, after climbing an extremely steep ascent, we emerged on the Market Place, where a crowd had already gathered in anticipation of the ceremony. We got fairly good places and waited till what time some stalwart members of the Northumberland Constabulary drove back the crowd and thereby let us into the front row. In the centre was a deal table, in skirmishing order, supported by a chair. We had hoped to see the Sheriff of Northumberland in his official dress, but our hopes were crushed. He had delegated his duties on this particular occasion to the Under Sheriff who wore the blameless costume of an English gentleman's frock coat and eye-glass. Notabilities arrived. Then an expectant hush. The band of the Volunteers edged their way into the circle, but, alas! they had not found time to don their uniform, and though the big drum did his best to give one the idea that he was a "military man," the general effect was poor. But lo! more police enter the ring and then two trumpeters in uniform, followed by the Under Sheriff and more notabilities. The time had arrived! A blare from the trumpets, which some of us opined to be the "Last Post" in memory of our late lamented Queen, but which turned out to be a 'Royal Fanfare.' Then the Under Sheriff read the Proclamation, punctuated it at the end of each line (which we never do), and wound up with the formula so strange to us, 'God save the King.' The band, as aforesaid, played the National Anthem. Speeches were delivered, some of them only audible to the speaker, cheers followed, and on the stately pile of the old Abbey, the Union Jack, which had been hanging dolefully half-mast, fluttered to the summit of its staff, an example not followed by the flag on the Moot Hall, which was probably abashed at being on a lower level. The ceremony—one which we hope may not be repeated for many long years—was over.

Then was mooted the question of return. The majority, no doubt overcome by the quantity, if not quality, of the speeches delivered, voted for the train, and returned ignominiously by that route. A sturdy minority preferred the walk, and on their way down the very steep street, mentioned before, a ludicrous sight presented itself. Little boys had been making a slide down the pavement, which was narrow. As we were picking our way cautiously down the middle of the road, boys came sliding down. A door suddenly opened, and an irate gentle-

man, apparently a tailor by trade, issued forth, intent on inflicting personal damage on the youths who were profaning his doorstep in this way. The passing boy ducked and evaded his persecutor, nearly coming to grief in the process; but our friend the tailor (for so he must have been who would interfere with a boy's sliding—not a man, but the ninth part of a man) finding himself in an exceedingly slippery place, retired from the combat, and we passed on our way laughing consumedly. We returned to Corchester a bit tired, but imbued with a distinct feeling of superiority over those who had taken refuge in the train, and who had only beaten us by a few minutes. But, in whatsoever way we returned, we shall not easily forget the Proclamation of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII.

KING EDWARD VII. MEMORIAL SERVICE  
CORBRIDGE, MAY 20, 1910

Continued overleaf



# THE CORCESTRIAN

No. 1.

March, 1901.

Vol. 1.

## Contents.

Portrait of Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria.  
EDITORIAL. TOBOGGANNING.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. THE MAGIC LANTERN.  
THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KING.

MEMORIAL SERVICE. QUEEN VICTORIA.  
A POSSIBLE PRESIDENT. By HERBERT HAYENS.

LORD ARMSTRONG. With Portrait.  
A CHAT ABOUT RAILWAYS. By E. H. SYNGE.

ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS.  
THE NEW BOY'S STORY. By ERASMUS.

ILLUSTRATED.  
HOBBIES.—BENT IRON WORK. By C. E. RATCLIFFE.

WITH DIAGRAMS.  
THE EDDYSTONE LIGHTHOUSE.

ILLUSTRATED.  
ANECDOTES. STAMP PAGE

SOUTHAMPTON  
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\* \* \* \*

## TOBOGGANNING.

THE hill on the road to Sandhoe offers a splendid toboggan run with a turn at the top, a sharp turn at the bottom and a straight unobstructed run at the end. The only drawback is that it faces the south, and so gets the full strength of the mid-day sun. Meyer constructed a jump at the steepest part of the descent which accounted for more than one spill. We only got one really good day's sport, with the snow crisp and hard all the time; the other days it was always in a half melting condition. It is a great pity that there were only two properly constructed toboggans available, those of home manufacture being quite unsuitable; the sport is so much more enjoyable when there are a number of toboggans, and skill can be exercised in racing and passing each other without collision.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,

I think that we ought to be taught book-keeping, for I'm always getting into a row for losing my books, and how can we be expected to keep them if we're not taught.

Yours truly,

SMILAX.

\* \* \*

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

This is the first time I've ever written to the papers, but I hope you'll put it in. The Pater always says it is only silly fools who write letters to the *Times* complaining about things, and that they never get any good by it; I suppose he's tried it. Anyhow I think I've got a real grievance this time. I want to ask you if you think it's fair that after stewing at Latin all the week, we should be forced to go for a walk along the Roman Wall on Sunday; there are plenty of English Roads about, and it's jolly hard lines to be obliged to talk about *muris* and *vallum* and *fossa* on Sunday. Don't you think so? I think the Wall should be out of bounds, for I know it's awfully dangerous and infested with robbers because Walter Scott says so.

Your aggrieved friend,

A TRUE BRITON.





#### EDITORIAL.

**A** NEW century, a new School, and a new Magazine, to say nothing of an Editor entirely new to his work, offer certain difficulties in the composition of a readable Editorial Column.

Moreover, during the few short weeks in which the School has been in existence, nothing of very great importance has occurred in the internal affairs of our little community.

Of course, like every other community, large or small, in our vast Empire, we have been deeply stirred by the mournful events of the last month, but that is alluded to in more detail elsewhere, so I will not touch further upon it here.

Perhaps it would be as well if your editor were to take this opportunity of putting on record in this, the first number of the Corcestrian, some of the facts relating to the starting of the School in order that future Corcestrians may be able to learn, when the School has by far exceeded its present numbers and become one of the largest institutions of its kind in England, how from small beginnings great things grew, and may be able to point to this or that famous man and say, "his name is on the first School List of Corchester."

Though the School was originally started some eight or nine years ago, its numbers had dwindled till of the old lot only six were left with which to begin the new era, viz., V. Alcock, H. Brown, D. Paisley, K. Mountain, J. Chapman, and G. Chapman; the rest of the number consisting of six boys who were previously at Mr. Smart's school at Gateshead, viz., R. Affleck, C. Mearns, E. R.

Bowden, E. A. Leybourne, R. M. Swinburne, W. Mulholland, and to these must be added one boy, K. Meyer from Kristiania, new not only to the School but to England.

Thirteen boys; an unlucky number you will say, but fortunately for those who believe in such things, though unfortunately for everyone else concerned, the situation has been saved by the unlucky illness of the two Chapmans, both of whom fell sick during the Holidays, the elder with scarlet fever, and the younger with measles, and who now are both on their way to India on a voyage of health.

The Masters who came with Mr. Smart to start the School are Mr. J. H. T. Goodwin, of New Coll., Oxford, and Mr. A. E. Morgan, of Durham University. The visiting Masters are Mr. Ralph Morrison who teaches music, the Rev. C. H. Gulliver who teaches drawing, and that very smart soldier, Sergt. Instructor Robertson, of the Army Gymnastic Staff, who teaches Gymnastics. Mrs. Alcock, who was matron in the old School, continues to act in that capacity.

Like Kipling's "Ship that found herself," it took some little time for all to settle down into their places, but that has been accomplished and things are now working harmoniously.

The very unsettled weather has certainly provided us with a variety of amusements, but also with several disappointments, for it has been no unusual thing to see the sharp frost of the morning, full of promise of skating, degenerate into a rapid thaw by the afternoon, and the snow-covered roads become slushy thoroughfares as fit for a boat



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# Forum Books

*Hello Readers*

When JB Priestley made his English Journey in 1933, he didn't make it to Corbridge. But the writer, both beloved and bemoaned by generations of schoolchildren for his play 'An Inspector Calls', did make it as far as Newcastle.

He wasn't in the best of humours when he arrived, however. He was nearing the end of a trip that had already taken him from Southampton to the Black Country, from Bristol through the Cotswolds and up to Yorkshire...and he'd picked up a cold there - poor fellow - in Ripon. He was not in the best mood to appreciate the Geordie accent, which he seems to have found deeply unpleasant. And Gateshead? Well Gateshead 'appeared to have been carefully planned by an enemy of the human race'.

Reprising that journey, almost 90 years later (and 40 years after Beryl Bainbridge had also followed in Priestley's footsteps) is **Stuart Maconie**. Stuart seems to have been in much better spirits during his time in the north east, despite a Quayside hotel which stank of moss and had stained mattresses piled high in the car park. He is rather more appreciative of the north east in his new book, **The Full English**. So much so that he's returning to Newcastle - and the Wylam Brewery - for an event with Dan Jackson on **Tuesday 11 April**. Many of you will be familiar with Dan's wonderful book **The Northumbrians**, and together with the 6 Music DJ, the evening should be as entertaining and informative.

**Tan Twan Eng** has not been to Corbridge either. At least, not yet. His sublime Booker shortlisted novel, *The Gardening of Evening Mist* has been a firm Forum favourite and he'll be coming to Corbridge for the first time to talk about his new novel, entitled **The House of Doors**, a sweeping tale set in the 1920s and based on real events.

In Penang, well-to-do lawyer Robert and his steely wife Lesley are visited by their old friend, Willie Somerset Maugham. Beleaguered by an unhappy marriage, poor health and business interests gone south, the great writer is struggling to write. But as he prepares to leave and face his demons, Lesley confides that she is connected to the case of an Englishwoman charged with murder in Kuala Lumpur - a tragedy drawn from fact and - godsend for Maugham (and now Tan) - worthy of fiction. Tan will join us in Forum Books on **Tuesday 16th May**.

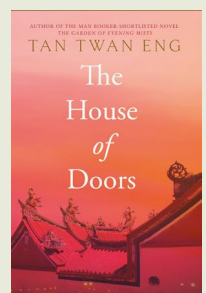
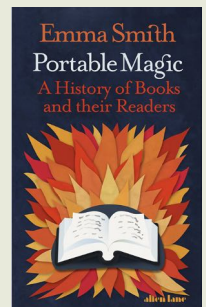
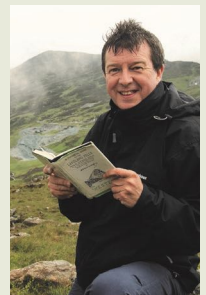
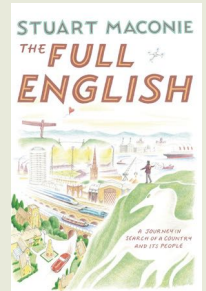
All books are, as Stephen King put it, 'a uniquely portable magic and in her brilliant new paperback **Emma Smith** shows us why. **Portable Magic: A History of Books and their Readers** unfurls an exciting, nostalgic and often surprising new story of the book in human hands, exploring when, why and how it acquired its particular hold over us.

And what a wonderful way to celebrate the recent World Book Day - putting books into the hands of some of our most important customers with a visit from Corbridge First School and the Brownies!

So with that dear readers, I hope you have some magic nearby or you know where to find us for a recommendation or two.

Happy reading!

*Helen*







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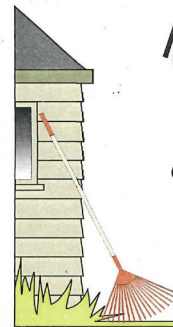


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# Ride on!

## A First For Corbridge

Hexham-based social enterprise Cycling Minds recently installed a public bike repair station by the existing cycle racks just along from The King's Oven by St Andrew's Church. The cycle stand, selection of tools and track pump can be used free of charge. Pictured are Cycling Minds volunteer Chris Roberts (left) and William Clouston, chairman of the Parish Council.

(Photo: Toby Price)



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# My Five Favourite Things

## About Corbridge



Lynn Clark of Finale Shoes

1

**The fantastic eclectic mix of independent shops:** I shop local and feel we can buy almost everything we need in the village which is wonderful for both locals and visitors. Having a business in a place filled with other independent shops is so beneficial to us. It not only makes you feel part of a great group of supportive traders but is perfect for customers as they can have such a lovely shopping experience.

2

**The remarkable selection of independent restaurants and cafes:** It's fantastic that we don't have to travel out of the village to enjoy amazing food and drinks. As a small business owner I love to recommend my favourite places to customers who may be visiting the area and it is wonderful when they come back and tell us how much they enjoyed their coffee and cake or a tasty meal out the previous evening. I think this is an important part of being part of the community in Corbridge, championing other businesses around us and encouraging people to come back to our village and area by reminding them how fabulous it is.

3

**The stunning walks around the area:** I love that I can just step out of my front door and within five minutes be surrounded by wonderful countryside. I really enjoy walking in all seasons and watching the changes in nature. Everyone you meet while out and about is chatty and friendly and I have stumbled across some amazing views and places over the years.

4

**The fascinating history of the village and its surroundings:** I'm very excited about the new Heritage Centre opening to find out even more about the history of Corbridge, I love to think of the shopkeepers who ran businesses before me and the way the village has evolved and changed yet kept its lovely character. Many of our customers are local with great stories about the area but we also get many visitors who have wonderful memories of Corbridge and love to come back to it time and time again. It's amazing to think of how the village was, how it is now and the way it will evolve for the future generations.

5

**The river:** I love the fact that the River Tyne runs through the village with great walks either side and every time you walk over the bridge the river looks different. It is an important part of my week walking to work and the familiarity of the river running under the bridge allows me a moment to reflect and feel really grateful that I get to run my own business selling my favourite things - shoes and handbags - in a gorgeous location. I also enjoy the occasional swim in the river and things look quite different from that perspective!





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