

CORBRIDGE MATTERS



April 2024 Issue 76

www.corbridge.ukpc.net

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Council Notes



First, some news on the Market Place scheme. As I have reported previously, our intention is to obtain planning permission for our proposals

and then assemble the necessary funding package to implement it. At a recent meeting at Northumberland County Council we were advised to submit a pre-application submission to get guidance from planning and highways officers before submitting a formal planning application. We intend to make this submission shortly and hope the response from the County Council will be positive and assist in framing the subsequent detailed planning application. If the process runs smoothly it should also save us any undue expense in adapting our plans as well as flagging up any issues which arise. The large scale consultation process we engaged in last year was very useful in highlighting public concerns. I'll keep everyone informed as we progress.

At its February meeting the Parish Council agreed to undertake maintenance work to the cemetery. Chris Urwin, the Parish Hall caretaker, does sterling work at the cemetery when required - such as painting the railings and keeping things in order when tree branches fall. However, footpaths and the main service access road are now in need of comprehensive resurfacing. This will require a few truckloads of road base to be spread by a contractor. Prices will be sought for this work in the next few weeks and we hope to complete it as soon as possible.

The Parish Council has also agreed to conduct a tree survey on the grounds it is responsible for. We undertake this every few years to make sure the trees are in good order and any work is actioned. The areas to be checked include the cemetery, Stanners Wood, Well Bank, Corchester Field and the trees within the curtilage of St Andrew's Church. Given the high winds we've experienced over the winter I'm sure some work will be required. Many of you will recall that as part of the large scale housing scheme near the Middle School the idea of developing a new 3G artificial football pitch was proposed. A public consultation carried out on this proposal by the Middle School in July 2019 showed majority support for it. Northumberland County Council has recently approved a budget of £500,000 for this 3G pitch. A number of village residents have asked me about this and are very keen that the village secures this new facility - a view which Cllr Nick Oliver and I strongly share. At a time when children are spending hours and hours on their smartphones and on social media it's vital that we secure an opportunity for them to play sport out in the open, get fit and enjoy the health benefits which result. Cllr Oliver and I will investigate the matter and report back to you.

William Clouston
(Corbridge Parish Council Chairman)

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Cover photo: St Andrew's Church

Substantial progress is being made towards an extension of the free car park on the south side of the bridge. I secured the funding in the Northumberland County Council budget a few years ago but a now resolved technical legal difficulty has held it up. I'm expecting to see the planning application submitted soon. We are intending to restore the Skatepark when Northumbria Water return the site to us after requisitioning it as a site compound for their upgrade to the pumping station which is not yet complete. We will also see the introduction of a 20mph zone in the centre of the village in the months ahead and the installation of a length of footpath to connect the north side residents in the hamlet of Farnley to Corbridge.

William has written about the funding secured for a 3G pitch at Corbridge Middle School. This was confirmed in the NCC budget in February and we are keen to work with the school to make this a reality for our community.

Spring is fast approaching as I write this and I hope we've seen the worst of the weather. Every winter the weather causes deterioration in our road conditions and this year the impact has been particularly acute. Thousands of potholes appeared in days across the county and the NCC Highways teams must get round them all, prioritising them to deal with the most dangerous first. That sometimes means a temporary repair to make it safe. A lot of extra money has been allocated and sub-contractors drafted in to help get on top of the backlog. If you are particularly concerned about a specific pothole, you can report it on the Fix My Street website or app which the County Council began using last year.

Finally, an update on broadband. The scrutiny committee I chair at County Hall received a report on broadband across Northumberland and, not surprisingly, rural areas are less well served than urban. A major Building Digital UK (BDUK) procurement exercise for West Northumberland and parts of County Durham has not managed to reach agreement with a supplier so that process is starting again. I am working with council officers to see if a broadband voucher scheme is a potentially faster route. More on this next time.

As ever please contact me on 07779 983742 or nick.oliver24@outlook.com if I can help.

Nick Oliver
(Corbridge County Councillor)

Corbridge Parish Council next meets at 7pm on Wednesday April 24 and May 29 in the Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge.

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

Corbridge Walks 2024



Now is the time to put a spring in your step. Free copies of the three Corbridge Heritage Trails leaflets are available at both the Corbridge Heritage Centre and Corbridge Library. Not forgetting the Corbridge Village Trail on the free TrailTale smartphone app. Along with the weekly Corbridge Wellbeing Walks. Just turn up at The Coigns at 10am every Wednesday for the start of that week's free walk.



Come with us on an exciting Corbridge journey. We - the Corbridge Community Partnership - want to make life better for as many people as possible...and we hope you do too. Our aim is to save the former Corbridge Methodist Church building and transform the interior into a Community Hub offering services, including for Corbridge families, people who are vulnerable or isolated and those with dementia and their carers. To create a brilliant legacy for future Corbridge generations to come. But we need the help of the Corbridge community and beyond to make this happen.

Opened in 1865, the building closed as a Methodist Church in April 2022. It has been well looked after and includes the main church area, the old schoolroom, a kitchen and the 'New Room'. Plus the former ground floor Vestry and a first floor office. We want to save this building from housing development which will only benefit a few people and create a vibrant centre for much needed community services and activities to benefit everyone in Corbridge. We have already commissioned an award winning firm of architects who have drawn up inspiring plans to transform the interior of the building so that it can best serve our community in future - if we can secure the funding.

The Corbridge Community Partnership is a recently formed registered charity. There are currently eight trustees - all residents of the Corbridge area - supported by a large number of other residents who are experts in various fields and provide advice to the charity about legal affairs, planning, building, finance, fund raising, maintenance and so on. Our chairman is Maurice Hodgson, former chairman of the Parish Council. Both trustees and advisors are unpaid volunteers giving their time and expertise to this project for free for the benefit of the Corbridge community. Northumberland County Council and Corbridge Parish Council also support our plans, as does our local MP.

Although a recently formed charity, we have been working hard on this project for the last two years. Hundreds of people have attended our initial public meetings, fund raising events and other activities. With the building already used by organisations such as Tynedale Hospice at Home for local counselling, as well as a number of other users. Dozens of local residents attend regular Tea and Chat afternoons at the Hub. Other fund raising activities have included a Corbridge Apple Pressing Weekend producing thousands of cans of Corbridge Apple Juice and Corbridge Cider. Sold in aid of both this project and other local good causes. The Partnership inherited the assets of the Corbridge Village Trust and part of the building has already been converted into the Corbridge Heritage Centre. Run and staffed by over 20 volunteers, all local residents, it opened in April 2023 and has so far attracted over 1000 visitors, including local people and those from elsewhere in the UK and abroad.

We are about to submit a very detailed bid to the government's Community Ownership Fund which is aimed at projects just like ours - to save buildings which are at risk of being lost to the community. It can grant up to 80 per cent of both the £250,000 purchase price of the building and at least a further £250,000 for the interior works. With other major funding sources also being explored in addition to the Community Ownership Fund.

As part of the government funding process we have to raise 20 per cent - £100,000 - of the money ourselves. £50,000 from our just launched Crowdfunding appeal and £50,000 from other funding sources we are already in contact with. So the help of our community really is crucial. Corbridge is obviously not a big city with a large population so we know raising £50,000 via the Crowdfunding appeal will be a challenge and require substantial local support. But with your help we can get there.

Save and transform a historic Corbridge building



Heritage Centre





A brilliant legacy...



And, of course, you do not have to live or work in Corbridge to donate. We are hugely grateful for any support from both near and far. Every donation - large or small - counts towards making this project a reality. Success in this Crowdfunding appeal would also greatly increase our chances of subsequent success in our £400,000 bid to the Community Ownership Fund.

The Methodist Church authorities are fully supportive of our plans. Offering us a lease with a view to a subsequent Community Partnership purchase of the building. Our aim, if the funds are secured, is to begin the interior works in 2025 with a view to completion within six to nine months. The new Community Hub will be energy efficient, environmentally friendly and have excellent access to all areas to meet the needs of the whole population. It will include high quality, attractive new office, meetings, leisure and social spaces. Enabling the project to generate income to meet its running costs alongside the community services. A cafe is also planned to provide a social focus for the building and to raise income. Our plans also include a larger space for the Corbridge Heritage Centre and even better displays. A hidden first floor gallery in the former church area will be opened up and extended with a lift installed together with a new kitchen and toilets. The exterior of the building will remain the same aside from a new accessible entrance, with a ramp, at one side.

Both ourselves and Corbridge Parish Council agree that this project does not conflict with what happens at the Parish Hall. That is mainly a space for hire by various organisations hosting a range of activities. The Corbridge Community Hub will, at its heart, be a base for partners offering services to the community to meet the demand here for health and wellbeing, education, welfare and other services.

What about parking? Many visits to this community hub will be made by local Corbridge residents - the majority within reasonable walking distance. Non resident visitors to the current Heritage Centre are a mix of overnight visitors to Corbridge and day visitors. If not using bus and rail links, those with vehicles are usually already parked elsewhere in the 'village' and arrive on foot. There is also the large (90 spaces) and free all day 'Corbridge Village Car Park' within relatively easy walking distance on the south side of the bridge and plans for an expansion to this car park of a further 40 spaces are close to being finalised. Short term paid street parking is also available in Princes Street but we do not envisage the vast majority of visitors to the Hub will use that.

Although we believe we tick every box and are submitting an excellent application to the Community Ownership Fund (and other funders), there are no guarantees. Should we not obtain government funds we still plan to proceed with this project, albeit having to seek funds elsewhere. So your donation to this charity project will not be wasted. Every penny counts towards saving this building for our community and transforming it into a wonderful community hub for all.

Please scan the smartphone QR code to go to our Crowdfunder UK site where you can watch a short video about Corbridge and our aims. Or search Google for 'Crowdfunder UK Corbridge Community Hub'.

Thank you.

Corbridge Community Partnership



Corbridge CofE First School's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) fortnight took place in February and managed to go beyond last year's excitement levels and enthusiasm. Our ongoing aim is to inspire the children into STEM based interests through activities and workshops during the fortnight.

Each class had a packed timetable with events, ambassador visits (where we invited parents and family members with STEM careers into school to talk to the children), workshops and more. We were even visited by some familiar characters from Star Wars, which was so exciting.

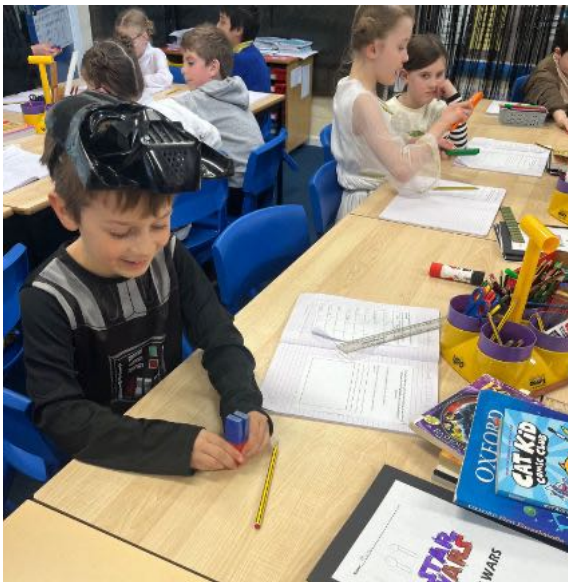
The children were all invited to dress up on the first and last days to start and end it with a bang. These costumes either reflected their class theme or were STEM based. The fortnight finished with an 'Open Afternoon' where the children acted as STEM experts and explained what they had learned and achieved to our visitors.

All of the children were so enthused by their learning, smashed stereotypes about what people who work in STEM careers look like and saw the amazing opportunities each of their futures could hold.

Suzanne Hart, Executive Headteacher



Corbridge First School



NOTICE BOARD

St Andrew's Church

Parish Communion at 10am Sundays.
Holy Communion at 10am every Wednesday
Sunday April 7 at 4pm: Simply Worship - an informal service of the word.
Sunday April 14 at 3pm: Messy Church.
Sunday April 21 at 4pm: Simply Worship.
Sunday April 28 at 4pm: River.

Corbridge Methodists

Thursday April 11 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church.
Thursday April 25 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church.

Tynedale Christian Ministries

Welcome to our Christian Church at Corbridge Parish Hall.
Each Sunday at 10.30am: Coffee followed by 11.00 Service. Ring 01434 633532
Weekly: House Groups



Corbridge Bridge Club:

Have you ever played Bridge in the past around your kitchen table? Well come and join us at our Tuesday afternoon club from 1pm at the Parish Hall. We will refresh your memory on rules and bidding and you'll soon progress. It doesn't matter how long ago you played or what your standard is. So make it your Spring resolution to come and join us and 'up your game'. Don't worry if you don't have a partner, we will find one for you at our friendly club
Contact: Adrian Andrews on 01434 674494 or email afandrews52@hotmail.co.uk / mobile: 07512 249994. Or email: secretarycorbridgebridgeclub@gmail.com

2024 Diary Dates

Saturday & Sunday June 8 & 9:
Corbridge Steam Rally at Tynedale Park

Thursday to Sunday June 13 to 16:
Tynedale Beer & Cider Festival at Tynedale Park

Thursday June 20:
A Midsummer's Evening in Corbridge

Thursday & Friday June 20 & 21:
Textile & Art Exhibition at St Andrew's Church

Friday to Sunday July 12 to 14: Northumberland Balloon Festival at Tynedale Park

Thursday to Sunday July 25 to 28:
Corbridge Chamber Music Festival

Sunday August 18:
Northumberland Classic and Performance Motor Show

Saturday September 7:
Corbridge Village Show at the Parish Hall

Saturday & Sunday Oct 12 & 13:
St Andrew's Church 1350th Launch Weekend

Friday to Tuesday Nov 29 to Dec 3:
St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival

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

Corbridge Film Nights

Films are shown in Corbridge Parish Hall.
Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7:30pm. Please pay on the door (£5, cash only please).

Sunday April 14: The Eight Mountains. 2022, Australia, 147 mins. Director Felix van Groenigen

FILM NIGHTS

Corbridge Parish Hall

April 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club		09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 16:30 - 21:00 Private Booking	17:00 - 19:00 Karate	19:30 - 21:30 Tynedale Scottish Country Dance Group	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge WI 19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club		09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	17:00 - 19:00 Karate	11:00 - 13:30 Private Booking 19:30 - 21:30 Tynedale Scottish Country Dance Group	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries 18:30 - 22:00 Corbridge Film Nights
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club	16:30 - 20:50 Private Booking	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 12:45 - 14:00 Guide Dog Puppy Class	17:00 - 19:00 Karate	09:30 - 13:30 Private Booking 13:30 - 16:30 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club	16:30 - 20:50 Private Booking	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	17:00 - 19:00 Karate 19:30 - 21:30 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:00 Indoor Market 19:30 - 21:30 Tynedale Scottish Country Dance Group	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Bridge Club	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Bridge Club - Chicago 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Carpet Bowls Club	16:30 - 20:50 Private Booking	06:15 - 22:15 Polling Station	17:00 - 19:00 Karate		10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Christian Ministries

Krip

CORBRIDGE
 NORTHUMBERLAND



A MIDSUMMER'S EVENING

MARKET PLACE STALLS
 STREET FOOD
 LIVE MUSIC & DANCE
 LATE NIGHT SHOPPING
& MORE!

Free Park & Ride Return Service From Tynedale Park / Rugby Club



Thursday June 20th from 4pm

Corbridge Gardening Society

Founded 1887

Saturday 18th May 2024

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; Vegetable Plants; Misc.
 Plants from the rare and unusual to everyday tough plants and good doers.
 With support of young vegetable plants from Tynedale Horticultural Services

Please bring your own bags, baskets or boxes to take your purchases home

Will members donating plants please bring them to the Parish Hall on Friday
 19th May at 5.00 – 6.45pm. Plants should be in clean pots/containers labelled
 and with as much information as possible – Many Thanks.

To find out more go to www.corbridgegardeningociety.com

CORBRIDGE HERITAGE CENTRE

at the Community Hub on Princes Street




History of the village, its people, buildings, events, commercial
 activities plus 360 vintage postcards, reference books,
 Heritage Trail maps and more.

Open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays:

April to October: 11am to 3pm
 November to March 11am to 2pm



FREE ADMISSION

Go down the lane to the left of the building



Tea and Chat

A great opportunity to meet new people

2pm to 4pm

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month

All welcome

At the Corbridge Community Hub in Princes Street

For further information ring: 07793 876743

Organised by St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge



Corbridge Gardening Society

We are expecting to run our full programme of events this year including the renowned annual Plant Sale which is on Saturday 18th May in the Parish Hall. The sale raises funds to support the society's activities and enables us to make donations to local good causes. Tynedale Horticultural Services are hopeful of attending this Plant Sale.

We are a social, friendly society with around 250 members and a wide range of gardening interests - growing plants, flowers, vegetables and fruit, as well as running Spring and Summer light hearted shows where the social aspect dominates. New members are always welcome - we have members ranging from old hands to those just starting out.

The 2024 programme also includes the Spring Show on 4th April followed by visits through the year to Beningbrough, Thornton Hall, Walton House, Chillingham Castle, and Howick Hall Gardens. Highlight of the year is the four day holiday to gardens around the area of Fife in Scotland. Interesting Autumn talks through September, October and November will be held in the Parish Hall on gardening related topics. Zoom meetings are arranged to bridge the winter season when the weather limits outdoor activities. These meetings often permit the society to invite presenters from far flung bases outside the area of Northumberland.

Membership is open to all residents of Corbridge and surrounding areas with an annual subscription of £10. For more details please scan the QR code to visit our website at corbridgegardeningociety.com or contact corbridgegardeningociety@gmail.com



Interview **Simon Young & Jenny Vaughan**

“We work on gut instinct and the courage of our convictions”

It's impossible to write profiles of Simon Young and Jenny Vaughan without talking about their business which is as absorbing as a child. They are the founders of RE, the lifestyle business that was born in the heart of Corbridge 20 years ago.

Jenny and Simon were blissfully unaware that they were breaking all the rules when they set up RE and began trading in the disused garage workshop they rented behind Bishops petrol station on Main Street. They had no retail experience, no idea how to set up online shopping and no Plan B if everything went horribly wrong. But by working together six days a week, RE has grown into a company with a global reach, winning many awards and accolades along the way. It totally reflects their personalities and incorporates everything they are passionately interested in - innovation, design, and quirkiness. Jenny said: “It's completely taken over our lives. We do absolutely nothing else. Seriously. We don't really have a life, with hobbies or pastimes. Everything we care about is here.”

Their story begins in 1991 when Simon and his partner Vicky Pepys had recently moved up from London. “I'm from Preston and Vicky's from Yorkshire and we both wanted out of London,” said Simon. “We B&B-ed our way round the country trying to decide where to settle, had a holiday here, fell in love with the area and set about finding work locally.”

Simon landed a job teaching fashion design at Newcastle Polytechnic (now Northumbria University) where Jenny was already a lecturer. They hit it off as friends and colleagues, sharing similar tastes and interests. Coincidentally, Jenny and her husband Alan lived a couple of fields away from Simon and Vicky in Slaley.

Three years later, Jenny began a new job at the design department at Dewhursts, the clothing manufacturer, and later Simon joined her doing ladies' tailoring. “We travelled to lots of places like Paris and

Milan and saw some fabulous shops and during that time, we began to think about setting up our own company,” said Jenny. “But although we're both great shoppers, we knew nothing about running a business.” Sitting in a bar in Paris, they mulled over ideas. “We love homes and interiors, with an eclectic mix of old and new, and we enjoy going round flea markets picking up different bits and pieces. We wanted a big industrial type space we could section off to create different environments, like rooms. We needed an online presence because we'd be bored rigid sitting in a shop all day.”

They had to come up with a name that would make people wonder what they did. One day they went to a market near their hotel and bought big tin letters R and E, then they listed all the words they could think of that incorporated those letters, like renovate, restore, recycle. Simon said: “Within seconds we had loads of ideas. RELax became the area to sell toiletries, gREen fingers was the gardening area, gREat outdoors for outdoor furniture.

Six months later, on November 7th 2003, they began trading, with the tin RE letters as their company logo. “We didn't know how to operate the card machine and we hadn't time to price anything,” said Simon. “The next day, people came back and we still hadn't priced anything.”

Today, they're open seven days a week and employ 11 people. They have an enviable national profile, huge online sales, and had an outlet in the prestigious Liberty's store in London. So why have a couple who didn't have a clue about running a business been so successful, despite a recession, austerity and a pandemic lockdown? “We're both very good at just going for it,” said Jenny. “We work on gut instinct and the courage of our convictions. We never had Plan B. We never considered failure.”

Simon said: “We think alike and our skills are very similar, which probably isn't a partnership made in heaven business-wise. I mean, if the computer goes down, forget it.



But we can both plump up cushions for hours.”

Their experience in the world of fashion and design has been key because they know exactly how to put collections together, so everything looks at its best. They’re driven to keep ahead of the game by always looking for new products, often sourcing them from cooperatives and Fairtrade organisations all over the world. “Being inspired is the most rewarding thing,” said Jenny. That means being amateur detectives, hunting down craftsmen and women - like knitters, potters, weavers, engineers, printers and candle-makers - who can turn their in-house designs into reality.

“You don’t always get exactly what you want,” said Jenny. “But we’re prepared to take that risk. For example, we needed a weaver to create a blanket inspired by the design on a vintage garment. It could only be done by hand on a jacquard loom which is very rare nowadays. After hunting for months, amazingly, we found probably the only person in the country who could do it. The blanket was beautiful, but devoid of the colour green. When we asked why, he said he was colour blind. He couldn’t see green.” It’s still important that they cruise the flea markets, forever on the lookout for the one-off item that could inspire them. If it doesn’t appear for sale in the shop, it will probably be somewhere in their homes. Simon’s house is crammed with unusual objects, perfectly lit display cases of glassware, and walls covered in paintings. “Jenny’s house is

even worse,” said Simon. “You can’t get on the sofa for cushions and fabrics.”

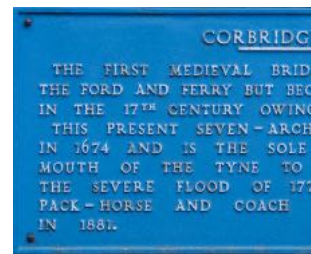
In the early days, when RE was still just an idea, Jenny reckoned she had 10 good years ahead of her to establish a business. That was 20 years ago, and they both still have their feet on the accelerator. Although they buy and sell worldwide, it hasn’t occurred to them to expand their base beyond Corbridge. “It’s fantastic being in Corbridge,” they agree. “The village has soul. There’s a good mix of people living here, and it’s perfect place for visitors. It’s perfect for us.”

Sheilagh Matheson



Corbridge On Tyne 350

You may walk across it every day and perhaps not have noticed that our bridge over the river marks its 350th birthday this year. Built in 1674, it is the oldest surviving bridge over the Tyne. The bridge has seven unequal arches, a total span of 160 yards and survived The Great Flood of 1771. Ten years later in 1881 Robert Forster reported: "April 30th was completed the widening (by three feet) of the fine old bridge over the River Tyne at Corbridge and, to say the least, it is a remarkable specimen of design and workmanship." In 1971 a temporary steel bridge was erected downstream of the existing bridge but connected. It allowed for two way traffic. At the same time a one way system was introduced in the village, meaning that the narrow Middle Street and Princes Street (by what is now The Coigns) were no longer two way. The temporary bridge was demolished in 1981 by which time the A69 bypass to the north of Corbridge had opened along with the A68 bypass to the east. Leaving the historic bridge standing once more alone with an alternate single file traffic light system as today. With thanks to Corbridge Heritage Centre. And to Andrea Atkinson for the poem.



The bridge

Seven arches span the expanse
Of the mighty, mighty Tyne.
Seven arches span the breadth
Of precious, precious time.

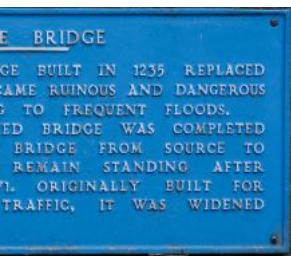
Seven arches stood their ground
When others failed to stand
Not bowing under nature's force
They still joined land to land.

This the second upon this spot
A heritage so strong
From ancient times, though middle times
A heritage so long.

If they could speak what tales they'd tell
These seven arches now.
If they could sing, what songs would come
Of how they didn't bow.

If whispers came they'd tell us now
To never, ever fear.
'We held our breath, we stood our ground
We seven....we're still here....

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jessie juniper



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M J Forster

Gallery

Original paintings, lampshades
and more crafted in Corbridge
by local artist M J Forster



1 Hillgate, Hill Street
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✉ hello@ombrecollection.com

🌐 M J Forster

📷 [m_j_forster](https://www.instagram.com/m_j_forster)



Corbridge Tennis Club



We are looking into the feasibility of building Padel Courts adjacent to the existing tennis courts at Tynedale Park. Padel Tennis, which originated in Spain, is one of the fastest growing sports worldwide but there are very few courts in the North East. We are now conducting a survey and would ask interested Corbridge residents to take part. Please scan the QR code for a direct link to the online survey which can also be found via <https://bit.ly/42TASju>. A 'paper' version of the survey can also be obtained by emailing tennis@corbridgetennis.co.uk.

New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome at Corbridge Tennis Club. We have three floodlit all weather hard courts, top class coaching plus a new pavilion opened in 2021 with changing rooms and catering facilities. Parking is free. Whether you want to play for fitness, fun or to develop your skills to a competitive level, we can cater for you and provide you with an experience that you will want to repeat again and again. Come and join us.

Forum Books

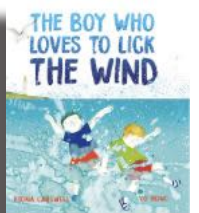
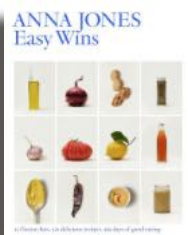
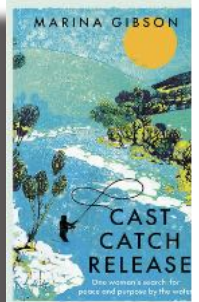
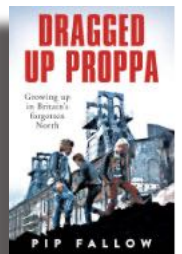
Hello Readers

We are fortunate that the people we meet in the bookshop are such an interesting - and interested - bunch. Customers, publishing professionals and authors. But in a strong field, Pip is near the top. Christopher Fallow - the youngest of six boys, hence Pip - grew up down the road in County Durham. The grandson of a miner, the son of a miner, Pip was lined up to go down the village pit too. But as he got to school leaving age along came the Miners' Strike and, in fairly short order, there was no pit to go down. Obediently, or rather out of necessity, Pip followed Tebbit's diktat to get on his bike and look for work and for much of the next decade he worked as a builder in the south of England, Australia and the Far East. But it was a nearer east - and his childhood home - that he always felt he would return to. Pip had left school illiterate but in his thirties and back at home, with patient help from his wife Wendy, he learned to read and write. Once he did, he couldn't stop. And last year his memoir - **Dragged Up Proppa** - was published. It's been one of the shop's best sellers since then and has sparked a ground roots campaign for 'Proppa Jobs' in the north east. Pip himself was called out to a very unusual job in 2022. He was tasked with turning a pub into a film set for Ken Loach's most recent - and perhaps last - movie, 'The Old Oak'. Nominated for a BAFTA and winner of several international awards, the film centres on landlord TJ Ballantyne and his friendship with Yara, a Syrian refugee. Not only did Pip do the building work but he bagged a small role in the movie. For those of you who receive an early copy of this edition, please join us at the bookshop on Tuesday March 26th for a Tynedale Film Festival event where **Pip Fallow** will be talking all about it.

A new bookshop favourite and bestseller is **Cast Catch Release**, **Marina Gibson's** inspiring true story about the healing power of water. In her early twenties, drifting and directionless, Marina fled the city for the countryside and picked up a fishing rod for the first time in years. She was returning to a childhood pursuit and a passion passed on by her mother. Fishing overtook Marina's life as she grew enraptured by the quiet magic of angling. Whiling away hours by a Highland river or a local chalk stream, with only the ritual of casting and the music of the water for company, Marina found an escape from a failing marriage and a connection to a tradition of female anglers stretching back generations. Alongside the twists and turns of her own story, Marina traces the epic migratory journey of the Atlantic salmon and its fight for survival against the odds. **Cast Catch Release** is a love letter to the water and what it means to find peace and purpose in the great outdoors. We're lucky to be Marina's local independent bookshop and will have signed copies if you can catch one quick. We are also very excited about the brand new and essential book from totally ace bestselling cook **Anna Jones**. Anna takes 12 hero ingredients that are guaranteed to make your food taste great, with chapters on lemons, olive oil, mustard, tahini and more. 125 all new dishes that you will want to cook on repeat, like Double Lemon Pilaf with Buttery Almonds, Traybake Lemon Dhal, Miso Rarebit, and Cherry and Chocolate Peanut Butter Sundae. Plus practical advice on how to season and flavour and plenty of ideas for invaluable vegetarian swaps. **Easy Wins** is your new go-to for the most flavourful dishes that come together quickly and promise daily bursts of flavour that are kind to the planet too. Finally, an announcement - provide your own trumpet fanfare please - **Fiona Carswell** is our writer-in-residence this year. Fiona will be popping up in words - and in person - throughout 2024. Her just published first book **The Boy Who Loves To Lick the Wind** is a touching and inclusive story of friendship. It's the story of two brothers - their unique friendship, acceptance and shared fun underpins this gorgeous debut. "You should try it," says his mum. "All the best winds are at the beach." And so begins an amazing afternoon by the sea for two boys. One doesn't always speak with words and likes throwing stones, the other likes to collect shells and make sandcastles. But the sea works its magic and by the end of the day the boys discover they both love to lick the wind - together.

Happy reading!

Helen





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