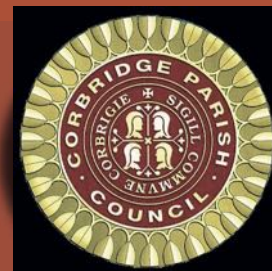


CORBRIDGE MATTERS



October 2024 Issue 79

www.corbridge-pc.gov.uk

*** DESIGN : © 2024 PETER RODGER : 07550011001 *** PRINT : ROBSONPRINT : 01434 602975 *** EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHY : IAN WYLIE ***





Council Notes



After all of the rainy weather in June and July it was wonderful to have some nice warm days in August. Corbridge comes alive in the sunlight. Crowds of visitors arrive and the

prime gathering places in the village - the Market Place, The Coigns and the seats outside The Angel - become very busy. If we're all going to rub along and get about the village unhindered at these bustling times it's vital that civility and consideration for others is shown. Orderliness depends on goodwill and this applies to those driving and parking cars as well as pedestrians. Alas, some drivers continue to show nothing but selfishness and irresponsibility by deliberately parking where they should not. The epidemic of 'fly parking' outside the Coop in Hill Street shows no sign of abating - even when the adjacent parking bays are vacant.

Another growing problem is cars parked in the "KEEP CLEAR" zone opposite Grants Bakery and Stobos in the Market Place. To brazenly park a car right on top of "KEEP CLEAR" road markings in a public square is a blatantly anti-social act. It demonstrates not only selfishness but a total lack of common sense. The markings are there for a reason. I politely request that those responsible desist. If this habit does not stop the Parish Council will have no alternative but to firmly apply its powers within the Northumberland County Council Commons Scheme (Market Square Order 2020, S.7e) to make it cease. The people violating the road markings must ask themselves - what sort of community do you want to live in? A place where rules intended for the common good are ignored or a village which functions well and is civil, peaceful and pleasant?

The Parish Council has decided to support the efforts of our handyman Andrew Cunningham by acquiring a light commercial vehicle. The aim is to increase Andrew's productivity and capacity to take on additional work. We wanted something capable of transporting a light payload of maintenance machinery together with leaves and branches etc from job to job around the Parish. A van was thought beyond our requirements and, after thorough investigation by Parish Clerk Mandy Senior, a Piaggio Ape has been ordered. Hopefully it will serve the Parish well in the coming years.

Parish Hall caretaker Chris Urwin has carefully re-pointed the boundary stone wall facing the road at the cemetery. The planned repair works to the pathways within the cemetery is due to follow on.

I wish you all the best this Autumn.

William Clouston

(Corbridge Parish Council Chairman)

The Corbridge broadband voucher scheme has reached over 50% of the target we need for it to go ahead. If you live in one of these areas then you may be eligible for free ultrafast fibre broadband installation:

Stagshaw, Portgate, Farnley, Dilston, Howden Dene, Hippingstones, Roman Way, The Riggs, Ladycutter Lane, Station Road and Cookson Close. You can sign up at www.openreach.com/connect-my-community. If we do not reach the target it may mean waiting for years before these properties can ever get decent broadband.

The latest update I have from the county council on the acquisition of the land for the south side car park extension is that it is still progressing through the legal process and I am hoping it will complete soon.

The county council has installed the new 20mph zone in the centre of the village and we will review its effectiveness over the coming months.

I met with the Northumbria Police Tynedale Neighbourhood Inspector recently for a catch up and we discussed speeding, some anti-social behaviour we have experienced and some vandalism. The police have attended Corbridge to deal with anti-social behaviour and shoplifting by people not local to Corbridge but some of the vandalism is known to be people living here. Their key message is to report anything of concern which can be done confidentially. I am also happy to pass on information. They won't always look to prosecute and sometimes a knock at the door by the police can be an effective deterrent. They will be carrying out some speed enforcement work.

As I write this Miller Homes is working to complete the roads and footpaths on the Roman Fields estate and I hope this will soon be complete. There are some other issues with land levels and water run-off still to deal with.

Unfortunately poor weather meant the Family Fun Day in August was cancelled. Disappointing for the two local charity beneficiaries - Charlotte Straker and Corbridge Youth Initiative. Congratulations to our new MP Joe Morris on being elected to represent Hexham. I'd also like to offer my commiserations to Guy Opperman who has represented us for the past 14 years with diligence and energy. He helped me and my family when we needed him and he was always willing to help, when required, to support Corbridge residents.

Please don't hesitate to 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 October 23 & November 27 in the Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge.

Clerk of the Council: Mrs Mandy Senior 07950 297634
clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk

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Cover photo: Autumn, St Mary's Chare.



A scene in an early 1950s' historic Corbridge postcard came to mind recently when a similar renovated 1949 Crossley bus parked in Main Street. Owned by Wright Bros (Coaches) Ltd of Alston, it originally operated on the daily Newcastle to Keswick service until 1971. With a top speed of 42mph it is now used for wedding and corporate hires. Reproductions of six of the postcards from the Corbridge Vintage Postcard Collection, including this one, together with five present day Corbridge scenes are available to buy at the Heritage Centre in Princes Street and at the Library and the Golden Lion in Hill Street.





**ST ANDREW'S
CORBRIDGE**

1350th
INSPIRING THE FUTURE

This is an exciting time for our church and village as we approach the year of celebrations to mark the 1350th anniversary of the Foundation of St Andrew's in Corbridge by St Wilfrid in around 674-5. Our year long celebration will run from October 2024 to October 2025. While most of the special events and activities will be held in 2025, we will begin this month (October) with our opening weekend and highlights such as the Christmas Tree Festival from November 29 to December 3.

Many of our regular events will also have a 1350 twist. We would like to invite the whole community to share in this remarkable anniversary. We begin on St Wilfrid's Day, Saturday October 12, with our opening weekend:

Saturday October 12th:

During the morning the church will be open from 9:30am with displays and guided tours at 10am, 11am and Noon. The formal opening will be from 3pm in church:

- 3pm: Welcome and introduction to 1350
- 3:15pm: Talk by the Vicar, Canon David Kennedy: 'God's Rotweiler, St Wilfrid, Bishop and Bruiser!'
- 3:50pm The cutting of the 1350 cake
- 4pm: Afternoon tea, bubbles and cake
- 4:35pm: Short act of worship recalling St Wilfrid's Monastery
- 5pm: Close

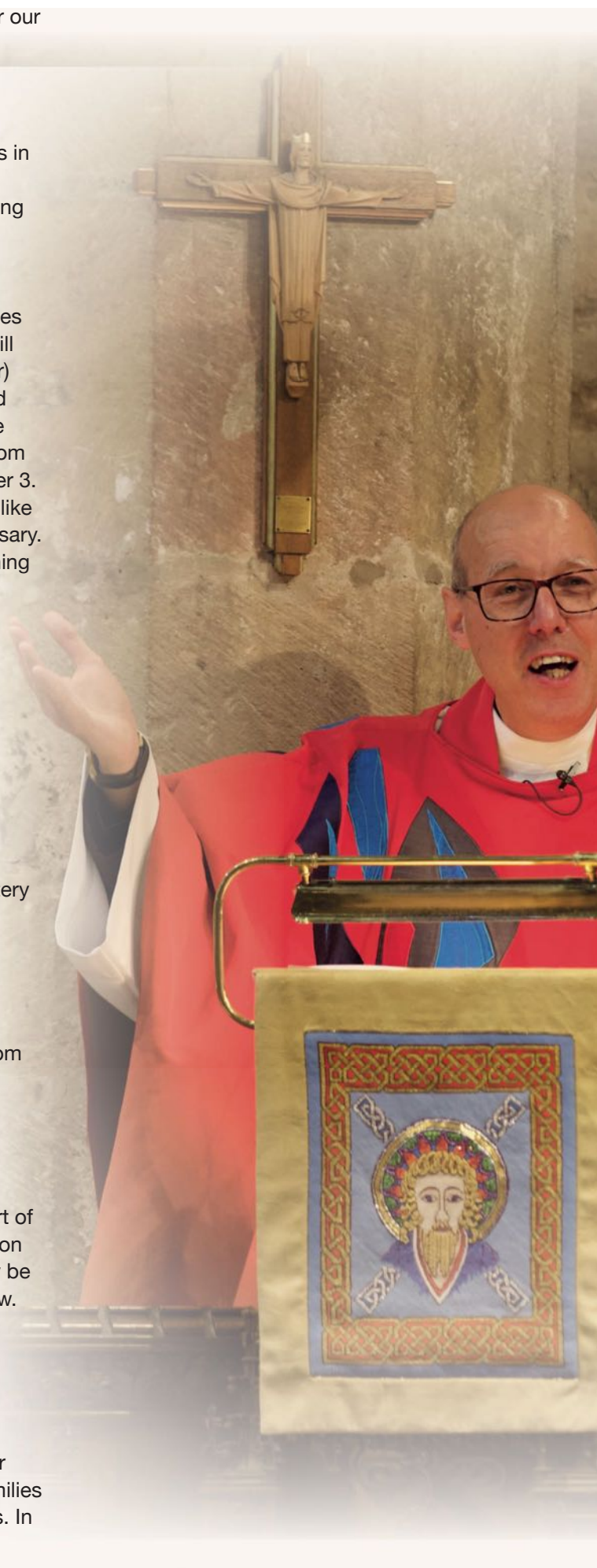
Sunday October 13th:


- 8am: Holy Communion
- 10:30am: 1350th Festival Opening Celebration with the Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, and music from our augmented choir and the choir of Corbridge CE First School
- 11:40am: Drinks reception
- 12:10pm: Light lunch

If you would like to attend on Saturday or Sunday and are not part of our regular mailing list, contact Frances our Parish Administrator on admin@corbridgechurch.org.uk Invitations and flyers may be found at the back of church or downloaded from the website www.corbridgechurch.org.uk A brochure with full details of all we are planning will be distributed to every home in the Parish early this month (October).

Christmas Tree Festival 2024

This year we aim to make our Christmas Tree Festival even bigger and better than usual by showcasing 135 trees. We hope that families might like to enter a family tree - they don't need to be huge trees. In fact if we have small ones they can go on the ledges and fit into





spaces. Can you imagine how wonderful our beautiful church will look? Watch out for application forms which will be available very soon. In addition we would like to sing 135 Christmas Carols during the Festival...you might like to participate.

Exhibitions

There will be a series of exhibitions on St Andrew's and Corbridge in the church during the autumn and throughout 2025. This will culminate in a Heritage Week in September 2025 when we will be inviting shops, organisations and groups to put up a display representing their heritage. More about that soon!

Do you enjoy singing?

We are inviting any members of the community who would like to join with our church choir on Sunday 13th October. We will be singing the iconic I Was Glad by Hubert Parry and Give Me The Faith To Rise Within The Veil by Ernest Bullock, as well as some plainsong recalling the monastery St Wilfred founded. Please contact our Director of Music Colin Williams on colin.williams46@outlook.com for further details. Also see the poster on Pg 8.

1350 Flower Festival – June 19th to 22nd 2025

A Flower Festival depicting 1350 years of St Andrew's and the village will showcase the skills of flower arrangers in the area. Would you like to be involved? Would you or your business be willing to sponsor a flower arrangement telling the story of St Andrew's and Corbridge? Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

A Flower Cascade

As part of our Flower Festival we plan to have a cascade of crafted flowers draped down over the roof of the church porch. If you would like to make some flowers please do collect a pattern from church or download from the website - what a magnificent sight it will be to see hundreds of flowers cascading over the roof.

Interpreting St Andrew's

Throughout the year we will have special signage and information telling the story of St Andrew's, interpreting our magnificent building and shining a light on the community who worship there. There will be a special Prayer Pilgrimage booklet that can be used to walk around the church. As well as information on our history, stained glass and Josephine Butler, the 19th century social reformer who was baptised and married at St Andrew's and whose parents are buried in the churchyard. The former Dean of Durham, the Very Revd Michael Sadgrove, has written a lecture on our founder, St Wilfrid, copies of which are available in church.

The St Andrew's 1350 Prayer

God of the ages,
we praise you for your faithfulness to us over 1350 years here in Corbridge.

As we rejoice in our foundation by St Wilfrid,
and are inspired by your holy apostle St Andrew,
make us as a city set on a hill,
whose light cannot be hidden,
the light of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Corbridge Village Show 2024

Trophy Winners

Village Show Cup (age nine and under): **Evie Stewart**

Village Show Medal (age ten and over): **Noah Hart**

Best Vegetable Exhibit (George Inns Memorial Trophy): **Elsie Joyce**

Best Flowers Exhibit (Ken Johnson Memorial Trophy): **Pauline Rowan**

Best Industrial Exhibit (Tyne Tees Trophy): **Rowena Horne**

Best Art and Photography Exhibit (Walton / Charlton Memorial Cup): **Andrea Charlton**

Leeks (James Hardy Memorial Cup): **Elsie Joyce**

Best Leek In Show (Sun Trophy): **Miles Joyce**

Best Collection of Vegetables (Bill Hardy Memorial Trophy): **Colin Campbell**

Three Round Beetroot (Smallholder Champions Medal): **Barry Noble**

Three Onions Shown As Grown (John Hardy Challenge Trophy): **Miles Joyce**

Six Onions Grown From Sets (Sir George Blackett Challenge Cup): **Colin Campbell**

Best Exhibit In Flowers (Patricia Jameson Cup): **Colin Campbell**





Village Show

The crowds came out for this year's Village Show at the Parish Hall and grounds. The main trophies were presented by BBC Look North East and Cumbria presenter Carol Malia, who is also President of the Show. Scan the QR code for a full photo gallery.



NOTICE BOARD

St Andrew's Church

Sunday October 6 at 10am: Parish Communion
Sunday October 6 at 4pm: Simply Worship
Sunday October 13 at 10:30am: 1350th Festival Opening Celebratory Worship
Sunday October 20 at 10am: Parish Communion
Sunday October 20 at 4pm: Messy Church
Sunday October 27 at 10am: Parish Communion
Sunday October 27 at 4pm: RIVER
Holy Communion at 10am every Wednesday.

Corbridge Methodists:

Thursday October 10 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church.
Thursday October 24 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

Apple Juice Appeal'

Can you spare an hour or two between 9am and 4pm on Saturday October 5 or Sunday October 6 to help with the 2024 Community Apple Pressing weekend at Corbridge Cricket Club?



Volunteers are needed to help with washing, pulping and pressing apples to provide juice. No previous experience necessary. The aim is to

produce cans of delicious Corbridge Sparkling Apple Juice and Corbridge Cider to be sold in aid of Charlotte Straker, Corbridge Youth Initiative and the Corbridge Community Partnership. If you can help, please contact John Maude at: johnmaude100@gmail.com / 07791 590814 or Maurice Hodgson at: maurice.hodgson@btinternet.com / 07940 709636

If you have apples to donate to the project please leave them on the veranda at the front of the old pavilion at Corbridge Cricket Club from Monday September 30 onwards up to and including the Community Apple Pressing Weekend on Oct 5 and 6. Please also contact John or Maurice as above if you want to donate apples but would like them to be picked by our team.

Tea and Chat: All welcome. This informal social gathering meets at 2pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month - October 9 and 23 this month - at the Corbridge Community Hub (former Methodist Church building) in Princes Street. All are welcome to come along, have homemade cake, tea or coffee and to join in the conversation.

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

 **DO YOU LOVE TO SING?**

JOIN ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CHOIR FOR A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

This year the church is celebrating its 1350th anniversary. We're seeking singers of all ages and abilities to swell our ranks at a special service on **13th October 2024, 10.30am**.

We are a lively, friendly, mixed voice choir.

Celebrate with us and join our rehearsals at St Andrew's Church, Corbridge, 7pm on **Friday 4th** and **Friday 11th** October, ready for the service on the 13th.

NO AUDITION NEEDED

Contact Colin Williams or just pop in on a Friday evening.
colin.williams46@outlook.com | 07798 844789

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CHOIR,
MUSIC FOR ALL**



A PERFORMANCE OF TWO HALVES
WILLIAM BYRD: MASS FOR FOUR VOICES GABRIEL FAURÉ: REQUIEM

Come along and enjoy a varied evening of choral masterpieces as Voices for Tynedale perform Byrd's Mass and Faure's famous Requiem, with shorter pieces from each era.

Saturday 19th October 2024
7pm
St Andrew's Church Corbridge
Tickets: £15
Refreshments available

Book now: tynedalehospice.com | 01434 606444

 Raising funds to support services provided by Tynedale Hospice at Home
Charity Number: 1094170 Company Number: 02870778

St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival 2024:

This year's event will be held between Friday November 29 and Tuesday December 3 inclusive. Local organisations, businesses and others are invited to enter a tree. Entry forms and further information can be found on the church website at: <https://www.corbridgechurch.org.uk> The email contact is: corbridgetreefestival@btinternet.com Scan the QR code for a full gallery of photos from last year's twinkling event.



Corbridge Parish Hall

October 2024						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Private Booking 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid... 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Car...		09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 10:30 - 12:30 Charlie's Choir 14:00 - 22:00 Fashion Show	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 13:30 - 14:30 Pilates 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	13:00 - 17:00 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris...
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge WI	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Private Booking 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid...		09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 10:30 - 12:30 Charlie's Choir 19:30 - 21:30 Private Booking	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 13:30 - 14:30 Pilates 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	19:30 - 21:30 Tynedale Scotti...	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris...
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Private Booking 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid... 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Car...		09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 10:30 - 12:30 Charlie's Choir 12:45 - 14:00 Guide Dog Pup... 18:45 - 21:30 Corbridge Gar...	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 13:30 - 14:30 Pilates 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	11:30 - 15:00 Private Booking 19:30 - 21:30 Tynedale Scotti...	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris...
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Private Booking 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid... 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Car...		09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 10:30 - 12:30 Charlie's Choir	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 13:30 - 14:30 Pilates 17:00 - 19:00 Karate 19:30 - 21:30 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:00 Indoor Market 15:00 - 21:00 Private Booking	06:00 - 16:00 Private Booking
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Private Booking 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid... 19:00 - 21:00 Corbridge Car...	09:00 - 13:00 Private Booking	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 10:30 - 12:30 Charlie's Choir	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 13:30 - 14:30 Pilates 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	19:30 - 21:30 Tynedale Scotti...	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris...

changes

Your Parish Council website
has a new address
<https://corbridge-pc.gov.uk>

and Parish Clerk, Mandy
Senior also has a new
email address clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk



Car Wow

A glimpse of some of the arrivals at the recent Northumberland Classic and Performance Motor Show held at Tynedale Park in Corbridge.





With thanks to the Friends of Corbridge Station, the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership, Northern and others for their ongoing work to further enhance our railway station. Plus thanks to Amethyst Homes and AK Scaffolding for the generous donation of the building materials. Scan the QR code to see a short video.



Charity Fashion Show



Getting ready for the Corbridge Charity Fashion Show at the Parish Hall on Thursday October 3rd.

Nine Days of Hell Let Loose by Harry Minto

Arnhem 80th Anniversary Commemorations recently took place on the weekend of September 21st and 22nd. 'Operation Market Garden' was launched in September 1944 during the Second World War. The Allied operation in German occupied Netherlands failed in its ultimate objective to secure the strategically vital bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem. The British 1st Airborne Division was withdrawn after suffering 8,000 dead, missing and captured out of a force of 10,000 men. Arnhem was finally captured by the Allies in April 1945 as the end of the war neared. The wartime events were later depicted in the 1977 film A Bridge Too Far. Corbridge-born James Henry 'Harry' Minto - raised in Halton Shields - was one of those who took part in the campaign. This is his story as written by Harry in later life.



My name is Harry Minto. I am a Geordie from Northumberland. I left school when I was 14 years old from Corbridge C of E School and got my first job as a stable boy at Shildon Grange. I got fifteen shillings a week for seven days and when Mrs Bell went on holiday I had to hunt her horse with the Tynedale Hounds. I needed a bit more money so I went to North Shildon, near Halton Shields, where I got thirty two shillings per week doing the same thing. When the war came along Mr Carr stopped hunting so I had to look for another job. I started as a lorry boy on the Shell Mex and BP lorries and I got sixteen shillings and eight pence there, which is a lot less money, but I liked the job. After that I started working in a sawmill at Maften for four pence an hour, but if you emptied the sawdust pit at night you got six pence. I was working for a German civilian called William Heugf.



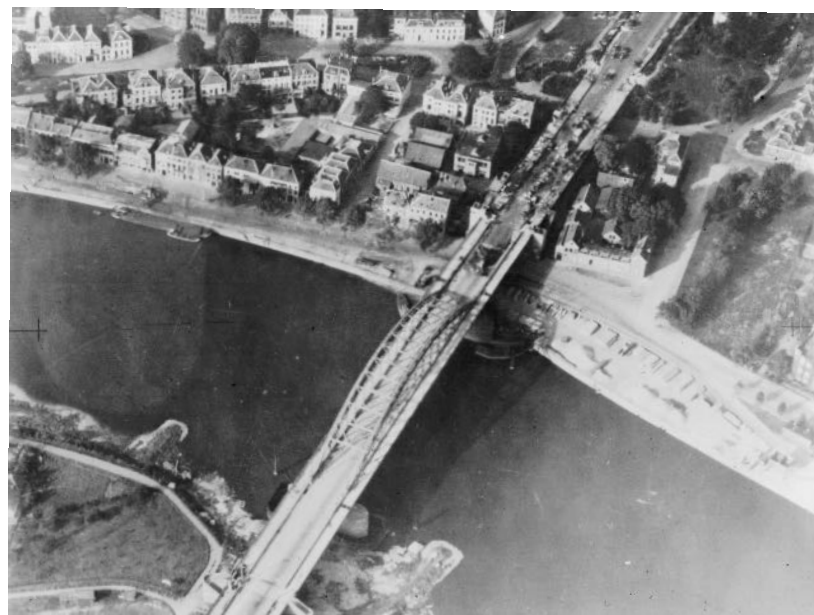
When I was eighteen years old (in 1941) I was called up to join the Army, Myself, two lads from Matfen and one lad from Whittington all went to Mary Hill Barracks at Glasgow. When I went through the gates the guard said to me, "You've broken your mother's heart but you'll not break ours." The Sergeant there said he would make the sweat drop off my eyelashes.

We were in Glasgow for eight weeks training and when the time came to go to another place we had the choice of joining eight Scottish regiments. The lad in front of me who was from Hexham said, "Which one we going in Charva?" And I said, "We'll go in the King's Own Scottish Borderers."

When we moved we didn't know where we were going but it happened to be Wooler in Northumberland. When we got there I went straight into the motor transport and when we moved to Alnwick I had to drive at the front to lead the convoy. All the road signs had been taken down but because I'm a Geordie I knew which way we had to go. When we moved to Alnwick I found it a lot easier to get a lift home to Halton Shields at the weekend but you had to be careful to always carry your gas mask with you. When it was time to move again we were all paraded on church parade and given a lecture from the CO to say that we were moving. Everybody was happy because they thought we were going down south but when he told us we were going to the Shetland Islands everybody moaned. I got married while I was on the Shetlands and I was there for a year before we got paraded again. Everybody was happy and clapping again but then we were told that we were moving to the Orkney Islands. We were there for six months but we only got to go home on the odd occasion by boat. It was very rough and I was often seasick. From there we joined the First Airborne Division in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. We did a lot of training in Horsa gliders, which were made only of plywood. I had to drive a jeep and trailer, which was full of ammunition, into the glider. We flew from Lincolnshire down to a place called Bulford, near Salisbury. There were sixteen jobs briefed for and Arnhem was the seventeenth. It was a Sunday at ten o'clock when I flew from Down Ampney to Arnhem. They called it 'A Bridge Too Far' but I called it 'Nine Days of Hell Let Loose'.

One day Lt Crighton and my corporal went to look on the op for Germans. When the corporal came back I asked him where Lt Crighton was and he told me he had been

Aerial view of the bridge over the Neder Rijn, Arnhem; British troops and armoured vehicles are visible at the north end of the bridge. ©Imperial War Museum (IWM MH 2061)



shot in the head. Fred Tilley was my glider pilot. A marvellous man, he looked after my commanding officer, Lt Colonel Paton-Reid. In one bayonet charge I was alongside Paton-Reid when the Germans came over the hill holding their hands up as if they wanted to be taken prisoners. But they had a hand grenade in each hand and then they started with the flamethrowers. Major Coke came and asked me to help him (he had been shot in the knees). He asked me to give him a drink out of his small pack. After the seventh day I had no ammunition left so I left the jeep and did the rest of the fighting on foot. I actually decided to sit in a hole in the ground and ask the Lord to take me away from this hell let loose situation. General Urquhart started to walk around and tell the troops to carry on fighting as it would only be two more days. After he had left the Germans were very good with their mortar shells. One dropped near my trench, part of the blast hitting me in the chest...the others elsewhere. My Sgt, Bob Pearce, (another Northumbrian man), ran to me and took hold of my hand like a child asking if I was alright.

I was captured on the ninth day in Kruger Strasser. The Germans came at ten o'clock in the morning and hammered the door with their butts of their rifles. Young SS troops took us outside and stripped us looking for

escape gadgets. I was standing next to the Reverend James Morrison. I could not have been nearer to God but neither him or I could speak a word of German. I was suffering from exposure so I was taken to the hospital in Arnhem and there was a Dutch man there who shaved me. They put us onto cattle trucks; there were fifty-six people in each cattle truck. I was on there for five days. There were such a lot of air raids and while the Germans ran for their lives, they left us on the train while the English bombed.

The first prisoner of war camp they took us to was Stalag X11A. I was in this camp for six weeks, which was terrible; we were almost up to our knees in mud. They had to send for the sludge lorry to clear the toilets and all the prisoners had very bad dysentery. When my number came up they sent me to the second prisoner of war camp (Stalag 1VB) which was for officers and NCOs. This was a better camp. I had been in there five weeks when I asked a German when we were going to move and where were we going to work. He pointed at the coal bucket and put us onto a train towards Prague. We went to a place about twenty or thirty miles from Prague called Brix (Stalag 1VC) where there were about four or five mines which ran into one. On the way from Stalag 1VB to Stalag 1VC they gave each English soldier half an English Red Cross parcel and when we got to 1VC the guards opened all the tins and put them into one big pot and stirred it all together. I was so hungry but I couldn't have eaten it. But the guards could eat it no bother, because they were pigs!

I was lucky enough, I only had to walk one mile from the camp to a mine called Zentrum. After I was in the mine I still had another two miles to walk under ground. We worked from 6am until 2pm, the next shift was from 2pm until 10pm, and the next shift was 10pm until 6am. We were off on Sundays. When I was down the pit there was a Czech man who told me not to put the tubs on too quickly or else they would come off the track but I made a mistake and that's what happened. No more coal went out for a couple of days because they all got jammed

on the roof! They took me off there and sent me into a hole with a pick and shovel to pick the coal. They had me working with a young German; he was the same age as me - twenty-one. Half way through the shift a dustbin came around on the track. It was full of soup and I was going to sit down, like him, to eat some soup but he told me that I couldn't sit down and that I had to keep working for 'The Father Land' (as Hitler called it). I told him that I hadn't been a prisoner very long but that Winston Churchill said when we win the war, (and I drew my hand across my neck as if to slit my throat) that's what would happen to the Germans. The next night when the soup came round I was going to carry on working but he told me to sit down and he brought me a cup of soup!

The Russians came up from Prague on the 8th May 1945, which was my 22nd birthday; I had never had a present like it! The Russians could not give us any food, as I don't think they had much themselves. I don't know for sure whether it was six weeks or two months when I decided to escape. During my time there with the Russians my friend came and asked if I had seen the cemetery? I went down to have a look and there was a prisoner who had been in the concentration camp, he was making the Germans (who had been down the mines supervising prisoners) dig their own graves before shooting them. I didn't stay long; I had seen enough death at Arnhem.

I told my friend Bill (another Northumbrian from Whitley Bay) that it was time to get out of there because it would only be a matter of time before we became prisoners again by the Russians. I told Bill to be ready at 4pm to set off; I think we walked for about three nights (in the dark). We kept walking and we came to a place called Carlsbad, which is now called Karlovy Vary. A Frenchman on his bicycle came up to us and asked if we were English. I said yes. He told us that the Americans were there and he told me to jump onto his crossbar so he could take me to the American headquarters, he promised he would go back for my friend Bill. We

Paratroops drop from Dakota aircraft over the outskirts of Arnhem, 17 September 1944. © Imperial War Museum (IWM BU 1162)

came across a big car with one American driving. I told him I was a prisoner of war and that I have escaped from the Russians. I said I was with a friend. The American said, "Jump in bud, we'll go pick him up." I thanked the Frenchman, I was so happy I could have kissed him!

The American took us to their headquarters and they were throwing tins of meat, food and cigarettes. I had to be careful though because my stomach was very small by now. After about an hour and a half the Americans took us to an airstrip. We slept for two nights in the woods near the airstrip. We waited for the planes to come in. They were Dakotas, twenty-seven men on each plane, and we took off and landed in Belgium. There we were given new Army clothes and were told the banks would be open all night if we wanted to draw any Army back pay. We were shown where to sleep, single beds with white sheets on. Friends were asking me if I was going for a drink but I said, 'No, I am heading for that single bed to sleep.'

We stayed one night in Belgium and the next morning we were taken to an airport where we boarded a Lancaster bomber and headed for England - we flew into Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. The Army sent me home. I had 18 weeks leave and when I got home I found that I still had a lovely wife, mother, dad and brother. I had been missing at Arnhem for three months and my mother's hair had turned white in that time. So I am so pleased that the Lord did not take me when I asked him in Arnhem and I was able to leave in one piece.

When I came out of the Army I joined the Newcastle Fire Brigade. I was driving the first turnout with a 60ft escape ladder on the vehicle. After that I worked for a haulage man for eight years before I decided to start my own haulage business (JH Minto) which I ran for 40 years hauling stone from local quarries.



Harry Minto. Honorary Member Arnhem Veterans Club.



Harry died "peacefully" at Hexham Hospital in June 2016 at the age of 93. After the war he and his family lived in Synclen Avenue. In later life Harry moved to a bungalow in The Riggs and then to Wentworth Grange. His death notice read: "Much loved and devoted husband of the late Joyce, dearly loved dad to Joan and Susan father-in-law to Jeff and the late Keith, cherished grandad and great grandad." His cremation at Mountsett was followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church in Corbridge. With thanks to his daughter Joan for her help with this article. "We are very proud of him," she said. The annual Remembrance Sunday parade through Corbridge led by the local branch of the Royal British Legion takes place on November 10th and is followed by a Civic Service of Remembrance at St Andrew's Church.

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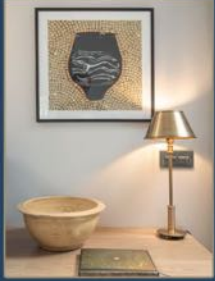




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F	Vinaya Yoga 7:00 - 8am	Restorative Yoga 09:30 - 10:30	
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Forum Books

Hello Readers

Buckle up. We'll be visiting the International Space Station shortly - courtesy of The Booker Prize - before returning to Earth for another busy month of events at Forum.

As this edition goes to press, the shortlist for the book trade's premier fiction award - The Booker - is about to be announced. There are those who have no truck with prizes for art. It's all subjective. How can we say, for instance, that Yann Martel has written a better novel than Sarah Waters (as in 2002)? One person's literary masterpiece - to be cherished and re-read - is another's charity shop donation. Yet, whatever one thinks of literary awards, The Booker Prize excels at introducing readers to new authors and at creating a buzz around literary works that isn't seen at any other time in the calendar. The furore around the prize's joint winners - Margaret Atwood and Bernadine Evaristo - in 2019 for example (there had never before been a shared prize) introduced tens of thousands of readers to Evaristo's work; not just her triumphant 'Girl, Woman, Other' but a glittering backlist that had lain largely undiscovered.

This year's longlist - which will have been whittled down to six by the time you read this - is wonderfully eclectic. Not just in terms of genre (from a crime caper to the re-imagining of a 19th century classic) but with regards to the writers themselves - including the first Dutch and Native American authors to be recognised by the prize (the latter is a firm Forum favourite, the hugely talented **Tommy Orange**; we have our fingers crossed for his novel **Wandering Stars**).

And then, at just 136 pages, there's the shortest novel on the list - **Orbital** by **Samantha Harvey**. If not for The Booker we may have overlooked this little gem (little but containing multitudes!). Revolving (excuse the pun) around one day in the life of six astronauts aboard the International Space Station, it's a truly transportive experience; with luminous descriptions that put the reader into orbit. It is a dizzying and awe-inspiring sensation.

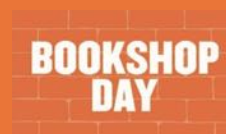
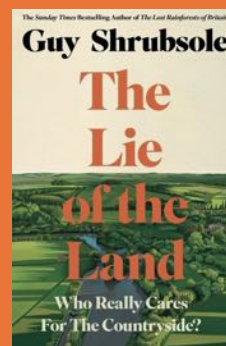
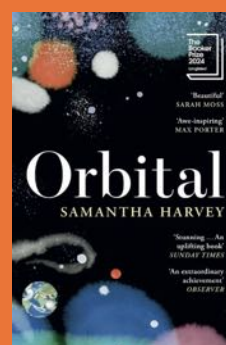
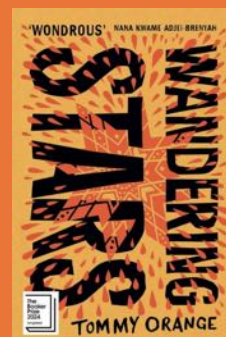
Back down to Earth and much closer to home - at the Newton and Bywell Community Centre to be exact - we have two events we're eager to flag up. Firstly, on Thursday October 17, the Sunday Times best-selling **Guy Shrubsole** will be having a vigorous discussion about his new book **The Lie of the Land** - in which he argues that a small number of landowners have laid waste to large tracts of our most treasured landscapes, leaving our forests bare, our rivers polluted and our moorlands burned. Erstwhile Green Party leader - Caroline Lucas - calls it "required reading" and we wouldn't disagree.

Something quite different at the same venue on Monday November 11. Great British Bake Off favourite **Prue Leith** will be launching her new book - **Life's Too Short To Stuff a Mushroom**. It's the cookbook you've always wanted - delicious foolproof recipes, with shortcuts and hacks, for a lifetime of easy cooking.

Tickets for both events are available online from Ticketsource or, better still, in-store at Forum...and there's no better day to pop in and see us than Saturday October 12 - **Bookshop Day!** Come and chat about The Booker shortlist or new novels from Ali Smith and Andrew Michael Hurley. Or grab tickets for Prue and Guy. And on Bookshop Day, cake will be provided too. It will be out of this world.

Happy reading everyone!

Helen





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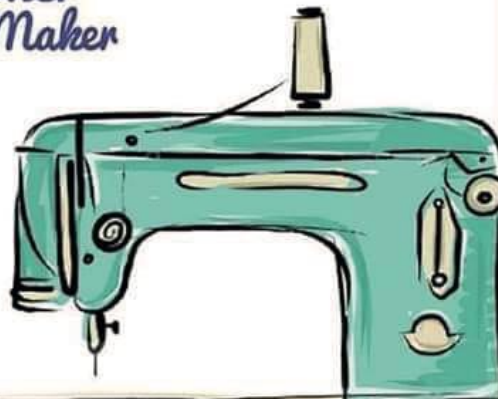
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