

CORBRIDGE MATTERS

June 2025 Issue 83

www.corbridge-pc.gov.uk



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Council Notes

The first few months of 2025 were some of the driest and sunniest for many years. In particular, March was the driest in England and Wales for over 60 years, leading to relatively low river levels and problems for farmers. However, I hope that warm, bright and dry weather will bless us on the June days



when important annual events take place in our village. The Corbridge Steam Rally, Tynedale Beer and Cider Festival, Midsummer Evening and Corbridge Open Gardens could all do with clear skies and decent temperatures. I am pleased to report that the planned repairs to the paths within the cemetery have now

been completed by a contractor appointed by the Parish Council. These improvements included new Tarmac areas close to the lodges and complete re-grading and re-laying of many of the footpaths throughout. Hopefully they will remain in good repair for many years to come and will make it easier for all visitors to the cemetery. Another important and long overdue job was completed by the same contractor. This was the repair and upgrading of the vehicular track leading to Corbridge Cricket Club through the Stanners Wood. As many of you know, this track had become badly worn and eroded by the weather and flooding - leading to the creation of many holes. The track is now serviceable and can be used by cars - although, like the Stanners itself, it is important for all vehicle drivers to remember to proceed slowly and carefully.

A range of work is planned on the river bank and surrounding areas to control and eradicate invasive species. The Tyne Rivers Trust will tackle the problem of Japanese knotweed which has cropped up in an area on the north bank of the river close to the bridge. This invasive species was originally introduced as an ornamental plant and can be challenging to eradicate, although spraying and injection can be successful. The Environment Agency will undertake work to control other pests - Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed - further upstream.

It was wonderful to see so many people attend the VE Day 80th anniversary event held at the Parish Hall on Saturday the 3rd of May. We must always remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defeat tyranny and defend our nation. The Parish Hall is such a wonderful place for all of us to gather on such days. I'd like to thank Parish Clerk Mandy Senior for helping to organise the event together with Stuart Robinson (Secretary) and David Burnett (Chairman) of the Corbridge branch of The Royal British Legion.

William Clouston
(Corbridge Parish Council Chairman)

I am writing this shortly after the Northumberland County Council local election on May 1st. It's an honour to have been re-elected as councillor for the Corbridge ward, which now includes Riding Mill after a Boundary Commission review. I'd like to thank all who voted for me and I will do my best to represent everybody living in the ward. Local politics currently seems as tumultuous as national politics so it's going to be an interesting few months ahead.

Since my last column the County Council has submitted a planning application to extend the free village car park south of the bridge and I am hoping that



construction work will happen this year if the application proceeds without a hitch. It's taken a long time to get to this stage after I secured the funding in the Council's budget years ago. I'll provide further updates as soon as I know more.

I used some of my members local improvement scheme grant to buy a Glutton street cleaning machine which is basically an electric powered mobile vacuum with a large bin on the back. I'm hoping it will make our excellent village handyman Andrew's job much easier. When NCC come round with their street cleaning wagon they often can't get to the nooks and crannies because of parked cars. This will hopefully make a difference and we will be able to keep the centre of the village cleaner and tidier.

I also used some grant money to buy an outdoor table tennis table for the Parish Council which, at time of writing, has been delivered and will be installed soon. It will be situated next to the little play park immediately behind the Parish Hall. I'm always impressed when I see these facilities in France and although our weather isn't as good, I'm hoping it will be well used.

The VE Day 80 Tea Party was a great success with the Parish Hall full for the excellent musical entertainment and everybody did a decent job of getting through the cakes and scones. It's on occasions like this that we are reminded what a special community we live in. Massive thanks to Parish Council clerk Mandy Senior and Parish Hall caretaker Chris Urwin for setting it up and to the Corbridge branch of the Royal British Legion for their help.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance via nick.oliver24@outlook.com or 07779 983742.

Nick Oliver
(Corbridge County Councillor)

Corbridge Parish Council next meets at 7pm on Wednesdays - June 25 and July 30 in the Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge.

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



Wacky Races

A grand total of £2336 was raised by the 2025 Corbridge Wheelbarrow Race organised by the Corbridge Youth Initiative and supported by many others. Including the team at The Blue Bell where the event was based and local businesses who donated raffle prizes. The race around the village was started by England and Durham cricket legend Paul Collingwood with last year's winners Paul Wilson and Aaron Smith repeating their victory.



Scan the QR code for a gallery of photos of this event.



L-R: Paul Wilson, Paul Collingwood and Aaron Smith **3**

Corbridge Middle School

As ever, it's been busy here at Corbridge Middle and there has certainly been no shortage of determination and resilience shown so far in 2025. In January, a team of our Key Stage 3 girls attended the County Athletics competition which saw them clinch the bronze medal, making them the third best indoor athletics team in



Northumberland. The girls were congratulated by county organisers for their respect and support shown to other competing teams.



We were delighted to hear of success from our Key Stage 3 girls' indoor Cricket team who were unbeaten in the tournament at Walbottle Academy in February, with staff reporting the high level of fielding and bowling on display throughout. The girls were delighted to progress on to the county finals at The Parks, North Shields, finishing in 5th place overall. We are immensely proud of a group of our



Y8 boys who make up the majority of the Tynedale U13 rugby team. They battled one of their biggest rivals, Morpeth, in a tense final and went on to win the Waterfall Cup. This is the first year the team has played in a competitive league and they have put in lots of hard work, week in, week out, which has obviously served them well.

Our Key Stage 2 flag football teams seized bronze and silver medals at the Gateshead School Sports Partnership event in Blaydon. Pupils put into practice what they had learned in lessons, demonstrating some creative plays, pin-point passing and excellent running. We must mention our fabulous Key Stage 3 coaches who did a fantastic job calling the plays for the teams, as well as Mr Blatherwick and Mrs Parkin for organising such varied and exciting competitive opportunities.



Our pupils are always very motivated to compete in the Young Green Briton Challenge - a competition which supports young people to learn and apply design,

innovation, business and other transferable skills. Empowering them to explore local climate and sustainability issues and design entrepreneurial solutions or campaigns to address the problems they identify. Groups of Year 7 children took part this year and attended the regional final at Hexham Abbey. Each team presented their sustainable idea to a panel of local judges who were full of praise for



their innovation, creativity and passion. Only one team could go through and we are delighted that 'The Fashionable Footballs', who want to recycle broken footballs into plant pots, will be taking their project to the national final in London later this year. Our runner-up teams will be implementing their ideas within school: a new lunchtime sewing club will be bringing The Fashion Queens' ideas of making hair accessories out of old school uniform to life. The Feathered Feeders will be composting and using our chickens to help reduce food waste in school, once they arrive shortly. Mrs Browne, who led this initiative, is immensely proud of the effort and commitment shown from everyone involved. They really were all amazing and a credit to Corbridge Middle School. Our annual Careers' Fayre was a huge success and is always valued by pupils as a worthwhile, informative experience. It was great to see some of our parents and wider community supporting us and giving up their time to promote their job sector. Mr Johnston, who leads our careers' programme, was inspired by the support and kindness shown by all of those who gave up their time and attended the event, along with the extra effort they made to enthuse our students. It was lovely to hear them talking about the event the next day. A very big thank you to all exhibitors from

Red Engineering; The Wills Guys; Flower Farm; The Army cadets; Siemens; Northumbria University; Jet2.com; Aberdeen University; The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS; Hexi Lab; Northumbria Healthcare (NHS); Sir Robert McAlpine; PD Ports; Northumberland College; Fentimans; Cripps & Co; Northumberland Skills; Osbit & Drummond Central. We hope to host another event next year so please do get in touch with us should you wish to join us.



During the last week of term, the vibrant voices of 30 talented members of our school choir filled the air at Charlotte Straker House in Corbridge, delighting both staff and residents. The performance was a musical journey through the decades, featuring timeless classics like 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' and 'Can't Help Falling in Love,' as well as feelgood hits like 'Mamma Mia' and the heartfelt 'When I Grow Up.' The residents were warmly encouraged to join in, turning the performance into a joyful singalong that bridged generations. After the music came another magical moment as pupils spent time chatting with the residents, sharing stories and laughter over biscuits and juice. The smiles on everyone's faces were proof that music truly is a universal language of connection. It was an afternoon brimming with happiness, harmony, and unforgettable memories. We can't wait to return!

Lindsay Hamilton, Headteacher

The Public Realm

As Corbridge Parish Council embarks on a new four year term of office, its Chairman, William Clouston, puts his mind to the key question - what must we do?

Is it cared for? Is it looked after? Is this place loved? On entering any town or village, in any part of the world, the answer to these questions become apparent very quickly to visitors and residents alike. To me, this is the most fundamental thing a Parish Council should think about. Since first being given the honour of chairing Corbridge Parish Council in 2019 I've always had a preoccupation with the public realm - the buildings, the streets, the spaces, the plants and trees and the village scene overall. It's possible for us to make an impact on these things and so that's what I concentrate on. I believe that high quality public realm lifts the mood of everyone who sees it. It's a classic public good - something available to all and from which no one can be excluded. A Parish Council can't solve all of society's problems but it can help give us a tidier, more pleasant place to live.

As a new council term starts and we look ahead it's a good idea to review what we've already done and consider what has worked well and what we can improve on. During the lockdown in 2020 we took the opportunity to refurbish the Parish Hall. The rooms were painted, new cupboards were installed and a selection of the best of Ian Wylie's Corbridge photographs - and some very old Victorian ones - were framed and mounted. We have some further works to make within the building - improvements to the toilets and changes to the lighting within the main hall. All of this adds to the special care and attention which our caretaker Chris Urwin puts into the Parish Hall and the wider site in general. In future there is the possibility of improving the Parish Hall's thermal insulation, although I don't think this aim should be placed above the historic character and integrity of the building itself. The public works the Parish Council has engaged in have been varied. I was proud to have the unsightly industrial railings outside the Coop replaced with those of a better design - and properly set in sandstone. Our

most significant project, however, has been the transformation of Corchester Field. Back in 2019, when I took over as Chairman, the field was in state of total neglect. The grass was left uncut, there was no opportunity for informal field sports or other recreation and the pavilion was in such a state of disrepair that many of my fellow councillors urged its demolition. I disagreed. I thought the pavilion had great potential to be saved, refurbished and opened up. We commissioned a survey, produced a plan of design and implemented the scheme at reasonable cost. We were fortunate to have a fine contractor in Andrew Robinson and Sons and the results are there for all to see. Some further small improvements can be made to Corchester Field but, as a place of public recreation, it is basically complete. In the years to come the occasional archeological dig will present a challenge to the playing surface. However, the field is large enough to accommodate this and the interest and artefacts which such digs raise fully justifies any inconvenience. It's part of living in a Roman town.

General maintenance throughout the village will continue to be a priority. We are, of course, very fortunate to have strong partners to support us, such as Corbridge in Bloom. Nevertheless, I was delighted the Parish agreed to acquire a Piaggio utility vehicle for our hardworking handyman Andrew Cunningham. This extends Andrew's reach, his productivity and his capacity to undertake jobs throughout the village. One day I'd like a small workshop to be accommodated within the Parish Hall to enable repairs to be expedited without recourse to external contractors.

One of the beauties of the Parish level of government is direct provision. It's cheaper, quicker and better to be self-sufficient in some areas. Although I started my planning training at Westminster City Council - and have experience in two other large local authorities as an officer and member - I remain convinced that the most efficient form of government is the most local. The old school town clerks who ran the small rural district councils were very close to the services they provided and jobs they

did. Indeed, most of them rose up through the ranks from the groundworks team or civic amenity staff - in the days before degrees or other credentials were required for council administrators. Uncomplicated direct service provision still exists - at the Parish level.

Aside from the things I've mentioned above there is one hugely important project which the incoming Parish administration holds as a top priority, namely, our plans to improve the Market Place. The historic centre of the village is the focus of our community. As I look at it day to day - cluttered up as it is by cars and haphazard fly-parking - I've always thought we could do much better for this central space and we should try to do so. Having developed our initial proposals throughout 2020-22 and held a public consultation in 2023 (which showed strong public support) we are now at the stage of seeking detailed planning permission for our proposals. A topographical survey has been undertaken and a formal submission should take place this Summer. I'm fully aware of the legal, environmental and other obstacles which our modern system of government puts in the way of new development. For example, my colleague Cllr Nick Oliver has at times become understandably exasperated at the necessary bureaucracy to achieve the County Council's 38 space extension at the south side car park (the planning application alone required 37 documents). It will take time but whatever the challenges we must remain determined to see things through. If we obtain detailed planning consent we will then be able to embark on the next critical stage of securing funding.

I've always been confident that we will succeed - partly because this is a necessary scheme in a place of regional and national importance. It needs to happen. Corbridge is a gem and its heart is the most important piece of public realm we have. To reach its full potential it must be restored. We must succeed.

William Clouston
Chairman
Corbridge Parish Council



Corbridge Summer Tyne

The June edition of Corbridge Matters is always full of summer promise. Visitors are often surprised at how much goes on here in the month named after the Roman Goddess Juno. (A statue of Juno was uncovered in the Corbridge Edwardian excavations and is on display at our Roman Town) But, as ever, none of that promise would be possible without the many volunteers involved. On the facing page you will see posters for four upcoming events. With more listed on the pages that follow. The **Tynedale Beer and Cider Festival** (Thursday June 12 to Saturday June 14) began in 2002. Since then it has raised over £1million for a wide range of charities and good causes in the North East, plus hosts and organisers Tynedale Rugby Football Club. As the Festival website makes clear: "We wouldn't be able to do this without all the help from our visitors, sponsors and volunteers who make the festival a fantastic annual event in the Tyne Valley." **A Midsummer's Evening In Corbridge** on Thursday June 19 also relies on volunteers. Along with the help of local residents and businesses in clearing their vehicles from Market Place to allow it all to happen. The pace of change in our troubled world appears to accelerate with each passing year. Yet time stands still when the Hexham Morris men and lasses arrive at Midsummer to carry on a tradition which in England dates back to the 15th century. Just a short jingling leap away, the **2025 Flower Festival** at St Andrew's Church from Thursday June 19 to Sunday June 22 will be a must visit. Celebrating the 1350th anniversary of the church in floral displays thanks to the talent, skill and imagination of those involved. Open late until 9pm on our Midsummer's evening. Also look out for a rainbow cascade of crafted flowers. While the **Corbridge Open Gardens** (Sunday June 22) was a blooming big success when it joined the June calendar of events last year and is a lovely way to spend a summer's afternoon. With thanks to all of the garden hosts taking part. Plus there's a 5pm **Village Songs of Praise** at St Andrew's that day to mark the conclusion of the Flower Festival.

There is more June promise to discover on Pg 10. Including **'Our Beautiful World'** - an exhibition of paintings by Helen Alice Johnson "that reflect the landscapes of the North with a unique twist". Being held inside St Andrew's Church, again as part of its 1350th anniversary celebrations. A preview takes place between 6:30pm and 8pm on Thursday June 5 before the exhibition opens the next day for 10 days until Sunday June 15. The **Corbridge Steam Rally** at Tynedale Park on the weekend of Saturday June 7 and Sunday June 8 is organised and run by the South Tyne Traction Engine Society. If you've been before you will know it includes other vintage attractions as well as the steam traction engines. And in the wider area around the centre of Corbridge...this year's **Stagshaw House Open Garden** is on Sunday June 8 between noon and 5pm. **Halton Castle Open Garden** is between 11:30am and 4:30pm on Sunday June 15. The same day as the **Bywell Castle Open Garden** which is open between noon and 5pm.

Next month includes the four day **Corbridge Chamber Music Festival** (Thursday July 24 to Sunday July 27) which has grown into a significant national event. Including being highlighted on BBC Radio Three. This year's festival includes 'Walking With Wilfrid' - a guided walk from Hexham Abbey to St Andrew's Church - and the premiere of 'St Wilfrid', a work commissioned for the 1350th celebrations.



You can find full details on Pg 12. Talking of walks...our **Corbridge Heritage Trails** are well worth exploring in the summer months. You can pick up the free leaflets, including route maps, from the Corbridge Heritage Centre in Princes Street or Corbridge Library in Hill Street. And should you be wandering by the river, you might find **Corbridge Cricket Club** en route. Spectators are always welcome to watch a game unfold with perhaps some refreshment from their modern club house staffed by friendly volunteers. Scan the QR code on this page for a link to this summer's fixtures or visit <https://corbridge.play-cricket.com>

Not forgetting that the aforementioned Corbridge Roman Town is worth checking out if you haven't been for a while. I'm told the rare 2000 year old Roman knife handle cast in the shape of a gladiator which was discovered in the Tyne at Corbridge is due to go on display there later this summer.

Ian Wylie, Editor



**TYNEDALE
BEER
& CIDER
FESTIVAL**
THUR 12
TO SAT 14
JUNE 2025

COMING SOON!

BEER • CIDER • RAFT KEG BEER • WINE • PIRNS
Q&A BAR • STREET FOOD • LIVE MUSIC
SATURDAY FAMILY AFTERNOON

Tickets from £15 (incl. online, plus parking fee)

tynedalebeerfestival.org.uk

A FUNDRAISING EVENT TO BENEFIT:
TYNEDALE HOSPICE AT HOME
GATEWAY INTO THE COMMUNITY
THE HEXTOL FOUNDATION
TYNEDALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

TYNEDALE RUGBY CLUB,
CLOSE TO CORBRIDGE TRAIN STATION

tyynedalebeerfestival CARPING • FREE CAR PARKING • TWO ENORMOUS MARQUEES

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 19th from 4pm



FLOWER FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING 1350 YEARS OF
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

Designed by St Andrew's Flower Arrangers and Friends

Thursday 19th - Sunday 22nd June, 2025
9.30am - 5pm (except 19th June)

Thursday open to 9pm during the village Midsummer Evening.
Sunday 10am - 11.15am: Festival Eucharist
Sunday 5pm: Village Songs of Praise

CORBRIDGE
OPEN
GARDENS

Sunday 22nd June 2025
1pm to 5pm

*Maps & tickets available on the day at the Corbridge Community Hub, Princes Street.
*Plant Stall - Tynedale Horticultural Service.

*Find locations using ///what3words App.

£7 per adult
Refreshments available at the Corbridge Community Hub (former Methodist Church)

Explore many beautiful gardens in Corbridge!

**Also please note:
St Andrew's Church Flower Festival 19-22 June**

All Open Gardens Event profits in aid of:
Charlotte Straker Project
The Corbridge Community Partnership

Charlotte Straker
Charity Number: 1220341

Hub
Charity Number: 1260077

NOTICE BOARD

St Andrew's Church

Sundays at 10am: Parish Communion
Sunday June 1 at 4pm: Messy Church
Sunday June 8 at 4pm: Simply Worship
Sunday June 15 at 4pm: Simply Worship
Sunday June 22 at 5pm: Flower Festival Songs of Praise
Sunday June 29: RIVER

St Andrew's Church 1350th Anniversary Events

Friday June 6 to Sunday June 15: Our Beautiful World. An exhibition of paintings in the church by Helen Alice Johnson. Preview on Thursday June 5 from 6:30pm to 8pm.
Thursday June 19 to Sunday June 22: Flower Festival.
Tuesday July 8 at 7pm: 'A Vicar's Son'. A talk by John Malden, son of Rex Malden who was the Vicar at St Andrew's between 1947 and 1970.
Monday 14th July 14 at 7pm: Concert: Khrystyna and Sasha Mykhailichenko.

Corbridge Methodists

Thursday June 12 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church
Thursday June 26 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

Tynedale Hospice at Home is a local charity providing hospice at home care services, including 24-hour nursing care, pre and post bereavement support, patient transport and complementary therapy. These care services are offered to families in West Northumberland, Tynedale and Ponteland. All the care is provided at no cost to the user and families can access this by either self-referring or by speaking to their medical team. If you feel the Hospice could support you, they are happy to have an informal chat about their services on 01434 600388. However, the Hospice can't provide these vital services without the support of the community. It is estimated that it will cost £1.9m to continue to provide the services and the Hospice only get 4% of this from statutory funding. There are lots of ways to support the Hospice. You could give your time as one of their volunteers, support their shops by donating or purchasing those pre-loved items or support a fundraising event. More about their care services and how you can help can be found on their website.



OUR BEAUTIFUL WORLD
AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY HELEN ALICE JOHNSON
At St Andrew's Church, Corbridge
Friday June 6th to Sunday June 15th
10am to 5pm Daily*
*11:30am to 4pm on Sundays



4:15PM: CALUM TORDOFF | 5:15PM: ROCK CHOIR
6:15PM: HEXHAM MORRIS | 7:15PM: LIBERTY BELLE
IN MARKET PLACE / ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE
THURSDAY JUNE 19TH

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

Corbridge Parish Hall: June 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid...	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 14:30 - 15:30 Yoga 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	11:00 - 16:00 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris... 14:30 - 15:30 Private Booking
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge WI 19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Pilates with Val 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid...	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters 16:45 - 20:45 Corbridge Sch...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 13:00 - 17:30 Celebration of ...	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 14:30 - 15:30 Yoga 17:00 - 19:00 Karate		10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris... 14:30 - 15:30 Private Booking
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Pilates with Val 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid...	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters 16:45 - 20:45 Corbridge Sch...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 14:30 - 15:30 Yoga 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	10:00 - 13:45 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris... 14:30 - 15:30 Private Booking
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Pilates with Val 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid...	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters 16:45 - 20:45 Corbridge Sch...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 12:45 - 14:00 Guide Dog Pup...	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 14:30 - 15:30 Yoga 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	08:00 - 18:00 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris... 14:30 - 15:30 Private Booking
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Pilates with Val 13:00 - 16:00 Corbridge Brid...	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters 16:45 - 20:45 Corbridge Sch...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 16:30 - 21:30 CGS - Summer ...	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 14:30 - 15:30 Yoga 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	13:00 - 17:00 Private Booking	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris... 14:30 - 15:30 Private Booking
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
19:00 - 22:00 Corbridge Brid...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class 11:00 - 12:00 Pilates with Val	10:30 - 15:30 KSA Painters 16:45 - 20:45 Corbridge Sch...	09:00 - 10:00 Zumba Class	09:30 - 11:30 Corbridge Bad... 14:30 - 15:30 Yoga 17:00 - 19:00 Karate	18:30 - 23:00 Heatham Villag...	10:00 - 14:30 Tynedale Chris... 14:30 - 15:30 Private Booking

CORBRIDGE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

24-27 JULY
2025



CORBRIDGEFESTIVAL.CO.UK

Corbridge Chamber Music Festival is supported by Arts Council UK



THE CORBRIDGE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL HAS BROUGHT WORLD-CLASS CHAMBER MUSIC TO TYNEDALE FOR OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

Described in *The Guardian* top 5 being as an "enchanting little festival", it has since grown into a major event in the UK's musical calendar.

Audiences are attracted to the festival not just to hear glorious music played by renowned artists in the most intimate of settings, but also to explore picturesque Tynedale, strolling Hadrian's Wall, and Corbridge's boutique shops and eateries.



Artists, musicians, the festival team and Robert Platts. Photo by Barbara Johnson

THURSDAY 24 JULY

CONCERT 1 | 7pm

Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring* (world premiere)
Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* in G minor op.105
Saint-Saëns *Piano Trio in E minor op.90*
Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* is the festival's first opera, after which we visit a *Brandenburg* masterpiece in the composer's 150th anniversary year and Saint-Saëns' epitome of French sophistication.

St. Andrew's Church

FRIDAY 25 JULY

CONCERT 2 | 6pm

Debussy *Jeux* in D major op. 32
Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* in G minor op.105
Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* in G minor op.105
Debussy's *Jeux* is a joyful work, as a joyful concert by the festival's first opera, after which we visit a *Brandenburg* masterpiece in the composer's 150th anniversary year and Saint-Saëns' epitome of French sophistication.

St. Andrew's Church

CONCERT 3 | 5pm

BAROQUE AND BEYOND

An uplifting selection of baroque gems juxtaposed with intriguing masterworks of our own time, presented in a relaxed manner with cafe style table seating.

Corbridge Parish Hall

SATURDAY 26 JULY

WALKING WITH WILFRID

2025 marks the 1150th anniversary of St. Wilfrid's founding of our glorious town, St. Andrew's Church. In celebration, we present the first concert of the day in magnificent Hadham Abbey and then offer a guided walk to Corbridge. St. Wilfrid sent his monks from Hadham to Corbridge to establish what has now become St. Andrew's. Our walk, organised in partnership with Hadham Builders, will be in the company of some of our festival musicians. After tea and cake and time to refresh, our second concert of the day features the world premiere of a specially commissioned work by composer Peter Halliwell which takes inspiration from the very stones of St. Andrew's. A free exhibition of Wilfrid-inspired work by local artist and potter, Jo Wigney, completes a day of total Wilfrid immersion.

FESTIVAL MUSICIANS

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Gould Piano Trio
Lucy Gould violin
Richard Lester cello
Benjamin Frick piano
Robert Platts clarinet

WITH GUESTS

Magnus Johnson violin
Gary Penney viola
Alice Henry cello
Philip Wilson double bass
The Platts baroque
Ben Goldschlager harp
Platts and Peter Dwyer
Bach Sings Glee
David Murphy guitar
Heldi Ruff piano
Richard Wigney musicologist

TICKETS

CONCERTS 1, 2, 4, 5 AND 7
Reserved £25 / Unreserved £20

CONCERTS 3 and 6
Unreserved £18

FESTIVAL PASS
Reserved £107 / Unreserved £128

Our festival venues are wheelchair accessible. If you require a wheelchair space for a concert, please contact us in advance so that we can ensure there is a space made available for you, with a complimentary seat for a carer. Please see website for our full accessibility statement.

Free tickets are available for under 25s and for those claiming universal credit.

Event created by Jo Wigney



Photo by Barbara Johnson

OUR SPONSORS



CONCERT 4 | 11am

Widmann *Air*
Mozart *Clarinet Quintet* in A K. 581
Schubert *Octet* in F D. 803
Two Hadhamers of the classical chamber music repertoire are provided by Jörg Widmann's haunting work for horn, in the hands of superstar soloist Ben Goldschlager.

Hadham Abbey

FESTIVAL WILFRID WALK

Join our guides from Hadham Builders in a walk from Hadham to Corbridge along part of the River Tyne Trail. Staggered departures from Hadham Abbey from 11.00am - walk an approximate arrival time at St. Andrew's, Corbridge, of 4.00/4.30pm. Please see the festival website for full details. Limited spaces. Free for ticket holders in concerts 4 and 5.

6.15pm

MEET THE CREATIVES

Peter Halliwell, Jo Wigney and Chuan Russell in conversation with Richard Wigney and Robert Platts.

St. Andrew's Church

CONCERT 5 | 7.30pm

Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* in G minor op.105
Händel *The King of Shira* (world premiere)
Mendelssohn *Piano Trio in C minor op.66*
A spiritually enriching programme ranging from early Baroque to a brand new work from Peter Halliwell, celebrating St. Wilfrid and the very building that now stands in Corbridge on the site of his ancient monastery.

St. Andrew's Church



Platts and Peter Dwyer. Photo by Barbara Johnson

SUNDAY 27 JULY

CONCERT 6 | 3pm

FLUTES AND FRETS DUO

A fascinating journey through the 100-year history of the flute and the guitar, featuring a myriad of instruments, ancient and modern, in a selection of the Platts and Peter Dwyer's favourite repertoire.

St. Andrew's Church

6pm

DISCOVERING BERWALD

Explore the secrets of the work that drove our 2025 festival in the company of our resident musicologist Richard Wigney, whose insights are illustrated with live musical examples.

St. Andrew's Church

CONCERT 7 | 7.30pm

Stravinsky *Piano Quintet*
Mozart *Sonata* in D K. 581
Berwald *Grand Sextet* in Bb major

The festival comes to a melodic conclusion with the work of the romantic Swedish composer Berwald, having revisited Richard Strauss in the form of a morning early work as well as Mozart's sparkling *Turkish* for two pianos during the day.

St. Andrew's Church

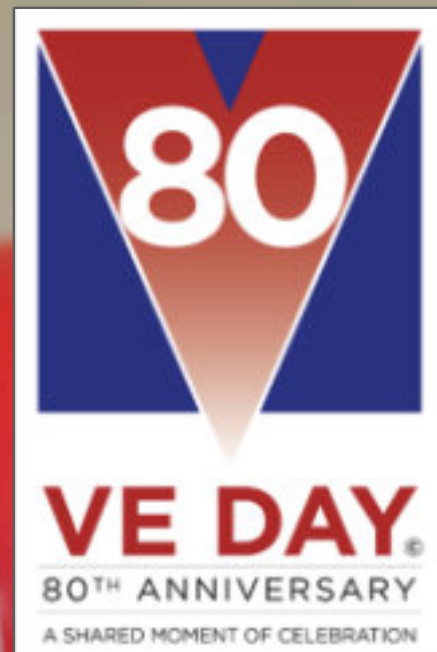


Photo by Barbara Johnson

V-E DAY 80TH
ANNIVERSARY
VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY
8 MAY 1945 - 2025



The VE Day 80th Anniversary was marked by a Tea Party at Corbridge Parish Hall. Followed by a night of celebrations at the Corstopitum Social Club organised by the Corbridge branch of the Royal British Legion. With the VE Day 80 flag flying outside. The bells of St Andrew's Church rang at 6:30pm on the day (Thursday May 8) itself with the anniversary commemorated at the 10am service on the following Sunday when the Caporetto installation of sculpted bells was on display inside the church. David Waugh also gave a talk at the Corbridge Community Hub about Corbridge during World War Two. Including a reference to the Corbridge Home Guard (Dad's Army) - see over the page.



World War Two 1939...

The outset of World War Two saw many changes. Not least at Dilston Hall near Corbridge. With German bombers expected to target the shipyards along the Tyne, also putting nearby communities at risk. The article below is from the **Newcastle Evening Chronicle** of October 24th 1939 - 55 days after Britain declared war on Germany. Corbridge Maternity Home was on the south side of the bridge where Lion Court stands today. This all pre-dated the founding of the National Health Service after the war in 1948. Dilston Maternity Home closed in 1965 followed by Corbridge Maternity Home in 1969. Today Dilston Hall is the home of Cambian Dilston College, a residential independent specialist provider of further education for young people aged 16 to 25 who have moderate to severe learning disabilities.

Tyneside's Evacuated Mothers: Dilston Hall A Maternity Centre

Set amid some of the most beautiful scenery in the North, overlooking the upper Tyne Valley, a modern and fully equipped maternity home to accommodate evacuated expectant mothers has been established at Dilston Hall, the home of Lord Allendale, by the Northumberland County Council.

Across the valley, a portion of the beautiful home of Mrs John C. Straker, at Stagshaw, has been set aside for the same purpose, and arrangements made for the treatment of any serious cases at Corbridge Maternity Home.

Efforts are to be made to provide billets for expectant mothers in the near neighbourhood so as to ensure facile transfer to these centres when necessary. It is perhaps one of the illogical things of life that is has required such a terrible state of affairs as modern warfare to make it possible for Tyneside mothers to bear their children in circumstances more approaching perfection than ever before.

One may even assume that after this experience of what is possible this new standard will not be lowered after the termination of hostilities. What will probably appeal more than anything else to the average Tyneside mother, who prefers her own home to

the rather austere severity of a hospital, is the air of informality established in the rambling old Dilston Hall - a home from home.

Since the outbreak of war the hall has undergone extensive alterations to fit it for the purpose. Dining and drawing rooms have been fitted out as wards - two of nine beds, one of five, four of four beds, one of three and one of two. In addition other parts of the hall have been turned into modernly-equipped "labour" rooms and an operating theatre, for though it is intended that Corbridge Maternity Home shall be used for operative cases it is possible in an emergency to deal with any case in the hall. The county authorities desire to encourage every expectant mother on Tyneside to take advantage of the opportunity of these surroundings. No one will be refused, apart from any possible overwhelming demand on accommodation.

Previously the first wave of expectant mothers to be evacuated have been dealt with at Gilsland under the Cumberland county authority, but now Northumberland's own home is ready it is hoped a steady flow will find its way to Dilston.

The use of Dilston Hall will mean a conserving of medical officers, the preventing of obviously unsuitable births in private billets and the avoidance of difficulty in rushing specialised attention to scattered billets under

black-out conditions. Mothers have no need to worry over questions of finance. They will be expected to contribute a reasonable sum in accordance with their means, which will not exceed the amount they will normally have to pay under ordinary child-birth circumstances. In the words of Dr. W. F. J. Whitley (County Medical Officer), under whose supervision the Home is conducted - "The question of money need not prevent any woman from coming here." The present staff comprises the Matron, Miss Rowan, formerly matron of the Simpson Memorial Maternity Home, Edinburgh, four nursing sisters and five domestic staff. Several of the nurses have come from the Princess Mary Maternity Home, which also supplied some 40 beds complete with linen. The scheme has the approval of the Newcastle authorities.



Newcastle Evening Chronicle
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Harry Baker and Harold Towers after Home Guard drill in Corbridge. c.1945. With thanks to Rodney Towers and family.



Corbridge Home Guard WW2



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Forum Books

Holla Happy Reading

And with the sun high in the sky, it's the perfect time to soak up the sunshine with a brilliant book. We're hoping for plenty of sun, especially on the first Sunday of the month when, with our neighbours Vintage at the Tower, The Pele, MJ Forster Gallery and us, there's a Sunday Social in the lane from noon onwards. With live music and a relaxed vibe we're tuning into all things Sunday Best as celebrated in **Daniel Gray's** new book - here the seventh day in all its rich variety, where in our rushed modern lives we should now try to recapture that distinctive, unhurried Sunday feel. **Sunday Best** offers nostalgia, people's history and affectionate, absorbing writing – a book drenched in the hum of lawnmowers, the scent of gravy, summoning the faint sound of church bells, strolls to nowhere in particular and visiting snoozing grandparents

We love the Northumberland countryside as much as you do and have a couple of authors we know you'll love. First up is local **Mel Rockett** who worked with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust on the reintroduction of the water rat. He'll be talking us through **Ratty Restored** on Thursday June 12th. Later on Monday June 23rd we welcome author and journalist **Patrick Galbraith** to talk about his latest book **Uncommon Ground: Rethinking Our Relationship with The Countryside**. The countryside is under increasing pressure and people, the science shows, need nature. Access to the countryside is essential for our health, our happiness and our future. This evening promises to be an engaging conversation and debate and a book that is highly relevant to our community.

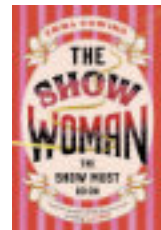
Another celebration is **Independent Bookshop Week** (Saturday June 14 to June 21) where we get to celebrate ourselves. This year we are serving up a Historical Fiction panel where we'll be squeezing a trio of writers - **Emma Cowing, Fiza Saeed McLynn and Joanna Miller** - into our pulpit on Wednesday June 18th to regale us with their dazzling historical fiction novels. From the glitzy jazz clubs of 1920s Chicago and mysterious fairground rides, to the empowering story of the first female student at Oxford, to a captivating tale of a travelling women's circus in Edwardian Scotland, these books offer something special and unique readers will love. All three authors will talk about the inspiration for their novels, why they chose to focus on historical fiction and why they find it so important to tell women's stories throughout history that might have previously gone ignored.

PLUS Corbridge's Midsummer's Evening falls in this week too on Thursday June 19th - we'll have some tasters from Denmark's Delia **Trine Hahnemann**. Her new book **Eat Copenhagen** is a collection of recipes from an effortlessly stylish city, interspersed with stories that set the culinary scene of the Danish capital. From the chic restaurants of Vesterbro to the buzzing streets of Nørrebro, eating in Copenhagen is quite unlike dining anywhere else in the world.

If there's a single book to recommend it's one that Frederik Backmann describes as, "The kind of book you give to someone when you're really trying to say 'I've been thinking about you' but don't know how." Swedish bestseller **When The Cranes Fly South** by **Lize Ridzen** gives us Bo who lives a quiet existence in his small rural village in the north of Sweden. He is elderly and his days are punctuated by visits from his care team and his son. Fortunately, he still has his rich memories, phone calls with his best friend Ture, and his beloved dog Sixten for company. Only now his son is insisting the dog must be taken away. The very same son that Bo is wanting to mend his relationship with before his time is up. The threat of losing Sixten stirs up a whirlwind of emotions and makes Bo determined to resist and find his voice. **When the Cranes Fly South** is a profoundly moving and life-affirming novel about one man's desire to preserve his autonomy, the multitude of stories contained within a life, and the big things for which we have no words.

And with that I'm out of words too...

Helen



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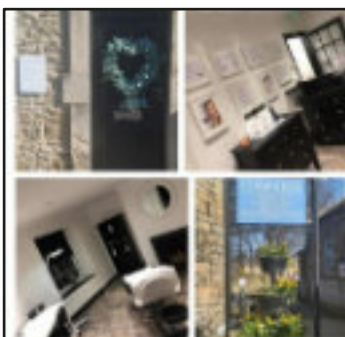


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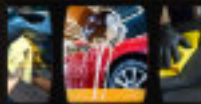


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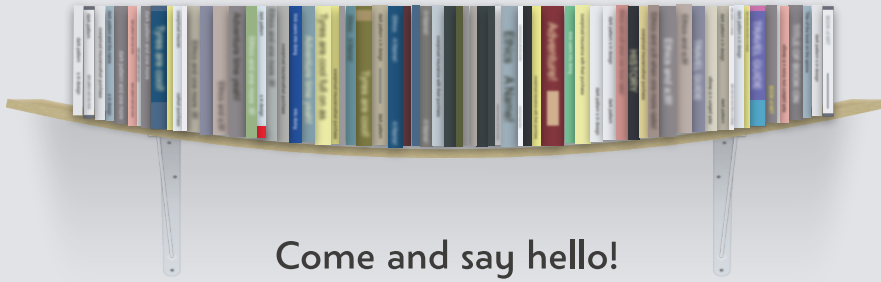


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Welcome To Corbridge

A Bridge To Hadrian's Wall



The Friends of Corbridge Station - part of the Corbridge Community Partnership - have continued their work to further enhance the railway station. Installing a large banner for both visitors to Corbridge to see as well as those passing through. With thanks also to Northern for funding the project and the ongoing support of the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership.





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