

CORBRIDGE MATTERS



August 2025 Issue 84

www.corbridge-pc.gov.uk

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Village Show pull-out supplement - Centre pages

Council Notes



The Parish Council's new 'planters' have now been sited in the Market Place - this being the very first stage in reclaiming parts of this public realm from fly-parking cars. I'd like to thank Mandy Senior and Chris Urwin for putting these new facilities into place and Corbridge In Bloom for helping out with the species selection

and nearby planting and refurbishment. This followed the Parish Council's decision in April to place the planters in this location following the advice given by our highways consultant and the decision to permit Grants Bakery to place tables and chairs within a limited area which will be controlled by an annual licence. The Council will monitor the new arrangement alongside preparing and shortly submitting detailed plans for planning permission for our wider Market Place scheme. It is vitally important that vehicular access to Stobo's Greengrocers for servicing and customer collections is maintained in the zone beyond the southern most planter. This zone is also essential for service deliveries to Grants Bakery - it is not for general parking. The cooperation of all village vehicle users as well as visitors will be much appreciated.

The wonderful arrangements at the St Andrew's Church 1350 Flower Festival illustrated some of our history. Many different displays also chronicled the life of St Andrew, his extensive travels and influence. Ian Wylie's photographs in this edition of Corbridge Matters speak for themselves. It was magnificent - and a tribute to all the effort the various contributors made.

The Corbridge Midsummer event was blessed with hot weather. And another successful and well-attended gathering on the longest day was the free community yoga class organised by Natalie's Corbridge Yoga Studio on the Parish Council's land at The Chains. Judging by the many positive comments and reactions I wonder whether this might become an annual event.

The great weather we've all enjoyed has been a boon for Corbridge Cricket Club. At the time of writing the Men's 1st XI had won eight out of their 11 matches. The Men's 2nd XI stood at top of Division 6 West, the Women's 1st XI were placed mid table in the Northumberland Women's Cricket League and the many junior teams continue to thrive. These teams at local level throughout the country are the foundations of England's summer game and the heart of our community. Thanks are due to all of the volunteers who continue this important stewardship.

William Clouston
(Corbridge Parish Council Chairman)



Since my last column written in the days following the election in May we have formed a (minority) administration at County Hall with Reform as the largest opposition. Glen Sanderson has been re-elected as Council Leader and a Conservative Cabinet has been appointed. I am in that Cabinet with the

finance portfolio which may be challenging with continuing pressures on local authority funding. The annual budget of Northumberland County Council is £979m this year but there isn't a lot of flexibility in how that money is spent because of statutory requirements. I am taking responsibility for the 'Best Programme' which is driving efficiency and improving front line services and that will be a main area of focus for me. All appointments have been made and the work of the new administration at County Hall has begun.

It's been great to see our excellent village handyman Andrew out with the Glutton street cleaning machine I acquired with my members' grant allowance and also the Piaggio which the Parish Council purchased. I'm sure everybody will agree our public realm is looking better.

When we came to install the table tennis table I mentioned in my last column, it turned out that only half of it had been delivered! The other half has just arrived so I'm sure by the time you are reading this it will be in situ behind the Parish Hall. Let's hope for more sunshine and not too much wind.

Congratulations to everybody involved in organising the Midsummer Evening in Corbridge. We got lucky with the weather, it was a great event and was well attended. Hopefully our local hostellers benefitted...I can attest that the Black Bull and Golden Lion were busy. The St Andrew's Church 1350 Flower Festival was spectacular - well done to Linda Hunter along with the other organisers and to all the exhibitors. Creativity is alive and well in the Tyne Valley.

I've recently had a briefing on the Corbridge to Hexham active travel route (more commonly known as the cycle route). There's been quite a bit of redesign to improve it and reduce costs and as soon as I know more I'll share a link. Work will start soon - you may have noticed that the layby on the way into the east end of Hexham has been fenced off as a site compound.

As ever I can be contacted at nick.oliver24@outlook.com or 07779 983742.

Nick Oliver
(Corbridge County Councillor)



Saturday Night Steam

A number of participants in the 2025 Corbridge Steam Rally at Tynedale Park again made the journey over the bridge to spend part of the Saturday night in Market Place. With thanks to them all.





Midsummer 2025





Several thousand people attended a magical Midsummer's Evening in Corbridge which was blessed with hot and sunny weather. A huge event for the Visit Corbridge volunteers to organise and stage. But by the end everyone was walking on sunshine. Scan the smartphone QR code to see a full photo gallery.



Ofsted Success

Every term at Corbridge First School is packed full of fun and learning but this Summer Term has been even busier than usual thanks to a visit from Ofsted. The inspection was ungraded – meaning the school maintains its previous “Good” grading. Inspectors shared that Corbridge First School is “a happy and welcoming place” where “pupils work hard, enjoy their learning and typically achieve well” – which was a delight to read! Inspectors also concluded:

***The school has a “comprehensive” curriculum which is “ambitious for pupils” in particular “nurturing a love of reading for all pupils”.
“High expectations for pupils’ learning and wellbeing are shared by all”.
The school “helps prepare pupils well for life beyond school” and encourages them to be “active and positive citizens in their community”.
Pupils with special educational needs or disabilities are “well supported” and “parents and carers appreciate the support they and their children receive”.
Staff are “proud to work at the school”.
Pupils receive “the support they need, when they need it” and are proud of the school’s “Strong Christian values and nurturing ethos”.
“Pupils flourish here” and praised the school for the “harmonious atmosphere, which permeates all areas”.***

I was overjoyed to see inspectors recognise that pupil voice is ‘at the heart of the school’s ethos.’ That’s key to what we’re trying to achieve at Corbridge – so I was delighted that this was obvious to inspectors as soon as they stepped through the door. On a personal level, it means the world to me that the inspectors immediately recognised the respect and kindness our children show every day and the effort we make to develop their character and awareness of the world around them – and beyond!

Taking Learning Beyond the Classroom

A group of children from Years 1 - 4 visited Close House Golf Academy. Following a block of lessons in school, the group was chosen because of their engagement and evident enjoyment of the sport. Throughout the afternoon, the groups accessed the driving range and short course with support from PGA professional coaches, Sally Hinton and Craig Smith. Everyone agreed that golf is so much fun, especially on a sunny day.

Nursery ventured out on a trip to Mrs Newall’s farm in Wall. They did a scavenger hunt to find different animals, tools and buildings around the site. Also feeding the baby lambs and saw Jacob sheep, cows, horses, hens and guinea fowl. There were lots of very noisy peacocks and two very friendly cats too. They had a picnic lunch outside, went on a mini-beast hunt, climbed over fences and ran through fields. It was brilliant.

Nursery and Reception also had a visit in school from ‘Crazy Creatures’. They met and held a variety of creatures, from pythons to tarantulas; chinchillas to giant millipedes. The children absolutely loved this amazing hands-on experience. We were so proud of the children (and adults) who were so brave!

Our new drum teacher Mr Hutton started in Summer 2 and children in Years 2 and 3 are now accessing individual and group lessons. We definitely have some future rock stars in our ranks.

Year 3 visited Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum where they learned all about the Romans in Britain at the edge of the Empire. They were a credit to the school, with excellent knowledge and behaviour on display throughout. I think we have definitely inspired a few future archaeologists. It was lovely having parents and governors to accompany the trip, too.

After a huge build-up the long awaited residential trip to Ford Castle took place in May. Year 4 were in high spirits and couldn’t wait to set off. The children took part in a variety of activities, with the balloon splash and zip line proving firm favourites. They even managed to get some sleep.

It has been wonderful to see the children thrive, being the best they can be, and solidifying friendships across the Federation with Broomhaugh CofE First School.

Suzanne Hart
Executive Headteacher





Corbridge CofE First School





“Trees of green, red roses too...”

Over 3000 people attended the stunning St Andrew's 1350 Flower Festival, held as part of the church's 1350th anniversary celebrations. A total of 31 exhibits explored the travels and influence of St Andrew, the life of the church, Corbridge history and church founder St Wilfrid. Assistant Curate Rev Linda Hunter said: "The Flower Festival was a really successful event due to the hard work of many people, particularly Ann Prudhoe and her husband Tony and all the Corbridge Flower Team. Thanks to all those who helped in a range of ways, it was greatly appreciated." Scan the smartphone QR code to see a full gallery of photos.



NOTICE BOARD

St Andrew's Church

Sundays at 10am: Parish Communion
Sunday August 3 at 4pm: Simply Worship
Sunday August 10 at 4pm: Simply Worship
Sunday August 17 at 4pm: Simply Worship
Sunday August 24 at 4pm: Simply Worship
Sunday August 31 at 4pm: RIVER

St Andrew's Church 1350th Anniversary Events

Wednesday September 10 at 7pm: Heritage Talk by Molly Kady. Author of Hexham Abbey: A Souvenir: at St Andrew's Church.

Corbridge Methodists

Thursday August 14 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church
Thursday August 28 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

Tea and Chat at the Corbridge Community Hub

Taking a summer break for August but returns at 2pm on Wednesday September 10.

Northumberland Classic and Performance Motor Show

10am to 4pm on Sunday August 17 at Tynedale Park.

Corbridge Village Show

2pm to 4:30pm on Saturday September 6.
See centre insert.

Charlotte Straker Fete

2pm to 4pm on Saturday September 20 at Charlotte Straker House.

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



Jack Robinson & Son

The Village Printer



PC Jack Robinson loved being a village bobby. He was perfectly happy handling the occasional fracas or petty crime, and best of all having his finger on the pulse of the community. He knew everyone and everyone knew Jack.

Trouble was, the job had changed since he joined what is now

Northumbria Police in 1965. In 1979 the bosses decided all of the village policemen had to be based in Hexham, so he was stuck in an office shuffling paper or driving around in a Panda car. He desperately missed pounding the beat in Riding Mill.

One dull Saturday night, Jack sat in the police car glumly contemplating his future and gazing out at the dark, empty streets. Suddenly, he had an overwhelming sensation that his father, Bob Robinson, who had died years earlier, was almost tangibly in the car beside him trying to give him advice.

Bob Robinson had been a miner in West Sleekburn, near Ashington. His hobby was printing, using a small hand printing press to produce tickets and wedding invitations. As a child, Jack had watched and learned from his father working on the kitchen table and all of those memories came flooding back.



By the end of that boring night shift, Jack had resolved to take his dad's hobby a step further and become a professional printer, calling his business Jack Robinson Printer. It later became Jack Robinson & Son when his son Ian joined him, keeping the company in Corbridge for 43 years. Ian takes up the story:

"I was 12 at the time and when my dad left the police force and a steady income it was really tough for him. He had to do two jobs - printing during the week, then working night shifts as a security guard every weekend to support us - me, my brother Michael and mam who was also working.

"I remember he bought an 8" x 5" Adana hand fed machine, set it up in the garage and began doing small printing jobs just like his father. As more work came in he needed a bigger machine but it was still hand fed so it was time consuming and labour intensive, until we could afford a much faster Thompson Platen which was automatic.

"At the time we lived in Healey and one day Michael fell in the stream nearby and was soaked through. He had pound notes in his pockets and mam clipped them to the washing line to dry out. You can imagine the comments when someone who knew dad was a printer called round, 'Ay-ay, the counterfeit business is doing well then?'

"Something just clicked when I watched my dad printing. I spent every night and weekends helping out. It didn't feel like work. When I left Queen Elizabeth School in Hexham in 1983 there was no question of me doing anything else.

"He'd moved into a third of an old building at the back of what is now Floorscope on Main Street. It was grotty, damp and freezing. We had two Calor gas heaters but in winter it was so cold the printing materials really thickened up."

Ian still had a lot to learn when in 1985 two men from Corbridge Cricket Club walked in with a proposal. Chris Roberts and John Maude were writing a book about the centenary of the club and they were keen for the local firm to print it.

"'Corbridge Cricket Club 1886-1986' had me tearing my hair out," said Ian. "Wedding invitations, business stationary and Christmas cards were our bread and butter. But this book was something else. It was my first big job. I'd never done anything like it before and neither had they. So they breezed in with no idea what they were asking and I didn't know either. Night after night I slogged on it well past midnight. Then they'd bounce in the next morning with a cheery, 'Everything going well?'"

Life became easier when Ian met Ken Blake, a printer in Haltwhistle. Ken had changed from Letterpress Printing to Litho which operated in a completely different way, dramatically reducing the time spent setting up and easily enabling reprints.

"I owe Ken such a debt," said Ian. "For weeks after work he showed me how to operate Litho Press, even though we were supposed be competitors. We still help each other out and have a huge bond."

By the time Ian was only 20, he was running the business and Jack took a back seat doing the books. Ian embraced technology which revolutionised the industry, from the first Apple Mac to digital printing today.



Old Bake



He moved from the old shed in 1994, eventually buying and converting property previously owned by Chaffey's Bakery in Old Bakery Yard. His brother has the offices upstairs.

Ian no longer goes home with his hands impregnated with printer's ink. The evocative workplace smell of ink on metal has gone. The magnificent old printing presses stand silent in the workshop, replaced by a single computer a couple of metres away.

Although printing is so much easier, the orders are much the same - fast turnaround leaflets, invitations, and orders of service. He's often first to hear village news. Ian has even printed documents for personal family events, like his wedding to Fiona in 1995 and his mother's funeral in 2018.

"I really appreciate my work / life balance now. I used to be here until 2am trying to meet deadlines. But when I turned 50 I decided to start working a four day week. Fiona has retired from nursing but I'm happy to be ticking over for the time being.

"I still love living and working in Corbridge. And I'm grateful for all of the support from the village, from individuals and businesses to organisations like the church and societies. I never know who is coming through the door and it's great that everyone likes to stop for a chat. Just like they did with my dad."

Sheilagh Matheson



ery Yard as it was.



"In a world often swept up by the speed of modernity - faster living, faster consumption, faster forgetting - it has never been more vital to slow down and remember what truly sustains us: kindness, gratitude and connection...I believe that small, genuine gestures can ripple out in profound ways."

Those words of Canadian artist Corey Ceccarelli came to mind when I reflected on the events of June 2025 in Corbridge. Watching wonderfully creative people putting the 31 exhibits together at the St Andrew's Church 1350 Flower Festival with such skill, love and care. And the hosts working for months to ensure everything was ready to welcome visitors in to their gardens as part of the Corbridge Open Gardens event. That vibrant community spirit also evident at A Midsummer's Evening In Corbridge, the Tynedale Beer and Cider Festival and the Corbridge Steam Rally.

Ukraine-born Olha Samusieva captured her reflections of both Midsummer and the Flower Festival. Posting these words on social media:

"Yesterday I walked through the coziest, most homely and truly English little town in Northumberland. It felt so authentic - like a scene from a film, but real. There was a folk festival going on: men were dancing Morris dances in traditional costumes, and women were singing old songs - some of them I even used to dance to back in Ukraine. I fell in love with this town at first sight. It's so British that you just melt into its little streets - they feel like they're wrapping you in their atmosphere. One of the most magical moments was the Flower Festival at St Andrew's Church. There were 31 design teams, all inspired by ancient traditions and the story of Saint Andrew. They created the most beautiful floral displays - each one telling its own story. It felt like something between art, spirit, and a little bit of magic. I completely lost myself in it and felt that warm. There was so much soul - in every flower, every folk detail, every note of the music. It was such a joyful and deep experience to dive into the vibe of one of my favourite places."

A few days later the Corbridge Open Gardens event raised over £3200 for charity. But just as important was the sense of community it also displayed. Both in the gardens and at the event HQ - the Corbridge Community Hub - where a team of volunteers served up tea, cake and savouries as friends, old and new, met and talked together. Yet again, the messages received after that afternoon reflected just how much everyone had thoroughly enjoyed both taking part and attending. "Kindness, gratitude and connection" shone through.

Corey Ceccarelli regarded his words as a call: *"A call to slow down, to notice, to be moved by those around you. Let us redefine success not by accumulation, but by how much we give, support and uplift."*

Amen to that.

Ian Wylie
Editor

from the Editor...





Corbridge Parish Hall, St Helen's Street
Saturday 6th September 2025, 2pm - 4.30pm



Village Show pull-out supplement

CORBRIDGE VILLAGE SHOW, PARISH HALL, CORBRIDGE

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2025

CLASS 1 MEMBERS ONLY

- Two pot leeks 6" fast button, to be fresh pulled, washed clean and sound all round.

DISTRICT CLASSES

District Class Exhibitors must be residents of Corbridge Parish, work or have children at school here.

Vegetables

2. Three Turnips	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
3. Six Pods of Peas	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
4. Six Runner Beans	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
5. Heaviest Marrow/Courgette	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
6. Three Stalks of Rhubarb	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
7. Salad Bowl	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
8. Basket of Flowers and Vegetables (for effect)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
9. Most Peculiar Vegetable	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Flowers

10. 1 Single Rose	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
11. 4 Roses as grown (In vase)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
12. 5 single Dahlias	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
13. Bowl of mixed Dahlia	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
14. Vase of cut Annuals	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
15. 2 Vases of Hardy Herbaceous 2 varieties	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
16. 3 Spikes of Gladioli	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
17. 1 Vase of Sweet Peas	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
18. 1 Vase of Cut Flowers (No Foliage)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
19. 1 Sunflower (Displayed in container)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Fruit

20. Basket of Fruit: A collection of 4 kinds of fruit attractively displayed in a basket	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
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Home Baking & Preserves

21. 4 Fruit Scones	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
22. 4 Rock Buns	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
23. 4 Cheese Scones	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
24. 1 Decorated Cup Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
25. 1 Lemon Drizzle Cake or Loaf	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
26. 1 Carrot Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
27. 1 Victoria Sponge Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
28. 1 Ginger Bread (Loaf Tin)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
29. 1 Decorated Chocolate Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
30. 1 Gingerbread Man	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
31. 1 Jar Marmalade (to be named)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
32. 1 Jar Jam (to be named)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
33. 1 Jar Chutney (to be named)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Photography - Prints not to exceed 8.5" x 6"

34. Corbridge Life	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
35. Portraits & People	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
36. Plants, Trees & Flowers	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
37. Animals	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
38. Humorous Photograph	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Handicrafts

39. Papercraft card	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
40. You've made it, let's see it! (any handicraft)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Art

41. A picture in any medium -no larger than A3	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
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Floral Art

42. Floral Arrangement - Season's Best	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
43. Miniature Arrangement in a Standard Tea Cup	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
44. All Foliage Arrangement	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Age 9 Years and under

	1st	2nd	3rd
45. Fruit & Vegetable Creature	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
46. Lego model no bigger than 25 cms	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
47. Miniature Garden in a Seed Tray 9" x 14"	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
48. Picture in any medium - no larger than A3	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
49. Model made from recycled materials	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Age 10 Years and over

50. Lego model no bigger than 25 cms	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
51. Miniature Garden in a Seed Tray 9" x 14"	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
52. Picture in any medium - no larger than A3	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
53. Model made from recycled materials	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
54. A handmade toy – no larger than can be held in your hand	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

OPEN CLASSES

Vegetables

55. Three onions to a stand, dressed	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
56. Three onions shown as grown	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
57. One onion, heaviest	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
58. One onion, one pound in weight	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
59. Six onions grown from sets.	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
60. Six shallots, dressed	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
61. Two parsnips	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
62. Six tomatoes	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
63. Three carrots - long	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
64. Three carrots -stump rooted	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
65. Three round beet, one to be cut	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
66. Two cauliflowers	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
67. One cabbage	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
68. One intermediate leek 6" to 9" fast button	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
69. Collection of vegetables - four varieties, two of each	£12.00	£8.00	£5.00
70. Two blanch leeks (over 14")	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
71. 4 Potatoes (Kidney)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
72. 4 Potatoes (Round)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
73. 3 Leeks Pot, Blanch and Intermediate	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Flowers

74. Three chrysanthemums incurved	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
75. Three chrysanthemums intermediate	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
76. Three chrysanthemums reflexed	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
77. Collection of flowers, vase, bowl or jug (for effect)	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
78. Three chrysanthemums incurved - dissimilar	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
79. Three chrysanthemums reflexed -dissimilar	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
80. Three chrysanthemums intermediate -dissimilar	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
81. One giant or large dahlia	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
82. 5 Stems per vase chrysanthemums garden sprays	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
83. 3 Stems per vase chrysanthemums garden sprays	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
85. Medium cactus dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
85. Small cactus dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
86. Medium decorative dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
87. Small decorative dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
88. Pom Pom dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
89. 1 Window Plant Flowering	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
90. 1 Window Plant Foliage	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Honey

91. One Jar Honey	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
92. One Honeycomb	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
93. One Frame Honey	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

ALL EXHIBITS MAY BE REMOVED AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

All open entries free

The Parish Hall will be open for staging from :-
6pm - 8pm on Friday 5th September 2025
8am - 10am on Saturday 6th September 2025.

All entries to be benched by 10am on Saturday 6th September 2025

Only two entries per person per class.

All photographs to have been taken by exhibitor.
All flowers and vegetables to have been grown by exhibitor.

Prize money to be claimed from Treasurer's office 2.30 - 4pm.
Any unclaimed money will be retained by the show.

Programme of Events

**Show open to public
2.00-4.30pm Saturday 6th September 2025**

**TOMBOLA
PRIZE DRAW**

**TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS
REFRESHMENTS FOR CHILDREN**

**FACE PAINTING
BALLOON ANIMALS
BEE DISPLAY
MUSIC by THE SUNSHINE STEEL PANNERS
& CORBRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL CHOIR**

**PRESENTATION OF PRIZES
BY OUR PRESIDENT CAROL MALIA**

Followed by sale of produce & cakes.

All enquiries to Miles Joyce - 07989 607695

Thanks to Ian Wylie for taking and sharing the the photographs.

Tynedale Beer and Cider Festival 2025

**TYNEDALE
BEER
& CIDER
FESTIVAL**

Since its modest start in 2002, the festival has become one of the biggest annual events in the Tyne Valley calendar, raising over £1 million for local charities and good causes. Apart from a brief shower on the Saturday afternoon, the weather was kind to the 5000 people who attended the three day festival at Tynedale Park in mid-June.

The event is no longer just a beer festival as it showcases three days of live music from local singers and musicians of all ages and genres. Saturday kicked off with the Big Gig Showcase, with six aged 18 and under acts. By the time the evening arrived the rock and electro dance bands had taken to the stage. Details of all the bands who played can be found on the festival website.

There was also a Food Court with a variety of delicious offerings, including curries from Hexham based Zyka, fresh pizzas from local favourites Fire & Dough as well as fish and chips from Frosty's, plus many others.

Alongside the festival rugby lovers were treated to some fantastic rugby with the Tynedale RFC 7's. For the first time the event staged a full-contact Women's Open 7's Tournament on the Saturday alongside the well established Men's Open and Men's Social competition. Teams came from around the region and as far away as Wiltshire and California!

Festival chairman Ian Cave said: "The Tynedale Beer & Cider Festival is much more than a great day or night out - it's a community effort that raises thousands of pounds each year for local charities and good causes. We're incredibly proud of the hard work our volunteers put in to make it happen and grateful to everyone who comes along to support it and have a good time. Whether you're here for the beer, the music, the rugby or just the atmosphere, you're helping to make a real difference."

Steve Hull
Tynedale Rugby Club



Photos: Chris White

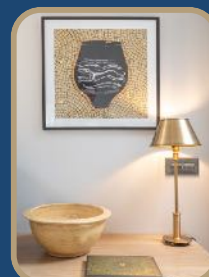
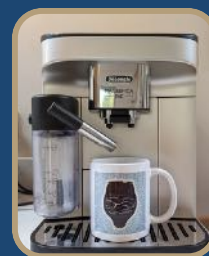


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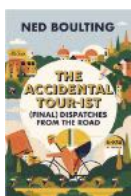
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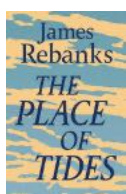


Summertime is a glorious time for books. Our shelves are stocked with the freshest new paperbacks...perfectly portable for holidays, a trip to the beach or back garden. Here we've picked just a few of this seasons best:

Ned Boulting's The Accidental Tour-ist is a lap of honour for everything that he has been lucky enough to have experienced during his commentating career. Full of recollections of chaotic, memorable and sometimes surreal encounters with all of the key riders. While the Tour de France takes centre stage, his horizons there are behind-the-scenes chapters on life at the Giro d'Italia; the growth of women's racing; forays into podcasting; replacing the great Phil Liggett as ITV's main commentator; the Flemish classics; and the life and times of Chris Froome and Mark Cavendish. Ride along as Ned travels around the UK with a stage show about the Tour de France, and more. Allez Allez!



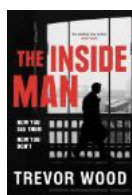
Vulture by Phoebe Greenwood is a darkly funny, heart-wrenching satire that tears through the guts of the war news industry, its moral blind spots, and a tragi-comic coming of age novel. An ambitious young journalist, brings readers into the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, with audacity and humour, depicts the media's complicity in this ongoing tragedy.



The Place of Tides is an unforgettable story of friendship, redemption and a life-changing voyage of discovery on a remote Norwegian island. One afternoon many years ago, **James Rebanks** met an old woman on a remote Norwegian island. She lived and worked alone on a tiny rocky outcrop, caring for wild Eider ducks and gathering their down. Hers was a centuries old trade that had once made men and women rich but had long been in decline. Still, somehow, she seemed to be hanging on. Back at home, Rebanks couldn't stop thinking about the woman on the rocks. She was fierce and otherworldly - and yet strangely familiar. Years passed. Then, one day, he wrote her a letter, asking if he could return. And so he travelled to the edge of the Arctic to witness her last season on the island.



In the wake of the Second World War, in the quiet Dutch countryside, repressed Isabel finds her beliefs and desires turned inside out. **The Safekeep by Yael van der Wouden** was shortlisted for the Booker and won the Women's Prize. This striking debut is a beautiful read, a subtle family saga and intense queer love story.



Trevor Wood's The Inside Man is the second Newcastle-set police thriller with a twist. DCI Jack Parker fights to hide his Early Onset Dementia while he continues to do the job he loves - investigating crimes and bringing villains to justice. Still haunted by the death of a colleague in a hit and run for which he blames himself, he pursues the case with a determination bordering on recklessness when he encourages her replacement, DS Emma Steel, to get close to a local gangster who knows more than he's letting on, thereby endangering Emma and causing dissent among his team. Jack is called in to investigate the disappearance of a young woman, Maria, and her son who appear to have vanished off the face of the earth.



Staying local, **Caroline Roberts' The Second Chance Supper Club** is a heartwarming Northumberland set romance...could a new start heal her appetite for life? When Cath moves to a rural Northumberland village to escape her husband's betrayal she's determined to embrace a fresh start. But the quiet charm of her new surroundings seems only to magnify the loneliness of being on her own for the first time. On a whim, Cath suggests starting a supper club, transforming her garden shed into a cosy haven where neighbours can gather. What begins as an effort to ease her solitude becomes something far greater - a circle of friends, each bringing their own stories, struggles and laughter. As bonds deepen over shared meals and mishaps, Cath discovers the healing power of community and dares to believe in love and joy again.



Maigret's Holiday takes an unexpected turn in this classic novel featuring **Simenon's** literary legend. Inspector Maigret's wife has fallen ill during their seaside holiday at Les Sables-d'Olonne. When he visits her in the hospital, he receives a strange note instructing him to see a patient in another ward. Soon he finds himself unexpectedly drawn into a quest to find justice for a young girl - and confronting an evil that is hidden in plain sight.

Hope you enjoy dipping into one of these, enjoy.

Helen

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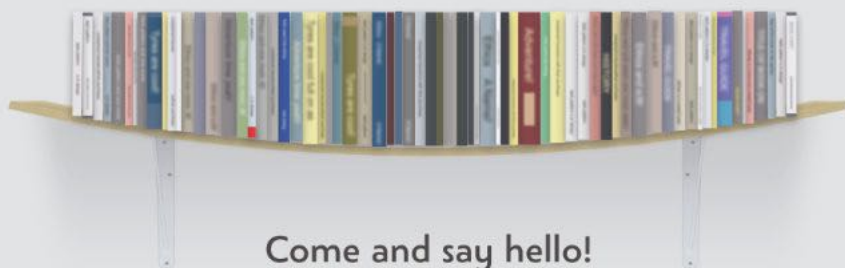


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Vintage at Downing Street

Vintage at the Tower owner and chair of Visit Corbridge Gayle Foster was last month (July) invited by Chancellor Rachel Reeves to attend a reception at 11 Downing Street. Also stopping to pose outside No 10. It was held to celebrate the winners of The Small Awards in May at which Gayle was named the winner of the 2025 'High Street Hero' Award. Gayle said: "It was an interesting experience going behind that famous door and listening to a speech by Rachel Reeves. It's encouraging to know the government recognises the good that small businesses do and that they are taking measures to help. It was an extremely hot evening so I was very glad I had my vintage fan with me!" Gayle received her award in the same week that items from her acclaimed shop were included in the newly released Mission: Impossible film starring Tom Cruise. Her award recognised Vintage at the Tower as "a true gem of Corbridge in the heart of Northumberland".



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A Corbridge Journey



A team of cyclists stopped off at St Andrew's Church in Corbridge last month (July) during a historic baton relay. Their journey was part of the national Cathedrals Cycle Route Relay carrying the unique bronze baton which features two hands - young and old - sculpted to symbolise connection, community and continuity. Along with the passing of support and grace across generations. Since its launch in 2021 from Newcastle Cathedral it has travelled more than 5000 miles, passed hand to hand and rested at the altars of all 42 Church of England cathedrals. A journey equivalent to travelling to the North Pole and back. It came to Corbridge as part of the St Andrew's 1350th anniversary celebrations before continuing its next stage to Newcastle. The Cathedrals Cycle Route is now an established 2000 mile loop which has raised over £250,000 for charitable causes. Founder Shaun Cutler said: "The stretch from Corbridge to Newcastle has deep significance - it's where the journey began."



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