

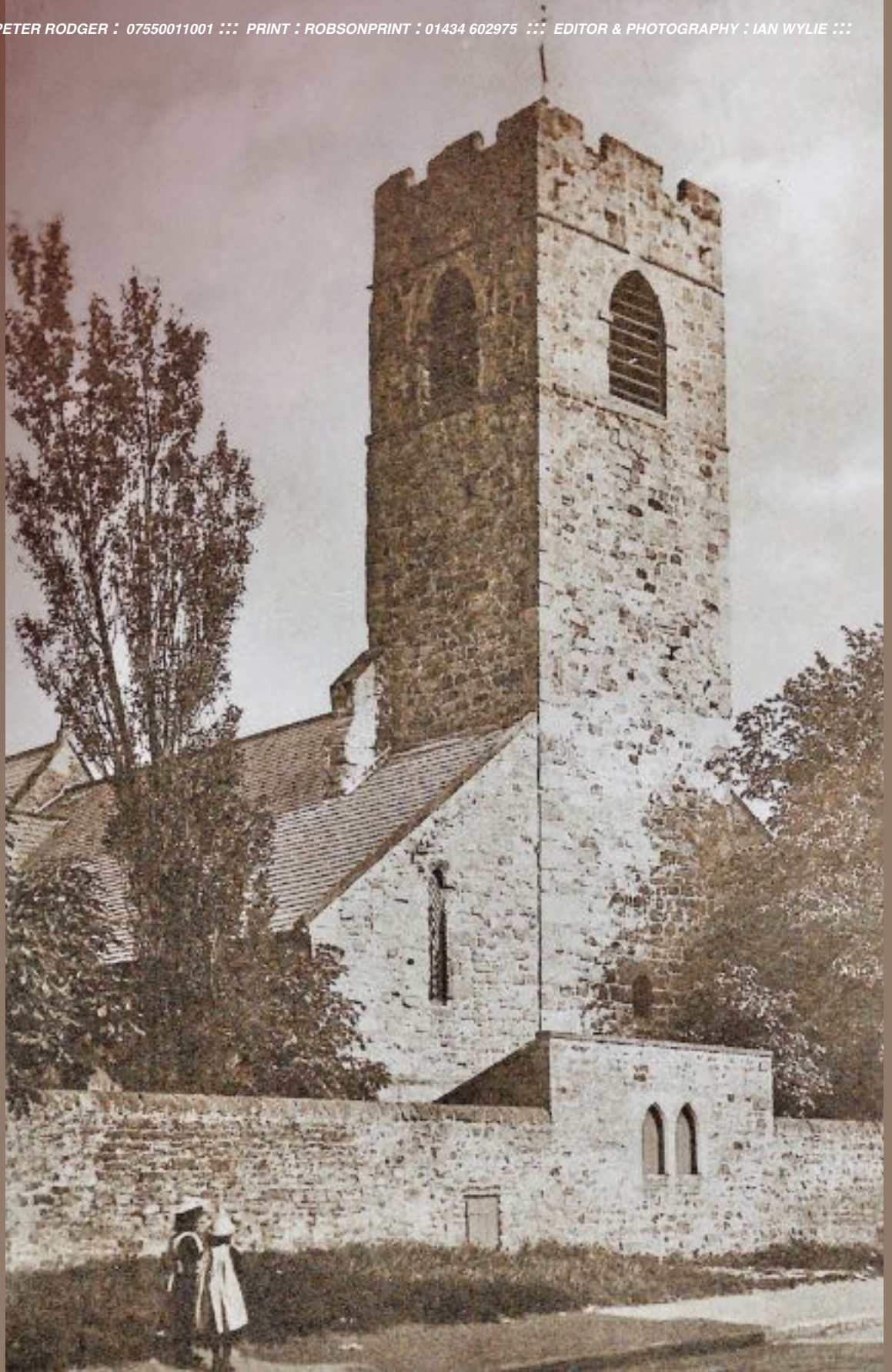
CORBRIDGE MATTERS



October 2025 Issue 85

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Council NOTES



Visitors have filled the village in recent months. Like residents, they have enjoyed the excellent weather - the hottest summer on record. Our many cafes and gifts shops have been busy but it's worth reflecting that the village wasn't always like this. Did you know that in 1939 Corbridge had only two cafes and no gift shops at

all? There were 18 shops which included the suppliers of the essentials of life - such as butchers, bakers, fishmongers and general grocers. The village had three banks and seven public houses. Fortunately, we still have the pubs.

I learned the above in a new book called 'Corbridge In World War II' compiled by David Waugh with George Hall. The map at the front of the book shows the extent of sites and properties within the village which were used as part of the war effort. It was very extensive. Boys and girls from Wallsend and Walker were evacuated to the comparative rural safety of Corbridge. Although far from the centre of military activity, regular soldiers were also billeted in the village. Members of the Royal Engineers were put up in the Drill Hall (now the site of Corstopitum Club) where they slept on straw mattresses on the floor. Howden Dene was also used to accommodate soldiers. One of the most impressive photographs in the book is of the 100-strong local branch of the Home Guard at Corchester Field.

The 2025 Corbridge Chamber Music Festival has been yet another success. This year the programme had the added significance of coinciding with the 1350th anniversary of St Wilfrid's founding of St Andrew's Church. Indeed, it has become part of the wider celebrations. It was very special to attend the concert on the evening of the 26th of July at which a newly composed work by Piers Hellawell was premiered. The theme, naturally, centred on the life of St Wilfrid. Works by Beethoven and Mendelssohn were also performed. Attendees were also able to enjoy an exhibition of visual art on the same theme by local printmaker Jo Westgate. A truly magical evening. A polite request...the clothes bank on St Helen's Street often gets full to the brim. When this occurs please can residents not leave clothes next to it. It rains and the clothes get wet through!

Parish handyman Andrew Cunningham has been busy around the village. The swings in the play park at The Riggs were broken and, after a new part was sourced, Andrew re-installed them. Graffiti has been removed close to Lion Court, the pant opposite the garage on Main Street has been cleaned out and a rotten bench has been removed on the corner of Front Street. We hope to replace it with a new bench. It's always a pleasure to see Andrew out and about in the white Piaggio three-wheeler - which is unmissable because of the noise it makes.

I wish everyone in the parish all the best as we come into the autumn months.

William Clouston
(Corbridge Parish Council Chairman)



I hope everybody has had a wonderful summer and been enjoying the sunshine. A highlight for me has been playing quoits on balmy summer evenings outside some of our most beautiful pubs in the valley. Corbridge Cricket Club has three quoits teams in the Allen Valley League with two teams in the first division this last season and one in the second.

Another great pleasure has been watching cricket at Corbridge Cricket Club. Both men's teams have done well in their leagues and it's great to see so many young people down there on a Friday night and the women's and girls' hard and soft ball teams also doing so well. I mention these things to highlight how fortunate we are to have so many activities and clubs in Corbridge. There really is something for everyone.

The outdoor table tennis table is safely installed behind the Parish Hall and is available for anybody to use - please have a go. I'm hoping it will be well looked after and last for many years.

A gentle reminder to people not to fly tip garden waste. There have been a few instances of illegal fly tipping of garden waste, most recently on Deadridge Lane. The Hexham tip, or Household Waste Recycling Centre to use its proper name, takes garden waste and is open for extended hours from late spring to mid-autumn. Northumberland County Council do prosecute people for fly tipping and fines have been issued.

Planning permission has been granted for an extension of the car park on the south side of the bridge and I will let everybody know when I have the final build timetable. The agreed plan is for 36 much needed additional spaces. I am also doing all I can to find other opportunities for more car parking spaces in and around the centre of Corbridge.

I recently had a tour around the village with the Northumberland County Council Western Area Highways Manager showing him the priorities for future maintenance work. There are plans for some resurfacing, repairing street signs that have been hit by vehicles and some replenishment of yellow lines. Work has commenced on the off-road cycling and walking route connecting Corbridge and Hexham. I'm hoping that a safe route separated from road traffic will encourage more people to cycle and walk. I'm also hoping a way will be found to connect Corbridge railway station to the new cycle route. It's important to stress that the funding from central government could not have been used for anything else so if it was not built here another region would have used the funds. It will be great to see it finally built.

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

Nick Oliver
Corbridge County Councillor

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Cover photo: St Andrew's Church and The King's Oven.

Corbridge Parish Council next meets at 7pm on Wednesdays - October 29 and November 26 in the Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge.

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

1955 Alec Young and Anne Malden



Just Married

A glimpse of three of the St Andrew's Church weddings featured in last month's (September) Heritage Week display at the church. Plus one at St Oswald's at Halton which is linked to St Andrew's. With thanks to Simon Hunter. See pages 8 and 9 for more.

1963 Tony Bennett and Pauline Gibson



1973 Warwick Milne and Suzette Ridley



2023 Hamish Manger and Victoria Smith



Tynedale Rugby Football Club

Welcoming Everyone for Rugby, Community and Celebration

Once upon a time Tynedale RFC may have seemed to the outsider like the sort of place where only blazer-clad blokes with elbow patches felt at home. These days, you are just as likely to find local families, new faces and a lively mix of ages and backgrounds enjoying everything the club has to offer. The doors are open, the welcome is genuine and everyone is invited to be part of the action, on and off the pitch.



A Club at the Heart of Village Life

We are proud of our tradition but even more excited about where we are heading. With a revamped leadership team, including plenty of familiar Corbridge faces, our focus is on making Tynedale RFC a place where everyone feels at home. Whether you are here for rugby, the social side or just a decent pint and a craic, you will find a warm welcome and plenty of good company.

Sundays Are for Mini and Junior Rugby

If you want to see community spirit in action, come down on a Sunday morning. Tynedale hosts one of the biggest Mini and Junior Rugby sections in the north of England. Children from the age of five to 16 meet to learn the sport, make friends and have fun. Boys and girls play together until they are 10, then the girls move into their own teams, carrying on that sense of team spirit and camaraderie. It is a brilliant way for youngsters to build skills, confidence, and a love for the game that lasts a lifetime. To get involved, speak with Keeley Wilkie-Smith: 07711 664985

Our Club's First Team: Proudly Local

Our men's First Team plays at Level Four in the national rugby pyramid, the equivalent of football's League Two, making it the highest standard of sport on offer in Northumberland away from Newcastle United and the city's basketball team. A proud accolade, highlighted by the fact our squad is packed with local lads, including a number of players who have come up through our junior ranks - something we have sustained for generations now. Leading the team this season is Oscar Caudle, a homegrown captain who knows exactly what it means to represent the club and the community.

Matchdays at Tynedale, however, are about much more than rugby. They are a chance to enjoy top quality sport, catch up with friends and, should you wish, make the most of our popular pre-match hospitality packages. Think of it as a day at the rugby, where the game is the reason and the day out is the real highlight.

By scanning the smartphone QR code alongside this article you can download two complimentary tickets to our 1st XV match vs Preston Grasshoppers on Saturday October 18. Come and see for yourself. After the game that night we are hosting a Bavarian themed Oktoberfest Party. For more information, please see the club's Facebook or Instagram page.

Girls' and Women's Rugby: Growing Stronger Every Year

The Women's Rugby World Cup has brought fresh energy to the club and we are proud to support the next generation of female players. Our Girls' Rugby Training Sessions run every Wednesday evening at 7pm. No experience is needed and all abilities are welcome. If you are interested, contact Will Allen on 07887 982427.

We are especially proud of Caity Mattinson, who started playing at Tynedale and is now representing Scotland on the global stage in the World Cup. If you are looking for inspiration, you do not have to look far. For women looking to get involved, our Ladies' Touch Rugby Sessions take place every Sunday morning throughout the season from 9am. All women are welcome, whatever your fitness or rugby experience. Bring trainers or moulded boots, a bottle of water, and your sense of humour. You will find plenty of support and friendship, both on and off the pitch. To get involved, contact Becky Stewart on 07532 036002.

The Venue: Your Local Space for Every Occasion

We are also relaunching our events space, The Venue. It is open for everything from milestone birthdays and weddings to business meetings and family gatherings. The Venue offers modern facilities and flexible spaces. But the real difference is the welcome you will receive. We want it to be your first choice for any event, big or small. To launch, we are offering all Corbridge Matters readers complimentary venue hire for their next event on the basis that our exceptional Bar 1876 is in action for it.

For more information, visit: <https://www.thevenue.tynedale.co.uk/>

Come and See for Yourself

This is an exciting time at Tynedale RFC. Whether you want to play, watch, celebrate, or just enjoy the craic, there is a place for you here. If you would like to find out more about joining the club, upcoming fixtures, events, or booking The Venue, visit our website or pop in for a chat.

Tynedale RFC is here for Corbridge. Come and be part of the story.







St Andrew's, Corbridge 1350th Celebration Final Weekend

Saturday October 11th

Church open with displays and guided tours at 11am and 1:30pm.

2:45pm: Welcome and Introduction to the final weekend.

2:50pm: Imagining St Wilfrid: David Kennedy in conversation with the artist Jo Westgate and her art work commissioned by Corbridge Chamber Music Festival on the theme of St Wilfrid (Jo's banners and prints will be on display for the final weekend).

3:20pm: A great year of celebration with a PowerPoint presentation of our 1350th.

3:40pm: Looking to the future: St Andrew's and Corbridge: David Kennedy.

4pm: Celebratory afternoon tea.

4:40pm: Short act of worship as we look to the future.

5pm: Close.

Sunday October 12th

8am: Holy Communion

10:30am: Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication: We are delighted that Bishop Mark Wroe, Bishop of Berwick, will be with us to lead this joyful act of worship and preach. The church choir and Corbridge CE First School choir will sing joyful music for the celebration.

11.40am: Drinks reception and cutting of the cake.



**ST ANDREW'S
CORBRIDGE**

1350th

INSPIRING THE FUTURE



What a Year! Looking back at St Andrew's 1350th



We are coming towards the end of our year long celebration of the foundation of St Andrew's Church by the great missionary bishop St Wilfrid in about 675AD. It has been a very full and remarkable year involving so many people from Church and community.

The year started last October with an opening weekend on St Wilfrid's Day. As well as guided tours, vicar David Kennedy gave a talk on St Wilfrid's life (copies are available in St Andrew's) and we enjoyed afternoon tea with the cutting of the 1350 cake by Sheila Priestley and Maurice Holmes and an act of worship recalled Wilfrid's monastery. On the Sunday, the Bishop of Newcastle led our worship and preached with wonderful music from our Church Choir and Corbridge CE First School Choir, followed by a congregational lunch.

During the year, there have been spectacular highlights: The 1350 Christmas Tree Festival in December with 135 trees and 135 carols sung by various groups of musicians. The Caporetto Art exhibition in May of sculpted bells, (near left), marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The art exhibition Our Beautiful World by Helen Alice Johnson celebrating the landscapes of Northumberland and Cumbria. The outstanding Flower Festival in June, (bottom left), exploring St Andrew and the places associated with him. Along with the rich life of our church and community with the cascade of crafted flowers at the Lych Gate. The Corbridge Chamber Music Festival with the newly commissioned work by the renowned composer Piers Hallawell, (middle left), celebrating St Wilfrid and adorned by the art work on Wilfrid of local artist Jo Westgate (far left). The Heritage weekend in September celebrating the rich history of our village and St Andrew's.

Interspersed with these events, we have enjoyed a series of heritage talks on various aspects of our history, monthly displays of aspects of our church and heritage by Simon Hunter and others, special musical events and concerts plus guided tours by our new team of church guides. We have also sought to relate our 1350th anniversary to our worship, especially at the great festivals of Christmas and Easter, and to our interpretation of our church building and the faith to which these stones bear witness.

We invite everyone to be part of our final weekend of celebration. The details are set out below and we will soon be opening bookings for the celebratory afternoon tea on Saturday October 11.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way during the year. Everyone is most welcome to join with us for our grand finale.

David Kennedy, Vicar





Just Married... at St Andrew's



From top left and reading across and down the page

- A. 1931 Major Barclay Young and Lena Sutton
- B. 1941 James Cartmell and Phyllis Fawdington
- C. 1954 Harry Tyrrell and Margaret Armstrong
- D. 1955 Anne Malden and father Rev Rex Malden
- E. 1962 David Altass and Elsie Robson
- F. 1965 John Hamilton and Gayle Morton
- G. 1966 Alan Owen and Mary Malden
- H. 1968 David Eastlick and Margaret Browne
- I. 1971 Jeffrey Vipond and Susan Minto
- J. 1975 Robert Ridley and Maryrose O'Byrne
- K. 1982 Neil Soulsby and Valerie Lowes
- L. 1995 John Shepherd and Averil Grossick
- M. 2023 Simeon Callis and Natalie Hill

Notice Board

St Andrew's Church

Sundays at 10am: Parish Communion (10:30am on Oct 12)

Sunday October 5 at 4pm: Simply Communion

Saturday October 11: See pages 6 & 7

Sunday October 12: See pages 6 & 7

Sunday October 19 at 4pm: Messy Church

Sunday October 26 at 4pm: RIVER

Corbridge Methodists:

Thursday October 9 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church

Thursday October 23 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: 2pm to 4pm on Wednesdays October 8 & 22. All welcome.

Corbridge Community Apple Juice Project:

The 2025 Community Apple Pressing Weekend will be on Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5 at Corbridge Cricket Club. With the apple picking team active in the week from Monday September 29 leading up to the weekend. If you can spare any time to help the apple picking team that week or with the washing, pulping and pressing of apples to provide juice at the Apple Pressing Weekend then please email Maurice Hodgson at maurice.hodgson@btinternet.com or call him on 07940 709636. No previous experience is necessary. The project aim is to again produce cans of delicious Corbridge Sparkling Apple Juice and Corbridge Cider to be sold in aid of The Charlotte Straker Project, Corbridge Youth Initiative and the Corbridge Community Partnership. The 2024 apple juice project, organised by the Corbridge Community Partnership, raised a grand total of £10,500 which was split between the three charities.

Corbridge Film Nights 2025/26
 Film shown in Corbridge Parish Hall. Doors Open 7pm
 Film starts 7.30pm.
 Pay on door (£5 cash only)

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl (2015) - Sunday 8th October 2025
 2015 USA Dir. Alfonso Gomez-Rejon 1hr 45 mins.
 Greg, a socially awkward teenager, spends most of his time with Earl, his best friend, who is forced by his mother to befriend Rachel, who suffers from leukemia, leading to an unlikely friendship between the three.

Tennessee (1981) - Sunday 2nd November 2025
 1981 Japan Dir. Juzo Itami 1hr 54 mins.
 A truck driver stops at a small family-run noodle shop and decides to help his fledgling business. The story is intertwined with various vignettes about the relationship of love and food.

City of God (2002) - Sunday 30th November 2025
 2002 Portugal Dir. Fernando Meirelles & Kátia Lund 2hr 11 mins.
 Two boys are brought up in a realistic neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro. Later, they adopt diverse professional paths, with one of them becoming a photographer and the other boy becoming a drug dealer.



The Corbridge Floods



A new talk by David Waugh

7pm on Tuesday September 30th

Corbridge Community Hub, Princes Street

Admission: £7 (Cash or Card)

This will also be a village community social evening with the talk followed by tea and coffee and the opportunity to mix and chat plus look at various information boards from the Corbridge Heritage Centre. David's new book 'Corbridge in World War II' will be on sale at the event at a special half price of £5.





VJ Day 80

The 80th anniversary of Victory in Japan Day in August was marked in Corbridge by a flag raised outside the social club in St Helen's Street and commemorated with a service at the Lych Gate war memorial entrance to St Andrew's Church taken by Rev Canon David Kennedy and Rev Linda Hunter. The service included the national two minute silence at noon and a lament played by piper Chris Urwin. With the Royal British Legion Corbridge branch standard dipped in the presence of branch secretary Stuart Robinson. While inside the church a lamp of peace was lit in the South Transept adjacent to the World War Two memorial.



Remembrance Parade

Could you help the Corbridge Branch of the Royal British Legion? Their annual Remembrance Sunday Parade takes place this year on November 9th. But the number of people taking part in the parade has reduced year on year. Branch secretary Stuart Robinson explains: "We know there are a number of veterans, military and emergency service personnel who stand and watch our Corbridge parade. If you are among those groups then you are welcome to join us in the parade. You do not have to be a member of the Royal British Legion. The village always turns out for Remembrance Sunday and we appreciate your support. But it would be a great shame if parade numbers fall to the point where we can no longer march." If you are a member of the groups mentioned and would like to know more about taking part, please email Stuart at: Robinsonstuart1970@gmail.com



On Your Bike

Tynedale Park in Corbridge was the host for the recent 2025 Jampot Rally, organised by the AJS and Matchless Owners Club. The three day event included organised rides to Kielder Waterside, the South Tynedale Railway at Alston and Beamish Museum. Scan the QR code for a full photo gallery.



INTERVIEW

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with a mustache, wearing a light blue polo shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is slightly out of focus, showing green foliage and white and yellow flowers.

It was 4am in the depth of winter and hoar frost crunched underfoot as Murray Beattie crouched down and tried to strike a match without the piercing wind blowing it out. Cupping his hands round the flame, he lit paper in an old oil drum and watched as kindling caught fire, lighting up the freight yard at Hexham Railway Station...

The Village Coal Man

It was 4am in the depth of winter and hoar frost crunched underfoot as Murray Beattie crouched down and tried to strike a match without the piercing wind blowing it out. Cupping his hands round the flame, he lit paper in an old oil drum and watched as kindling caught fire, lighting up the freight yard at Hexham Railway Station. When the fire was blazing, he shoved the drum right under a coal wagon so that the heat warmed it and thawed the ice that held the coal in a huge, solid block.

It was 1961 and 15-year-old Murray was still learning the tricks of the trade from his father Billy Beattie, the local coal merchant in Corbridge. As Murray waited until the frost released its grip and he could start shovelling the coal into sacks, he could never have imagined he would spend the next 64 years delivering around the Tyne Valley, the best known coal man in the business.

A Beattie & Sons was started by his grandfather Andrew in the days of steam trains when every railway station had its own coal depot. Every day he took his horse and cart to Corbridge Station, filled the sacks and delivered them to villages and farms. He usually ended the day in a pub. After a pint too many, locals heaved him on to the empty cart and as he slept it off, the horse plodded home to Andrew's cottage which was where The Angel Inn barn restaurant now stands. His two sons Billy and Andy eventually took over the business. They rented an old garage at the back of The Angel and used it as the coal yard. Then they paid £4000 for Norwood Garage (where Westway Vets and the Corstopitum Social Club are now) with space for two petrol pumps and a coal yard.

As cars became commonplace, horse and cart deliveries were phased out. A Beattie and Sons grew into a thriving business with the petrol pumps, three wagons and a bus that took passengers on day trips and to the races.



"Every house, business and farm with a chimney had a coal fire and we supplied them all," said Murray.

"We knew where everyone lived because they all needed coal. You couldn't live without it. People even cooked over coal fired stoves.

"Apparently the owner of Consett Steel Works saw the writing on the wall in 1938 so he ordered 300 tonnes

of coke to see him through the war. He lived in Sandhoe Hall so we dumped it in the courtyard of the Hall where it was stockpiled.

"During the war my father picked up loads of eggs from farms round about and took them to North Walbottle Colliery where we got our coal supply every day. Word went out 'Billy Beattie's here with the eggs.' Work stopped while the miners downed tools and collected their eggs. The managers put a stop to that because production went down every time he arrived at the pit."

Years later, Murray and his step brother Hedley joined the business almost straight from school. Murray had signed up as an apprentice car mechanic, but that only lasted two weeks. His father turned up at the garage and said "C'mon, you're needed at the coal yard." And that was that.

"You didn't have any choice in those days. You did what was needed. We had the same daily routine - we left Corbridge at 6am to drive to North Walbottle pit and as we went through Heddon on the Wall miners jumped on the wagon and hitched a ride to work. We shovelled six tonnes of coal into sacks, loaded up and drove home where my mother cooked us the full English breakfast at 8:30am. Two hours later we'd done the deliveries and we went back to the pit to load up again. It took twice as long in the afternoon because we were so tired. In summer there was less demand so we stocked up ready for the next winter." When coal was king, Murray shovelled 50-80 tonnes every week, then loaded it on and off the wagon. He had no protective clothing, no waterproofs and never wore gloves. Why not? Murray shrugs, as if it never occurred to him and he wasn't much bothered anyway.

Older customers remember how Murray knew exactly where the coal came from, stating its pedigree with all the panache of a sommelier or a cheesemonger, as he emptied sacks into the coal sheds.

"The Beaumont seam at North Walbottle was really high quality. But when small collieries like Walbottle closed in the 60s, coal was delivered by rail from Shilbottle Colliery to Hexham Station. Shilbottle coal was world famous. It left very little ash in the grate and soot went straight up the chimney and out."

In 1972 Murray moved the coal yard to Farnley Grange, where he still operates. That year A Beattie and Sons survived a miners' strike lasting six weeks and another strike in 1974. But the year long 1984-85 strike was much more difficult. Briquettes imported from West Germany were poor quality and so was what little local coal Murray could get his hands on.

"We mixed the rubbish coal with briquettes and although it never burned properly we were glad to have anything. We were once stopped by a customer called John Graham who complained about the quality - and he was a mining overman at Westoe Colliery!"

In 1990 Stephen Riley followed in his uncle's footsteps. Just as Murray had helped his father when he was a teenager, so Stephen spent time at the yard while he was a schoolboy. He had enjoyed earning pocket money and knew the ropes so it was a natural

Murray Beattie

progression to become the fourth generation in the business.

When they weren't delivering coal they used their wagon for furniture removals or giving children rides at school fetes. They even transported a bride and groom after their wedding from St Andrew's Church to the reception.



Stephen said: "I really liked it then. We only ever took two weeks holiday in August, then Christmas Eve until Boxing Day. We never needed a website or Google Maps because we knew the area so well."

But central heating replaced open domestic fires and their business dwindled. They were badly hit when council houses converted from open fires to gas. The last straw was four years ago when burning coal in houses was banned. Now, they only sell two tonnes of smokeless fuel a day to people with multi-fuel stoves who ask them to drop off a sack when they're passing, so there's no need for their daily round.

In his younger days Murray was a keen cricketer and golfer and in 2000 he won the County Championship Indoor Bowls competition. He's always loved gardening and still has an allotment on Aydon Road. Stephen's house beside Farnley Grange coal yard still has an open fire but 14 years ago Murray had a new home built with all mod cons. He desperately misses his coal fire. Of course he does. "I'll always be grateful to our customers, old and new, in Corbridge and the Tyne Valley," said Murray. "I want to thank them all for their support over the decades."

In July 2026, Murray will celebrate his 80th birthday. Ill health prevents Stephen from taking over the business so Murray plans to turn the key in the lock at the coal depot and walk away. When he does we won't just be saying goodbye to our favourite coal man. It will be farewell to a whole way of life. When children could jump on the back of the coal wagon, when there was a waiting list to join Corbridge Leek Club and fierce competition at the Village Show. And when an open fire was the focal point of a room instead of a television.

Sheilagh Matheson





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| T | Forrest Yoga 09:30 - 10:30 | Vinyasa Flow Yoga 18:00 - 19:00 |
| W | 6 week beginner course 09:30 - 10:30 | Restorative Yoga 18:00 - 19:00 |
| TH | Renew & Refresh 09:30 - 10:30 | Hatha Yoga 19:00 - 20:15 |
| F | Vinyasa Yoga 7:00 - 8am | Restorative Yoga 09:30 - 10:30 |
| S | Intermediate Vinyasa 8:15 - 9:15 | Vinyasa Yoga 09:30 - 10:30 |
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Hella Happy Readers

Forum Books

We love these months as we fall headlong into Autumn and get to leaf through our new favourite books. I cannot resist a good thriller and **Mick Herron's Clown Town** is another absolute master class. Slow horse River Cartwright is waiting to be passed fit for work. With time to kill, and with his grandfather - a legendary former spy - long dead, River investigates the secrets of the old man's library, and a mysteriously missing book. Mick Herron describes my next recommendation - **Jonathan Freedland's The Traitors Circle** - as, 'An astonishing true story of courage, love and betrayal, told with the verve of a thriller. Freedland is a master.' Berlin, 1943 and a group of high society anti-Nazi dissenters meet for a tea party one late summer afternoon. They do not know that sitting around the table is someone poised to betray them all to the Gestapo - revealing their secret to the Nazis' most ruthless detective. How did a group of brave, principled rebels, who had successfully defied Adolf Hitler for more than a decade, come to fall into such a lethal trap? And who betrayed them? Undone from within and pursued to near-destruction, they showed a heroism that raises a question with new urgency for our time: What kind of person does it take to risk everything and stand up to tyranny? We are thrilled to welcome Jonathan to Corbridge with an event at the Community Hub in Princes Street on Wednesday Oct 15. From the authors of the bestselling *The King in the North* comes **Northumbria AD 367 - 867 Earth Hall, Ring Gift and Heaven's Field**. The story of the lands between the Forth and Humber from the end of the Roman period to the Viking kingdom of York is one of the most richly fascinating in British history. This history of Early Medieval Northumbria explores themes of landscape, power, creativity and intellect. Both authors, **Max Adams** and **Colm O'Brien**, will join us at FORUM Books on Wednesday October 22nd.

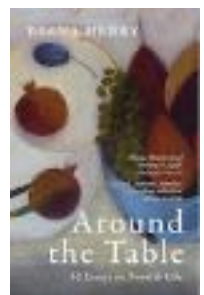
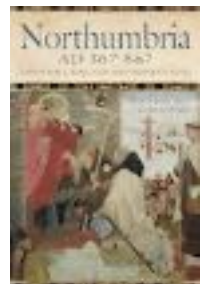
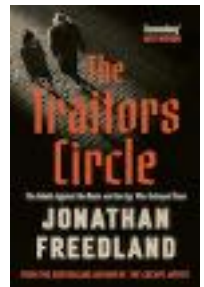
Following on from *Midweek Recipes* - genuinely the cook book I have used the most, ever - **Jess Elliott Dennison** is back with **Weekend Recipes**. Including chapters of breakfast, lunch, afternoon baking, dinner and pudding. These are the flavours and methods for when work is on pause and you have more time for kitchen and company. Including everything from my sherbet-y lemon curd for spreading over toast in the morning, to sweet roast pepper, charred silverskin onion and parmesan crostini for midday, to spaghetti and oregano meatballs followed by blackcurrant pavlova with lemon and bay custard for the evening.

Stanley Tucci says '**Diana Henry's** food writing is a gift...I so loved reading this book. It is poignant, funny, and just plain great.' Diana's evocative writing about places, people and food brings just as much pleasure as her delicious recipes. **Around the Table** is a beautiful collection of some of her very best essays, handpicked from more than two decades of her beloved cookbooks. Moving, funny and incisive, together these pieces form a memoir through food. Diana joins us at The Biscuit Factory to talk with Anna Hedworth on Thursday October 2.

Flora Sheddon's Winter in the Highlands is a gorgeous new book to help us banish the winter blues, embrace the stark beauty of the colder months and step into an invitingly warm world of comfort and culinary delight. In this her fourth cookbook, food writer, acclaimed bakery owner and Bake Off semi-finalist Flora invites us on a joyous, heartwarming journey through the enchanting winter season in Scotland, celebrating the region's rich and distinctive culinary heritage and cherished festive traditions. Offering creative, deliciously do-able savoury and sweet recipes that cater for the entire winter season. A stunning culinary adventure that is nothing short of magical. We are hoping to have Flora join us at FORUM Books in November. But at the very least we will have tasters from it to celebrate **Bookshop Day** on Saturday 11th October. The annual celebration of all bookshops on the high street!

We'd love to see you at the bookshop - or the Corbridge Community Hub - happy Autumn everyone,

Helen



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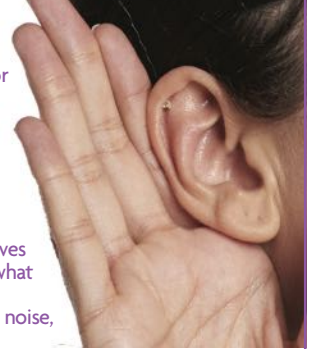
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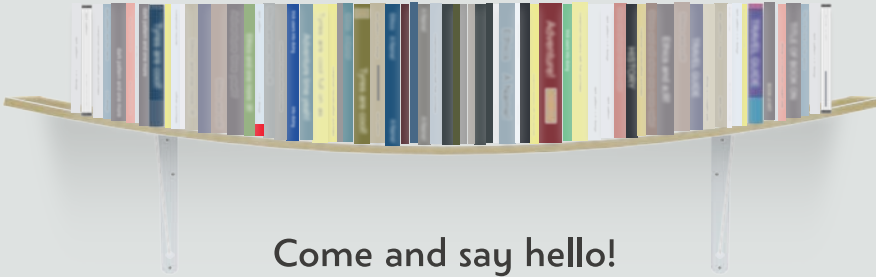
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