

CORBRIDGE MATTERS



December 2025 Issue 86

www.corbridge-pc.gov.uk

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Council NOTES



I am delighted to report that at its October meeting the Parish Council made an unequivocal commitment to support the development of the 3G football pitch at Corbridge Middle School. The vote was unanimous. It was made on behalf of and to represent the wider

community of Corbridge which was promised this pitch some years ago as a result of the large scale new housing development nearby. Indeed, the housing developers transferred a financial payment of nearly £500,000 towards the costs of developing the pitch which remains on deposit at Northumberland County Council. It is high time that the scheme is commenced and completed without any further delay. Both Cllr Nick Oliver and I believe that at a time when young people are spending hours and hours on their smartphones and others devices it is vital that we provide an opportunity for them to play sport - with all of the health and social benefits that it brings. Furthermore, many of our local sports clubs - such as Corbridge United Football Club and Tynedale Rugby Club - would benefit from an all weather facility to train young players, especially in the winter months. Corbridge was promised this 3G pitch. It must be provided. The Parish Council has given its support to a fixed point photography scheme organised by Tyne Rivers Trust. The principle behind the project is to set up specific locations to enable photographs to be taken to monitor, store and record changes in landscapes, vegetation and habitat throughout the months and years. Variations in river flow can also be identified as well as any bankside erosion. The intention is that such fixed point photography positions will be set up in many locations throughout the Tyne Valley. The Council felt that we should do our bit by supporting the scheme within our Parish. As the hot and largely dry summer fades into memory and we progress into winter many of you will have been aware of the bumper apple harvest from our local trees. I can't recall any year which has produced so much fruit. Acorns and conkers are also abundant. Corbridge Community Partnership's apple juice and sparkling cider project has enjoyed this harvest and its products are now available - with sales supporting local charities including the Corbridge Youth Initiative and the Charlotte Straker Project. (See Pages 12 & 13) If it's as good as last year it'll be very good indeed.

William Clouston
Corbridge Parish Council Chairman

Welcome to the final issue of Corbridge Matters in 2025 and I hope everybody has an enjoyable Christmas. William has updated us on progress with the planning application to improve the Market Place in his column previously. On a related matter I have been asked

about the tables and chairs outside Grants and the status of the Market Place. The Market Place is controlled by the Parish Council under a Scheme of Management made under the Commons Act of 1899 and any future improvements to the Market Place will be made under this Act. Some time ago the Parish Council were approached by Grants to put chairs and tables out, consulted a highways engineer and then agreed to this on an annual license. That strip of land with Grants tables and Stobos fruit and vegetables display is not public highway and both businesses are important to the vibrancy of the village. A few residents have questioned why other businesses have not had the same opportunity. The Parish Council would try to support any reasonable request not on a public highway from a business in the Market Place on areas immediately adjacent to their property. There are currently three public highways through the Market Place onto Watling Street. From Middle Street past the Lych Gate, from Front Street through the centre and from Front Street past the old Barclays Bank and Tea & Tipple. The aim is to reduce that to two. There have been increasing instances of shoplifting in the village and the Parish Council has agreed to support the traders in their efforts to have some CCTV in public areas to complement the CCTV many businesses have in their own premises. How this might be done is currently being explored. Following requests from residents the Parish Council has recently asked their handyman Andrew to clear the steps on the north east side of the bridge so that residents can access the right of way along the riverfront east of the bridge. I have also recently been exploring again whether it might be possible to create a new footpath to Riding Mill along the river. I'm afraid to report that this is looking very unlikely because of restrictions on what can be done near a railway line. I'm having one last attempt and will report back in the next issue.

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

Nick Oliver
Corbridge County Councillor





CORBRIDGE
NORTHUMBERLAND

Christmas in Corbridge



St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Friday November 28: 9:30am to 6pm
Saturday November 29: 9:30am to 6pm
Sunday November 30: 11:30am to 5pm
Monday December 1: 9:30am to 8pm
Tuesday December 2: 9:30am to 4:30pm

With a twinkling Corbridge Christmas
Weekend from that Friday:

A Corbridge Passport to Christmas
Children's Christmas Bear Hunt
Friday Christmas Jumper Day
Saturday Shops Christmas Party

Late Night Shopping on Monday Dec 1
Including a mini Christmas Market at The Coigns







The Village Show

TROPHY WINNERS

Children's Section District

Age up to 9

Age 9 and Over

The Corbridge Village Show Cup

The Corbridge Village Show Medal

Aedan Clegg

Esme Howmans

District Classes

Best Vegetable Exhibit

Best Flowers Exhibit

Best Industrial Exhibit

Best Exhibit Art and Photography

The George Inns Memorial Trophy

The Ken Johnson Memorial Trophy

The Tyne Tees Trophy

The Walton / Charlton Memorial Cup

Elsie Joyce

Pauline Rowan

Sheilagh Matheson

Jemima Darrell

Open Classes

Winner - Leeks

Best Leek in Show

3 Onions Dressed

Best Collection of Vegetables

Three Round Beetroot

3 Onions Shown as Grown

6 Onions Grown from Sets

The James Hardy Memorial Cup

The Sun Trophy

The Tom Joyce Trophy

The Bill Hardy Memorial

The Smallholder Champions Medal

The John Hardy Challenge Trophy

The James Morley Memorial Challenge Cup

Molly Burnett

Molly Burnett

Miles Joyce

Colin Campbell

Colin Campbell

Miles Joyce

Barry Noble

Open Flowers

Best Exhibit in Flowers

The Patricia Jameson Cup

Colin Campbell



Thank You!

To the following for both sponsoring and giving a raffle prize(s) to the 2025 Corbridge Village Show

Brocksbushes
Capelli Hair Design
Corbridge Tandoori
Craftworks Gallery
Croft and Graves
Fawcett and Russell
GB Motor Engineering
Jessie Juniper
Lisa Graham Hearingcare
Massey's Tea Room
My Oh My
Ozzy's Turkish Barbers
Sarah Thomson
Saunders and Pughe
The Black Bull
The Corbridge Garden Room
The Errington Coffee House
The Dyvels Inn
The Golden Lion
The Paper Shop
Shorts Of Corbridge
Vintage at the Tower
Watsonia

And to the following for either sponsoring or donating a raffle prize(s):

Acanthus
Alex Clark Art
Alexander Kitchens
Anton Estates
Beauty at the Arches
Beech Cottage Dental Practice
Baby at the Bank
Bob's Barbers
Casa Rosso
Chapter 38
Coffuffle
Corbridge Business Centre
Down To Earth
Dyvels Home & Lifestyle
Finale
Finest
Floorscope

Forum Books
French Beauty Lounge
Gelson Osteopathic Clinic
Grants Bakery
Hair at the Arches (Hayley Henderson)
Hair at the Arches (Zoe Fellows)
Halcyon House Café
Halcyon Wealth Management
Kirsty Taylor Goldsmith
La Suite
Lambert, Taylor and Gregory
Lawrence Stephenson Antiques
North Acomb Farm Shop
RE
Robinson's Printers
Sky High Sports
JA Stobo and Son
Tea and Tipple
The Amber
The Angel Inn
The Blue Bell
The Corbridge Cookshop
The Corbridge Larder
The Corbridge Sandwich Bar
The Corstopitum Social Club
The MJ Forster Gallery
The Independent Salon
The Natural Hair Salon
The Pele
The Watling Coffee House
Westway Vets
Wheatsheaf (Simone Crozier)
Corbridge Yoga Studio
George Hall
Pat Jamison
Barry Noble
Isy Shackleton

Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all members of the Corbridge Village Show Committee. We could not run the Village Show without your wonderful support!

John Shackleton

Charlotte Straker Fete

Despite the rain the annual fete - held later this year on September 20th - was an inspiring event which raised over £2000 to help support work the Charlotte Straker Project does both with their residents and in the local community. With the event opened by Visit Corbridge chair Gayle Foster, owner of Vintage at the Tower, who won the national 'High Street Street Hero' award in May. Charlotte Straker chair Berenice Groves said: "It was a truly lovely afternoon filled with laughter, community spirit and great singing thanks to Charlie's Choir. Guests tried to stay dry under the many shelters while enjoying afternoon tea with cake and scones, buying freshly baked cakes plus a packed tombola and plenty of games, including our popular Human Fruit Machine.



Corbridge Floods



This month marks the 10th anniversary of Corbridge's worst recorded flood which happened on December 5th 2015. (The images on this page show some of the photos at the Corbridge Heritage Centre in Princes Street) Storm Desmond gave a record breaking 150mm of rain, one and a half months' worth in 24 hours, arriving from over the Pennines. Which led to the river rising to 5.76 meters (nearly 19 feet). Although this was believed to be marginally lower than the Great Flood of 1771 which swept away all the bridges in the Tyne Valley except that at Corbridge, it caused far more disruption to everyday life. Whereas in 1771 there was only one house south of the river to be flooded, by 2015 there were 45 in Station Road and The Stanners. With water rising rapidly to up to seven feet in some houses, many residents failed to evacuate in time and had to be rescued from upstairs windows. They were unable to return to their homes for up to a year while their houses dried out and were repaired. West of the bridge, water overtopped the concrete wall intended to protect the nearby houses and embankment by the cricket and rugby grounds, seriously damaging

both their pavilions (it nearly reached the cross bars of the rugby posts). East of the bridge the embankment held but water from the Devils Water could not escape into the overfull River Tyne and so flowed behind it and over Dilston Haughs. Consequently it overturned gravestones in the cemetery before severely damaging the allotments and submerging cars and depositing large amounts of debris in the car park south of the bridge. Yet somehow the council and others managed to clear the area in time for Corbridge's Late Night Christmas Shopping event just two days later. They say nature always has a sting in its tail and so it proved when three days of rain from the subsequent Storm Eva some three weeks after Storm Desmond caused a landslip at Farnley which fractured the pipe carrying waste water and sewage to Riding Mill and closed the Tyne Valley railway line there for a month. Also blocking the riverside walk linking Corbridge and Riding Mill which, despite many efforts, has not been restored due to safety issues. Not least involving those related to proximity to the rail line.

David Waugh

Lest We Forget



Members of the Royal British Legion Corbridge branch again led the local Poppy Appeal this year, including at the Lych Gate war memorial entrance to St Andrew's Church. Ahead of the Remembrance Sunday parade through Corbridge and Civic Service of Remembrance at the church. Photos from that day will appear in the next (February 2026) edition. On VE Day 80 this year branch secretary Stuart Robinson and his brother Dudley laid a wreath on the grave of Major David Barnett (The Northumberland Hussars) from Halton at the Souda Bay cemetery in Crete. A member of the Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, he was killed on May 20th 1941 at the age of 39. Then in September members laid a wreath on behalf of the branch on the grave of Private Charles Frederick Best (Parachute Regiment) from Corbridge at the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery in the Netherlands. A member of the Army Air Corps, he was killed on September 28th 1944 at the age of 24 in further fighting after the Allied Operation Market Garden. Corbridge survivor Harry Minto, whose story was told in the October 2024 edition of Corbridge Matters, was also remembered during the visit.



Notice Board

St Andrew's Church

Sundays at 10am: Parish Communion (Family Communion on Christmas Day)

Saturday Dec 6 at 3pm: Tynedale Hospice At Home Service of Light

Sunday Dec 7 at 4pm: Messy Church
6pm: Advent Procession

Sunday Dec 14 at 4pm: RIVER at Christmas

Sunday Dec 21 at 6pm: Carols For All in the Churchyard

Christmas Eve Wednesday Dec 24 at 2pm: Crib Service

6:30pm: Festival of Lessons and Carols with Candlelight

11pm: Midnight Communion

Christmas Day Thursday Dec 25 at 10am: Family Communion

Corbridge Methodists:

Thursday December 11 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church

Tynedale Christian Ministries:

Welcome to our Christian Church at Corbridge Parish Hall.

Each Sunday at 10.30am: Coffee followed by 11.00 Service. Ring 01434 633532

Weekly: House Groups

Corbridge Film Nights: At the Parish Hall. Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Pay on the door. £5 cash only.

Sunday Nov 30: 'City of God' (18) 2002, Portugal

Sunday Jan 18: 'Yojimbo' (12A) 1961, Japan.



Newcastle upon Tyne
Bach Choir
Words and Music for Christmas
St Andrew's Church Corbridge
Saturday 13 December 2025 5pm
Tickets £10
Students £5; under 18s free
available from St Andrew's Website
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Parish of St Andrew Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall
Christmas Services 2025

Sunday 14th December
10:00am Holy Communion
4:00pm River at Christmas - our informal gathering for all ages beginning with refreshments.

Sunday 21st December
10:00am Parish Communion
6:30pm Carols for All in the Churchyard: Come and sing popular carols in the open air with Brass ensemble. (45 mins) This will be held inside St. Andrew's if wet.

Christmas Eve
2:00pm Crib Service: An opportunity for families to participate in the wonderful Christmas Story portrayed through the crib characters in the wooden stable.
6:30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols with Candlelight
11:00pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
8:00am Holy Communion
9:00am Holy Communion at Halton
10:00am Family Communion

www.corbridgechurch.org.uk



Christmas in
Corbridge
A choral concert to warm your heart and soul this Festive Season
Fenham Ensemble, conducted by Simon Davies-Fidler with Dark Sky Voices, conducted by Fiona Lander
Wednesday 10th December 7.30pm, St Andrews Church
Tickets: £12, under 18s free
QR code
FENHAM ENSEMBLE
Dark Sky Voices

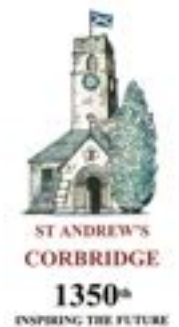


A huge thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the recent finale for our 1350th year. What a fantastic time we had! We are incredibly grateful to all who contributed to the success of the event: The impressive augmented choir, the delightful First School choir, those who helped to set up and take down, our knowledgeable church guides, the talented flower arrangers,

St Andrew's Church 1350 Closing Weekend



photographer Simon Hunter and caterer Virginia Steer. Special thanks to John and Susan for serving the fizz two days in a row. It was a wonderful way to bring our celebrations to a close and we couldn't have done it without you all.



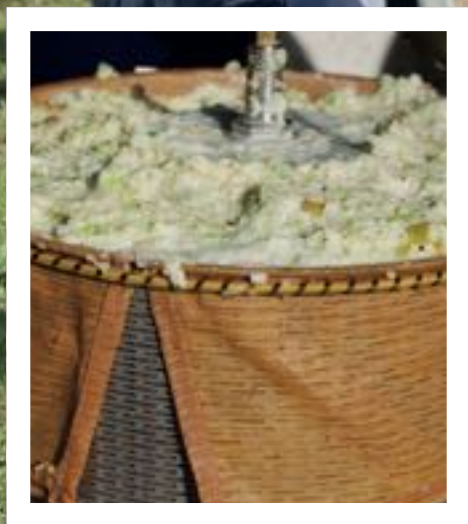
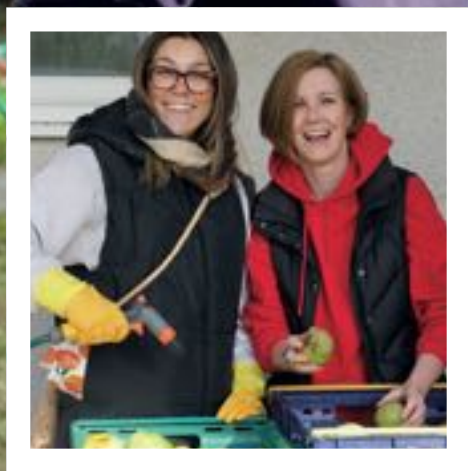


Corbridge Apple Juice



The 2025 Corbridge Apple Juice charity project has been, yet again, another wonderful community endeavour. From the donation and collection of apples to the Apple Pressing Weekend at Corbridge Cricket Club in October and subsequent production plus sales effort. With thanks to all involved. Including the team who worked tirelessly in the week leading up to the pressing to pick, collect and transport apples across Corbridge. Most of those volunteers also helping out over the weekend. Along with those who donated apples, drove vans, carried orchard ladders, provided food and drink (including Grants Bakery) for the team of volunteers and performed any number of other tasks. With thanks also to Hadrian Border Brewery for their invaluable help. And to Corbridge Cricket Club for hosting and much more. Some 2000 litres of apple juice was transported to Stu Brew at Newcastle University for processing into the 2025 supplies of Corbridge Sparkling Apple Juice and Corbridge Sparkling Cider. Then onward to the Allendale Brewery where it was canned and labelled prior to going on sale. Proceeds of this Corbridge Community Partnership project will go to The Charlotte Straker Project, Corbridge Youth Initiative and the Corbridge Community Partnership. The 2024 apple juice project raised a grand total of £10,500 which was split between the three charities. This is a truly heartwarming project involving our Corbridge community. Collecting thousands of apples that might otherwise never be eaten or used to provide both delicious end products and much needed funds for local good causes.

Corbridge Sparkling Apple Juice and Corbridge Sparkling Cider will be on sale in Market Place (while stocks last) during the St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival, including the late night Monday opening. And then again on Saturdays leading up to Christmas plus at other selected times. All prices remain the same as last year: 330ml cans of the Apple Juice cost £2.50 each / £10 for a box of four / £15 for a carrier of six / £30 for a box of 12. 330ml cans of the Cider cost £3.50 each / £14 for a box of four / £21 for a carrier of six / £42 for a box of 12. Free delivery is also available within a five mile radius of Corbridge for purchases of a box of 12 cans or more. To order please contact John Maude at: johnmaude100@gmail.com or 07791 590814 or Maurice Hodgson at: maurice.hodgson@btinternet.com or 07940 709636.



Highlights over the last year



102 young people attended our Summer Programme!



Launch of our very first Drama Club!



Our Building received some much needed TLC!



Christmas Tree Festival



80s Parties!



Visits from Northumberland Fire Service on Water Safety

CVI and our Community



Wheelbarrow Race



Charity Shield Cricket Day



Tynedale Youth Forum Awards



Apple Pressing Weekend

Over the year, we've been delighted to be a part of a wide range of community events. We are so grateful to everyone who has collaborated with and supported us. A full summary of our community work will be included in our annual report.

What's On at CVI

Our current timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
Lunchtime		CVI Drop In	CVI Drop In	
After 3.30pm	Year 5	Year 6 4pm - 5pm	Year 8	Boys' Club Year 5-7
		Year 9 4pm - 5pm		
After 6.30pm	Year 7	Seniors 6.30pm - 8pm	Girls Group 6.30-7.30	

We also deliver lunchtime drop ins at Corbridge Middle School and Queen Elizabeth High School.

In the last twelve months we have worked with 265 young people!

Our weekly term timetable now consists of seven core sessions - Year 5, Year 6, Year 7, Year 8, Girls Group, Seniors and new edition Drama Club.

For more information on how to join our youth club email hello@cvi.org.uk

What We Do

We offer activities that are designed to be enjoyable and engaging, whilst also creating opportunities for learning and growth.

Using guidance and encouragement we support and mentor our young people, helping build confidence and develop life skills to unlock their full potential.



Looking Forward



Planning Day
We plan to hold our next strategy planning day in early 2026.



Fundraising Event
We look forward to the return of the Charity Village Fashion Show and The Charwellahs and Chili Evening.



Our Drama Club will perform their very first shows of High School Musical Jr next February.

We can't wait to see what else 2026 brings us at CVI!

Thank you for as always for your continued kindness and generosity.

Your impact really makes a difference to the services we deliver for young people in our village and surrounding areas.

Look out for our full 2025 Annual Report this December.

Contact Details

Address: Youth and Community Centre, Hill Street, Corbridge, NE45 5AA
Telephone: 01434 633186 / 07510 176 562

Email: hello@cvi.org.uk

Website: <https://corbridgeyouthinitiative.org.uk>

Facebook: Corbridge Youth-Initiative Instagram: Corbridge Youth-Initiative
CJD Reg. Charity No. 1154200

On the opposite page are some of the highlights we have had.





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Each bedroom has a splendid
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Richard & Linda, Harrogate.

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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	Pilates Insp. Core Strength 17:30 - 18:30
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
SU		Flow & Restore 17:00 - 18:00

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What a year and what a lovely last 2025 edition of Corbridge Matters to celebrate all things Christmas. For those readers who get this December issue early, we'd love you to join us at the bookshop for a Festive Social - late night shopping from 5pm til 8pm on Thursday November 20. With fizz and friends - local crime mystery writer **Oskar Jensen** joins us along with **Kathryn Williams**. Her Christmas album with Carol Ann Duffy is a gem and we'll have that plus her reflective and tender new album *Mystery Park*. And for our final and very festive last event of the year we can't wait to 'coorie up' and welcome **Flora Shedden**. Her newest book **Winter in The Highlands**, which I previewed in October, is gorgeous and out now. She joins us in Corbridge on Friday November 28.

Also out are brilliant new books from **Bob Mortimer**, **Philippa Gregory**, **Richard Osman** and **Ann Cleeves**. But let me mention others you'll love too. **Snö** is a beautiful and profound natural history of snow from the bestselling Swedish environmentalist **Sverker Sörlin**. And now as the seasons lose their rhythm, snow is melting and whole landscapes risk vanishing, shrinking too our planet's ability to reflect sunlight; Sverker Sörlin urges that we take the time to look at what it is we're losing, in all its multifaceted wonder. And to question, what comes next?

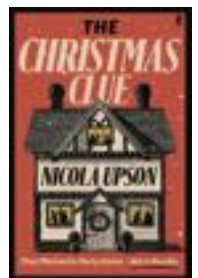
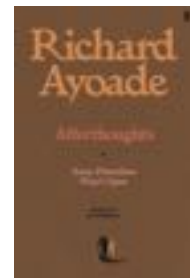
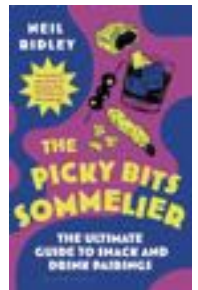
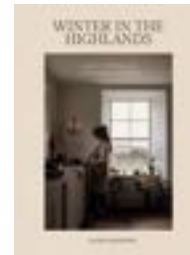
Advent by **Gunnar Gunnarsson** is a timeless drama of heroic endurance. Every winter, in the days leading up to Christmas, Benedikt walks into the snowy mountains of Iceland to rescue sheep lost in the blizzards. With his dog and his ram by his side, traversing wild snowstorms and crystalline nights. It is midwinter in the harshest of landscapes but this is also a place of deep belonging and peace – brutal and remorseless yet irresistible and indispensable, filled with the anticipation of that special time of year...the days before Christmas: Advent. This enchanting Icelandic classic of one man's selfless quest at Christmas time has been newly translated into English for the first time in 90 years.

The Picky Bits Sommelier is the brilliant follow up to *The Crisp Sommelier* and a handy addition to your seasonal smorgasbord repertoire pairing drinks with picky bits. **Neil Ridley** helps you craft the perfect picky spread for any occasion where a bog standard dinner is simply too much. Crack out the picky bits and let the fun commence! Comedian **Richard Ayoade** might differ as his new book **Afterthoughts** is subtitled *Some Pistachios Won't Open*. This is 'wisdom for the unreflective' as he dispenses 'a lifetime of deepness into over 500 individually digestible thought pellets'. Bite sized amusement! No Christmas would be complete without a festive murder mystery and **Nicola Upson's The Christmas Clue** ingeniously features the real life couple who invented Cluedo. It's Christmas Eve, 1943 when Anthony and Elva Pratt arrive in a snowy English village to run a murder mystery game - and instead discover a real murder. Nostalgic and thoroughly entertaining.

Olivia lives in **The House With The Little Red Door**. Mouse lives in an oak tree behind the house. When a storm blows the oak tree down, Olivia tries her best to find a new house for her neighbour but are any of the houses the right home? **Grace Easton** brings her expressive character illustration and beautiful hand-painted scenery with stunning die-cut flaps to a story sure to bring warmth and wonder to a cold winter's bedtime. We all know Santa makes everyone's dreams come true every Christmas. But instead of Santa going back to work after he returns home to the North Pole on Christmas morning, his loyal elves and a helpful polar bear want him to enjoy the same Christmas cheer he provides for others. Santa experiences the magic of Christmas in **Santa's First Christmas**. **Mac Barnett** and **Sydney Smith** have simply created a merry new Christmas classic.

May your Christmas be as bright and warm and as wonderful!

Helen



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**Don't just be there this Christmas...
Be part of it**



How well will you be hearing?
Christmas gatherings can be hectic but also very enjoyable. They can also highlight difficulties in hearing your family and friends. Don't let a hearing loss detach you from conversations over this festive period.

The latest hearing aid technology will make it easier for you to hear your loved ones this Christmas, as well as being discrete and comfortable.

Call us now to arrange a hearing assessment and we'll do our best to ensure you have your hearing aids in time for the festive period.

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