

CORBRIDGE MATTERS



February 2026 Issue 87

www.corbridge-pc.gov.uk

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Council NOTES



The Parish Council's planning application for public realm improvements to the Market Place is currently being considered by Northumberland County Council. A number of representations have been submitted by interested parties and members of the public and, as expected, a number of points of detail have been raised by the planning authority. The Highways Department, while accepting the principle of the proposals, has

made observations relating to road surface materials, wheelchair access and whether certain traffic calming measures are required. The county's archeological section requested further information regarding the depth of excavations. We discussed the proposals at Parish Council meetings in November and December of last year and Cllr Nick Oliver and I attended a meeting with local traders and others at the Community Hub in which a wide range of issues were aired. While the planning application will take its course the public meeting gave us the chance to both hear people's views and to clarify some fundamental points. The proposed net reduction in car parking within the Market Place is just 11 spaces - not the larger numbers that some have suggested. Nor is the Middle Street road access being pedestrianised. If the scheme is approved and implemented, traffic will continue to flow through the Market Place as it does now. One aspect of our hopes which may have to be set aside was the ambition to reinstate and 'bring home' the Roman plinth which used to stand proud - with the old market cross atop - in a central position of the Market Place until it was replaced by the 'new' cross in 1814. The plinth (pictured - image credit J. C. Bruce, 1875) is actually an important archeological treasure. It is an altar in buff sandstone dedicated to the god Apollo Manponus (an unusual combination of a Roman / Greek god with a Celtic deity) who is depicted on the stone with a lyre and laurel branch. The socket into which the old market cross used to sit remains. Alas, the plinth is also likely to remain where it is presently stored with other artefacts under the stewardship of the Society of Antiquaries in Newcastle. The archeologist in charge of the collection has confirmed, not unreasonably, that they will not agree to the plinth being part of the Market Place scheme primarily due to past damage by atmospheric pollution. In particular, historic coal dust has had its effect and there is potential for further deterioration due to relatively acidic rain. This is a pity but the society is apparently agreeable to lending the altar to the English Heritage Corbridge Roman Town museum within its controlled environment. Perhaps one day the Altar to Apollo will once again reside, albeit temporarily, at Corstopitum. The usual work of the Parish Council continues. New benches have been placed at the corner of Front Street and Main Street, we plan to purchase a new road sweeping machine to help clear leaves and other debris throughout the village and planned patching and maintenance to the recently surfaced road in the Stanners Wood will be carried out shortly. I wish everyone all the best in these final winter months as we approach lengthening days and the green shoots of Spring.

William Clouston
Corbridge Parish Council Chairman

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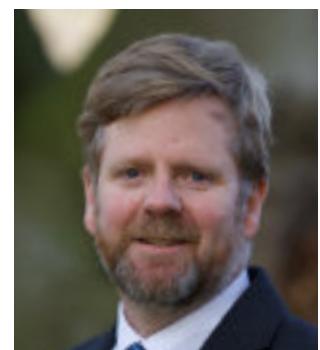
Cover photo: Corbridge February Dawn.



Welcome to the first issue of Corbridge Matters in 2026 and may I wish you all a belated very Happy New Year! William has given a detailed update on the plans for the Market Place so I won't repeat them except to say that the loss of car parking will be offset by a larger increase in the expanded village car park and a much better public square for us all to enjoy. There are definitely no plans to divert



traffic along Front Street or to pedestrianise Middle Street. I met with the county council's countryside officer before Christmas to have a detailed look at the possibility of creating a new footpath to Riding Mill along the river. I'm afraid this is impossible because of the stability of the land at Farnley Scar where there have been several landslips - the largest of which removed the previous right of way when it fell into the river in 2015. There simply isn't enough stable land between the railway and the river. Residents living near Corbridge Middle School are becoming increasingly concerned about some parents fly parking on Priory Gardens and some not taking care as they turn into the vicinity of the school from the main road. If you are a parent dropping off or picking up please drive slowly and use the car park. As well as being the ward councillor for Corbridge and Riding Mill I am also the cabinet member for finance at Northumberland County Council, an increasingly challenging role as demand for statutory council services like Special Education Needs (SEN) services and adult social care keep rising fast and the funding regime does not keep up. We are grateful to the government for the certainty of a three year settlement this time which allows us to plan but the increase in government funding is very modest and will not cover pay awards, never mind other inflationary pressures or increasing demand. There are some difficult decisions to make to reach a balanced budget in the 2026 / 2027 financial year. One of the budget priorities I have been keen to support is more capacity across Northumberland to keep gullies and verges clear. I chaired a scrutiny committee which looked into whether more investment in maintenance would reduce pot holes and repair costs and although it's impossible to calculate precisely the case was strong. The chair and vice chair of that committee now have cabinet responsibility for finance and for roads respectively and so we are starting with another road sweeper and another gully wagon. We're also looking at how we get more out of the existing fleet with better discharge arrangements and improved vehicle maintenance facilities. I hope 2026 brings all you hope it will.



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

Nick Oliver
Corbridge County Councillor

Corbridge Parish Council next meets at 7pm on Wednesdays - February 25 and March 18 in the Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge.
Clerk of the Council: Mrs Mandy Senior 07950 297634 clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk



CORBRIDGE NORTHUMBERLAND

2026 Diary

Thursday April 23rd: Charity Fashion Show at the Parish Hall.

Saturday May 23rd: Northumberland Show at Bywell.

Saturday June 13th: Charlotte Straker Summer Fair.

Saturday / Sunday June 13th & 14th: Corbridge Steam Rally at Tynedale Park.

Thursday June 18th: A Midsummer's Evening In Corbridge.

Thursday June 18th to Saturday June 20th: Textile and Art Exhibition at St Andrew's Church.

Thursday June 18th to Saturday June 20th: Tynedale Beer & Cider Festival.

Sunday June 21st: Corbridge Open Gardens.

Thursday July 23rd to Sunday July 26th: Corbridge Chamber Music Festival.

Sunday August 16th: Northumberland Classic and Performance Motor Show.

Saturday September 5th: Village Show at the Parish Hall.

Friday December 4th to Tuesday December 8th: St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

Monday December 7th: Christmas Late Night Shopping.



CORSTOPITUM SOCIAL CLUB CIU

Corstopitum Social Club will mark the 80th anniversary of its first opening next year - 2027. An institution at the heart of Corbridge life for the best part of a century. Harry Chandler, who has been Club Secretary for the last 25 years, has been delving into the archives...

At a meeting held at the Tynedale Hotel in September 1944 it was decided to form a club called Corstopitum Social Club and Institute. Although at this stage there were no premises. President: T. Fields. Secretary: M. Dixon. Treasurer: T.W. Smith. With 14 committee members and two trustees.

At a later meeting it was agreed that a maximum of 2000 shares would be offered at £1 each, starting with a deposit of ten shillings. With a view to having 300 members, all to be over the age of 21. With one vote per share. At this time there was just one female shareholder. After a public meeting it was agreed that ladies could be club members.

Gresham House in Watling Street - once a Roman road - was identified as a suitable property and was inspected in December 1944. The first general meeting was held in November 1945 with 20 members in attendance and the first working club committee was formed. Elections were then held every year for committee members. The next recorded meeting was not until March 1947.

The club took ownership of Gresham House in March 1947 with an £8 mortgage and £45 decorating bill. The first balance sheet recorded a surplus of 16 shillings and six pence. The first club steward was also appointed. The annual subscription for 1947 was two shillings and six pence. Alcohol was purchased from Robbs of Hexham.

An advert placed in the Hexham Courant announced that the official opening of the Corstopitum Club and Institute would be on November 15th 1947 from 10:30am to 6pm. Regular weekday opening times were 11am to 3pm and 6pm to 10pm. In February 1948 it was decided to reduce the age of membership from 21 to 18.

In 1948 the application to join the Working Men's Club and Institute Union Ltd was completed and forwarded for processing and acceptance. A new bar was fitted at a cost of £375. In August 1948 it was agreed that

The Club

visitors should pay two pence admission on entry to the club. With no charge for affiliated members. Life as a social club carried on with whist drives, spinner tickets, darts competitions, domino handicaps, sweepstakes, raffles, domino cards and a leek club. In December 1948 there were two free pints for each member to mark the Christmas holiday period. Today all but domino cards and the occasional Royal British Legion bingo night have disappeared.

In June 1949 it was decided to ask the Federation Brewery for a loan and to purchase their beers. The first flower show (Chrysanthemums) was held in September 1950. Prize money was paid from the sale of the flower displays. Finances were very tight at this time. As in the past it was agreed that ladies who were wives of friends could enter the club but must be signed in by a member. Ladies by themselves could only be allowed in if signed in by a member. In December 1950 it was agreed that concert parties could take place but no more than £3 could be spent on entertainment.

No official date was given but the first Leek Show was mentioned in minutes of a July 1951 meeting. The club show continued until 2007. All leek club members had to be also paid up club members. It was noted that the singing room (with resident pianist) could be extremely noisy and at times out of control. The concert secretary was told it was his responsibility to rectify this.

To mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953 all pints were to cost 6d with 2d off all bottles. Spirits remained the same price. The Federation Brewery were supplying the club with two barrels of beer a week from September 1953. In July 1958 the club installed its first - rented - television. Every year from the early 1950s onwards to the 1970s pensioner members were given either free beer tickets, reduced priced beer or £1 for Christmas and New Year celebrations. In the early 2000s tickets giving 10p off all pints or equal measures were introduced for life members. This scheme lasted for six years.

In August 1962 the club paid off its original mortgage



and received the deeds for the property. Activities in the 1960s included a letter draw, forecast, lucky number tickets, raffles, spinner tickets, whist drives, live entertainment and fruit machines. All of which kept the price of the beer low and contributed to the improvement of the club's facilities. Waiter service was introduced in the concert room in August 1967 to improve service and increase sales.

September 1970: Central heating was installed and women were now allowed to play tombola (bingo) during a Sunday morning session. October 1970 saw

the installation of the club's first colour television. It was agreed that the Royal British Legion Corbridge branch would hold their meetings at the club. Something that has continued to this day.

In April 1972 a proposal to purchase the Bridge End Nursing Home was explored. In December of that year three social evenings of entertainment were held, including reduced price drinks, to celebrate the club's 25th anniversary.

February 1973: Pensioners were given life membership after five years of continual club membership. No annual subscription to be paid. Over the years bus trips for children of members were introduced. One year two double decker buses were used and the youngsters were fed and given £2 spending money.

September 1973: An interest was expressed in purchasing Norwood House - the current site of the club



- and surrounding land. In March 1974 the largest surplus, £6347, in the club's financial history to date was reported. A quote of £130,000 was received in August 1975 for a new build club. The architects subsequently won an award for the original concept and design. A CWS Bank loan was secured on freehold

property valued at £90,000. The official opening of the new club premises was on September 7th 1978.

A pool table was introduced to the bar at a rental cost of £10 per week. Ladies were allowed in the bar but not allowed to stand at the bar unless purchasing a drink. Cover charges for the concert room ranged from 10p to 50p depending on the entertainment. A further £10,000 was agreed to be borrowed from the brewery. In June 1979, less than 12 months after opening, the club secretary approached the CWS Bank regarding a loan for a new concert room.

In July 1979, during that year's drinks' shortage (Fed Brewery Strike) only members of the club could be served drinks. Assistance from Tetley's Breweries helped make up for the shortfall in drinks. Tetley offered to pay one third of the cost of the new concert room if the Fed board were not willing to pay the full amount.

During the late 1970s the club had three men's darts teams, two ladies' darts teams and two men's pool teams. Currently there is only one men's darts team. Sports and games started to dwindle from 2007 and certainly after Covid to only one pool team.

A, £83,198 construction contract was agreed in January 1980 for a new concert room. Work to start in February for a 26 week period. In April of that year it was agreed to borrow £157,000 from the CWS Bank for the purchase of the freehold and legal charges held by the bank. It was decided that entertainment in the new concert room must break even and not be subsidised by the club. A Friday night disco was allowed in September 1980 after a number of refusals in previous years. But it ended four years later due to a lack of interest.



December 2nd 1980 was the official opening night for the new concert room extension and lounge. Bingo became a regular five day / evening event with the opportunity for members to book the room for wedding and birthday parties. There was also regular entertainment

featuring, for example, Emile Ford, The Billy Fane Road Show, discos and country and western evenings. In 1981 ladies were allowed to have membership of the club but not affiliation to the CIU (Club & Institute Union). Club membership peaked in the early 1980s at 988. The current 2026 membership figure is 340.



Financial problems arose in July 1985 with a reference in the minutes to the size of the club's overdraft. A new juke box was installed the following month with the aim of attracting younger people to become club members. A £12,000 bank loan was also sought for redecoration. By September 1985 some 40 per cent of members were ladies but they were still not allowed full membership. In February 1986 the club made a request to the CIU for ladies to have full rights of affiliation and year cards.

Sales declined in the late 1980s with reduced interest in bingo, general ticket sales and entertainment. With costs rising it was difficult to make a profit. Back in the 1960s and 1970s all clubs had to do was open the doors and members would flood in. But now membership was dropping along with sales.



March 1989: Swapped bar and concert rooms. Dec 1989: The secretary read a letter from the Federation Brewery informing the club that they would be appointing a receiver. May 1990: The receivers informed the committee that the club was financially unsustainable and would have to be sold. The committee were looking for a fairy godfather. 1990: Tetley Brewery offered a loan of £100,000 at a fixed rate of 4% over 10 years. Offer to go to receiver. Problem being extra sales of £330 per month just to pay off the interest. Impossible in the current climate. The committee members took over the cleaning of the club and some of the serving of drinks when open. Membership dropped to 479.

May 1991: The Federation Brewery was concerned that the club was still running at a loss and said the premises

should be sold with part of the building leased back to the club on a 25 years lease. At this time the first female member joined the club committee.

A special meeting held in July 1991 proposed an extension - a new concert room be placed on sale for £130,000. Planning permission was obtained in March 1992. Also the year The Amber Chinese Takeaway opened which ensured the club survived.

April 1998: Permission was given to the Amber Takeaway to sublet land to the rear of their business to be used as a small garden centre. June 1998: The Cooperative Bank was contacted to see if they would take over the club's mortgage from the Federation Brewery. This would give the club more freedom in purchasing drinks.

April: 2004: The club had £33,000 in all our accounts and Federation Breweries Shares. Shall we pay off our £32,000 mortgage and save on our interest charges of a reducing £270 per month? Oct 2004: Paid additional £6000 of mortgage to reduce interest payments.



Feb 2006: Three lady committee members showing their 10 Year Certificates of Merit.

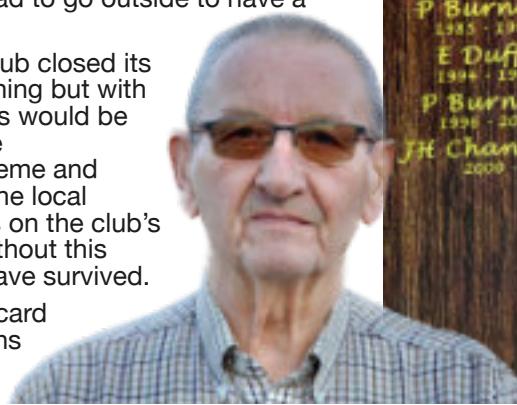
April 2007: Mortgage balance paid.

April 2007: Ladies were granted equal membership rights as CIU affiliate members. July 2007: Introduction of the smoking ban in pubs, clubs and most indoor areas. In the 59 years prior to this ban the club has historically made only six annual losses. In the following 19 years there have been 11 annual losses.

Financial crisis: Sales dropped from £145,000 to £104,000 with our accounts in the year ending 2010 showing the biggest loss since the club opened at £13,685...with no additional expenditure. Sales continued to drop steadily when we posted sales of £81,541. We believe this was still attributed to the smoking ban, especially during the winter and inclement weather where members had to go outside to have a cigarette.

During the pandemic the club closed its doors in 2020. Later reopening but with restrictions. We thought this would be the end of the club. But the government's furlough scheme and business assistance from the local authority ensured a surplus on the club's financial balance sheet. Without this assistance we would not have survived.

April 2022: Introduction of card payments. Within six months went from 100% cash to time from the year 2000



Harry Chandler

darts teams, sale of meat draw tickets, letter draw, key draw, raffles, leek club, a significant drop in domino card sales and finally our fruit machine. All of which had given the club additional income. The annual income from these being as high as £14,000 in the early 1980s. Over the last four years the club has lost money each financial year.

The first half of the 2025/26 financial year has started promisingly and if sales continue as they are we should break even or possibly make a small profit. This will be a template for the future of the club.

A huge amount of money has been raised for charity over the decades through fundraising events at the club. Recipients have included Brain Tumour Research, Children's Heart Unit at the Freeman Hospital, Hexham Priory School, Macmillan Cancer Research, The Royal British Legion, Corbridge Panthers Under 13s girls' football, Corbridge Youth Initiative and more.

We have had 16 chairmen, one chairlady, 12 secretaries, 12 treasurers and countless committee members. Their dedication and hard work administering the club should not go without recognition. With thanks also, of course, to the members. Without them there would be no club.

We currently have 340 members of which 152 are life members. Applications for club membership are very welcome. Ask at the bar for an application form. Once completed the form is then reviewed at the next committee meeting. If membership is accepted, a £5 annual fee is payable every January. There is also a £5 joining fee. Successful applicants receive a Corstopitum Social Club Member card, with membership number, and a door entry fob.

Harry Chandler
Secretary & Treasurer

CORSTOPITUM SOCIAL CLUB

HONOURS

SECRETARY	CHAIRMAN	TREASURER
M Dixon 1946 - 1948	J Fields 1946 - 1947	JW Smith 1946 - 1950
D Franklyn 1948 - 1953	C Crozier 1947 - 1951	E Sisterson 1950 - 1952
W Ellison 1953 - 1967	W Ellison 1953 - 1957	G Twist 1953 - 1955
J Harrison 1967 - 1969	J Phillipson 1953 - 1964	JH Burns 1955 - 1959
RW Ross 1969 - 1970	H Cutting 1964 - 1973	E Dixon 1966 - 1971
T Dines 1970 - 1971	W Fenwick 1972 - 1974	B Robinson 1971 - 1975
JW Redman 1971 - 1972	H Cutting 1974 - 1975	R Dixon 1975 - 1978
E Dixon 1972 - 1983	E Hart 1975 - 1978	B Robinson 1976 - 1994
P Burnett 1983 - 1990	TW Hunter 1976 - 1979	PJ Purvis 1994 - 1996
E Duffy 1994 - 1998	Clr J Mennim 1979 - 1988	LJ Purvis 1996 - 2014
P Burnett 1996 - 2000	R Dixon 1989 - 1997	PJ Purvis 2016 - 2021
JH Chandler 2000	S Graves 1997 - 1999	JH Chandler 2021 -
	PI Purvis 1999 - 2014	
	B Nichol 2008 - 2015	
	PJ Purvis 2015 - 2021	
	D Brown 2021 - 2023	
	D Burnett 2021	

Corbridge Community Partnership

“The power of community is not to be underestimated. When people come together, really incredible things can happen.”

Flora Beverley

As a local resident and business owner, it is my privilege to chair the Corbridge Community Partnership and work with our vibrant local community. It is now almost four years since the closure of the Methodist Church in Princes Street. The location of what is now the Corbridge Community Hub and Heritage Centre. Run by our registered charity. The building may not have changed much on the outside. But inside lots has happened over the last year. With more to come.

A lease has finally been agreed with the Methodist Church. It includes an option for us to buy the building, which we aim to pursue. Aside from establishing the Corbridge Heritage Centre in one part of the building (3000 visitors to date) the rest of the Hub has hosted a variety of community groups as well as concerts, talks, coffee mornings, Corbridge Open Gardens and much else besides. We have also formed a Charities Together group which holds regular meetings to coordinate the fund raising activities of our local charities. In 2026 we are further expanding use of the building, including as a Warm Hub. With a free ‘Warm Welcome Cafe’ between noon and 2pm every Thursday. In addition to the popular Tea and Chat gatherings every other Wednesday afternoon. With other groups, including the RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf People), among those holding regular meetings and support sessions in the Main Hall (former church area).

Construction work was recently completed to build a bespoke new space within the hall at the rear of the building for Over The Rainbow, a child minding nursery. It was facing the imminent loss of its Corbridge premises which could have led to its closure - leaving local parents in difficulty along with the loss of three jobs. Noting that the rear hall was used as a nursery for many years when the building was still a Methodist Church. Work has also been completed to remove the old boiler which services the Main Hall and replace it with a new modern unit. The old boiler was very inefficient and expensive to run with no spare parts available should it have broken down. The replacement modern boiler also supplies heat to a series of newly installed radiators both in the newly created nursery space and to the rest of the rear of the



building - including the kitchen and toilet which were previously unheated. Plus the upstairs room used by a local seamstress. Previously the only heating at this rear area of the building was via an old and inefficient large gas powered fan heater at one end of the rear hall. It has now been removed. The new heating system also supplies hot water in both the kitchen and toilet.

The Heritage Centre in what was the ‘New Room’ has continued to grow and evolve and has received much praise from both local residents and those visiting from the rest of the region, elsewhere in the UK and abroad. Other visitors include children from the First School on a now regular annual visit as part of their local history studies. The Corbridge Community Partnership last year again organised the annual Corbridge Apple Juice and Cider Project in aid of three local charities: The Charlotte Straker Project, Corbridge Youth Initiative and ourselves. Raising a grand total of £10,500 in 2024. A bumper harvest last autumn was followed by the annual Apple Pressing Weekend at Corbridge Cricket Club. With thanks to the many volunteers involved in every aspect of the project, 2025 cans of Corbridge Apple Juice and Corbridge Cider sold out before Christmas. We are part of the Friends of Corbridge Station group which has made yet further upgrades to the railway station over the last year. Including the ‘Welcome to Corbridge: A Bridge To Hadrian’s Wall’ signage and information. Visit Corbridge, another part of the Corbridge Community Partnership, continues to promote Corbridge on a near daily basis. Also organising events like Midsummer, Christmas late night shopping and festive entertainment. Visitor numbers increased again in 2025 and are now higher than those recorded before the pandemic. With the support of visitors crucial to the survival of our shops, cafes, pubs, restaurants and other businesses which we, as local residents, also benefit from. I would like to, again, pay tribute to the many volunteers who help us deliver services to our Corbridge community. With more exciting plans for the future to come.

David Crompton
Corbridge Community Partnership Chair





Remembrance November 2025



Notice Board

St Andrew's Church

Sundays at 10am: Parish Communion.
Sunday Feb 1 at 4pm: Simply Worship.
Sunday Feb 8 at 4pm: Messy Church.
Sunday Feb 15 at 4pm: Simply Worship.
Sunday Feb 22 at 4pm: RIVER.

Corbridge Methodists

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

Tynedale Christian Ministries

Welcome to our Christian Church at Corbridge Parish Hall.

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

Weekly: House Groups

Corbridge Film Nights: At the Parish Hall. Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Pay on the door. £5 cash only. **Sunday Feb 15:** 'The Lives of Others' (15) 2006, Germany / **Sunday March 15:** 'Pig' (15), 2021, USA.

 **CORBRIDGE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

FUNDRAISER CONCERT

St Andrew's Church, Corbridge

Milhaud Suite
Brahms Clarinet Sonata in F minor
Schubert Piano Trio in B flat

Wednesday
25th Feb
2026
7.30pm

Tickets £12 on the door



Gould Piano Trio and Robert Plane

Warm Welcome Cafe



At the Corbridge Community Hub in Princes Street

Noon to 2pm every Thursday

Just turn up - no charge!





Tea and Chat

2026

A chance to meet new people

2pm to 4pm on the

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month

All welcome - just turn up

At the Corbridge Community Hub in Princes Street

Organised by St Andrew's Church





FixMyStreet



FixMyStreet is primarily for reporting to Northumberland County Council things which are broken, dirty, damaged or dumped and need fixing, cleaning or clearing. Like graffiti, dog fouling, potholes or street lights that don't work. Scan the QR code to go to the website. Or search for it online.



Many issues can be most effectively reported via FixMyStreet which you can also download as an app on your phone. If your issue is not listed there it may be something the Parish Council or your local county councillor can help with. You can contact Mandy Senior, Clerk to Corbridge Parish Council, via clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk or Nick Oliver, Northumberland County Councillor, via nick.oliver@northumberland.gov.uk Please include as many details as possible and photos if appropriate as well as your phone number. The Parish Council is responsible for the Parish Hall, cemetery and some of the footpaths and vegetation around the village. The County Council has wider responsibilities including the rest of the footpaths, vegetation, local roads, some education matters and social care. Nick Oliver liaises regularly with other agencies and can sometimes take up issues with them on your behalf.

The Likely Lads

It's 50 years this April since the 1976 cinema release of The Likely Lads feature film. A big screen spin off from the hugely successful BBC One series Whatever Happened To The Likely Lads? Starring James Bolam as Terry, Rodney Bewes as Bob and Brigit Forsyth as Bob's wife Thelma. With Mary Tamm introduced in the film as Terry's girlfriend Christina. Written by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, who also wrote the earlier 1960s TV series entitled The Likely Lads. The movie version has stood the test of time, at least among Likely Lads fans, including for scenes such as the one filmed in Corbridge. Early one morning a fed up Terry and Bob decide to cut short a Northumberland caravan holiday to head home for a Sunday pint - with Thelma and 'Chris' still asleep in the caravan towed behind their car. Picking up two young female hitch hikers on the way, they stop outside the St Andrew's Church Lych Gate in Corbridge with traffic lights at the Market Place end of Middle Street on red. About to travel east along Middle Street - today a one way road west with no traffic lights. Which is when Thelma and Chris wake up and step out of the caravan. To be met by the local vicar and members of the Corbridge congregation. An unaware Bob and Terry then driving off with the car and caravan after the traffic lights change to green...leaving Thelma and Christina stranded in Market Place in their nighties. The vicar later flagging down a passing lorry and asking the driver to give the two ladies a lift.

1976



1976



1976



1976

12

2026





1976



2026



1976



2026



1976



2026



Corbridge in the 1950s.

Credit: Corbridge Heritage Centre





The Old Workshop
Peaceful and luxurious holiday
hideaway in Corbridge

sleeps 4 (+ infant)



“A beautiful property in a green oasis ... Inside, it's beautifully fitted out. There's everything you need and all the appliances are of the highest standard. Each bedroom has a splendid en-suite and comes well equipped”

Richard & Linda, Harrogate.



Contact: Sally on 07802 289732

www.dockleafcottages.co.uk



CORBRIDGE YOGA STUDIO

Introductory Offer
3 weeks unlimited classes £30

M	Flow & Restore 9:30 - 10:30	Forrest Yoga 19:00 - 20:15
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

WWW.CORBRIDGEYOGA.COM

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Forum Books

Hello Happy Readers

As the year is still fresh we have plenty of time to celebrate books and reading. And, in case you hadn't noticed, this year is the **National Year of Reading**. We are ready to 'Go All In' as their slogan encourages...and with 'Read ON' literally on our walls what else are we all about than that? Look out for our special events and more - especially as this year will mark 15 years of running FORUM Books! The blink of an eye...

Spring always brings a fresh batch of books and many readers will be delighted to finally get their hands on the 24th instalment in **LJ Ross's** bestselling DCI Ryan mystery series! **Berwick** finds Detective Chief Inspector Ryan in a living nightmare. When he receives a call to say his wife Anna has been arrested for the murder of a well known author, he refuses to believe the evidence that seems to be piling up against her. Anna could never murder anyone. He's sure of it. But with the case mounting against her, Ryan must search his soul to answer the question that seems to be on everybody's lips: Does he really trust the woman he married? Plus, into paperback, **Ann Cleeves' The Killing Stones** see Jimmy Perez return. He's traded the stark beauty of Shetland for the wild isolation of Orkney but the darkness of human nature follows him everywhere. A ferocious storm rages across the islands and uncovers the body of Archie Stout, a popular, larger than life member of the community. The murder weapon? A Neolithic stone, bearing cryptic, ancient inscriptions.

We love **Trevor Wood's** new series too - in **The Inside Man** DCI Jack Parker fights to hide his early onset dementia while he continues to do the job he loves. 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 reckless, encouraging her replacement, DS Emma Steel, to get close to a local gangster who knows more than he's letting on, thus endangering her and causing dissent among his close-knit team.

Twist by **Colum McCann** is the best book with the worst cover - but we don't judge - and if you love a classy thriller, you won't be disappointed. Journalist Anthony Fennell is in pursuit of a story buried at the bottom of the sea: the network of tiny fibre optic tubes that carry the world's information across the ocean floor and what happens when they break. He has travelled to Cape Town to board the George Lecointe, a cable repair vessel captained by Chief of Mission John Conway. As taut and propulsive as a thriller, and a timeless exploration of narrative and truth, **Twist** is the work of a master storyteller at the height of his powers.

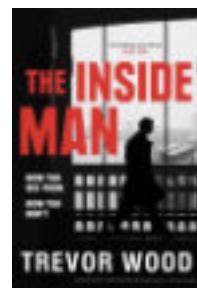
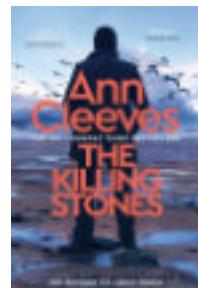
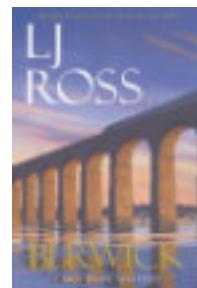
Small towns and big hearts are alive in **Garrett Carr's The Boy From The Sea** - a brilliantly moving tale of an abandoned baby who rocks a small Irish town, bringing together a community and igniting lifelong rivalries. It's simultaneously compassionate, lyrical, vivid, loving and genuinely funny. On Valentine's Day a new film of **Wuthering Heights** sets hearts racing. But the book is better, right? And there are some gorgeous new editions to choose from. Including the one at this link: <https://uk.bookshop.org/a/282/9781529954296>

Finally, if it's not too early to call my book of the year, **Kenan Orhan's The Renovation** is simply superb. Dilara, a Turkish woman living in exile with her husband and father in Italy, finds her father is disappearing. His memories are collapsing, dementia stealing a little more of him each day. She has persuaded him to move in with her, hiring builders to adapt her apartment to his new needs. But when the renovation is complete she discovers, instead of a new en-suite bathroom, behind the builder's tarp is a Turkish prison cell...and a guard walks past the door. Dazzling, Kafkaesque, evocative, words fail with this one. It's genuinely brilliant, stunning - a new classic.

Hopefully there's something here you'd love to dive in to and go all in!

Helen

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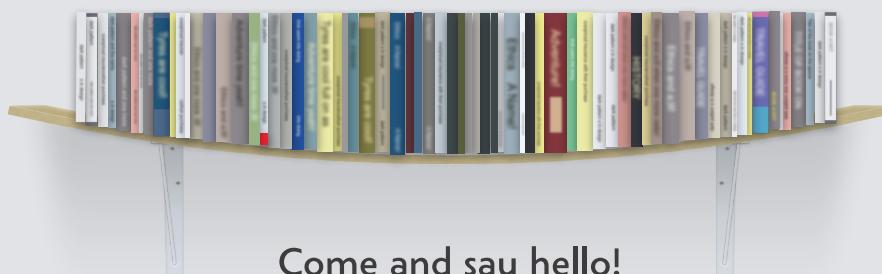
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