

CORBRIDGE MATTERS



April 2026 Issue 88

www.corbridge-pc.gov.uk

*** DESIGN : © 2026 PETER RODGER : 07550011001 *** PRINT : ROBSONPRINT : 01434 602975 *** EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHY : IAN WYLIE ***



Council NOTES



‘Meet me on the corner...’ Corbridge is unusual in having two distinct central places of assembly. The Market Place is, of course, the historic commercial domain of the village - the origins of which may date back to the reign of King John in the 1200s. However, we also have The Coigns (opposite page) which has been another place where villagers have come together and gathered news for many centuries.

The importance of The Coigns is partly explained by its unrivalled strategic position at the crossroads of two ancient roadways. Corbridge is where the great Roman roads Stanegate and Dere Street meet. But as these ancient east / west and north / south routes developed throughout the subsequent centuries, The Coigns emerged as the actual point where they crossed. And the historical record shows how important this was to the village. The completion of the present bridge across the Tyne in 1674 further reinforced the status of The Coigns as the main intersection.

Forster’s ‘History of Corbridge’ records that in the mid 1700s a twice weekly goods wagon service ran between Hexham and Newcastle. The operator, Mr Johnson, would habitually stop at The Coigns and the villagers would gather to hear the news from the outside world. And the function of The Coigns as the place to hear the news continued long after Mr Johnson and his wagon had gone. David Waugh’s ‘Historic Corbridge’ records that Mr Winship - proprietor of The Angel - would receive one newspaper a week which would be read aloud to the people at The Coigns. It is probable that Corbridgians first heard the news of Wellington’s victory at Waterloo in this important place. In the early 1800s - during harvest time - The Coigns was also used as the place for the ‘gathering of the reapers’. Able bodied men, women and children would assemble at 7am, strike a bargain for a day’s rate and be taken on carts to outlying farms to bring in the crops. Often well over 100 people would assemble.

A quarter of a century ago comprehensive improvements were made as part of a Millennium works project and the present arrangement at The Coigns reflects this. Small adjustments have been added such as the planters - carefully maintained by Corbridge In Bloom - and the Village Trust information board. However, some of the stonework has degraded and moss and algae has colonised other areas. I am pleased to report that the Parish Council agreed at its February meeting to appoint a contractor to undertake various works of repair which are scheduled to have been completed by the time you read this. With all flags re-pointed and old mortar ground out and replaced. Plus stonework and brickwork re-pointed along with widespread cleaning and surface sealing. The Parish Council has owned The Coigns since 1997. We will continue to cherish it and protect it as a vital part of our public realm.

William Clouston
Corbridge Parish Council Chairman

This is not the first time I have written that we are privileged to live in a village with such a strong community spirit. That is in part created and reinforced by the community organisations playing such an important part of daily life in Corbridge. Limited by space, I will mention three and then devote the next couple of paragraphs to another. The Parish Council,



supported by the excellent Mandy, Chris and Andrew, do great work. The councillors are all volunteers, have a wide variety of professional and life experience and are ably led by William Clouston. The Corbridge Community Partnership (CCP) are another band of volunteers who contribute in many ways, not least keeping the former Methodist Church in public use as the Community Hub. The Corbridge Youth Initiative’s excellent staff provide important services to our young people and are supported by dedicated trustees. I have had first hand daily experience of the Charlotte Straker Project as my mother-in-law Bobbie Middleton, who lived in Corbridge for over 40 years and is the reason we moved here over 30 years ago, was a resident and had been receiving end-of-life care before her recent death. I have been overwhelmed by the standard of care Bobbie received and the warm, welcoming atmosphere her family experienced as we visited every day. Every member of staff I came across exuded an aura of calm professionalism, reassuring for both residents and visitors alike. It is obvious that everybody enjoys working there and that is reinforced by the length of service of many. The more experienced pass on their technical knowledge and the unique Charlotte Straker culture to the younger staff. Bobbie’s four children, their partners and her nine grandchildren descended on Charlotte Straker from across the UK, North America and South East Asia and as we came and went each day and every night nothing was too much trouble for them all – they really do care. My wife Katie was even provided with a Z-bed to make her overnight stays with her mum comfortable. Always thoughtful and nothing too much trouble. The trustees play a crucial role in supporting the staff and maintaining the standards and culture that sets The Charlotte Straker Project apart from most care settings and we are fortunate to have this facility right in the heart of our community. Our heartfelt thanks to all involved.

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

Nick Oliver
Corbridge County Councillor



Corbridge Matters is published periodically by Corbridge Parish Council and distributed free of charge in the village. Any comments or opinions expressed in this or any edition of Corbridge Matters do not necessarily represent the views of the Council. The display of advertisements for services or products does not indicate that they endorsed, approved, recommended or promoted by the Council.

Cover photo: St Andrew’s Church door

Corbridge Parish Council next meets at 7pm on Wednesdays April 22nd and May 27th in the Parish Hall, St Helen’s Street, Corbridge.
Clerk of the Council: Mrs Mandy Senior 07950 297634
clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk

'Meet me on the corner...'
...The Coigns



Corbridge First School

It was recently STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Fortnight at Corbridge First School and the children had an amazing time! Not only does this period develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills, it inspires them to pursue careers in STEM and aim high.

Nursery - Dinosaurs

What a busy fortnight Nursery had. As palaeontologists they investigated dinosaur footprints, painted a big dinosaur, who they named Rexy, and made dinosaur shadows. As meteorologists they created mud paintings, produced their own rainbows through the use of a torch (due to the lack of sunshine). They also made sun catchers and rainbow chains to create a colourful classroom display and learned some weather songs which they performed to parents during a showcase afternoon.

Reception: Superheroes at the ready

Reception class had a fantastic first week of STEM - full of curiosity, creativity and hands on learning. The children loved finding out all about the important role of a paramedic and how they help people in emergencies before proudly dressing up as people who help us in our community—or even as superheroes. They explored problem solving by working together to free a superhero trapped in ice, making predictions and observing changes as the ice melted. To finish the week, they put their engineering skills to the test by designing a boat which they will build to help them escape an island, showing great teamwork, imagination and resilience throughout. In week two they were also lucky enough to have a special visit from Jess the GP, who told us all about her role as a doctor. She introduced them to everyday medical equipment such as a stethoscope, bandages, an oxygen monitor and an ear torch...and they even had the chance to try them out. The children asked lots of insightful questions, learned so much about science and medicine, and are grateful to both Jess and Professor Brainstorm for such a memorable and informative experience.

Year 1: Operation Space Rescue

NASA has asked Year 1 to help them get Astronaut Alex Cooper back to Earth after his rocket broke down, leaving him stuck in space. Our young space heroes accepted their NASA mission and decided we must make a new rocket for Astronaut Alex. In order to do this we decided we needed to learn all about space, so we learned about the first landing on the Moon. It was so interesting. We also LOVED designing our rockets before testing material and making them. Year 1 would love to say a BIG thank you to Matt Charlton. They thoroughly enjoyed being mini architects and creating a house for a Lego figure. It was truly amazing to see how creative all of our children were.

Year 2: Let's Go!

The children kicked off their STEM fortnight Super Mario mission with great enthusiasm. They explored a range of different materials and carried out scientific investigations to test the flexibility of materials. We were lucky to have a lovely visit from Peter Ward who immersed the children in an exciting engineering challenge using spaghetti and marshmallows, encouraging teamwork, problem solving, and creative design. They blew us away with their creative thinking and perseverance.

Year 3: Jedi Training Camp

Year 3 had a fantastic first week of STEM. They investigated magnetism in science to prepare for finding the force as part of their diorama project. They found that magnets can work at a distance and discovered magnetic and non magnetic materials. In Art they sketched and planned their dioramas. Danielle Reay kindly came in and carried out an experiment to extract DNA from strawberries.

Year 4: Wingardium Leviosa!

During STEM Week, our class was transported into the magical world of Harry Potter. They were sorted into Hogwarts' houses and worked together like true wizards and witches. Using their science and design skills they designed and built a prototype to silence a screaming Mandrake, testing different materials to see what worked best. They were also lucky to be visited by two amazing STEM Ambassadors who inspired them with their knowledge and showed them how STEM is used in the real world. It was a fun, creative and magical week of learning.

What amazing scientists we have!

Suzanne Hart

Executive Headteacher



Corbridge Gardening Society



Despite the rough wet weather throughout January and February this year, when their gardens had to fend for themselves, our members enthusiasm for a new season is increasing with the new shoots of spring. The first challenge of the year was to encourage exhibits for the Spring Plant Show at the Parish Hall on Thursday March 26th.

The Society will be holding its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 23rd also in the Parish Hall when many Corbridge gardeners will enjoy the opportunity to grab a bargain from the wide range of plants from the rare and unusual to everyday good 'doers'. The sale will again be supported by Tynedale Horticultural Services, a Northumberland County Council service providing horticultural training and work experiences for adults with learning and mental health challenges. They will be offering a wide range of young vegetable plants for gardens and allotments.

To inspire the next generation of green fingered enthusiasts, the Corbridge Gardening Society has launched a community initiative and donated spring bulbs to both Corbridge First School and Corbridge Middle School during the Autumn term of 2025. This project offered pupils the opportunity to plant the bulbs in their school grounds or individual pots, providing a hands on introduction to the joys of gardening. Both schools showcased their horticultural efforts at the Spring Plant Show.

This year the Society has planned coach trips to Corsock House and Drumlanrig Castle in late May, a self drive visit to Cresswell Pele Tower walled garden in July and a coach trip to Breezy Knees and Burnby Hall in Yorkshire in September. The four day Summer Holiday in July is to the Dumfries & Galloway region with visits to Dunesslin, Drumpark, Dumfries House, Threave, 3 Millhall, Southwick House, and The Crichton.

This year will also see the development of our plans for talks in the Parish Hall, with some monthly talks to be held on Thursday afternoons creating a more relaxed informal atmosphere for social interaction when light refreshments are available. As a Society we take every opportunity to socialise and exchange information and experiences of gardening and plant types. New members are welcome to either start their journey into the joys of gardening, improve their knowledge and add to the wealth of experience of existing members.

Membership is open to all residents of Corbridge and surrounding areas for an annual subscription of £10 per member. The subscription covers free access to all meetings, talks and shows. New members are always welcome.



For more details and programme of events please scan the QR code for our website corbridgegardeningssociety.com or email corbridgegardeningssociety@gmail.com

Corbridge Riverside Sports Club



On the first of February Corbridge Riverside Sports Club held its traditional annual ceremony to mark the start of the salmon fishing season on the Tyne. We started with an excellent breakfast at Corbridge Cricket Club followed by a walk down to the riverbank where our oldest member, 95 year old Robert Robison who still fishes regularly, gave a toast to the river and its salmon.

The club was formed in 1934 as a village club for swimming, rowing and fishing, and by 1948 had become solely devoted to fishing. It is now one of the few remaining traditional village clubs on the Tyne and has thrived, growing to over 60 members.

We have access to several miles of trout and salmon fishing on the south bank of the Tyne extending below and upstream of the bridge along with some local trout fishing. We pride ourselves on being a friendly local club and hold various events during the year, culminating in our annual dinner and trophy presentation.



We are always looking for new members from the village and from Riding Mill Parish and are particularly keen to welcome juniors, ladies and beginners. If you are interested in joining, or would like more information, please scan the QR code to visit our website

www.crscfishing.co.uk where you can fill in a contact form and we will get back to you.

You can also find us on Facebook. Alternatively you can email us at info@crscfishing.co.uk.



Corbridge Tennis Club

Corbridge Tennis Club is a friendly and welcoming club. Founded in 2012, the club moved to its current and enviable premises adjacent to Tynedale Rugby Club in 2013. Since then we've continued to grow and have developed into one of the region's leading tennis venues. We welcome all ages and abilities and are always looking for new players of any standard. We pride ourselves in our "fun first", inclusive approach to the sport. Whatever your motivation for playing; whether it be for fitness, enjoy tennis socially, or to play competitive team tennis, we can offer you an experience you'll truly enjoy.

We have modern, high-quality facilities including:

- Three LED floodlit, all-weather hard courts. Floodlight use is provided and included in all our great value membership packages.
- Plentiful free parking
- Coaching is available for all ages and abilities, provided by our coaching partner, Tynedale Tennis.
- A modern pavilion featuring a sheltered viewing area and a meeting room, which is available to hire.

Tynedale Tennis is our new coaching partner. They are a community interest company founded by members who are dedicated to helping every child develop a love for tennis. Their coaching team consists of a team of coaches who are LTA qualified, DBS checked and first aid trained. They offer a junior programme on Saturdays for children and young adults between the ages of five and 16, covering all stages from Red Ball through to Yellow Ball. In addition, they can also provide private lessons on request. There is no requirement for juniors to hold membership for coaching sessions in 2026 and unlike many other providers, Tynedale Tennis do not charge subscriptions.

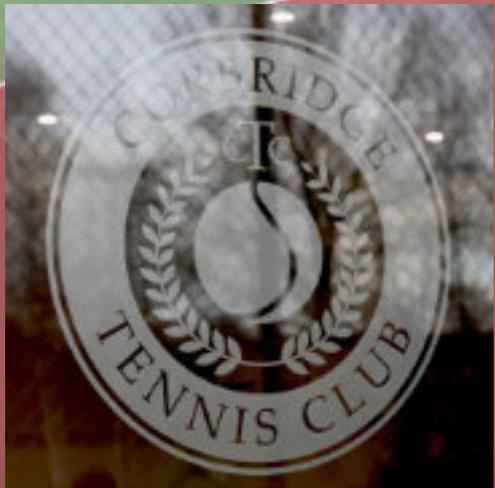
For more information please contact info@tynedaletennis.com

We run several teams in the Northumberland & Durham Tennis League. The Men's team play in the Open category, Veterans, which is over 45, and a thriving over 60's team. The Ladies team play in the Open Category and in the over 60's category. In addition, there is an under 45 mixed doubles team. All of our teams run weekly practice sessions so if you're interested in joining us, please contact tennis@corbridgetennis.co.uk

Our club is proud to have formerly received several prestigious awards, including Northumberland LTA Club of the Year, The Tynedale Trophy and Club of the Year by Sport Tynedale.

Scan the QR code to view our website at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ctc>





Notice Board

St Andrew's Church

Maundy Thursday April 2 at 7:30pm: The Communion of the Last Supper.

Good Friday April 3 at 11am: Messy Church.

Easter Day Sunday April 5 at 5:30am: Service of Light and Dawn Communion.

Easter Day Sunday April 5 at 10am: Family Easter Communion.

Easter Day Sunday April 5 at 5:30am: Simply Worship for Easter.

Sunday April 12 at 10am: Parish Communion.

Sunday April 19 at 10am: Parish Communion.

Sunday April 19 at 4pm: Simply Worship.

Sunday April 26 at 10am: Parish Communion.

Sunday April 26 at 4pm: RIVER.

Corbridge Methodists

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

Thursday April 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

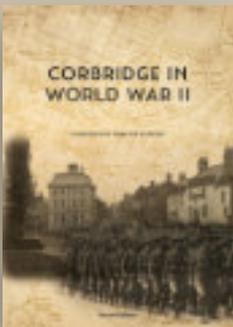
Weekly: House Groups

Corbridge Film Nights: At the Parish Hall. Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Pay on the door. £5 cash only. **Sunday April 19:** 'First Cow' (12) 2019, USA.



'The Buildings of Corbridge' - A Talk by David Waugh at the Corbridge Community Hub in Princes Street at 7pm on Tuesday April 28th. Pay on the door. £10 cash or card.

See also page 27



The expanded second edition of David's book 'Corbridge In World War II' has also just been published. Available to buy at the Corbridge Heritage Centre, Forum Books, the Paper Shop and the Golden Lion. Price: £8.

FASHION SHOW

Tickets **£25**
Welcome drink included

RAFFLE & BAR

IN AID OF
Charlotte Straker
Fund Raiser - The Community Hub Project
Reg Charity No. 1122000

YCI
Corbridge Youth Initiative
Charity No. 1122000

Thursday 23rd April 2026
7pm - 9pm
Corbridge Parish Hall
Doors open at 6pm for browsing
hand made clothes exhibition and local business stalls!

SHORTS OF CORBRIDGE CHAPTER 38 JESSIE JUNIPER
VINTAGE AT THE TOWER FAWCETT & RUSSELL FINALE
CROFTS & GRAVES OPTOMETRISTS & LOCAL VILLAGE STALLS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM TRADERS LISTED ABOVE

Warm Welcome Cafe

At the Corbridge Community Hub in Princes Street
Noon to 2pm every Thursday
Just turn up - no charge
Open to everyone!

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.



Volunteers Needed: Help Us Tackle Himalayan Balsam on the River Tyne

Corbridge Parish Council is looking for volunteers to take part in a Balsam Bash on the north bank of the River Tyne on Saturday May 30th.

Himalayan Balsam is an invasive plant that spreads rapidly along riverbanks, crowding out native species and increasing erosion once it dies back in winter. Removing it by hand is one of the most effective ways to control it – and this is where community help really makes a difference.

The task is straightforward and surprisingly satisfying: pulling up balsam plants before they set seed. No prior experience is needed, just a willingness to lend a hand and work as part of a friendly group. Volunteers are advised to wear sturdy footwear and gloves; guidance and supervision will be provided on the day.

By giving a little of your time, you'll be helping to protect Corbridge's riverside environment, support biodiversity, and keep this much-loved stretch of the river in good health for everyone to enjoy.

If you are able to help, or would like more information, please contact the Parish Clerk at

clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk
or telephone 07950 297634.

*Many hands really do make light work
– we hope you can join us.*

Peter Lockey - The Man Behind



Fetch water from the stream. Light the fire. Sweep away the mouse droppings. Roll out the sleeping bag and pile the ropes and pitons in a corner.

Peter Lockey organised the tiny cottage like he'd done it a hundred times before, because he had. Barely out of his teens and working, all he wanted to do in life was go climbing. It wasn't a hobby. It was an obsession. He travelled from Tyneside to the Lake District so often it made sense to rent the rundown cottage as a base. It had no electricity, no running water and a long-drop toilet out the back, all for fifteen shillings a month. Luxury wasn't the point. Climbing was.

Most weekends he was joined by his friend Gordon Davison, another Tynesider with the same restless energy. They'd huddle by the fire, drying their socks, planning their next routes. They talked about rock faces, routes and equipment. What worked, what didn't, what nearly froze or failed half way up a crag. They dreamed about climbing and skiing abroad, with bigger mountains in wilder places.

At that time, in the late 1950s and early 60s, what they didn't discuss - couldn't have imagined - was building a business that climbers, skiers and walkers worldwide would one day swear by. They didn't foresee being lifelong business partners. They never anticipated an enduring friendship that would lead them to deliberately become neighbours right here in Corbridge, living a stone's throw from each other.

But that's exactly what happened.

Today, as 92 year old Peter Lockey relaxes in his modern apartment in the centre of the village, he occasionally looks back to that damp cottage in the Lakes and wonders at how his life turned out. How did two young men, with muddy boots and big ideas, create Berghaus, one of the world's most respected and best known outdoor brands for the planet?

"We lived for climbing, skiing and anything outdoors," he says. "We had a lot in common, but in some ways we were quite different.

"I'd left school at sixteen. After some dull office jobs, I became a salesman for Rowntrees, driving all over the region selling Black Magic, Dairy Milk, Aeros and KitKats. I enjoyed it. And I loved that a car came with the job.

"Gordon had a degree in engineering and was lecturing at Rutherford College of Technology in Newcastle. But he was more of an outdoors man than an academic.

"I was the extrovert. I was optimistic and probably the natural leader. Gordon was a bit quieter. But he was the practical one. The innovator. We both had a streak of adventure and we'd take risks."

One question kept surfacing around that fire. How could they make a decent living doing what they loved most? Peter had qualified as a ski instructor and he was an official rock climbing guide but those credentials were never going to pay the bills.

In the winter of 1960/61 they were young, fit, unmarried and without mortgages. It was now or never, so they quit their jobs to travel for a year. In those days, they would have been called dropouts. Gap years hadn't been invented and a week or two on the Costa Blanca was considered quite daring. Having a phone and television was positively middle class. The internet, social media, emails and credit cards were futuristic fantasies.

"All we knew was we were going to Zermatt for some skiing and we'd decide on the next destination later. I fancied travelling in Africa," said Peter.

"It didn't quite work out as intended. We'd bought an Ariel 600 motorbike for £25, and when it broke down Gordon had to repair it, frequently.

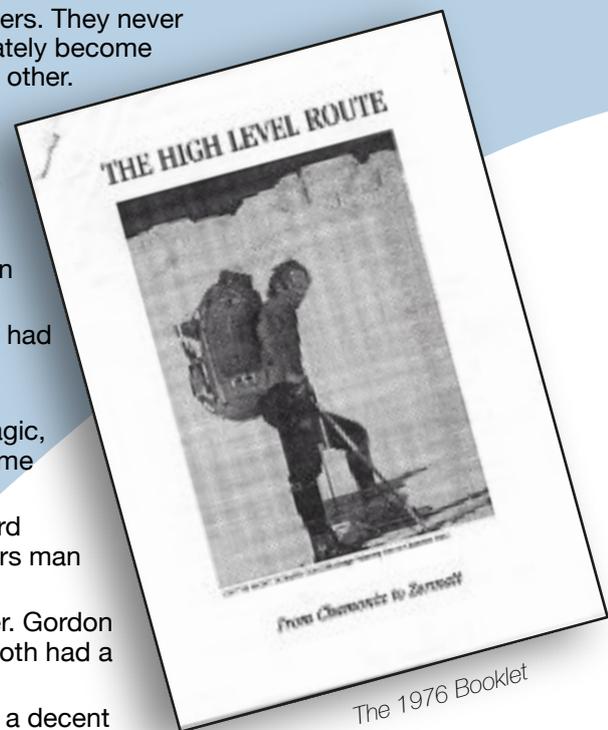
"The locals in Zermatt got a bit uptight because we camped by the railway station and used the toilets to wash and shave.

"Then Gordon admitted he was missing his girlfriend back home and he wasn't so keen on going to Africa."

After five weeks, Gordon abandoned his globe-trotting



Early Days - Peter Centre



The 1976 Booklet



Chamonix

aspirations. Peter pressed on to Nice where he sold the motorbike, stuck out his thumb and started hitch-hiking.



Peter Lockey 2026

There were two big advantages hitching. First, long distance lorries do just that, travelling mile after mile, crossing borders and countries. Second, someone as gregarious as Peter needs human interaction and strangers often took him under their wings, offering accommodation, meals and lifts.

Eleven months later, he'd hitched through Greece and Turkey, into Syria then Egypt, through Eritrea and Kenya, to Tanzania and South Africa. Insecurity in the Middle East would make a journey like that almost impossible today.

"In Tanzania, I took a detour to a centre that provided instructors for students going up Kilimanjaro but I went up alone. I toiled up a rough track, passing signs of wild elephants and scared by monkeys screaming and crashing about. At

16,000ft I settled down in a corrugated iron hut for what turned out to be the coldest night of my life. The next day I went higher, feeling the effects of altitude, gasping for air every six steps. That was my first mountain conquest in Africa.

"Whenever I needed money, I turned my hand to anything. I taught English, modelled for life drawing artists, dived for crayfish. Finally, when I was ready for home, I worked my passage on a ship to Liverpool."

Take risks. Adapt. Venture into the unknown - these qualities stood him in good stead for what lay ahead.



Lake District

Back on Tyneside, he and Gordon Davison reunited. They spotted a gap in the market and went straight for it. Ski holidays were just taking off in the early '60s, one or two weeks in the Alps, sold as glamorous package deals. But most people were complete novices. They'd never even clipped snow boots on. The nursery slopes of Italy weren't the best place to find out how to stand up without falling over.

Peter decided to fix that.

Once a week throughout winter they unrolled old carpets scrounged from friends and covered the floor of a draughty hall in Newcastle. The caretaker watched in disbelief as grown adults lurched around on skis on the shag pile and Axminster. No snow. No slopes. Just very powerful imaginations.

Peter taught kick turns, edging and snow ploughs across imaginary pistes. And somehow, it worked.

"The ski school really took off. It was incredible how word spread. People travelled miles and we were never short of bookings. We'd invested in 20 pairs of skis that we rented out and soon covered the cost.

"We were lucky that 1965 and '66 were proper white winters so we took learners to Allenheads and the Cheviots where there were rudimentary ski tows."

Skiing in Northumberland wasn't for the faint hearted. Everyone slogged up hills

shouldering skis and clutching thermos flasks. The tows were Heath Robinson affairs. Sodden rope tows soaked gloves and frozen fingers in minutes. A lot of hard work went into getting forty seconds of downhill skiing and icy glory. And yet, people loved it.

Maybe it was the effort. Maybe the conditions. Whatever it was generated enormous camaraderie. When winter faded, skiers turned into climbers, supervised by Peter on crags at Simonside near Rothbury or Stanley Quarry in County Durham. Unconsciously, he was building something much bigger than a ski school. He had created a loyal band of followers who all needed the same thing - decent kit - and that wasn't easy to find.

The nearest shops for specialist gear were in Edinburgh or Manchester. One day, on one of their trips, it finally hit them. Why travel? Why not sell the equipment themselves? They knew demand was right on their own doorstep. They'd never run a retail business but Peter could sell and Gordon could build, fix and invent. It made perfect sense. The only surprising thing was it had taken them so long to realise that.

They scraped together a few hundred pounds of savings and begged a loan of several thousand more from the bank. Then they found premises at 34 Dean Street in Newcastle. Using the initials of their surnames they called the shop LD Mountain Centre.

Before the doors even opened their student groups turned up to help tackle dry rot and redecorate. Climbers, skiers and walkers from all over the region pitched in. It was payback time for all those freezing weekends and patient lessons.

There was nothing like LD Mountain Centre in the North East. Peter made one rule: if he wouldn't use it himself, he wouldn't stock it. For years he had toughed it out on mountains with rain seeping through jackets, numb fingers, feet rubbed raw. Comfort and reliability wasn't indulgence. It was a necessity. That meant stocking only the highest quality products.

"The shop took off very quickly and we were flying by the seat of our pants. It had a life of its own which swallowed us up. We had to think quickly and react fast. We discussed pricing constantly, needing to be competitive but not sell ourselves short."

The quest for the best took them to trade shows abroad and soon LD Mountain Centre was selling stylish French jackets and Austrian salopettes. Beginners renting basic skis lingered by sleek Austrian and Swiss models for more experienced skiers, running their hands along polished edges. Close your eyes and suddenly 34 Dean St felt like a little corner of Chamonix.

"My life totally revolved around LD Mountain Centre. But it didn't stop me taking skiing holidays and climbing because I was always testing products. Wednesday afternoons up Crag Lough or Cheviot were used for product research. And we encouraged all of our staff to do the same thing - we only employed people who were outdoors fanatics. We discovered some waterproof cagoules trapped sweat so we still ended up soaked - by sweat, not rain. Some rucksacks with metal frames cut into our shoulders.

"We reached the conclusion that if we couldn't find stock that met our standards, we'd have to make it ourselves."

That decision changed everything. It was the start of Berghaus - the German name for 'mountain house'.

In 1966, an upstairs floor of the shop was cleared and called the Design Room. Sewing machines, cutting tables and bolts of waterproof fabrics were brought in. Peter hired a young designer and, working alongside Gordon, they scrupulously dissected competitors' gear, unpicking seams, discovering strengths and weaknesses, then making their own, improved versions.

"We started manufacturing cagoules and small rucksacks and gaiters with our own brand label, and brought in specialists in materials and pattern cutting.



Chris Bonington, Peter Lockey, Gordon Davison



PA Images / Alamy

(L-R) Chris Bonington meets up with Berghaus Managing Director Peter Lockey on his return to Britain from Mount Everest, where he reached the summit via the South Col route on 21st April 1985.



Peter and Chris Bonington

“We tested the prototypes for leakage, tears and durability on Alpine ascents and high level ski routes. Then we went back to the Design Room where they ironed out any problems and there was another round of testing.”

From the beginning there was a natural division of labour. Peter took on sales, marketing and overseeing accounts. Gordon drove manufacture and innovation. As sales mushroomed, they opened a start up factory in Washington. Demand grew...and grew...until at its peak Berghaus expanded and employed 600 workers there.

Peter constantly travelled worldwide, filling notebooks with observations of what climbing equipment was used, which skis, what clothing styles were popular. Even on holiday, when he and Gordon tackled the High Level Route from Chamonix to Zermatt, carrying 47lbs of gear over glaciers and sleeping in mountain huts, he wrote a 13 page booklet, took photographs for sales catalogues and noted details like the length of ice axes other climbers were using.

By the 1970s Berghaus was global. They launched pioneering internal framed rucksacks. The first waterproof Gore-Tex jackets. The Yeti gaiter, with rubber straps initially cut from old tractor tyre inner tubes. During the Falklands War the workforce operated round the clock supplying the military combatants.

“One of the most fantastic things for me was that our business brought me into contact with absolute heroes, the greatest climbers, like Chris Bonington. We sponsored him for about 40 years and he was very loyal to us.

“Imagine what it feels like seeing Sir Chris Bonington on a Himalayan mountain summit, planting a Union Flag, wearing our jacket and gaiters and carrying our rucksack. A few weeks ago he gave me a signed copy of one of his books, saying he couldn’t have done it without us.”

When Peter and Gordon set up Berghaus there was never a grand strategy. No five year plan, no policy document. His ambition was to earn a decent living by mixing business and pleasure and if possible to grow the company. More than sixty years later it remains one of the most successful specialist outdoor manufacturers and retailers in the world.

“I always had at the back on my mind that I’d like to retire when I was 60, when I could still climb and ski whenever I wanted. We’d grown to the point where everything was getting a bit unwieldy for us business wise. So when another big corporation wanted to buy us out in 1993 I was happy to let go. I could have stayed on as a consultant but I just drew a line under it and walked away. It was the right time and I never regretted it.”



Retirement brought Peter and his wife Lisa to Corbridge 12 years ago to live close to Gordon, his partner in risk, ambition, determination and a true friend who sadly passed away in 2020.

He was 80 when he came here - reluctantly too old for mountaineering or skiing down black runs. Instead, he bought a bike and joined the Friday morning cycle gang.

“The bike group was the best place to make friends,” he says. “I thought they might be hot shot cyclists, head down, pedalling like fury, no time to talk or enjoy the scenery. But then I discovered one of them listed all of the tea shops on various routes. That suits me fine.

“We still cover a lot of miles, like from Stanhope to Tynemouth in one day. There’s talk of forming a breakaway group for the oldies among us and I’m planning to be out on my bike when the weather’s a bit better.”

From mouse droppings and long-drop toilets to Himalayan summits. From carpet skiing in Newcastle to a worldwide brand. Not a bad legacy for someone who just wanted work that combined business with pleasure. Mission accomplished.

Sheilagh Matheson

Slimming World
feel *real* good

Thursday 5.30pm, 7.00pm
 Gorbridge First School
 contact Jane 07814 805464

get in touch to hear about special offers

Why not join our supportive group for the best start to your weight-loss?

real food, real support, real results

Slimming World
touching hearts, changing lives

CORBRIDGE WI

We meet every first Monday of the Month Corbridge Parish Hall
 2.00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Come and join us
Speaker & Refreshments

dockleaf cottages

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







WASP BUZZTERS
 Professional Wasp Nest Control

- ✓ Prompt, reliable service
- ✓ Experienced local specialist
- ✓ 5-star rated ★★★★★

CALL 07901 997071




Grass Cutting Service
 No job too small
 Darren
 Tel No: 07709 038860

Forum Books

Hello Happy Readers

As you might guess, we often have our heads stuck in a book but are here with some fresh new recommendations and to introduce our new book club. For those who receive an early copy of this edition, the first one starts on Monday March 30th in the bookshop with monthly meetings to follow. Our first pick is the refreshing, unexpectedly funny **Eurotrash** by **Christian Knacht**. A middle-aged man embarks on a dubious road trip through Switzerland with his eighty-year-old mother, recently discharged from a mental institution. Driving across the country, they attempt to give away her arms industry wealth but find a fortune of such immensity hard to squander. Haunted in different ways by the figure of her father, an ardent supporter of Nazism, mother and son can no longer avoid delving into the darkest truths about their past, realising he and she are possibly the worst kind of people. We think you'll love it and have LOTS to talk about.

A follow-up to *Bookworm*, and an apt recommendation for National Year of Reading, is **Lucy Mangan's** childhood reading memoir. **Bookish** picks up the story by telling of the stacks she explored as a student and the books she has cherished through her career as a bookseller-turned-journalist. Marriage, motherhood and possession of a book room of her own prompt Lucy to explore the importance of bookish spaces, cherished reads and stories in our lives. A perfect bookish read.

From **Douglas Stuart**, Booker prize-winning author of *Shuggie Bain* and *Young Mungo* comes a stunning new novel, **John of John**. Set in the Isle of Harris, *John of John* is a tender and devastating story of love and religion, of a father and son, art and landscape, and the corrosive effects of living a secret life.

As part of our 15th birthday celebrations writer and broadcaster **Dan Richards** returns to the FORUM Books pulpit to celebrate the launch of his most recent paperback **Overnight: Journeys, Conversations and Stories after Dark**. Dan first visited us in 2019 with his amazing book *Outpost*. There is something special about the night. For many, dusk and evening conjure thoughts of starlit skies, romance, bedtime stories and rest. For others, the small hours mean fear, vulnerability and sleeplessness. With new material delving deeper into all things nocturnal, *Overnight* is a hymn to night time wildlife, travel, dreams and art. So we are very much looking forward to welcoming Dan to chat with local writer and academic Oskar Jensen on Thursday April 9th.

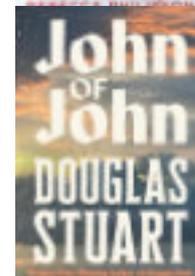
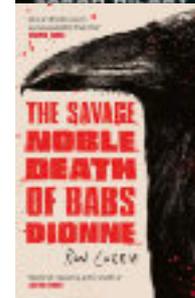
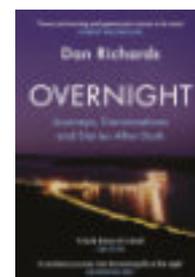
I know many of you, like me, have a crime fiction addiction so I can't resist telling you about a few unmissable new ones. First, County Durham's **Rebecca Philipson's** **How to Get Away With Murder** was swooped on by publishers. And with this cracking premise you can see why. 'If you picked up this book because you truly want to get away with murder, you will not be disappointed. Simply turn the page and we'll get started...' Rebecca Philipson has turned the serial killer novel on its head with a clever and all too credible plot.

Sarah Hilary's **The Drowning Place** is set in Edenscar, a town in the Peak District, a place with more ghosts than most. 17 years ago its inhabitants were hit by tragedy when a school bus veered off the road and everyone on board drowned. Everyone, that is, except Joseph Ashe. His miraculous survival has haunted him and the town ever since. Now a Detective Sergeant in the local police, Joe is called to the scene of a brutal and apparently inexplicable crime. The whole town is spooked, but Joe's new boss, DI Laurie Bower, more used to inner-city police work, has no time for superstition. She just wants to find the very real killer who has left no trace and apparently had no motive.

And finally, one of my books of the year of 2025 **The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne** by **Ron Currie** is in paperback. Babs Dionne is both a doting grandmother and vicious crime matriarch. She rules her small town with an iron fist, and controls the flow of drugs into its borders with the help of her loyal lieutenants, girlfriends since they were teenagers, and her eldest daughter, Lori, a former soldier struggling with addiction. When a drug cartel discovers that its numbers are down in the area, they send a malevolent force, known only as The Man, to investigate. At the same time, Babs's youngest daughter, Sis, has gone missing, which doesn't seem at all like a coincidence. In twenty-four hours, Sis will be found dead, and the whole town will seek shelter from Babs's wrath. Bruising and brilliant and a blummin good read.

Til next time, keep reading,

Helen



DODDS of HEXHAM



Complete Funeral and Cremation Service

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST

**A.J. DODD
MITFORD HOUSE
41 HENCOTES, HEXHAM**

TELEPHONE: HEXHAM 603362



Energy Efficient Home Improvements

Our services include:

- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Solar PV
- Battery Storage
- Vehicle Charging



**Grant
Funding
Available***

Air Source Heat Pumps
Ground Source Heat
Pumps
£7,500



To find out more visit
www.jpwestall.co.uk

Water House, Burn Lane, Hexham,
Northumberland, NE46 3HN
Email: office@jpwestall.co.uk

Or call
01434 602740

* Terms and Conditions apply



MediClinic

Kirsten Hartley - Aesthetics Practitioner and Independent Nurse Prescriber

Kirsten Hartley Medi Clinic is based in the centre of the stunning village of Corbridge. Kirsten is an Advanced Nurse Practitioner & Independent Nurse Prescriber with 20 years NHS & 10 years experience in Aesthetics. As an Aesthetic Practitioner Kirsten provides a wide range of innovative non-surgical treatments. These include injections for fine lines & wrinkles, dermal fillers, lip enhancement, medical skin peels, & medical grade skincare. Kirsten strives to understand each individual's needs & concerns. She is passionate about delivering an appropriate, safe, effective & natural looking treatment for her patients. She uses the very best products that have medically researched and certified.

Book a consultation with Kirsten for an individually tailored treatment plan to meet your specific needs.

Tel: 01434 633 338 / 07971 354 483
Email: kahartleyaesthetics@outlook.com

BRIAN GOOLE & SON
ESTD 1967

PAINTERS & DECORATORS

All aspects of Painting & Decorating
by Time-served Tradesman
Call

Graeme Goole
for prompt attention
Tel: (0191) 4138652
FREE ESTIMATES

shop
local

Curlew Accounting

"Accountancy with a personal approach"

Based in Hexham, but providing services throughout the North East & Cumbria.

www.curlewaccounting.com email: paul@curlewaccounting.com

Tel: 07950 972152

GIN & TONIA
Mobile Gin Bar

Weddings · Birthdays · Festivals · Corporate Events
... anything you like!

Let the fun be Gin!
CALL 07876 753 115

tonia@ginandtonia.co.uk
www.ginandtonia.co.uk



Kate Bull Therapy

Counselling & Psychotherapy

Supporting you through stress, anxiety, trauma, and life's challenges. UKCP-accredited psychotherapy.

Offered in person, online, and outdoors
www.katebulltherapy.com



Matthew Dunn

Large bags of kindling
£8 per bag
Ring after 6pm
Tel No: 07930 812220

Can you hear the sounds of spring?



The latest Hearing Aid technology allows you to enjoy the sounds that Spring offers, while making conversation clearer.

Our hearing aids are typically fitted within 1-2 weeks of your assessment. Our thorough aftercare program aims to ensure you continue to hear as well as you can with your hearing aids. Should you ever need us, we are just a phone call away!

To find out how you can benefit from the latest technology, contact us to book your Hearing Assessment and demonstration.

Microsuction Ear Wax Removal

The safest and most comfortable method of removing excess ear wax.



SINGLE EAR
£60

BOTH EARS
£80

42 Hill Street
Corbridge
01434 632 161

Lisa Graham
HEARING CARE
www.lisagrahamhearingcare.co.uk

Whickham Pharmacy
Rectory Lane
0191 486 2488

shop
local



OUR SERVICES

Tree Surgery
TPO & Conservation Area
Advice & Applications

Tree removals
Pruning
Tree inspections
Planting
Hedging

www.tctreeservices.co.uk

T.C Tree Services

Contact us for a free quote today
01434 673918
07815613444
tctreeservices1@gmail.com

Fully Qualified & Insured
expert team covering
Northumberland, Durham,
North East & Scottish
Borders

24 hour emergency call out available

Follow Us



Tyne Valley Foot Care

Foot care in the comfort of your own home

- General foot care
- Corn removal
- Foot healthcare
- Nails trimmed
- Fungal infections
- Verruca treatment
- Thick nails reduced
- Ingrowing toenails
- Callus reduction



Karen McCarthy S.A.C. Dip.
Registered Foot Health Practitioner
Email: tynevalleyfootcare@gmail.com
Telephone: 07841 511674



- * All types of chimneys swept - open fires, stoves, gas fires & Rayburns/Agas
- * Stoves Serviced
- * Bird Nest Removal

* Insurance Recognised Certification

Your First Call For A Clean Sweep
Please call Simon: 0191 268 3147 or 07595 622 020

www.premierchimneysweepingservices.co.uk
e: premierchimneysweepingservices@gmail.com
Proud member of the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps





COMMUNITY RESPITE BED

FREE RESPITE CARE AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES ACROSS TYNEDALE

We offer a fully funded short stay respite bed at our home based in Corbridge.

SHORT TERM STAYS

AGED 65+

HIGH QUALITY CARE

FREE OF CHARGE



TO BOOK CALL: 01434 633999
www.charlottestraker.org.uk

Funded by charitable donations and activities



Seaside At Home

Shauna Hardy



For all your holiday needs - from package holidays and cruises to UK breaks and tours - I'm here to help.

If you've received a quote elsewhere, challenge me to beat it!

I pride myself on offering exceptional 5★ personal service.

Evening and weekend appointments available, with home visits offered in Corbridge and surrounding areas.

Contact Shauna on 07840631318 or email
Shauna.hardy@seasideatohome.co.uk
Facebook & Instagram - Shauna - Seaside Travel at home



Mobile Personal Training

Bringing fitness to you in the Tyne Valley

Don't have time for the gym?

Can't leave the kids or pets?

Hate a gym environment?

Let me come to you!



Contact Steph now:

8 years of experience

Specialist in post-illness, joint replacement and injury recovery

07387 295812 www.swfitnesshexham.co.uk



Jostichbury
FITNESS &
WELLBEING



CLASS TIMETABLE

MONDAY
MATTEN VILLAGE HALL
8.45AM - BODY BLITZ
9.45AM - FITNESS PILATES

HEXHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL, SPORTS CENTRE
6.30PM - FITNESS PILATES

TUESDAY
HEXHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL, SPORTS CENTRE
6.30PM - LIFT LEAN

WEDNESDAY
NEWTON & BYWELL VILLAGE HALL
10.00AM - STRENGTH & CONDITIONING
MILLENIUM HALL, RIDING MILL
6.00PM - LIFT LEAN / FLEX & PILATES

THURSDAY
MILLENIUM HALL, RIDING MILL
6.30PM - MENO FIT

FRIDAY
NEWTON & BYWELL VILLAGE HALL
10.45AM - TOTAL BODY FUSION

PRIVATE
BESPOKE
121
SESSIONS
AVAILABLE

07855 247063 E. JOSTICHBURYFITNESS@GMAIL.COM
WWW.JOSTICHBURYFITNESSWELLBEING.UK

finale shoes and accessories



Visit our Corbridge shop for a truly personalised service!



www.finaleshoes.com

Monday - Saturday : 10am - 5pm
Telephone: 01434 634 195
8 Middle Street, Corbridge, NE45 5AT

G & A MOBILE VALET SPECIALIST OF CORBRIDGE

"Let us elevate your vehicle to new heights of excellence."

Clean car perfection right at your door!



Follow us on TikTok @gandamobilevalets



07597675684

www.gandamobilevaletspecialist.co.uk

jessie juniper



Cut Loose
Mama B
Sahara
Lily & Me
Grizas
Luukaa
Vetono
FOIL
Tirelli
ICHI
& more...

Independent womens clothing & footwear shop

22 Hill St, Corbridge | www.jessiejuniper.co.uk



SMS

BESPOKE SOFT FURNISHINGS

Brighten your home with your own unique choice of decor items made just for you

Roman Blinds / Curtains
Padded Headboards / Box Cushions
Decorative Cushions
Curtain Extensions / Reupholster Dining room Chairs
Cushions for Dining Room Chairs



Contact
Suz Smallwood

01434 624075
smsmallwood513@gmail.com
Corbridge, Northumberland



**Excellent Eyecare.
Stylish Eyewear.**

- OCT - State of the art eye scan technology
- Wide choice of carefully selected frames, including designer eyewear
- Convenient appointment times

optometrists
croft & graves

Woodburn House, Hill Street, Corbridge
01434 632289 www.croftandgraves.co.uk



**NORTHUMBRIAN
WINDOWS**

“Exceptional windows deserve exceptional installation”



Transform your home with Windows, Doors & Conservatories from Northumbrian Windows.



100% 5 Star Rating

Our customers have spoken, and their satisfaction is our pride!

With a flawless track record, Northumbrian Windows is the top choice for quality and service.

**Contact our Hexham branch on 01434 601882
northumbrianwindows.co.uk**



Michelle Brebner Curtain and Blind Maker

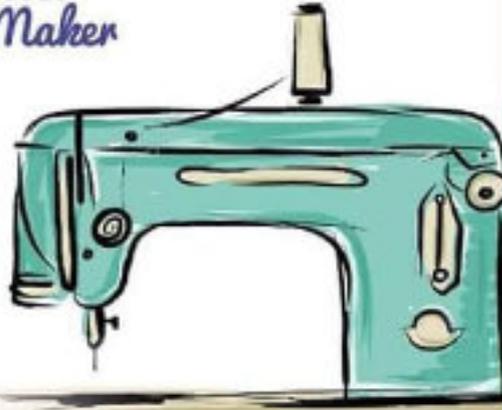
FREE
QUOTATIONS

Made to measure curtains,
roman blinds & soft furnishings

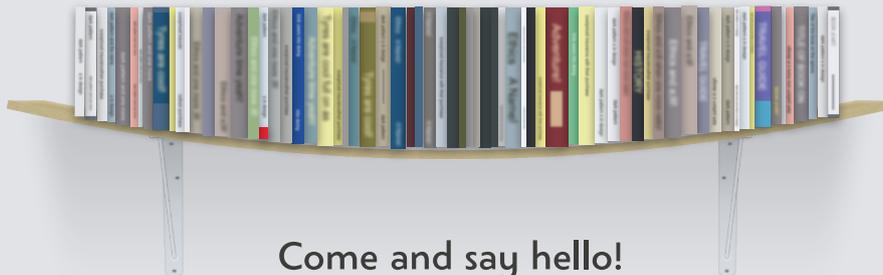
*...with lots of fabrics to
choose from in the comfort
of your own home*

Over 30 years experience

01434 220567 | 07966864152
michelle.brebner@yahoo.com



We love books as much as you do.



Come and say hello!

FORUM Books.
Corbridge

the bound
Whitley Bay

**THE
accidental
BOOKSHOP**
Alnwick

**THE
BOOK
ROOM**
Newcastle

forumbookshop.com

MOLES RUINING YOUR LAWN?

PROFESSIONAL MOLE CONTROL



- ✓ Prompt, reliable service
- ✓ Traditional mole trapping specialist
- ✓ 5-star rated ★★★★★

CALL PAUL 07901 997071



simonboyd Landscaping

Corbridge • Northumberland

Stone & porcelain patios

Natural reclaimed stone walling

Patio repointing

Garden fencing

Pergolas • Sleeper beds
Decking • Trellis

Friendly • Professional • Tidy service
Over 20 years experience



Call Simon for a consultation & estimate

07784798886

simonboydlandscaping@outlook.com



North of the Bridge Interior Architecture and Design

www.northofthebridge.co.uk
Telephone 07752392236

Offering all aspects of interior design from layout optimisation to creating bespoke interiors perfectly suited to your needs.



URWIN JOINERY

All Aspects of Joinery Undertaken

Cameron Urwin

07506 585138

urwinjoinery@outlook.com

Shop local



Tinker Bell's

- One off deep cleans
- Specified cleans
- Regular deep cleans
- Specialise in End of Tenancy cleans
- Slots available for regular cleans
- Post build cleans

Please contact us and we will accommodate your requirements

E. tinkerbells@mail.com | T. 07979 090 609 | T. 07484 637 191



CLARAND

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

Specialising in providing tailored accountancy, taxation and business advice to individuals, sole traders, partnerships and limited companies.

Whatever support you need, our knowledgeable team is here for you and your business.



Email: info@clarand.co.uk
Telephone: 03301 244 450
www.clarand.co.uk

Massey's

Tea room

homemade breakfast, lunch and afternoon teas

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

FROM 10am

CLOSED MONDAYS

26 Middle Street, Corbridge, NE45 5AT
01434 633130

Hadrian

Professional Oven Cleaning

**Ovens - Ranges - Agas
Extractors - Hobs**

*100% Burnt-on Dirt Removed!
100% Shiny-Clean Finish!*

www.hadrianoventcleaning.com

01434 618666 / 07968448134

ben@hadrianoventcleaning.com



Northumbrian Pointing

Traditional Lime Mortar Specialists

Full properties repointed, repairs
& maintenance.

Free Quotations

Fully Insured



07902 203 825

northumbrianpointing.co.uk



NICHOLSONCLARK

★ **WILLS & LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY** ★

Home visits & video consultations

Anna-Britt Nicholson: 07787 568081 Caroline Clark: 07970 651615

wills@nicholsonclark.co.uk

www.nicholsonclark.co.uk

We can help

BACK PAIN

NECK PAIN

SCIATICA

MIGRAINES

HEADACHES

SHOULDER PAIN

HEXHAM
Family
CHIROPRACTIC

Call 01434 602666

Mention this ad for discount



Myek & Hoy

Pottery classes, on the wheel



The
Garden
Station
Langley
on Tyne
Hexham
NE47
5LA

myekandhoy@gmail.com



Handcrafted furniture Designed to elevate the way you live

Media Walls • Alcoves • Libraries • Studies • Dressing Rooms
Boot Rooms • Wardrobes • Bedrooms • Kitchens • Utility Rooms



Let's bring your ideas to life - Book your free design consultation
01830 521144 - ashfittedfurniture.co.uk



Kelly The Furniture Painter
07792 580986



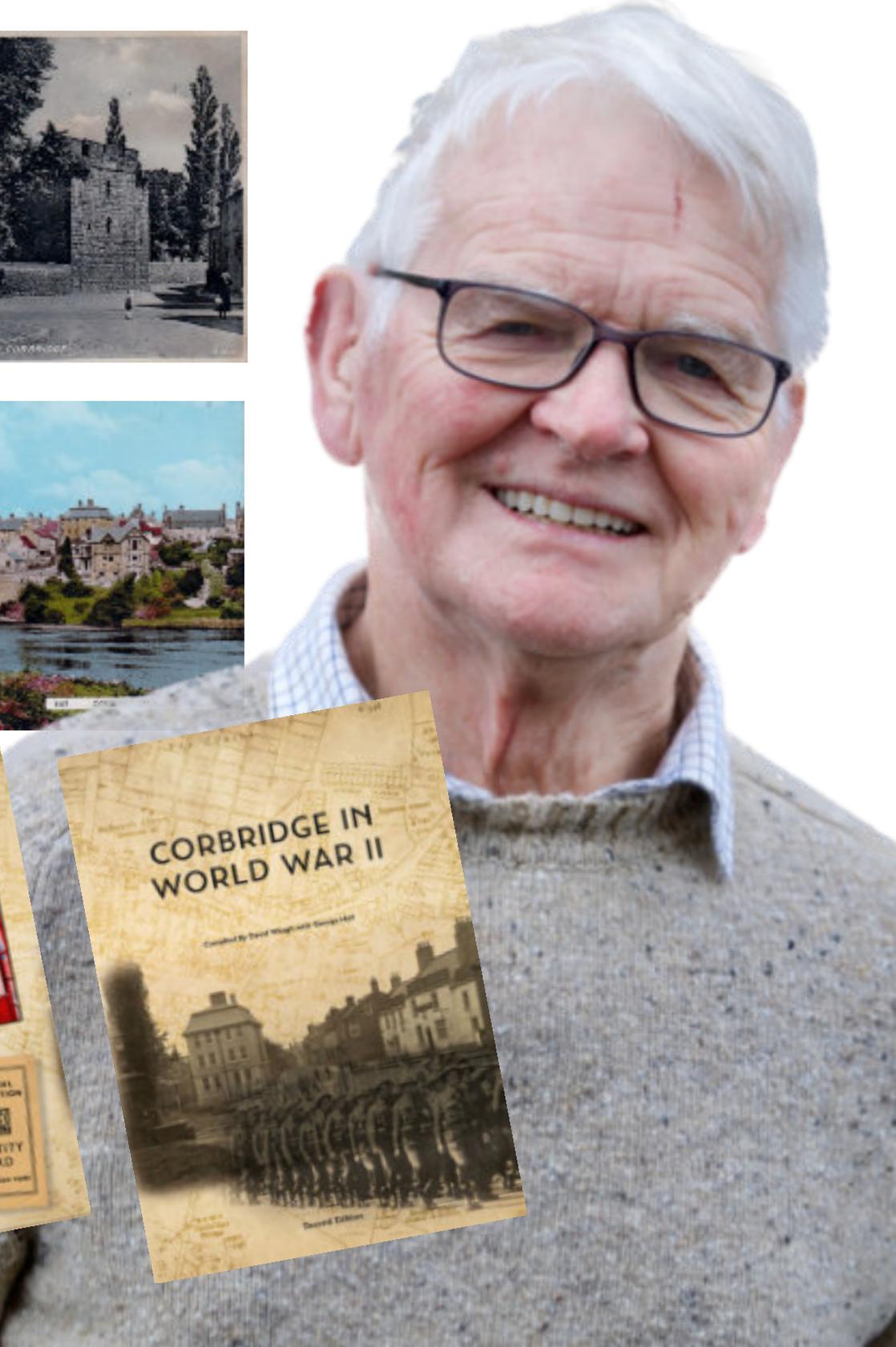
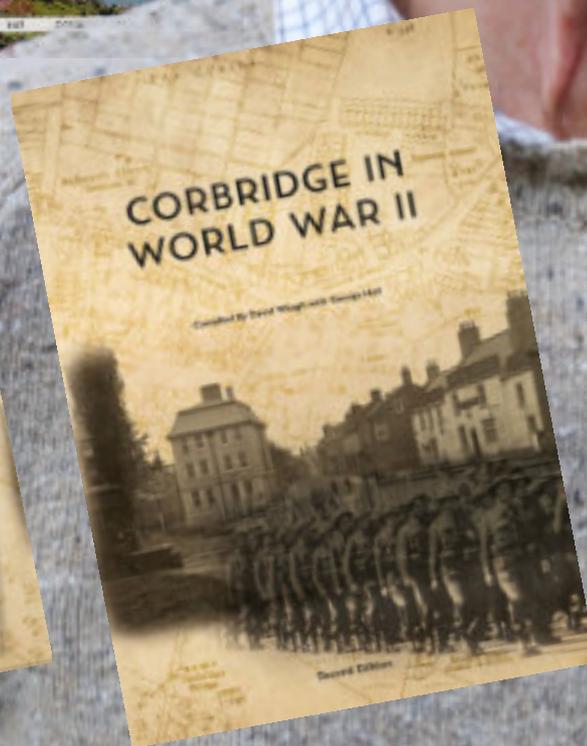
Tyne Valley Electrical
07804 354626

Proudly designing and handcrafting furniture across Northumberland & Newcastle upon Tyne
in collaboration with our trusted local specialists

Corbridge History

David Waugh's next talk at the Corbridge Community Hub in Princes Street is on **The Buildings of Corbridge**. It's at 7pm on Tuesday April 28th. Pay on the door. £10 cash or card.

The expanded second edition of David's book **'Corbridge In World War II'** has also just been published. Available to buy at the Corbridge Heritage Centre, Forum Books, the Paper Shop and the Golden Lion. Price: £8.



Finding a home
with *oodles* of
character.

That's the finest feeling.

finest.co.uk

Discover the finest homes, marketed by
some of the UK's leading agents.

Finest
PROPERTIES