

CORBRIDGE MATTERS



June 2026 Issue 89

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Council NOTES



At the time of writing this column the planning application for the Parish Council's proposed Market Place improvements was still under consideration by Northumberland County Council. Additional information was requested by the County Highways department in respect of the boundaries to the proposed public highway. The Planning Authority also requested more information about which areas are intended to be maintained in future by the Parish Council and which will be public highway and the responsibility of the County Council. Further, a revision was also submitted by the Parish Council which increased the proposed turning area for vehicles accessing the entrance to the private area behind Tower House, Forum Books etc. Our interactions with the public about the planning application have required an important point of clarification: Middle Street will remain the main route through the Market Place for vehicles as it is today and Front Street will remain a residential street. We hope that our submissions will be favourably received.

Back in January, Mandy Senior, the Parish Council Clerk and I met the Assistant County Archaeologist to discuss the Market Place proposals. Given its central place within the village's history, the medieval origin of the church and uncertainty about whether the present settlement pattern corresponds with earlier building footprints, the County Archaeology Department requested additional information before determination of the planning application. We consider these requests very reasonable. Over the years there has been a lot of resurfacing within the Market Place and in Watling Street and yet important archaeological remains may still exist. In order to investigate this the Parish Council agreed that the County Council would dig a series of test pits under specialist supervision by archaeological consultants. You may have seen this work taking place (see opposite page), planned to cause the minimum disruption to residents and businesses, including subsequent surface restoration. This investigation will allow for a protection or mitigation plan to be developed where necessary. Although doing the work involved time and resources, it was better to obtain this important information at this early stage rather than encounter difficulties connected to archaeological issues later on.

I am pleased to report that the walls on the eastern and western sides of the cemetery which were damaged by falling trees in the winter storms have been repaired. Chris and Cameron Urwin have done a wonderful job carefully rebuilding the walls stone by stone. The Parish Council will now source some young trees of the same species - Lawson Cypress - to complete the restoration. Nature will then complete the job although I expect we will encounter similar damage from time to time in years to come. The Victorians gave us a fine civic space and it is our job to maintain it.

I wish everyone all the best for the summer. We seem to have waited a long time. Let's hope we all enjoy some good weather with clear skies and warm temperatures.

William Clouston
Corbridge Parish Council Chairman

Parish Council chairman William has provided a comprehensive update on the proposed Market Place enhancements so I won't repeat that. Except to say that a great deal of thought and expertise of experienced professionals has gone into developing the application that is currently with Northumberland County Council's planning department for determination. Where possible, comments from residents and local businesses have been considered and incorporated as the plans have evolved.

I am optimistic that we are approaching the end of a long journey on the expansion of the village car park south of the bridge. It is much needed but has been fraught with technical and legal problems. I think all outstanding issues are now dealt with and I am hoping we can proceed to completion for an autumn / winter build. Planning permission has been granted but even that was not without complication. Including the government mandated Bio-Diversity Net Gain requirements to what is effectively the acquisition and surfacing of a small parcel of land that is already hard standing. I am all for protecting our natural environment, particularly in beautiful unspoilt areas like the Tyne Valley, but this is over-reach. As soon as I have a date for the works I will share it.

I have been in discussions with the County Council's education team and Corbridge Middle School about the proposals for an artificial pitch at the school and I am very grateful for the positive engagement from the current management and governors at the school. This is another complex project and although we have secured £500,000 in funding there is still some way to go on this. Efforts continue on various fronts, and I will keep everyone updated as things progress.

Northumberland has a Local Plan which guides commercial and residential development in our county within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As we begin writing the next Local Plan we are facing challenges on three fronts. The government is mandating an almost tripling of housebuilding in Northumberland during the next plan period while simultaneously removing the rights of locally elected people to have a say in determining most planning applications and weakening Green Belt protections. Our revised Local Plan will therefore be essential in driving development to where it is needed rather than where it is most profitable for the large housebuilders.

As I write this, we are still waiting for a prolonged period of warmer weather but there have been glimpses and I am ever the optimist. Enjoy your summer.

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 June 24th and July 22nd in the Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge.
Clerk of the Council: Mrs Mandy Senior 07950 297634
clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk

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Cover photo: Corbridge Steam Rally



Marc Johnstone

Market Place Dig

Recent archaeological investigations in Market Place, as explained in the Parish Council chairman's column opposite, uncovered what is believed to be the original medieval street surface, fragments of pottery from that time plus charcoal and other remnants of baking activity by The King's Oven. Along with other finds. After four days of explorations by archaeologist Marc Johnstone of Newcastle-based The Archaeological Practice, plus county council workers, all seven small pits - two excavated at any one time - were re-filled and restored to how they were.



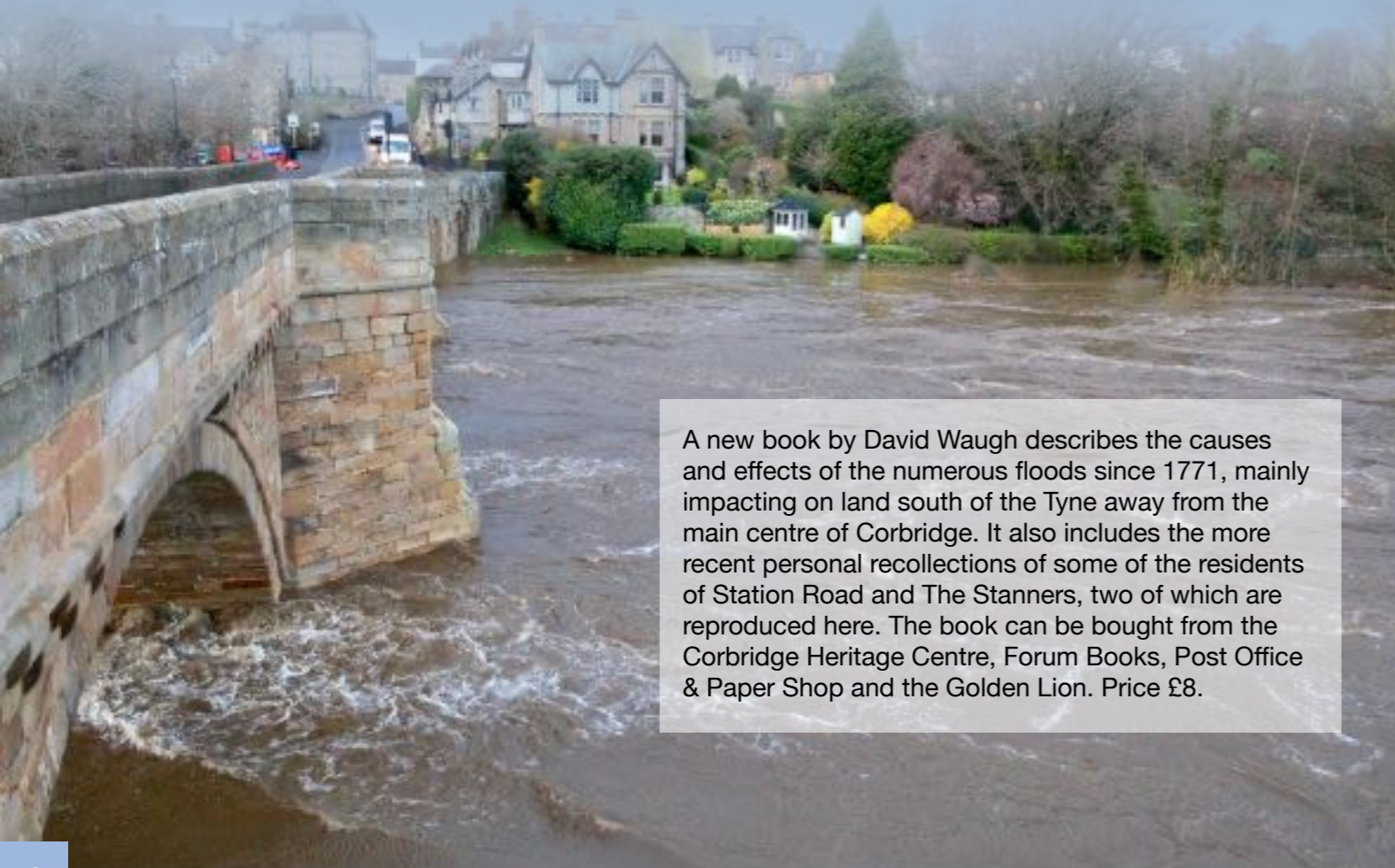
The 2015 Flood by Katie Oliver, The Stanners

We watched the river rise with a mixture of horror and excitement. As we had bought our house as an empty post 2005 flood property we had not experienced a flood before and so found watching the turbulent river a spectacle. The emergency services suggested that we evacuate and in the afternoon this is what some residents did. We did not feel a sense of urgency or danger, preferring to see what happened as the scene unfolded. We gathered with fellow residents by the flood defence wall debating the likelihood of water breaking through, still not believing it would. Darkness fell, the rain continued and we watched television with Corbridge appearing on our screen.

By 7pm the water had entered the house. Seeing the freezing cold, filthy river water pouring through the patio doors was not a pleasant sight and reality suddenly hit. We moved precious photograph albums upstairs and then rolled up rugs, piled furniture up high and switched off electrical devices. For the time being we were still in contact with the outside world via the internet.

Suddenly there was a change. Water began pouring through the front door and lifting carpets, spouting through floorboards and knocking furniture over. We made a dash for the stairs taking three dogs and a cat with us. When we realised the water was going to rise a lot further than we thought we managed to save some more belongings but a lot were left to the flood. Although we had been offered help before darkness, it was now too dangerous for anyone to risk their safety. It was a long, dark, cold night for four of us in the bedroom. We phoned 999 at 9am the following morning then waited to be rescued by boat a few hours later. What a scene of devastation met us as we passed through the cricket and rugby pitches, the caravan park and into the lane-washing machines, trampolines and overturned sheds with garden hedges and walls underwater.

After the flood water had subsided everybody had to evacuate their homes. Initially to enable them to dry out and then for any wet plasterwork to be renewed and the many other repairs that were needed. Although we were the first to return home, it still took six months. For others less fortunate it took over a year.



A new book by David Waugh describes the causes and effects of the numerous floods since 1771, mainly impacting on land south of the Tyne away from the main centre of Corbridge. It also includes the more recent personal recollections of some of the residents of Station Road and The Stanners, two of which are reproduced here. The book can be bought from the Corbridge Heritage Centre, Forum Books, Post Office & Paper Shop and the Golden Lion. Price £8.



Reflections After The 2005 Deluge by Margaret Morey, The Stanners

In the morning when the water had retreated to a respectful distance, those of us who had remained in our houses wakened to a world destroyed and reborn at the same time. Making our way alongside the river, still swollen but now subdued, it was easy to imagine how Noah must have felt: all the familiar, well-trodden and customised landscape was now purged, scarred and created anew. The rain had stopped, the sky had cleared, the wind had freshened and the scudding clouds moved across a landscape of newly eroded gorges and banks bitten away by the might of the river in spate.

In the woods close by trees lay, like fallen giants, casualties of the storm, roots pointing skywards and branched entwined, where they had yielded themselves to the pitiless force of the water.

Years of footfalls wearing away paths and shortcuts had been swept away in an instant, leaving us to begin the long, slow process of forging them afresh and once more putting a human stamp on the randomness of nature. Everywhere, perched incongruously in bizarre places, like toys carelessly discarded after play, was a random assortment of the contents of yards and gardens. A bunker of logs, a garden seat, a planter with its contents intact, a Christmas tree with a sliver of tinsel still clinging as a reminder of the more tranquil festive times only days before.

The owners of all this - now just so much flotsam - had gone, unceremoniously, we knew not where, beyond the reach of our temporary island. Memories of them leaving - through windows into boats, smiling and giggling at the strangeness of it all. We could only look through windows, as if watching a film, cut off from them by water. It was hard to forget the menacing swish, just below the floorboards as we had eaten our meal, wondering if we would be forced out next.

All was changed but what was not immediately obvious that morning was that a few hours of work by capricious, unpredictable Nature would take us humans many months to repair. There were to follow many dark, desolate months of winter gloom, uninhabited houses and lightless windows; months of gardens full of bedraggled, grimy, sodden sofas, months of discarded washing machines and fridges with mud-spattered doors hanging open dejectedly. An eerie silence fell on The Stanners as we who were left went about our lives knowing that no-one would call at our door, walk past with their dog or wave abstractedly from their car as they passed in the narrow lane.

But gradually the noise began again. This time not the normal hum of daily life but the grumble of lorries struggling along the narrow lane to take away drowned cars and to bring in new ones. Then the clanking of skips being delivered and, finally, the never ending sawing and hammering as renovations began. But people did return. A first fearfully and sadly to gaze in bewilderment at the changes to their houses. Then, as the hours of daylight began to lengthen and the light grew stronger and clearer, they came with a spirit of optimism and persistence. Against all odds, they were determined to restore their houses and their lives. One by one houses were reoccupied. Curtains hung, new and pristine, and behind them we caught glimpses of life slowly returning to normal.

And from our experience has come an even stronger sense of community and belonging than before. With improved flood defences, river paths re-walked, houses re-vamped and woodland cleared, for the moment at least, we feel we have imposed our order over Nature.

Corbridge Preschool 50th Anniversary

For half a century Corbridge Preschool has been at the heart of the village community providing a warm, nurturing environment where generations of children have taken their very first steps into learning. As we celebrate 50 years of care and education, we are also looking ahead to an exciting new chapter: expanding our provision to welcome children from as young as nine months old.

Corbridge Preschool's story began in humble surroundings, originally operating from the old Coop building, now home to Il Piccolo restaurant. Those early days laid the foundation for what would become a much-loved and trusted setting within the community. We are fortunate to still hold a tangible piece of that history - the original register, kindly donated to us by former preschool leader Audrey Tiffin. At 25p per session, we're sure families made the most of each one! With lots of familiar names, we would love to hear the memories of those who attended. One former preschooler can remember scooting around the building on a trike - his children who are now adults also attended the preschool as toddlers. As the preschool grew, it moved to the, then, Methodist Church Hall where it remained for a number of years as a packaway setting. While this space allowed us to continue supporting local families, it also brought limitations. Restricted indoor space and a lack of dedicated outdoor provision meant we were unable to fully develop the enriching, freeflow environment we believed children deserved.

In 2013, driven by a shared vision for the future, our community came together in an incredible fundraising effort. Raising over £30,000 we were able to purchase our own building - and complete groundworks with the help of Charlton Drainage - which is now situated on the site of Corbridge First School. The milestone marked a turning point for the preschool. Having our own space meant we could design an environment tailored specifically to early years education, including a dedicated outdoor area where children can explore, play and learn in all seasons.

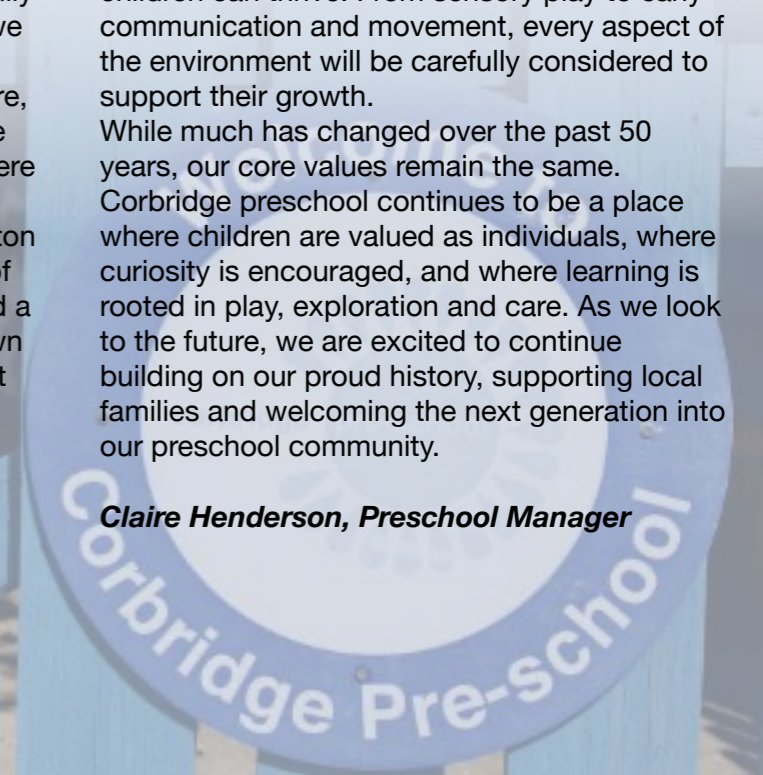
Our location alongside Corbridge First School has brought significant benefits, particularly in supporting children's transitions. Being on the same site allows children to become familiar with their future school environment from an early age, helping to build confidence and a sense of belonging. Our close relationship with the school has helped these transitions work well. For families, it provides reassurance that their child's early education journey is connected and continuous.

Now, as we mark our 50th year, we are proud to announce the next step in our evolution: expanding our provision to care for children aged nine months to two years. This development reflects both the needs of our community and our ongoing commitment to supporting families from the very earliest stages of a child's life. This also means that children can receive all of their early care and education in one place - from nine months old through to starting school.

Our new provision will offer a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment specifically designed for babies and toddlers. The building previously used by Corbridge Kids Club will be fully renovated, sharing the same outdoor garden with the older children. With highly trained staff, age-appropriate resources and a focus on emotional security and development, we aim to create a space where our youngest children can thrive. From sensory play to early communication and movement, every aspect of the environment will be carefully considered to support their growth.

While much has changed over the past 50 years, our core values remain the same. Corbridge preschool continues to be a place where children are valued as individuals, where curiosity is encouraged, and where learning is rooted in play, exploration and care. As we look to the future, we are excited to continue building on our proud history, supporting local families and welcoming the next generation into our preschool community.

Claire Henderson, Preschool Manager



Textile and Art Exhibition - Craft Fest 2026

It's hard to believe that almost two years have gone by since Craft Fest 2024. But once again here we are in collaboration with St Andrew's Church in Corbridge preparing for our third Craft Fest.

Corbridge Sewing Bee is delighted to announce that this year the event will take place over three days from Thursday June 18th to Saturday June 20th inclusive and we will be revealing a spectacular project the whole Bee has been working on showcasing artistic skills from Japan.

What is evident in comments from those who often travel from far and wide, and who chat with us throughout the event, is that it is a date worth putting in the diary to take the opportunity to meet and talk with the many skilled creatives who will be displaying their work and sharing their enthusiasms. This year the range of creativity extends yet again to include Origami, Rope Jewellery, as well as spinners and weavers. The event supports both Charlotte Straker and St Andrew's Church with all funds raised going directly to these vitally important organisations, allowing them to continue their invaluable services.

Ever mindful of our changing world there will be exhibits of repurposed clothing, fabrics and wool transformed into something useful or ornamental. As well as our 'Fabric Stash' there will also be a 'Pop Up Shop'. While stall holders are not able to sell directly from their stand, goods can be reserved and paid for with collection at the end of the final day.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the exhibition and a raffle will include a number of high quality hand crafted items donated by Corbridge Sewing Bee. Entry is free with donations welcomed and all proceeds will be divided equally between St Andrew's and Charlotte Straker. Do come along and enjoy local talent exhibited in the beautiful surroundings of the church. Bring family and friends and fellow crafters and be inspired to try something yourself.



Textile & Art Exhibition
Craft Fest 2026

free entry
donations welcome

A celebration of
Crafts and
Makers in the
Community

St Andrew's Church, Corbridge
Thursday 18th June 9.30 - 8.30pm
Friday 19th June 9.30 - 4pm
Saturday 20th June 9.30 - 4pm

Quilting, Weaving, Knitting, Crochet, Art,
Basketry, Lace making, Embroidery,
Rug making, Floral art, Calligraphy,
Soft toy making, Pottery,
Photography, Soap making

Proceeds to be shared between St Andrew's
Church and The Charlotte Straker Project



CYI: High School Musical



It has been a special time for the Corbridge Youth Initiative Drama Club after their first ever show with two performances of High School Musical Jr at the Corbridge Community Hub. Followed by performing extracts from the production during the interval at the Corbridge Fashion Show. This was a dream come true for me personally and to see the young people get to perform will be a memory I will never forget. They have all put so much passion, joy and dedication into this project over a period of seven months. It has truly been a privilege to get to work with each individual and to see each of their personalities shine and confidence develop has been something I do not take for granted. I am beyond grateful and proud of them all! I must give a very special thank you to Sarah, my colleague and friend who has worked and supported this project throughout. It would all not have been possible without her. Thank you to Maddie, our young volunteer who has transformed over these months. Her passion has been inspiring and motivating to our younger members and I am grateful for all of her hard work. Thank you to Emily and Molly who helped us with sound, backstage and hair and makeup. Without them the shows would not have ran as smoothly and successfully as they did. Thank you to our sound technician Mark, his assistance in helping with the sound does not go unappreciated, I am grateful for his help in making everything possible. Thank you to Abbie for helping us in our early rehearsals and taking the time to practice with our members. Thanks also to the family, friends, staff, trustees and fabulous supporters who came to watch the shows. Plus the Hub for hosting. It is with thanks to you all that we raised £650 to continue directly funding the Drama Club. One of the biggest compliments has come from the young people who want the club to continue. If you would like to support this club we would appreciate any donations large or small to contribute and support its development going forward - please scan the QR code on this page to view our fund raising page. We look forward to where the Drama Club takes us next!



Amber Robinson, Project Coordinator

Notice Board

St Andrew's Church

Sundays at 10am: Parish Communion.
Sunday June 7 at 4pm: Simply Worship.
Sunday June 14 at 4pm: Messy Church.
Sunday June 21 at 4pm: Simply Worship.
Sunday June 28 at 4pm: RIVER.

Corbridge Methodists

Thursday June 11 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church
Thursday June 25 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church

Corbridge Christian Fellowship

(Part of Tynedale Christian Ministries)
11 am every Sunday, Corbridge Parish Hall
 Lively worship and Bible-based ministry, We have a seat just for you! Coffee served before service from 10.30 am. Warm, friendly welcome to all.

Corbridge in Bloom: If you would like to help Corbridge in Bloom, join us at The Coigns at 10am on Sunday June 7th to meet the group and take part in summer planting. For information, contact Sasha Brookes: sashabrookes@icloud.com

Stagshaw House Open Gardens: Noon to 5pm on Sunday June 7th. Adults £6.

Halton Castle Open Gardens: 11:30am to 4:30pm on Sunday June 14th. Adults £7.

Midsummer 2026: Our favourite summer night of the year returns from 4pm onwards on Thursday June 18th with live music and dance, street food, market stalls and more. With the Textile and Art Exhibition inside St Andrew's Church open until 8:30pm. Midsummer performers this year include The Hex Pistols (4:15pm), Rock Choir (5:15pm), Calum Tordoff (5:45pm), Hexham Morris (6:15pm) and John Logan at 7pm. Please note that all times are approximate and subject to change. With thanks to all of the volunteers at Visit Corbridge, part of the Corbridge Community Partnership, for planning, organising and staging the Midsummer event.

Summer Choral Concert: We are delighted to be welcoming Harmonia, a visiting choir from Malton, North Yorkshire, to Corbridge for the very first time on Saturday June 27th. The 40-strong upper voice choir, directed by Alison Davis, perform regularly throughout the year and enjoy singing a wide repertoire of music at both concerts and at festivals. For this unique performance they are joining forces with our very own Dark Sky Voices in St Andrew's Church for an evening concert with each choir performing a showcase set before coming together for some collaborative numbers. The programme will include traditional music, jazz, popular songs, musical theatre and contemporary classical pieces. See the poster for more. *Fiona Lander*

Corbridge Chamber Music Festival 2026: Thursday July 23rd to Sunday July 26th. See inside back cover for full details.

Sing a Song of Summer!

Sit back and enjoy a varied programme of sublime choral music presented by two fantastic upper voice choirs!

HARMONIA
 (40 strong visiting choir from Malton, North Yorkshire)
 Directed by Alison Davis

and

DARK SKY VOICES
 Directed by Fiona Lander

Expect some exciting joint numbers PLUS special guests!

Saturday 27th June 7.30pm
 St Andrew's Church, Corbridge

Tickets £12 Under 18's free
 Interval refreshments available

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.

CORBRIDGE STEAM RALLY 2026

SATURDAY 13TH & SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

CORBRIDGE RUGBY CLUB, NORTHUMBERLAND NE45 5AY

Fun for all!

Charlotte Straker Fete

Saturday 13th June 2026

Join us for a fantastic day of fun at the Charlotte Straker House Fete!

FREE ENTRY

2:00 - 4:00 PM

STALLS CAKES MUSIC & MORE...

Come and support many other local good causes Tynedale Hospice at Home | Corbridge Youth Initiative | Chrysalis Club | Riding for the Disabled | and more!
 Special visit from the animals at Humbles Wood Farm

Charlotte Straker House, Cookson Close, Corbridge, NE45 5HB

Charlotte Straker Foundation REGULATOR charity number: 120377
www.charlottestraker.org.uk

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THURS 18 - SAT 20 JUNE 2026

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TYNEDALEBEERFESTIVAL.ORG.UK

CORBRIDGE NORTHUMBERLAND

A MIDSUMMER'S EVENING

MARKET PLACE STALLS
 STREET FOOD
 LIVE MUSIC & DANCE
& MORE!

Join us for our annual celebration!

Thursday June 18th from 4pm

CORBRIDGE OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 21st June 2026
 1pm to 5pm

£8 per adult
 Teas, coffees and cake available to buy at the Corbridge Community Hub

Explore many beautiful gardens, large & small, private & public in Corbridge!

All profits in aid of:
 The Charlotte Straker Project
 The Corbridge Community Partnership

Charlotte Straker Foundation Charity Number: 1021086
 Hub Charity Number: 120377



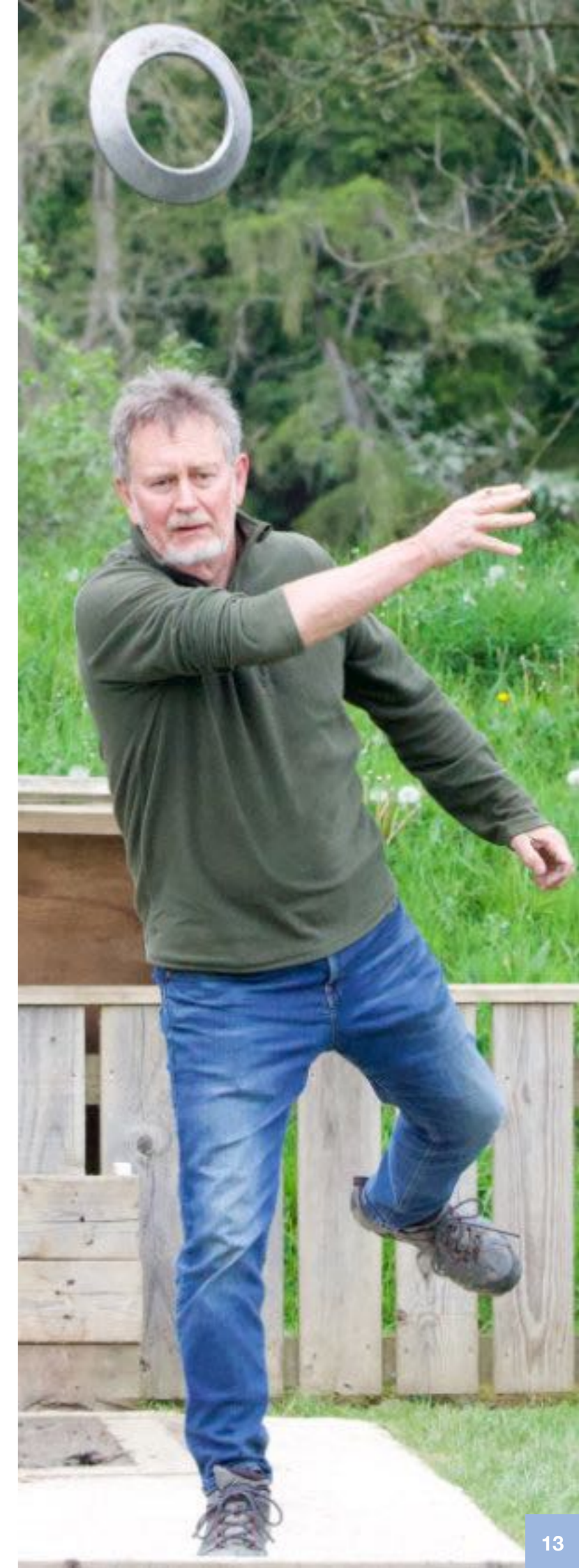
Quoits Club

From a team of novices and no-hopers, Corbridge Quoits Club has grown into a real success story. In just eight years it has established itself as a mainstay of the sport in the region with some of the best facilities. And in one of its players, it can even boast a champion. "It all started with a chance remark from a player from another quoits club who said we had the perfect spot here to build some quoits pitches," said Mike Robinson, the club secretary. "And so that's what happened."

Affiliated to Corbridge Cricket Club, the club now has four pitches, each consisting of two clay squares, known as pits, eleven yards apart. Players have two steel quoits and score points by throwing them over, or as near as they can get to, a metal pin in the middle of the pit. The club has three teams playing in the Allen Valley Quoits League: Batters, Bowlers and Fielders - and one of the Batters, Mac Pattison, is the current league champion. "When we started we were bottom of the league's lowest division," said Mike. "And we didn't win a game until the last match of the season."

Farmers are the backbone of many of the league's 29 teams and while the Corbridge club does have one farmer, it has quite a few formers: A former chief executive, a former teacher, a former TV correspondent, a former milkman. It's a clue to the club's current age profile. "Lots of us have reached or are nearing retirement age, it's fair to say. We do have some younger players and we would always welcome more. And we, sadly, don't have a single woman at the club as yet," added Mike.

The quoits season runs from May until the end of August and there are practice sessions at the Corbridge pitches, which sit next to the cricket clubhouse, every Tuesday evening from 6pm and every Sunday afternoon from 2pm. Anyone interested in joining the club can go along, and will have the chance to have a throw themselves. Alternatively, Mike can be contacted at 64robinson.mike@gmail.com



Chamonix

Charity Cycle Ride



Doddie's Triple Crown charity cycle ride passed through Corbridge recently as part of the first leg from Melrose to Leeds which stopped off at Tynedale RFC. The annual challenge is in memory of the late Scottish Rugby Union international Doddie Weir who captained the Newcastle Falcons. From the official website: "The 2026 edition of Rob Wainwright and Mark Beaumont's epic annual cycling challenge to raise funds for My Name's 5 Doddie Foundation. Off the back of the success of Doddie's Grand Tour 2025, which raised over £1 million for MND (Motor Neurone Disease) research, Rob, Mark and crew are back." The teams eventually cycled 800 miles over four days. Travelling on to Pembroke in Wales where despite a ferry delay due to the weather they arrived in Dublin in time for the Scotland v Ireland match at the Aviva Stadium. With the 2026 ride raising almost £1.5 million so far.



Corbridge Fashion Show

A hugely successful evening of style, community spirit, and generosity saw the Corbridge Charity Fashion Show raise over £3,700 in aid of The Charlotte Straker Project and Corbridge Youth Initiative. The event brought together residents, local businesses, and supporters for a vibrant celebration of fashion and fundraising. With the sun shining, guests arrived to a warm welcome and a glass of fizz, enjoying time to browse stalls before the show began. The evening featured a fashion catwalk showcasing collections from a range of Corbridge's independent retailers, highlighting the very best of local style and creativity. The organising team are grateful to the participating businesses including Croft and Graves Optometrists, Vintage at the Tower, Jessie Juniper, Finale Shoes and Accessories, Chapter 38, and Shorts of Corbridge, whose energy and collaboration helped make the event such a success. Appreciation is also extended to the volunteer models, those who worked behind the scenes and to everyone who attended and supported the evening. Special thanks are given to the volunteers from Corbridge Cricket Club for providing the bar, the Scout Hut Management Committee for allowing use of the Scout Hut for model changing, and the staff at the Parish Hall for their warm welcome and support throughout the event. Along with the young people from CYI who performed in the interval. Further thanks go to Jake Smurthwaite and the Waltons Cook shop for providing all sound and lighting equipment, helping to create a truly polished and memorable experience. Another highlight was the raffle, which included an array of generous prizes. The organisers would like to recognise the many individuals and businesses who contributed, adding to the success of the fundraising effort. Berenice Groves, Chair of The Charlotte Straker Project, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the success of the fashion show. It was a wonderful evening that truly reflected the generosity of our community. Every ticket purchased and raffle entry will directly support the vital work we do, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who played a part." Chris Nevis, a trustee of Corbridge Youth Initiative, added: "This event was a fantastic example of what can be achieved when a community comes together. The funds raised will make a real difference to young people in Corbridge, and we cannot thank our supporters, volunteers, and local businesses enough for their contributions."



Scan the QR codes for a full photo gallery from the evening and a separate short highlights video.

Continued over the page



Photo gallery



Video



Corbridge Wassail 2026

The annual event for volunteers involved in the Corbridge Apple Juice and Cider project took place recently. Celebrating the £7500 raised in 2025, to be shared equally between three charities: The Charlotte Straker Project, Corbridge Youth Initiative and organisers the Corbridge Community Partnership. Also placing toast in apple trees to attract the Robins - the guardians of the trees - and pouring cider on the roots. The singing was led by Charlie Chomse along with George and Rachel Unthank. Followed by those present making lots of noise to ward off any evil spirits. All of the signs so far this year are that there will be another bumper apple crop this autumn. With the 2026 apple pressing weekend at Corbridge Cricket Club set to take place in October. Thanks again to all who donated apples and everyone involved in making this community project such a success.



Summer at The Coigns



Slimming World
feel real good

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

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

real food, real support, real results

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



The Old Workshop
Peaceful and luxurious holiday hideaway in Corbridge
sleeps 4 (+ infant)



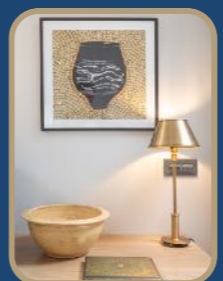
"A beautiful property in a green oasis ... Inside, it's beautifully fitted out. There's everything you need and all the appliances are of the highest standard. Each bedroom has a splendid en-suite and comes well equipped"

Richard & Linda, Harrogate.

Contact: Sally on 07802 289732

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Forum Books

Hello Happy Readers

It's so lovely in the bookshop when the sun beams through the long windows with its summer honey light. June is a bumper month of golden activity including author events, book club, Midsummer Evening and Independent Bookshop Week.

We start with the Queen of Crime **Val McDermid**. Not only is the Thursday June 4th publication day for the latest Karen Pirie novel **Silent Bones**, it's also Val's birthday too. So celebrations all round. Val will be in conversation with her good friend - and former First Minister of Scotland - **Nicola Sturgeon** at the Corbridge Community Hub. Exploring Val's amazing career and writing as well as insight into their friendship and shared love of books. This promises to be a brilliant evening of lively conversation and laughs.

Independent Bookshop Week is always a great reason to celebrate e-books and bookshops - this year is its 20th AND our 15th. So we are, to quote the National Year of Reading, going all in! We have been chosen as Bookshop Champion too. At the time of writing there's still a whole bunch of things in the works but watch out for local author **Stephanie Butland** guest bookselling - her latest novel **Bookshop Summer** is an intriguing, heartwarming novel set in a bookshop that has an unexpected impact on people's lives.

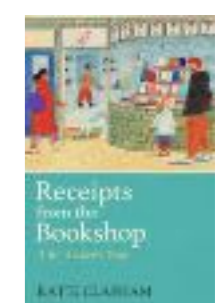
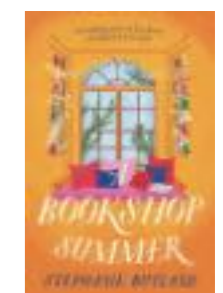
Another bookshop based wonder is **Katie Clapham's Receipts From the Bookshop**. Her dream of owning a bookshop happened by accident when she moved back to the seaside town she grew up in and went into business with her mum. Once a week Katie sits behind the counter and chronicles the day's comings and goings - mostly people who were actually hoping to catch her mother. The triumphs here are small but hard won: a tea crisis averted, a book title correctly identified from a cryptic clutch of clues. Not to mention the emotional rollercoaster of being named the seventh Best Bookshop in the Country by The Times in a week where daily takings came to around £16.98. Customers appear for a browse and a chat, in search of a recommendation or the perfect gift. Others enter the shop for more unexpected reasons - to borrow a screwdriver, locate a priest or simply to ask if there's "a nice place for an omelette around here". Each day brings its own joys and frustrations, though not always in equal measure. Funny, surprising and affectionate, here is a bookseller's year in all its weirdness and wonder - a life affirming celebration of bad weather, good books and the irreplaceable role of a local bookshop. Katie will be popping by too.

Historical fiction is one of FORUM Books favourite genres and we are delighted to welcome **Richard Strachan** to the pulpit to talk about his latest novel **Night Fire** on Monday June 15th. In the skies above war torn Europe, Stanley Wake and his fellow aircrew at Bomber Command risk their lives on missions that are incredibly dangerous and highly pressured. As the strains of their work press on him, Stan is beginning to suspect that either their plane is haunted or Stan himself may be haunted by his part in bringing about death and destruction to so many. On the ground in Lincoln, Abby Sallow is desperately trying to keep her own ghosts at bay. Richard's debut novel **The Unrecovered** was FORUM's Book Club pick for May.


We are celebrating **A Midsummer's Evening in Corbridge** on Thursday June 18th with recipes from Copenhagen's **Trine Hahnemann's** new Scandinavian cookbook **Midnight Sun**. With the never ending sunlight, this magical time of year allows for pause and presence as the days stretch ever longer. From slow mornings with Rhubarb and Rye Bread Crumble or Eggs with Summer Chanterelles, to light lunches of Smørrebrød or Fennel-cured Salmon, and sweet favourites like Apricot Almond Cake or Kringle with Rosehip Jam. There are fresh and flavoursome recipes and we'll have some tasters for you on that evening.

So, whatever you're into, we have a book for you. Happy reading!

Til next time, keep reading,
Helen



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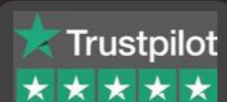
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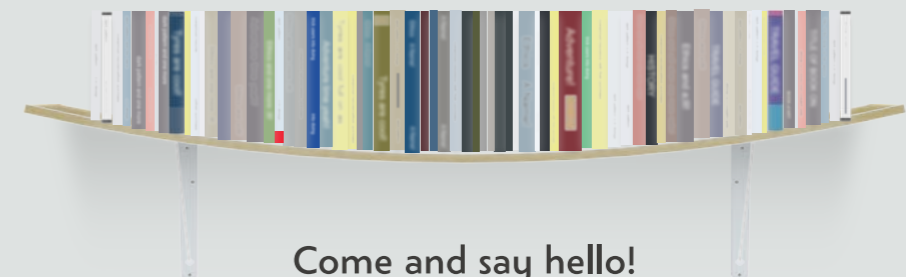
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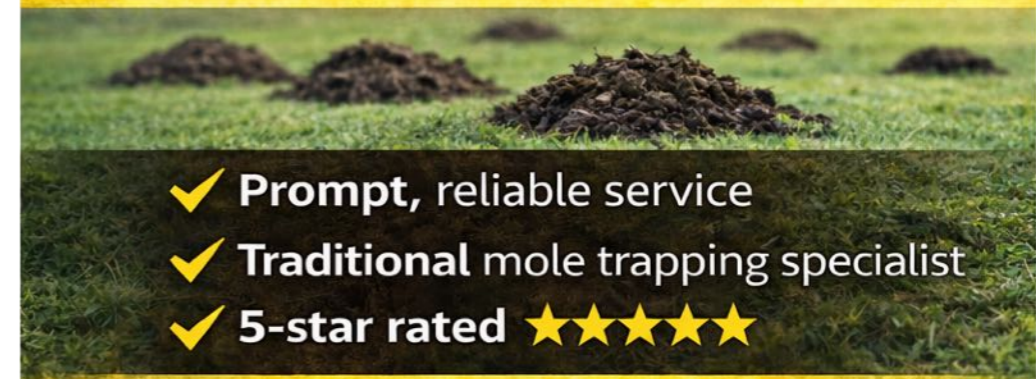
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Concert 4
Once Upon A Time
1:00pm • St. Andrew's Church
Ravel: Mother Goose Suite
Weber: Clarinet Quintet

Concert 5
Romantic Undercurrents
6:30pm • St. Andrew's Church
Rossini: Duet in D for Cello and Double Bass
Schumann: Piano Trio No. 2 in F
Schubert: Trout Quintet

Concert 6
Café Magyar
9:30pm • Parish Hall

Concert 7
Flute Focus
2:30pm • St. Andrew's Church
Beethoven: Sonnade
Clarke: Prelude, Allegro and Pastorale
Mozart: Le Nozze di Figaro
Saint-Saëns: Tarentelle

Concert 8
Festival Finale
7:00pm • St. Andrew's Church
Debussy: La plus que lente
Kurtág: Tre Pezzi for clarinet and cimbalom
Schumann: Piano Trio No. 3 in G minor
Tchaikovsky: Souvenir de Florence

Concert 1
Festival Curtain Raiser
7:00pm • St. Andrew's Church
Britten: 3 Divertimenti for String Quartet
Schumann: Piano Trio No. 4 in D minor
Albergo: Duo from Dancing with the Shadow
Britten: String Sextet No. 2 in G major

Concert 2
For the End of Time
7:00pm • St. Andrew's Church
Messiaen: Quartet for the End of Time

Concert 3
Under Nordic Skies
9:30pm • St. Andrew's Church
Gade: Fantasy Pieces
Folk music performed on Hardanger Fiddle & Grieg: Andante Con Moto for Piano Trio
Danish String Quartet arrangements

Concert 4
Meet the Author... Quartet for the End of Time: On Music, Grief and Birdsong
6:00pm • Forum Books
Poet and author Michael Simmons Roberts' intensely personal reflection on his relationship with Messiaen's masterpiece was named the Big Issue Book of the Year in 2025. Join him at Forum Books for an exploration of just how intertwined Messiaen's musical world has always been with his own. This is a book of gravitas, wrestling with some of the most profound existential issues regarding what it means to be human...moving, intelligent and thought-provoking. The Big Issue.

Concert 5
Family Concert
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11:00am • St. Andrew's Church
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Thursday 23rd July

Concert 1
Festival Curtain Raiser
7:00pm • St. Andrew's Church

Concert 2
For the End of Time
7:00pm • St. Andrew's Church

Friday 24th July

Meet the Author...
Quartet for the End of Time: On Music, Grief and Birdsong
6:00pm • Forum Books

Saturday 25th July

Family Concert
Corbridge Safari
11:00am • St. Andrew's Church

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Michael Simmons Roberts

Tickets

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