

CORBRIDGE MATTERS



August 2026 Issue 90

www.corbridge-pc.gov.uk

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Council NOTES



Thankfully the uncommonly hot weather experienced in late June was not in evidence on the Midsummer Evening - although the Norse weather gods did bless the village with a basically dry night. As usual, it was a pleasure to see so many people out enjoying the festivities and using the centre of the village and the Market Place as it should be. The singing and dancing was particularly joyous this year and I would like to thank everyone involved for all of their efforts in contributing to the event.

The Parish Council has agreed a £34,000 plan of refurbishment and improvement to the many play areas for which it is responsible. The surface of both the play area to the rear of the Parish Hall and the larger facility on The Chains will be upgraded and new facilities added. The roundabout at The Chains has reached the end of its useful life and will be replaced with something similar. At Cragside the existing play units will be removed and replaced entirely with new apparatus and the area resurfaced. Works should be completed by later this year. The Riggs play area will receive attention next year as a second phase of the improvements. All of these areas are vital for children and young families - particularly for those without large gardens.

I am pleased to confirm that the Parish Council has taken control of locking up the public toilets on Princes Street on a trial basis until the Autumn. Instead of closing at the far too early time of 4pm the toilets are now open until 9pm. This will be useful for visitors and will reduce some of the pressure on our pubs and cafes who regularly find people turning up on their doorsteps in search of these facilities. Frankly, there is no point in having public toilets if they are closed by mid afternoon. The toilets are presently owned and controlled by Northumberland County Council but I think a case could be made for the Parish Council taking responsibility for them in the long run.

I would like to thank all of the 16 volunteers who turned up for a 'Balsam Bash' on the 30th of May. Large areas of the north bank of the riverside were cleaned of this invasive menace and Parish Clerk Mandy Senior intends to organise similar days next year.

Finally, can I remind residents and visitors that The Wheatsheaf car park is - at the time of writing - available to use free of charge for those visiting the centre of Corbridge. This is a most helpful contribution to car parking provision within the village.

I wish everyone all of the best for the remainder of the Summer.

William Clouston
Corbridge Parish Council Chairman

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. Corbridge is blessed with plenty to keep us entertained during the summer months. William has mentioned the excellent Midsummer evening which was well attended. I was privileged to be asked to open the busy Charlotte Straker Summer Fete. Events like this are an important tradition in rural England - getting people together and raising important funds. I had no luck in the tombola or the raffle but tea, cake and the vintage Land Rover were all first class. The Tynedale Beer festival is the largest in the North East and raises important funds to support activity at Tynedale Rugby Club. This year was another storming success with record numbers on the Saturday, I believe. I was also at the Tynedale RFC 150th Anniversary Ball with 360 other people - coaches, players and parents from across recent decades. The rugby club has been such an important part of my family's life with all five of my children playing and my 20 years' coaching. It's a hugely important part of our community and here's to another 150 years. I had no involvement in it, but I was practicing quoits while Corbridge United held their awards day at the cricket club. I am very pleased to have agreed a contribution to the football club for new goals from my NCC small schemes allowance. I coached a Corbridge team for four years and I think it's important that young people have the chance to try lots of different sports. I know it's not popular with everybody but I was pleased when NCC secured government funding a few years ago to build an off-road active travel connection from Corbridge to Hexham. I would have preferred it to have been on the north side of the river and every effort was made, without success, to make that happen. The money cannot be spent on other council schemes or services and although we all have to put up with some disruption while it is built, the evidence elsewhere is that these schemes do increase active travel and that must be good thing. It's also worth noting that the stretch of road on the north side was removed from National Cycle Route 72 because of safety concerns.

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

Nick Oliver
Corbridge County Councillor

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Cover photo: Above us only sky: Monks Holme.

Corbridge Parish Council next meets at 7pm on Wednesday September 23rd at the Parish Hall, St Helen's Street, Corbridge. There is no August meeting. Clerk of the Council: Mrs Mandy Senior 07950 297634 clerk@corbridge-pc.gov.uk



There was an amazing turnout for a blooming wonderful afternoon of sunshine and smiles at the recent 2026 Corbridge Open Gardens. A total of £3,500 was raised for local charities the Charlotte Straker Project and the Corbridge Community Partnership. With thanks to everyone who came along and bought tickets to tour 17 lovely gardens and also to the garden hosts who made it all possible. Along with all involved in 'Joy's Cafe' at the Open Gardens HQ - the Corbridge Community Hub - who served up a delicious range of cakes and savouries, as well as teas, coffees and cold drinks, in return for donations. Not forgetting Tynedale Horticultural Service for their plant stall and others who helped cultivate funds in other ways. A further thank you to BBC Radio Newcastle for broadcasting a short interview with Open Gardens chair Bill Cunningham on the Sunday morning before the event. Bill concluding: "When you come to Corbridge it's a bit like coming to paradise."

"When you come to Corbridge it's a bit like coming to paradise."



A Year In The Parish by William Clouston

This is an abridged version of an article in the June 2026 edition of Bedrock Magazine. Reproduced with their kind permission.

In a troubled, uprooted and wistful world, I want to make the case for the parish - for place, locality and provincial familiarity. The parish can again become a safe haven, but only if we rediscover it, get to know it and become an integral part of it. Do you know the boundaries of your parish? Do you even know its name? To answer no to either of these questions would have been unthinkable for most of our recent ancestors. The parish was not only their home but the social and physical extent of their life experiences.

Before modernity and mass transportation, men and women could expect to be born, marry, live and die within the confines of a single parish and seldom stray beyond its boundaries save for the necessity of an occasional visit to a nearby market town. People were 'of the parish' —a spinster of the parish and, in exceptional circumstances, even a prophet of the parish.

Since 2019 I have had the honour of serving as Chairman of my parish council - Corbridge - in Northumberland, where I have lived for almost 30 years. And what a wonderful parish it is. In all of England a more beautiful realm I could not conceive. Bisected by the mighty, meandering River Tyne, it ranges broadly six miles from tip to toe and is four miles in girth. Its northern boundary is itself an ancient defensive frontier - Hadrian's Wall. The parish runs from Aydon down to Swallowship Hill via Dilston Gap in the south. Its heart is Corbridge, also site of the former Roman town of Coria, built from AD 79. St Andrew's Church, the focal point of Corbridge, has just celebrated its 1,350th anniversary of its establishment by St Wilfrid. Trains on the Newcastle to Carlisle railway line trundle through its middle. It is, quite simply, a gem.

The foundation stone of today's parish councils was laid by Gladstone's fourth Liberal administration in 1894. The legislation caused uproar because - for the first time - Church interests were excluded from what hitherto had been an ecclesiastical institution. From their infancy parish councils were frequently opposed and, with a limited tax base, starved of funds. But they survived and, in many cases, prospered. Even today, the curious - but wonderful - fact about parish administration is that it is largely unburdened by the statutory duties imposed on

County and District authorities by Whitehall. It does, however, have a huge amount of freedom - so what did we do? A parish council can't solve all

of society's problems, but it can be decisive in one particular area - the public realm. A visitor, on entering any town or village, in any part of the world, is instinctively faced with a question: Is this place loved? Is it cared for? Is it looked after? The answer is clear very quickly to guests and residents alike. The most fundamental task a parish council should be concerned with is the quality of the public realm. The buildings, the streets, the spaces, the plants and trees within the village are the village. And high-quality public realm lifts the mood of everyone. It's a classic public good - something available to all and from which no one can be excluded.

During the pandemic lockdown we refurbished our beautiful Parish Hall - the rooms painted, new cupboards built and a selection of framed photographs of the village installed throughout. We installed traditional iron railings in the centre of the village - properly set in sandstone - and at the cemetery. Our most significant project, however, has been the transformation of Corchester Field. Back in 2019 the field was in a state of total neglect. The grass was left uncut, there was no opportunity for informal field sports or other recreation, and the pavilion was in such a state of disrepair that many of my fellow councillors urged its demolition. I disagreed. I thought the pavilion had great potential to be saved, refurbished and opened up. We commissioned a survey, produced a plan of design and implemented the scheme at reasonable cost. The results are there for all to see. One of the great strengths of parish government is direct provision. It's cheaper, quicker and better to be self-sufficient in some areas. Although I started my planning training at Westminster City Council - and have experience in two other large local authorities as an officer and member - I remain convinced that the most efficient form of government is the most local. The old school town clerks who ran the small rural district councils were very close to the services they provided and the jobs they did. Indeed, most of them rose up through the ranks from the groundworks team or civic amenity staff - in the days before degrees or other credentials were required for council administrators. Uncomplicated direct service provision still exists - at the parish level.

Looking forward, my highest priority is the restoration of Corbridge Market Place - the historic centre of the village and the focus of our community. At present this key location is cluttered up with cars and haphazard fly parking. We can do much better than this. Having developed our initial proposals throughout 2020-22 and held a public consultation in 2023 (which showed strong

public support), we now seek detailed Planning Permission for our scheme. If successful, and if the necessary funds are raised, the public realm will be expanded, fly parking expelled and the historic Market Cross reinstated. We will have a safer, more attractive Market Place for future generations to enjoy.

Involvement in parish councils is voluntary but can be very rewarding and productive. The highest praise on many an historical epitaph was that someone had been a faithful servant to the parish. If we want to live in a better world perhaps we should take note, sign up and contribute. But perhaps we could take things a little further...Imagine a world where we stayed within the parish boundary for an entire year - not stepping outside its realm even once. Would it be a prison or a haven? Casting aside the practical difficulties of how one would earn a living, I have suggested 'a year in the parish' many times - an idea which is met with a wry smile from my wife. 'Dream on...'

But what would happen if we put it into practice? By the end of the year, perforce, we'd be part of the parish - an integral part - in a more profound way than before. It's likely that you would know every footpath and bridgeway. It's very possible that, denied the methods of modern worship at the shopping mall, you'd become accustomed to the pattern and cadence of the local vicar's sermons, the technique of the church organist and the harmonies of the choir. One would no doubt gain greater acquaintance with local coffee shops. Which establishment served the finest cup at greatest value? Which pub kept the best beer (a question to which I already know the answer)? Have you fished in the Tyne? Well, it is a parishioners' right to do so. Do you know its lowest point? Have you climbed its highest peak? Of course, much of this exploration would take place on foot or by bicycle - instantly making the parish a seemingly larger place. One's perception of it would expand. The 'one-year parish boundary' experiment would entail some sacrifices, but it would swap superficiality for depth. Our modern detachment from the parish - from both the physical and social dimensions of it - is a symptom of deracination and disconnection. Living a content and settled life requires a reconnection and reattachment with it: our locality, our parish, our home. It entails being part of it. What we need is not a month in the country but, rather, a year in the parish.





Midsumm





ner 2026



Photo Gallery





MIDSUMMER BUNTING

The new handmade Corbridge community bunting in the Northumberland colours was installed ahead of A Midsummer's Evening in Corbridge. With thanks to Gayle Foster and her team for a marathon effort and also to Alan Robinson for his expert work in putting it all up. Pictured are just some of the 'Bunting Babes' who cut, sewed and finished over 300 metres of sustainable cotton bunting that can be used to decorate the centre of Corbridge for a number of summers to come.





A windy but wonderful afternoon at the Charlotte Straker Fete raised over £1500 for this local charity. It was opened by Corbridge Cllr Nick Oliver who paid tribute to the care his mother-in-law received at Charlotte Straker House before her death earlier this year. Charlotte Straker Project Chair of Trustees Berenice Groves also highlighted the importance of events like this in both bringing the community together and supporting life at the home.



Charlotte Straker Fete

A spokesperson said: "The Charlotte Straker Fete was a fantastic day of community spirit, bringing together residents, relatives, friends, volunteers and local people for an afternoon of fun and fundraising at Charlotte Straker House. Despite a blustery breeze, the atmosphere was full of energy and smiles as visitors enjoyed everything on offer. From browsing stalls and trying their luck on the tombola, to sampling homemade cakes, playing games and catching up with friends old and new, there was something for everyone to enjoy. A huge thank you goes to all of our incredible volunteers whose time, energy, and enthusiasm made the day possible. From setting up and running stalls to baking delicious treats, their support was invaluable. We are also very grateful to everyone who donated prizes, cakes, and items for the popular stalls. Thank you to everyone who attended, supported, volunteered, and contributed. It truly was a memorable day, and we're already looking forward to the next one."



Notice Board

St Andrew's Church

Sundays at 10am: Parish Communion.

Sunday August 2 at 4pm: Simply Worship.

Sunday August 9 at 4pm: Messy Church.

Sunday August 16 at 4pm: Simply Worship.

Sunday August 23 at 4pm: RIVER.

Sunday August 30 at 4pm: Simply Worship

Corbridge Methodists

Thursday August 13 at 10am: Service at St Andrew's Church

Thursday August 27 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.

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

Saturday September 5th: Village Show at the Parish Hall. See centre pages insert.

Corbridge Community Hub: The volunteers at **Tea & Chat** are taking a break in August. Back in September. The **Warm Welcome Cafe** continues as normal.

The Royal British Legion Corbridge Branch

marked Armed Forces Day in June with a bingo evening held at the Corstopitum Social Club. Branch chairman David Burnett gave thanks for all of the help and support from the village over the years. With a cheque for £1000 presented to the Northumberland Royal British Legion Almonisation Fund which helps veterans and their families.



St Andrew's Church Corbridge

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES 2026

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Fridays 12.30pm - 1.15pm

31 st July	Cristo Harljan	Piano
7 th August	James Botan	Piano
14 th August	Marc Bryant	Organ
21 st August	Louise Delstanche	Cello
	Louise Scott	Cello
	Alison Gill	Piano
28 th August	Chloe Wong	Violin & Flute

Tea and Coffee available from 12 noon
Please look at our website for other concerts and events
www.corbridgechurch.org.uk



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.



Wheelbarrow Race



Over £4,300 was raised by the 2026 Corbridge Wheelbarrow Race held on a scorching afternoon in aid of Tynedale Hospice at Home. With thanks to organisers Cheryl Ross and The Blue Bell and others around the course. Plus winners Callum Pallister (Dipsy) and Craig Thomas (Laa-Laa) - along with everyone who entered.



Textile and Art Exhibition



The Corbridge Textile & Art Exhibition - Craft Fest 2026 - saw some wonderful exhibits, talent and skill on display. Along with a lovely atmosphere inside St Andrew's Church. A total of £2,773 has been raised so far from the exhibition to be shared equally between the church and the Charlotte Straker Project. With more to be added from the final proceeds of the Sashiko Quilt Raffle. Scan the QR code on the poster for details of how to enter. And scan the photo gallery QR code to see more images from the exhibition.



Photo Gallery

SASHIKO QUILT

RAFFLE

REGISTER ONLINE AT:



£2 PER ENTRY



ONE OF A KIND



A stunning Sashiko quilted blanket with 365 hand stitched individual squares, all with unique designs. Sashiko quilting is a traditional Japanese stitching technique that combines functional reinforcement with decorative embroidery.

DRAW: FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST

Raising funds to support the Charlotte Straker Project and St Andrew's Church. charity numbers: 1021066 / 1133723

Promoter: The Charlotte Straker Project



FR REGULATOR



Chamonix



TV Rise and Shine

BBC Breakfast recently broadcast live from Forum Books of Corbridge several times during its daily BBC One show as part of Independent Bookshop Week. With a recorded news report later featuring on the BBC News at One. Scan the QR code to watch a [compilation](#) of the live links.





**Corbridge Parish Hall
St Helen's Street**

Saturday 5th September 2026, 2pm - 4.30pm



CORBRIDGE VILLAGE SHOW, PARISH HALL SATURDAY

5th SEPTEMBER 2026

CLASS 1 MEMBERS ONLY

- Two pot leaks 6" fast button, to be fresh pulled, washed clean and sound all round.

DISTRICT CLASSES

District Class Exhibitors must be residents of Corbridge Parish, work or have children at school here.

Vegetables

2.	Three Turnips	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
3.	Six Pods of Peas	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
4.	Six Runner Beans	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
5.	Heaviest Marrow/Courgette	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
6.	Three Stalks of Rhubarb	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
7.	Salad Bowl	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
8.	Basket of Flowers and Vegetables (for effect)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
9.	Most Peculiar Vegetable	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Flowers

10.	1 Single Rose	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
11.	4 Roses as grown (In vase)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
12.	5 single Dahlias	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
13.	Bowl of mixed Dahlia	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
14.	Vase of cut Annuals	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
15.	2 Vases of Hardy Herbaceous varieties	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
16.	3 Spikes of Gladioli	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
17.	1 Vase of Sweet Peas	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
18.	1 Vase of Cut Flowers (No Foliage)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
19.	1 Sunflower (Displayed in container)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Fruit

20.	Basket of Fruit: A collection of 4 kinds of fruit attractively displayed in a basket	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
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Home Baking & Preserves

21.	4 Fruit Scones	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
22.	4 Rock Buns	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
23.	4 Cheese Scones	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
24.	1 Decorated Cup Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
25.	1 Lemon Drizzle Cake or Loaf	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
26.	1 Carrot Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
27.	1 Victoria Sponge Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
28.	1 Ginger Bread (Loaf Tin)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
29.	1 Decorated Chocolate Cake	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
30.	4 Iced Biscuits	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
31.	1 Jar Marmalade (to be named)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
32.	1 Jar Jam (to be named)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
33.	1 Jar Chutney (to be named)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Photography - Prints not to exceed 8.5" x 6"

34.	Corbridge Life	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
35.	Portraits & People	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
36.	Plants, Trees & Flowers	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
37.	Animals	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
38.	Humorous Photograph	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Handicrafts

39.	Papercraft card	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
40.	You've made it, let's see it! (any handicraft)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Art

41.	A picture in any medium -no larger than A3	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
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Floral Art

42.	Floral Arrangement - Season's Best	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
43.	Miniature Arrangement in a Standard Tea Cup	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
44.	All Foliage Arrangement	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Age 9 Years and under

45. Fruit & Vegetable Creature	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
46. Lego model no bigger than 25 cm	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
47. Miniature Garden in a Seed Tray 9" x 14"	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
48. Picture in any medium - no larger than A3	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
49. Model made from recycled materials	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Age 10 Years and over

50. Lego model no bigger than 25 cms	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
51. Miniature Garden in a Seed Tray 9" x 14"	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
52. Picture in any medium - no larger than A3	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
53. 4 Iced fairy cakes	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
54. A handmade toy – no larger than can be held in your hand	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

OPEN CLASSES

Vegetables

55. Three onions to a stand, dressed	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
56. Three onions shown as grown	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
57. One onion, heaviest	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
58. One onion, one pound in weight	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
59. Six onions grown from sets.	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
60. Six shallots, dressed	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
61. Two parsnips	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
62. Six tomatoes	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
63. Three carrots – long	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
64. Three carrots -stump rooted	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
65. Three round beet, one to be cut	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
66. Two cauliflowers	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
67. One cabbage	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
68. One intermediate leek 6" to 9" fast button	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
69. Collection of vegetables - four varieties, two of each	£12.00	£8.00	£5.00
70. Two blanch leeks (over 14")	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
71. 4 Potatoes (Kidney)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
72. 4 Potatoes (Round)	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
73. 3 Leeks Pot, Blanch and Intermediate	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Flowers

74. Three chrysanthemums incurved	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
75. Three chrysanthemums intermediate	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
76. Three chrysanthemums reflexed	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
77. Collection of flowers, vase, bowl or jug (for effect)	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
78. Three chrysanthemums incurved – dissimilar	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
79. Three chrysanthemums reflexed – dissimilar	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
80. Three chrysanthemums intermediate -dissimilar	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
81. One giant or large dahlia	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
82. 5 Stems per vase chrysanthemums garden sprays	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
83. 3 Stems per vase chrysanthemums garden sprays	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
84. Medium cactus dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
85. Small cactus dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
86. Medium decorative dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
87. Small decorative dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
88. Pom Pom dahlias, three to a vase	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00
89. 1 Window Plant Flowering	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
90. 1 Window Plant Foliage	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

Honey

91. One Jar Honey	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
92. One Honeycomb	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
93. One Frame Honey	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00

ALL EXHIBITS MAY BE REMOVED AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

All open entries free

The Parish Hall will be open for staging from :-
6pm - 8pm on Friday 4th September 2026
8am - 10am on Saturday 5th September 2026

All entries to be benched by 10am on Saturday 5th September 2026

Only two entries per person per class.

All photographs to have been taken by exhibitor.
All flowers and vegetables to have been grown by exhibitor.

Prize money to be claimed from Treasurer's office 3pm - 4pm using the claim form.
Any unclaimed money will be retained by the show.

Programme of Events

**Show open to public
2.00-4.30pm Saturday 5th September 2026**

**TOMBOLA
PRIZE DRAW**

**TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS
REFRESHMENTS FOR CHILDREN**

**FACE PAINTING
BALLOON ANIMALS
BEE DISPLAY
MUSIC by THE SUNSHINE STEEL PANNERS
& CORBRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL CHOIR**

**PRESENTATION OF PRIZES
BY OUR PRESIDENT CAROL MALIA**

All enquiries to Miles Joyce - 07989 607695

Thanks to Ian Wylie for taking and sharing the photographs.

Forum Books

Hella Happy Readers

The summer months are still busy in the cool of the chapel. We've a Summer Camp reading challenge to keep our younger customers engaged during the school holidays plus a few full of scorching summer reads all hand picked by us for you to pack for poolside reading. Our monthly book club usually falls on the last Monday of the month but because of the August Bank Holiday it will be a week early - and there's always room for more if you fancy joining us.

But as the slow summer days fade, there's a stunning bunch of exciting new books coming your way: **The Heights** is **Ian Rankin's** first standalone thriller in two decades. A gleaming, high end, high rise looming over Hyde Park, a billionaire's playground offering sumptuous suites for the global elite. When a night concierge is found murdered in the lobby the building's rarefied atmosphere is shattered and the gilded lives within come under intense police scrutiny. In a world designed to keep prying eyes out, where the residents are not used to being held to account, born and bred Londoner Detective Gillian Gish must find a way past their power, wealth and unimaginable influence. The rules may be different at the top - but is anyone truly above the law? Or could it be that the higher you rise, the further you fall?

At the time of writing I'm just finishing **Emily St John Mandel's Exit Party**. She came to Corbridge over a decade ago with her incredible debut *Station Eleven*. As a reader I've been hooked on her books ever since - and am also convinced Corbridge is referenced in her last one *The Sea of Tranquility*. *Exit Party* is every bit as awesome as I could have dreamed - a mind bending epic, a story of crimes committed and loves lost across space and time. America is at war with itself but for the first time in weeks there is some hope: the Republic of California has been declared, the curfew in Los Angeles is lifted and everyone in the city is going to a party. Ari, newly released from prison, arrives with her friend Gloria just as a fragile new era begins. But there are people at the party who shouldn't be there. Her writing is elegant, her storytelling superbly immersive...I think you can tell I loved it.

Closer to home, **Dan Jackson** brings us the people's history of Newcastle United with **Howay the Lads**. You'll know Dan from his excellent history *The Northumbrians* and again he brings his wit and encyclopaedic knowledge to his favourite football club, its origins and huge importance in the wider context of North East culture and history. He explores themes of solidarity, hard work and - perhaps best of all - hedonism and how all of these fuelled a burning passion for football in Newcastle. We have an event with Dan on Thursday September 3rd at the Tyneside Irish Centre - a goal kick away from St James' Park in Newcastle too.

Joining us at The Biscuit Factory on Tuesday September 1st will be the deliciously entertaining **Sabrina Ghayour**. Again over a decade ago she joined us at Newton to talk about **Persiana** - here we have the brand new **One** that makes irresistible Middle Eastern flavours easier than ever in one pot, one tray or one pan. From dips and bits that make snacking sublime to spectacular salads. And from easy everyday dinners to something a little bit more special, these are recipes designed with clever shortcuts that don't compromise on flavour, to be as simple as possible.

In September **LJ Ross** fans will - at last - be able to get their hands on the paperback edition of **Berwick**. And the paperbacks of **Rory Stewart's Middleland** as well as Women's Prize winning **Lyse Doucet's The Finest Hotel In Kabul**. But of course the BIGGEST excitement is possibly for **The Gruffalo Granny** - yes Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler are back! We return to the deep dark wood with the first new Gruffalo story in over 20 years and meet Gruffalo Granny as she visits the Gruffalo family. This fresh and exciting new Gruffalo adventure - also out in September - features the return of much loved characters and is destined to become a classic. Julia Donaldson said "I really hope that children - and adults too - will enjoy the new story, as I know what a wonderful experience shared reading can be."

However and whatever you are reading, enjoy.

Helen





Tynedale Beer Fes





stival

The weather was kind for the 25th Tynedale Beer Festival at Tynedale Park in Corbridge in June. Especially on the Saturday when the sun shone all day. We are still doing the counting but it looks like this might have been a record attendance. We gave out over 5,500 of the newly branded tumblers so our visitors could try drinks from a variety of bars featuring many local and national breweries. There were also cider, wine and gin bars, not forgetting a wide range of soft drinks and a NoLo alcohol beer and cider bar. There was plenty of live music covering many genres and the Big Gig, which showcases a number of young musicians and singers, has become a regular feature on the Saturday afternoon. The Food Court was as popular as ever with a variety of street food caterers from the region. As always, we would like to thank our many sponsors who supported the festival as well as the visitors who flocked to enjoy the event. As many of you will know, the festival is organised and staffed entirely by volunteers, all looking resplendent in the new pink T-shirts. The profits from the festival will be donated to Calvert Kielder, West Northumberland Food Bank, Silverline Memories and Tynedale Rugby Football Club. The dates for 2027 are Thursday June 17th to Saturday June 19th. Tickets will go on sale later this year so keep an eye on our social media and website. Scan the QR code to see more photos from this year's festival. We hope to see you in 2027.



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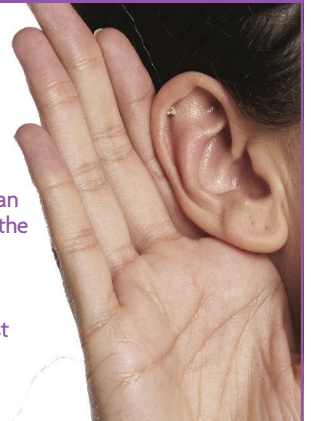
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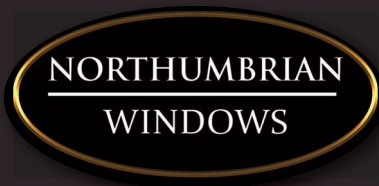
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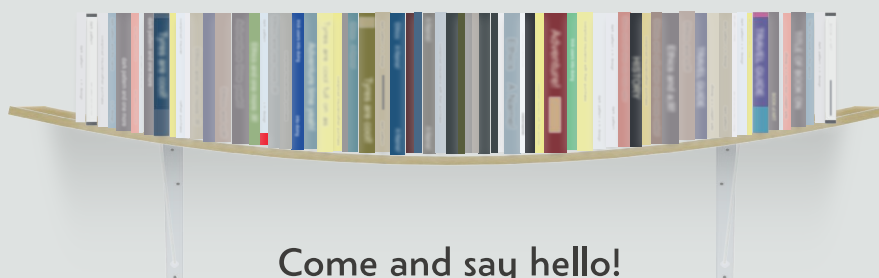
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