



UPPER
COQUET
RESOURCE
GROUP
Supporting the Local Community
Registered Charity Number: 1083083

Upper Coquet Resource Group COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2026



Supported by

Newsletter Circulation

It is great that we are still welcoming new names to our circulation list. Please can we ask you to continue to spread the word so that everyone knows and can sign up to the blind copied circulation list by contacting Tracey on the email below. Plus, if you are able to print a copy to share with someone without internet then thank you. Items for the newsletter can be sent in electronic form ahead of the monthly submission deadline to Tracey Boldy via stickypud@harbottle.net

Planned 2026 dates: submission deadlines with electronic distribution by the end of each month are:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Wednesday Deadlines</u>	
March	18/02/26	
April	18/03/26	
May	22/04/26	
June	20/05/26	
July/August	24/06/26	<u>DOUBLE ISSUE</u>
September	19/08/26	
October	23/09/26	
November	21/10/26	
December/January 2027	18/11/26	<u>DOUBLE ISSUE</u>

NEW: The Upper Coquet Resource Group (UCRG) 2026 Calendar

ONLY A FEW NOW REMAINING

Thank you to everyone who has supported our 2026 calendar sales. They have added a vital sum to our funds to use locally for good causes such as the proposed free First Aid Course in Harbottle Village Hall in March – see below.

The A4 calendars are now priced at £3 each (including envelope) and available through the following outlets:

**The Star Inn, Harbottle
Bessie Rogerson, Hepple

**Rose & Thistle, Alwinton
Susan Rogerson, Alwinton

**Greenbrae, Newton*

NEW: FREE FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE



The Upper Coquet Resource Group, UCRG, have organised another first aid course on **Saturday 28th March** in Harbottle Village Hall.

The “Emergency first aid at work” course is intended to give a basic understanding of first aid and introduce the participant to the fundamental, theoretical and practical aspects of first aid management. This certification is valid for three years, suitable for low risk working environments and small business needs. Certification meets the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive Regulations. The training will be delivered by Northern Training Partnership Limited.

The course is **FREE** and if you would like to attend then please contact Susan Rogerson by email: jsrogerson@btinternet.com to register an interest.

The UCRG monthly quiz sheets you may see in various outlets can be purchased for the year ahead. They are coordinated by Margaret Ward (01669 650317) and they have been a fantastic steady way to boost our funds over the years. We continue to be grateful to Margaret and all those who regularly support this fun activity.



SAVE SOME DATES

Further details for each event plus many more are detailed in the articles within this newsletter. Enjoy.

Forever Yung Dance: Ongoing cycle of lessons, always welcoming both beginners and those with dance experience. Lots of fun and great instruction. Ballroom/Latin Line dance lessons on Wednesday mornings plus ballroom/salsa on Friday evenings. First dance, Father/Bride dance and 1:1 tuition also available (p 10).



The Star Inn, Harbottle: *Monday 3rd to Thursday 30th January: Buy 1 get 1 Free Pizza Offer – Eat in Only, Monday to Thursday (p9)*



The Star Inn, Harbottle: *Thursday 29th January from 8pm: Charity Quiz Night in aid of Harbottle Christmas Lights (p9)*



Curry Night: **Friday 30th January, 7.30pm at Netherton Village Hall. In aid of Alwinton and Holystone Churches. Sold out - Ticket only.**

CADS Pantomime: **Sunday 1st, 5th, 6th & 7th February, Rothbury: Alice in Wonderland (p14).**

Coquetdale Wildlife Group: **Monday 2nd February, 7.30pm Jubilee Hall: “The Missing Lynx Project” by Faye Whiley (p18)**

The Star Inn, Harbottle: *Saturday 7th February from 8pm: Acoustic Music Night in the Bar (p9)*



The Star Inn, Harbottle: *Thursday 12th February from 8pm: Charity Quiz Night in aid of TBC (p9)*



The Coquetdale Music Trust: **Friday 13th February, Thropton: Tony McManus and Julia Toasper (p11)**

The Star Inn, Harbottle: *Saturday 14th February from 8pm: Live Music Night with Mark Hague on Valentine’s Night (p9)*



U3A, Rothbury: **Monday 16th February, 10am, Jubilee Hall: Chris Wright – Bird Migration (p12)**

UCRG Newsletter deadline: **Wednesday 18th February for the March edition (p1)**



Coquetdale Repair Cafe: **Saturday 21st February (p13).**

Rothbury Litter Pick: **Saturday 21st February, 10am : with Rothbury Rubbish Friends (p13)**

Social Dance: **Saturday 21st February, Harbottle Village Hall: Chinese New Year with half hour Quickstep workshop (p10)**



The Star Inn, Harbottle: *Saturday 21st February 7.30pm: Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn (p9)*



The Coquetdale Music Trust: **Sunday 22nd February: Filkin’s Drift (p11).**

Cafe Church: **Sunday 22nd February, Harbottle Village Hall. All welcome (p8/22).**

Coquetdale Wildlife Group: **Monday 2nd March 7.30pm Jubilee Hall: “The Colours of Summer - Butterflies in the Lowick area” by John Daniels (p18)**

Alwinton Shepherds Supper: **Friday 6th March: For tickets (£30), contact Stewart Wallace on 01670 774600 (p6)**

The Coquetdale Music Trust: **Saturday 7th March, Thropton: Celia Bryce Band (p11)**

Dixon Trust Deadline: **Tuesday 10th March: grant application deadline to help with education needs (p3).**

U3A, Rothbury: **Monday 16th March, 10am, Jubilee Hall: Susie Finlayson: The Great Tapestry of Scotland (p12)**

UCRG Newsletter deadline: **Wednesday 18th March for the April edition (p1)**



SAVE SOME DATES continued

UCRG First Aid course:	Saturday 28th March 2026, please contact Susan Rogerson to book your place (p1).	
Family friendly Easter Bingo:	Wednesday 8th April, from 7pm: Harbottle Village Hall. ALL WELCOME. Includes prizes for the children. Fundraiser for Harbottle Show (p7)	
Coquetdale Wildlife Group:	Monday 13th April 7.30pm Jubilee Hall: AGM followed by "Using technology and advances in AI in Red Squirrel Conservation" by Ian Glendinning (p18)	
U3A, Rothbury:	Monday 20th April, 10am, Jubilee Hall: Bob Pullen: Sleep and Dreams (p12)	
UCRG Newsletter deadline:	Wednesday 22nd April for the May edition (p1)	
Social Dance:	Saturday 25th April, Harbottle Village Hall: Mellow Yellow with half hour Rumba workshop (p10)	
Cragend Farm:	Tuesday 12th May, 2 - 3.30pm: The Tree Trail (p17)	
U3A, Rothbury:	Monday 18th May, 10am, Jubilee Hall: Teresa Barnard: The Enlightenment Lunaticks (p12)	
Cragend Farm:	Tuesday 9th June, 2 – 3.30pm: The Tree Trail (p17)	
Social Dance:	Saturday 27th June, Harbottle Village Hall: Around the World with half hour Salsa workshop (p10)	
Cragend Farm:	Tuesday 7th July, 2 – 3.30pm: The Tree Trail (p17)	

Harbottle School Community Group: Supporting Our Local School

We welcome anyone from the school and local community to come along and help. No set times so it can be daytime or weekends, an hour or a morning whatever suits. Jobs could include weeding, bed clearing, tying back, tidying, painting etc.

So if you enjoy a bit of gardening in your spare time and would like to join us to look after our local school gardens, then please contact Margaret Ward for more information (01669 650317). We are always on the lookout for the next generation to work with us and take it forward, as we ain't getting any younger!

Harbottle School Community GROUP continues to collect and sell both new and pre loved puzzles, be they 300-2000 pieces. XL piece jigsaws are especially popular. Funds raised go towards the group's endeavours to help pay for the annual ground rent for the top field so that the school children and community have access to a green space for playing, plus covering the costs of refreshing the planters. Other past efforts have included supporting getting the school Bistro off the ground, out of school clubs, craft classes, and sending out the bat signal for locals and businesses to gather to maintain the school grounds e.g. maintenance, painting, gardening, tidying, gravel installation.....all help always very much appreciated.

Should you wish to purchase/donate jigsaws, please contact Tracey Boldy, Pauline Bickle, Ann Hennessy or Margaret Ward. We have also tried our luck at selling online and this is proving a popular way to bring in additional income for the group.

NEW: Dixon Trust

The trust is a small Charity which gives one-off donations to school age pupils in the Upper Coquet Valley and adjacent areas.

To qualify pupils must show a realistic need for help with equipment and/or books for educational purposes.

Please apply in writing to Peter Stott, Elilaw, Thropton, NE65 7HN **before March 10th, 2026.**



NETHERTON

Netherton exercise class: Drop in and have a go at Chair Based Exercises, **every Monday 10am to 11am** in Netherton Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, £3 per person per session.

For more information call Charlotte on 01669 640265 or email Charlottebx@gmail.com

Netherton WI: New members always welcome. For further information please contact Joan Blakey.

Netherton Village Hall Coffee mornings: the Hall Coffee mornings are normally held on the **First Monday in each month from 11am until 12noon**. Everyone is welcome, sanitisers are available and masks may be worn if desired.

The Netherton Craft Group: We meet in Netherton Memorial Hall at **2pm until 4pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month**. Come along and join us for chat and an afternoon spent with like-minded company. Please bring along anything you are currently working on. We also knit small blankets, cardigans and hats for premature babies. We very much look forward to welcoming you to the Group so if you require any further information please contact Judith on 01669 631189 or email judith_barton256@btinternet.com



CLENNELL

NEW: Clennell Hall

**GANGSTER & MOLLS
VALENTINES
WEEKEND
AT CLENNELL HALL**

Feb 13th
Valentines Menu
3 Courses
£35 pp
Served 5 - 8pm

Feb 14th
Gangsters & Molls fancy
dress evening
£15 per ticket

Booking & Pre-order
required

**2 NIGHT
B&B FOR
£160**

Games table in Rocky's
Speakeasy

Mobsters Buffet
&
Entertainment by
Michael Rolf



HEPPLE

Hepple Village Hall:

Seated chair exercise:	Thursdays 10-11am
Northumberland Basketry Group:	3 rd Wednesday of the month
Table Tennis:	Tuesdays 7pm

Hepple WI: regular Thursday meetings and activities, including guest speakers. New members always welcome.



Table Tennis is at Hepple Village Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. All welcome.



Northumbria Basketry Group meets monthly, mostly, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month between 10am-4pm. New members are always welcome. Please contact Gill Phillipson for extra details and queries.

Hepple Women's Institute Programme 2025-2026

Thursday Meeting starts at 7.00 pm,
Hepple Village Hall

Pooled supper. Visitors welcome £5

2026

January	No meeting
Feb 12th	Pie and Pea Supper, followed by Programme Planning. Subs Due
Mar 12th	Ben Howie, Morwick Dairy & Ice Cream Parlour. Competition: Sundae Dish
April 9th	Charlotte Boxall, Willow Work Competition: Basket
May 14th	A.G.M.

Contributions for raffle prizes will be gratefully received each month.

Chair Based Exercise in Hepple:

Chair based exercise will benefit everyone; you don't need to be chair bound to benefit.

The Hepple Seated Chair Exercise runs every Thursday 10am-11am.

For information contact Chris Wilson: 01669 640012 or Chris.wilson601@btinternet.com

NEW: Hepple Parish Council are looking for a **new clerk and a defibrillator guardian**.

There are notices on the village notice board with more information. It is open to anyone, not solely those from Hepple Parish.

If interested, then please contact Chris France, Chairman on either 07866 735213 or christopherfrance@gmail.com



ALWINTON

NEW: New Publican at The Rose & Thistle

Mary and Neil Wilkins' time running the Rose & Thistle comes to an end on 31 January. Over the past few years, they've done a brilliant job making the pub a welcoming venue in the Upper Coquet Valley. Their food has been first class. We'd like to thank Mary and Neil for all their hard work and good humour. We wish them every success in whatever comes next.



We're delighted to announce (although regulars probably already know), that Lyndsey Selkirk will be taking over as our publican. Lyndsey has been important for the Rose & Thistle, well known for her friendly welcome and dedication to service. Lyndsey will remain committed to the local community as well as to visitors and B&B guests. She is working on securing a chef to run the kitchen, so that the pub can continue to offer great food. Furthermore, she plans to keep open regularly seven days a week, with the small bar being upgraded to provide a welcoming place for locals and visitors on quieter evenings.

Please do call in soon and give Lyndsey your support as she embarks on this new chapter for her and the Rose & Thistle. And look out for our new Facebook page, coming soon.

Merete and Kris

NEW:

Alwinton Shepherds Supper

Friday 6th March

Tickets - £30

For tickets please contact Stewart Wallace - 01670 774600

HARBOTTLE

HATHA YOGA CLASSES: Tuesday Evenings 7- 8.30pm in Harbottle Village Hall (also online).

Contact info@judaliyoga.com or see www.judaliyoga.com for more info.



Iyengar Yoga in Harbottle Village Hall on Monday evenings from 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

This is a general Iyengar class suitable for all abilities including beginners. For more information call Margaret on 650281 or email margaret@ranken.co.uk

CANINE PARTNERS: Please continue to save your used postage stamps for the charity, Canine Partners, in order to help towards the cost of training even more puppies to develop into helping dogs for disabled and injured people. Karen has kindly agreed to keep the collection bag at The Star Inn, Harbottle. The charity is very grateful for all your hard work. It has helped so much.

<https://caninepartners.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising/recycle-used-postage-stamps/>

Friends of Harbottle First School

We aim to meet every month to discuss ideas, upcoming events, fundraising ideas etc. and would love to welcome new members from the local community to join us (please note you do not need to have a child at Harbottle First School to join). If you have a little time to spare and would like to help in **any** way then please get in touch via our email:

FriendsofHarbottleFirstSchool@gmail.com

and we can add you to the 'Friends' contact list for notification of future meetings and times (these will be varied to try and cater to everyone).

Bev



NEW:

Easter



Wednesday 8th April

7pm

Harbottle Village Hall

ALL WELCOME

Including prizes for the children



Bring your own drinks & nibbles if you wish



Fundraiser for Harbottle Show



Harbottle Village Hall:

Harbottle Village Hall: a local amenity for the community of Harbottle, Alwinton, Sharperton & Holystone.

This community resource, with comfy chairs and Wi-Fi, can be booked for private and community events. It is a great space for music lessons, parties, discos, auction of promises, coffee mornings or perhaps even a new venture? Please chat to Tracey Boldy for more information and to make a booking: stickypud@harbottle.net

The past generations have used it for fund raising Coffee Mornings, Jumble sales, Discos, Auction of Promises, Village Pantomimes, Ceilidhs, Private Parties, Art Groups, Sewing Groups and Music Evenings.

Weekly Classes

Monday:	<i>Iyengar Yoga</i>	6 - 7.30 pm
Tuesday:	Judali Hatha Yoga:	7- 8.30 pm
Wednesday:	<i>Ballroom & Latin Line Dance</i> Beginner:	10 - 10.55 am
	Beginner Plus:	11 – 11.55 am
Friday:	<i>Ballroom & Latin Dance:</i> Focus Dance*** or Beginner:	6 - 6.55 pm
	Beginner Plus	7 - 7.55 pm
	<i>Salsa</i>	8 – 8.55 pm
Sunday:	Café Church	3-6 pm (Fourth Sunday each month)

Harbottle Badminton & Short Tennis:

The equipment and venue are ready when you are.

Focus Dance Fridays 6 - 6.55 pm

We are currently learning how to Samba and Viennese Waltz:
come along and join us!

Cafe Church at Harbottle Village Hall

A Coquetdale Churches Together event.

ALL WELCOME!

We would love you to join us for an informal service with a cuppa & cake, songs, talk and creative activity. This is an opportunity for all generations to be together. These services will now be happening monthly on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December):

2026:

22 nd Feb	22 nd Mar	
26 th Apr	24 th May	28 th June
26 th July	23 rd Aug	

For more information or to get involved please contact either:

Catherine Iley:

catherine.iley@gmail.com

Angela Feather

angela.feather@urc-northernsynod.org

NEW: Does anyone out there play the board game Go?

Easy to learn but very hard to master!

We have been trying to learn how to play this ancient board game for the past year and wondered if there were any others in the valley who would be interested in a meet up, perhaps at one of the local pubs or Harbottle Village Hall in order to give ourselves some different opposition for a change?

We have two sets of stones and boards.

Mark and Wim
markboldy21@gmail.com





NEW: The Star Inn, Harbottle



We welcome walkers, cyclists, tourists, bikers, local residents and their families, friends and dogs!



Events Planned over the coming months:

<i>Monday 3rd to Thursday 30th January</i>	<i>Buy 1 get 1 Free Pizza Offer – Eat in Only, Monday to Thursday</i>
<i>Thursday 29th January from 8pm</i>	<i>Charity Quiz Night in aid of Harbottle Christmas Lights</i>
<i>Saturday 7th February from 8pm</i>	<i>Acoustic Music Night in the Bar</i>
<i>Thursday 12th February from 8pm</i>	<i>Charity Quiz Night in aid of TBC</i>
<i>Saturday 14th February from 8pm</i>	<i>Live Music Night with Mark Hague on Valentine's Night</i>
<i>Saturday 21st February 7.30pm</i>	<i>Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn</i>

We had a busier than expected December due to strong local support, day trippers walking in the area and guests staying in rooms and cottages in the area. January was expected to be quiet so I headed off on holiday in search of some sun and to recharge batteries ready for the year ahead.

The calendars are open for our holiday cottage and B&B rooms for 2026 if anyone has family or friends visiting and need extra accommodation. Prices start from £89 per night in the winter for two people including breakfast.

We will continue to open 7 days a week over the winter months, serving food all day between 12 noon and 8pm. Our events calendar will be as full as ever this year, including a repeat of last year's beer festival over the early May Bank Holiday weekend - watch this space!

Thank you for your ongoing support, it's very much appreciated, more so than ever in the winter as this allows us to continue to employ our team of local staff all year around.

Karen

The Star Inn, Harbottle
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 7DG

Tel: 01669 650221
Email: info@thestarinnharbottle.co.uk
Website: www.thestarinnharbottle.co.uk
Follow us on Facebook - twitter - Instagram





Forever Yung Dance Classes in Harbottle Village Hall



Focus Dance Fridays 6 - 6.55 pm

We are currently learning how to Samba and Viennese Waltz:
Come along and join us!

*We are always ready and keen to welcome new starters.....
if you are tempted to try then please get in touch and we
will help to get you moving in whichever class that suits
you best.*

Quotes from current local dancers:

"Happily married but love our different dance classes!"

*"Good fun, made new friends and the perfect way to keep
fit."*

*"We never thought ballroom dancing would be our cup of
tea, but we joined when we moved here, just to get to
know people. We've loved it ever since and I have even
taken up Salsa classes!"*

"There is no such thing as bad dancing, it's all just joyful."

*"Great fun with a very patient teacher, nice meeting new
people including the opportunity for coffee at The Star
after some good, gentle, relaxing exercise."*

*"Very friendly groups; great teacher. You won't regret it.
One of the best things I have done; love it!"*

*"Just love it and it makes me smile. Like the social, health
& fun aspects, including the social dances expertly curated
by Lisa, as well the challenge of learning so many different
styles of dance slowly over time. Ken has the patience of a
saint, carefully explaining and re-explaining the steps to
us."*

ADULT

Ballroom, Latin, Salsa, Line

Dance Classes

Harbottle Village Hall



**Ballroom & Latin
Beginner**
Friday Evenings
6:00 - 6:55pm
Fun & Welcoming..
Learn Foxtrot,
Jive, Waltz
and Cha Cha.



**Salsa
Beginner**
Friday Evenings
8:00 - 8:55pm
Fun & Welcoming
Dance Classes for
Beginners.
Immerse yourself in
the rhythms
of Latin America.



**Ballroom & Latin
Modern
LINE DANCE
Beginner
Beginner PLUS**
Wednesday Mornings
10:00 - 10:55am
Wednesday Mornings
11:00 - 11:55am
Non partner form of
Ballroom & Latin
Dancing.
Great exercise
and lots of fun.

**Ballroom & Latin
Beginner PLUS**
Friday Evenings
7:00 - 7:55pm
Foxtrot, Jive,
Waltz, Cha Cha
PLUS Tango & Quickstep!

**NO Partner
Required for
any of our
programs!**

**£25 per
4 week program**



CONTACT INFO:
Tel: 07818 726941
Email: yungdance@icloud.com
Website: www.foreveryungdance.co.uk

NEW: 2026 Community Social Dances at Harbottle Village Hall

Saturday 21 st February	Chinese New Year theme with half hour Quickstep workshop
Saturday 25 th April	Mellow Yellow theme with half hour Rumba workshop
Saturday 27 th June	Around the World theme with half hour Salsa workshop
Saturday 29 th August	Fire and Ice theme with half hour Paso Doble workshop
Saturday 24 th October*	Spooktacular Halloween Dance with half hour Tango workshop
Saturday 12 th December*	Christmas Dance at <u>St Michael's, Alnwick</u> with half hour Viennese Waltz workshop

6:15 – 9.15pm/* 6.00- 10.00pm **Please purchase tickets in advance**
Door prize "pooled food" for mid-evening buffet Everyone is welcome No dance experience/partner req'd

If you wish to know more or join any of the classes then please contact Ken & Lisa:

www.foreveryungdance.co.uk

Email: yungdance@icloud.com

Please check our Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/foreveryungdance/>



News from the Valley

Messages from Rothbury GP Practice

NPC Rothbury
1d · 🌐

Taking paracetamol during pregnancy remains safe and there is no evidence it causes autism in children.
Find out more 📄 <https://orlo.uk/kqVHK>



Taking paracetamol during pregnancy remains safe

The Rothbury Practice

2 days ago · 🌐

Urgent treatment centres are here to help you if you have an injury or illness that requires URGENT attention but is NOT life-threatening.

They can diagnose and deal with many of the most common issues people go to A&E for including:

- broken bones and sprains
- injuries, cuts and bruises
- wound dressing
- stomach pain
- coughs, colds and breathing problems
- vomiting and diarrhoea
- skin infections and rashes
- fever in children and adults

They're open at least 12 hours a day every day.

Not sure which health service is best for your needs?

Use NHS111 online 24/7 to get assessed and directed to the right place for you.

www.nhs.uk

#NHS #HereToHelp

Rothbury Community Hospital, our local hospital: If you, or a loved one, are interested in a residential place please either email rothbury@pfcare.co.uk or telephone People First Care at their Wooler site on 01668 281 662; ask for Amanda Cowell. Here is a link to a virtual tour of the facility, you can see how lovely and homely it is: <https://youtu.be/Aw5UkCMj9Yo> Or find Rothbury Cottage Care on You Tube.

The Coquet Valley Archers Club

Under 18's must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you wish to know more why not join up and come along to our twice monthly Sunday sessions. For more information email: info@coquetvalleyarchers.org



NEW: The Coquetdale Music Trust – Thropton at 7.30pm

Friday 13th February:	Tony McManus and Julia Toasper
Sunday 22nd February:	Filkin's Drift
Saturday 7th March:	Celia Bryce Band
Thursday 7th May:	Gavin Fairhall Lever
Sunday 13th September:	Claude Bourbon
Monday 9th November:	Toby Shaer, Archie Moss & Jack Warnock

Tickets on sale at Tully's, or see website: www.coquetdalemusictrust.com
Or contact: lesleyhallcoquetdalemusictrust@gmail.com

All Concerts start at 7.30pm and feel free to bring your own refreshments

COQUETDALE YOUNG FARMERS

You don't have to be a farmer to be part of Young Farmers as it is a rural, youth based organisation for anyone interested in rural and countryside activities. Coquetdale Young Farmers Club warmly invites anyone interested in becoming a member to join them. The club meets usually once a week on a Monday night and welcomes anyone between the ages of 14 - 26. It is a great way to meet friends and get involved in competitions and other activities.

Interested? Then please contact Lauren Clark on 07788724835 for more information.

Over the Bridges: The Church & Community Magazine for Upper Coquetdale is available online at: www.overthebridges.org



Forthcoming Events for 2026

- 16th February, 10am: Chris Wright – Bird Migration
- 16th March, 10am: Susie Finlayson – The Great Tapestry of Scotland
- 20th April, 10am: Bob Pullen: Sleep and Dreams
- 18th May, 10am: Teresa Barnard: The Enlightenment Lunatics
- 15th June, 10am: AGM
- 15th June: Afternoon Tea
- 20th July, 10am: Nick Lewis: The Cultural Significance of The Farne Islands
- 17th August: Outing: The Great Tapestry of Scotland
- 21st September, 10am: Margaret Bozic: The History of The Lit & Phil
- 19th October, 10am: Poems and Music on the theme of Autumn
- 22nd November, 10am: Annual Lecture: Dr Chris Ferguson: Anglo-Saxon Northumbria, a maritime kingdom
- 21st December, 10am: Fool's Gold – The Blaydon Races Show, Stories, and Live Music around this iconic Geordie folk song

Everyone is welcome to come along to these talks. Non-members simply pay £2 on the door which includes light refreshments. All talks take place in the Jubilee Hall - here's what's coming up over the next few months.

To find out more about Coquetdale u3a, visit www.coquetdale.u3asite.uk

Membership is only £10 for the year up to April 2026 (or £5 if joining from January). For more information, email us at: coquetdale.u3a.secretary@gmail.com

Joining your local u3a is a great way to find and develop new interests and make friends in a relaxed environment. We have monthly get-togethers, quiz nights and trips and visits. The interest groups that are the lifeblood of an u3a and at Coquetdale u3a we offer a broad range of groups, just look at the list below:

Art Appreciation	Book Groups	Ceilidh Dancing	Creative Writing
Cycling	Discussion Group	Board games	Food and Drink
Gardening	Music Appreciation	Nordic Walking	Poetry
Railways and Modelling	Spanish Conversation	Table Tennis	Vegetarian Food
Walking Group	Natural History	Knit & Stitch	

Susie, Coquetdale u3a Group Coordinator



COQUETDALE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Reg. Charity No. 508289

About us: The Coquetdale League of Friends, a local registered charity, has been run for the last 46 years by volunteers. Our aim is to support health providers and those who rely on their services in the Coquet Valley. We do this by raising funds and managing donations so that we can help our health care providers give their patients the best health services in this very rural area.

Join: We are always very happy to welcome new Friends. If you would like to get involved please contact the Secretary at cathyjacob@hotmail.com. We are particularly in need of anyone with social media or web building skills.

Donate: We are only able to continue our work supporting the nurses and doctors working in the Coquet Valley and their patients because of the money generously donated by the public. If you would like to donate our bank account details are as follows:
Lloyd's Bank, Sort code: 30-99-50, Account number: 20679463





NEW: Rothbury Rubbish Friends

Rothbury Rubbish Friends are aligning their dates with the Coquetdale Repair Café sessions. So we will be meeting every six weeks, for a community litter pick and get together for a cuppa, in the Jubilee Hall, at 11.00am. All welcome. The first community litter pick of the year is on **21st February, 2026**.

Meet in the Haugh Car Park at 10.00am, litter pick till 11.00, then join us for a cuppa and chat. See our posts on the Rothbury Rubbish Friends Facebook Group, or email Katie Scott at rothburyrubbishfriends@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.



NEW: Coquetdale Creatives

Rothbury Poetry, Writing, and Music Events take place on the first Wednesday of each month, except January and August. We have a guest writer and guest musician. Audience members can also share their work or perform a song or tune.

Email Katie Scott at Coquetdale.creatives@gmail.com or check out the website for more information, and to see who the guest artists are: www.coquetdalecreatives.art



NEW: Rothbury Climate and Nature (CAN)

Rothbury CAN holds monthly meetings for members and supporters to socialise and share ideas. If you would like to come along keep an eye on the Rothbury CAN Facebook group, or email Katie Scott at rothbury.can@gmail.com. See our website for more information www.rothburycan.org

The Rothbury Tree Trail

A new tree has been added to this popular, circular, walk. The Fastigate Yew in All Saints Church Yard is waiting to tell you her stories. This includes information about the church itself, told by Jeff Reynolds. Also stunning music by local group *Tillering Tree*. Free! Download via the Rothbury Tree website: [Climate And Nature](http://ClimateAndNature.com) | [Rothbury Trees Uk](http://RothburyTreesUK.com)



Next Coquetdale Repair Café for 2026:

10 am-2 pm in the Jubilee Hall, Rothbury

Saturday 21st February
Saturday 27th June

Saturday 25th April
Saturday 19th September

Saturday 21st November

Broken toaster? Torn clothes? Broken zips? Garden items need sharpening?
Damaged picture frames? Dodgy chair? Loose garden fork handle? Don't bin it! Fix it!

Please visit us on Facebook and Twitter (@CoquetRepair) or <https://www.coquetrepair.co.uk/> for the latest information on how you can have your broken items repaired, learn repairing skills & have a cuppa, cake & a chat. **New Volunteers always welcomed**, especially if you have electrical/woodwork expertise or have a specialist area like mending clocks for example. If interested please email the group.





Coquetdale Amateur Dramatic Society

Affiliated to N.O.D.A.

Presents...

Alice In Wonderland

A Pantomime by Ben Crocker

CADS is back again with another fabulous pantomime. This year we will be bringing you the delights of 'Alice In Wonderland'. Tickets will be on sale from the 2nd of January 2026 and can be purchased at Tully's Rothbury or via this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FNWW>.

Show Dates:

Sunday 1st February 2:30pm

Thursday 5th February 7:30pm (Cabaret)

Friday 6th February 7:30pm

Saturday 7th February 5pm

Ticket Prices:

Adults £12 • Children £6 • Under 5 Free

We'll see you in February!

(Oh Yes We Will)



Cost of Living Sources of Information

Alnwick District Food Bank:

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY!

AND YET 1 in 4 CHILDREN ARE NOW LIVING WITHOUT ENOUGH FOOD

We currently need tinned fish, meat, baking goods, pasta sauce or curry sauce, biscuits and tinned vegetables.

We currently have sufficient pasta, baked beans and chocolate; thank you.

We always appreciate donations of stout carrier bags and cloth bags.

Contact points

- Call us on 07957 298057 and leave a message
- email us at coquetdale.hub@gmail.com

DROP OFF POINTS: Rothbury Co-op, Thropton Spar, The Star Inn in Harbottle, The Running Fox and St Mary's Longframlington.

"We want to thank you all plus The WI, The Coquetdale Singers and the lady golfers who have always so generously supported the Foodbank."

Your kindness makes a big difference. THANK YOU!

The Coquetdale Foodbank

The Citizens Advice Service for free, confidential information and advice on benefits, debt, housing and employment problems. You can obtain help from us in a number of ways:

- By telephoning Northumberland Advice line on 0808 278 7944
- For energy advice 01670 339749.
- Help claiming universal credit 0800 144 8444. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm. Closed Bank Holidays.
- By calling into our drop-in sessions: 10-12 on **Tuesday mornings**.

Debt advice is also available:

- **Monday to Friday on 01670 339960 or text DEBT to 81400**
- By going on-line at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/northumberland



NEW: Warm Hubs: created by CAN as places within the local community where people can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy refreshments, social activity, information and advice and the company of other people'. The local Warm Hubs currently available are in The Star Inn in Harbottle, Hepple, Thropton War Memorial Hall, Rothbury Jubilee Hall, Longframlington and Coquetdale Lunch Club.

Did you know.....there are cheaper social tariffs out there for broadband?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cheaper-broadband-for-struggling-families-14-august-2022>

Travelling to the EU? Check your EHIC expiry date. If expired, apply for a free GHIC via the NHS site to provide access to state run hospitals and GPs in the EU for the same price as a local. Travel insurance is still advisable.

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

Energy Advice in Rural Northumberland:

<https://energyadvicenorthumberland.org.uk/our-work/>

Pension Credit:

To calculate if you are eligible use:

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>

For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>

Don't miss out if you are eligible. If in doubt then check it out as it will help with paying for fuel over winter.

Travelling to Europe? Don't get caught out by the 10 year rule

UK travellers used to be able to carry up to nine months left on an old passport over to a new one.

This meant that a passport could be valid for more than 10 years.

This did not matter when the UK was a member of the European Union (EU).

But the rules changed after Brexit, and the majority of EU countries no longer accept British passports which were issued more than 10 years before the date of travel.

This is known as the "10-year rule".

To enter those countries now, your UK passport must:

- have been issued less than 10 years before the date you enter the EU country (i.e. the "date of issue")
- be valid for at least three months after the day you plan to leave (i.e. the "date of expiry")

If your passport does not meet these requirements, you will be refused entry.



It is always worth checking in with **Moneysaving expert Martin Lewis** to read about his latest advice on energy bills, rising mortgages and the cost of living crisis.

Landlines are changing

BT is the first telecoms company to axe the timetable that would have seen the nation's old landlines replaced with digital phone lines by December 2025. The timeline for completing the transition has been pushed back to the **end of January 2027...but companies are working on this switchover NOW.**

In power cuts: the new digital phone services will not work. If you do not have a mobile phone or reception then your provider should give you a battery back up so that you are not cut off if there is a power cut. Remember to check how long the offered battery pack lasts for and discuss if it is sufficient to cover the length of power cuts that we usually endure.

If you are worried about being switched over based on your lack of mobile phone or internet, or our poor history of power cuts, or rely on personal fall alarms or burglar alarms, or have medical worries that require access to 999 etc.then get in touch with your provider NOW and check if your devices will work with this new enforced digital connection.

This is especially important for those who rely on Telecare alarms. Providers need to know this information to ensure customers continue receiving Telecare services without disruption during the switchover.

For more information: www.digitalphonesswitchover.com

Out-reach Post Office Services **(aka Find Bessie)**



Day	Location	Time
Monday	Hepple Post Office	9.00 am - 10.00 am
	Netherton Village Hall	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
	Holystone Church	1 pm - 2.30pm
	Hepple Post Office	3.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Tuesday	Thropton Village Hall	10.00 am - 12.00 noon
	Hepple Post Office	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Wednesday	CLOSED	
Thursday	Rochester Village Hall	9.15 am - 11.15 am
	Otterburn Village Hall	12.00 noon - 2.00 pm
	Hepple Post Office	2.30 pm - 5.30 pm
Friday	Hepple Post Office	9.00 am - 1.00 pm
	Hepple Post Office	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Saturday	Hepple Post Office	9.00 am - 12.30 pm

Northumberland National Park

There are always plenty of activities and sites to visit across the whole of the Northumberland National Park.

For more information please check the website: <https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/whats-on/>



Some Ideas for the Coming Months

NEW: Cragend Farm: "Cragside's little neighbour with a big story to tell!"

Cragend Farm for Historic Tours every Tuesday and Wednesday from May to October plus B&B & Self Catering Accommodation. All visits must be booked in advance.



Cragend Farm is opening its gates for three one day visits to walk **"The Tree Trail."**

With a collection of specimen trees planted by Lord Armstrong of Cragside, the newer plantation and The Great Northumberland Forest additions, Cragend Farm is now offering the opportunity to see parts of the Estate not usually open to the public, in order to see the Tree Evolution from the Blackburn to the River Coquet, and up to The Cragside Estate border.

The dates are: Tuesday May 12th	2 - 3.30pm
Tuesday June 9th	2 - 3.30pm
Tuesday July 7th	2 - 3.30pm

Booking in advance required as limited numbers.

Bring sensible outdoor attire, picnic snacks in rucksack and a thermos of something hot or cold (weather dependant). This trail is rugged and varied with wet and steep areas plus craggy and pastoral areas.

Cragside's little neighbour with a big story to tell, Cragend Farm, was featured on TV's 'Matt Bakers Travels with Mum and Dad' On More 4 Series 3.: Since being featured a book has been written about the findings at the farm called: Transformation: Lord Armstrong's Cragend Farm and is available to buy from Tully's and Soulsby's in Rothbury.

01669-621533
shaunrenwick@cragendfarm.co.uk
lourenwick@cragendfarm.co.uk
www.cragendfarm.co.uk

Holidays Heritage Farming
Cragend Grange, Cragend Farm.
Rothbury, Northumberland.
NE65 7XN



Historic Houses Member.
See what's going on at Cragend Farm.Socials @cragendfarm



Gift Vouchers are also available for tours - ideal for birthdays, thank yous and Father's/Mother's Day.





NEW: Coquetdale Wildlife Group

A local community wildlife group affiliated to Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Please come along and join the Coquetdale Wildlife Group
for our programme of interactive wildlife and nature talks.

For our current programme we have the following talks scheduled:

Monday 2nd February

“The Missing Lynx Project”

by Faye Whiley

Monday 2nd March

“The Colours of Summer - Butterflies in the Lowick area”

by John Daniels

Monday 13th April

AGM

followed by

“Using technology and advances in AI in Red Squirrel Conservation”

by Ian Glendinning

@ 7:30pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury

(Teas & coffees available from 7pm)

Please come along and join us. Visitors are always welcome (£4 per talk for non-members) .

For further details please contact Lorna (lornaholystone@gmail.com)



A "Local hero" for a skill set of being able to make, mend and weld all manner of items from broken lawn mowers to washing machine drum burn bins on legs!

If you have completed your last cut of the season and your trusty lawn mower needs a pampering before Spring, then please consider bringing it in for a service.



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in any products, please contact us
by telephone:-
01669 620755

or by email:-
enqs@newtownengineering.com
or
stores@newtownengineering.com

September 2025

Our latest "Local Hero" Alert goes to Michael and Tim at **Colliedog Computers in Rothbury**, who carefully took me step by step through the process of buying my new PC and transferring everything so that it looked as familiar as possible in order to assist a bear of little brain!

Just look at all they can do to help you with your computing challenges:
<https://colliedogcomputers.co.uk/what-we-do/>

*"And last, but not least, we offer free advice! Call us, send a message, send a tweet, or better yet,
simply walk into our shop in Rothbury and talk to us face-to-face;
we will listen to you and do our very best to answer your questions and solve the problem."*

Messages from Rothbury GP Practice

The Rothbury Practice
1 August at 20:20

Please remember A&E is for genuine life-threatening emergencies only!

If you do go to A&E and your medical need is not life-threatening you will experience significant delays.

Getting the right care, in the right place, can be quicker and closer to home...

Think:

- pharmacy first
- GP
- NHS111 online - or by phone - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - they can help assess and direct you to the right place to go

#NHS #HeretoHelp

NHS

A&E

is for life-threatening emergencies only

Think pharmacy, GP & NHS 111 first.

HERE TO HELP

About our urgent treatment centres (UTCs)

Did you know?

Our UTCs have an appointment service.

Call **NHS 111** and they can book an appointment. You will see a doctor or nurse practitioner depending on your need.

You won't have to wait as long. Simply turn up for your appointment slot.

UTC
09.00 AM
09.30 AM
10.00 AM

building a caring future

NPC Rothbury
14 November at 18:00

UTCs are for certain urgent care needs. Conditions like:

- Minor head injuries
- Sprains and minor fractures
- Minor skin infections and wounds
- Minor allergic reactions

If you're not sure, check with NHS 111. They can book appointments at our UTCs.

You can find urgent treatment centres at these hospitals:

- Alnwick Infirmary
- Berwick Infirmary
- Hexham General Hospital
- Wansbeck General Hospital

More details and opening times - <https://orlo.uk/M14Eo> See less



POT HOLES DON'T REPORT THEMSELVES!

Have a go after every journey as it is very easy to do. www.northumberland.gov.uk, scroll down and click on Report a Pothole. Alternatively phone 0345 600 6400. How easy is that? Go on, have a go at reporting at least two after each journey. There were far too many reports of tyre and car damage occurring locally in the past year. And don't forget that you can make a claim for the damage.....look for evidence on the above website in case your demon pothole has previously been reported but not repaired. And don't give up on the first refusal letter.



For more info:

Call Paul on 07792
for:



"The Barn" Sessions

"The Barn" Community Workshop is now open
Tuesdays 2pm to 4.30pm
Mens Shed-Wednesdays 10am to 12.30pm
Wednesdays 7pm to 9.30pm

New from 17th January 2023
Mens Shed-Tuesdays 10am to 12.30pm

For more details e-mail: rcybarn@gmail.com

728 262 or search
www.rcybarn.info

COQUETDALE TRANSPORT



Route 16a and 16b Timetable

NEW TIMETABLE FROM 11TH NOVEMBER 2024

	Departure times		
	16a	16a	16a
Tuesday and Saturday Service			
X14 (From Newcastle) arrives Rothbury*	07:23	11:43	14:38
471 (From Alnwick) arrives Rothbury**	N/A	13:05	14:35
Rothbury, Silvertown Lane corner with Garlegh Road	08:10	12:00	14:40
Rothbury, Rothbury Community Hospital	08:13	12:03	14:43
Rothbury, Opposite Queens Head	08:15	12:05	14:45
Thropton, Cross Keys	08:21	12:11	14:51
Snitter, The Cottage	08:25	12:15	14:55
Netherpton, Old Coach House	08:35	12:25	15:05
Alwinton, Phone Box	08:49	12:39	15:19
Harbottle, First School	08:55	12:45	15:25
Holystone, Mill	09:02	12:52	15:32
Hepple, Post Office	09:15	13:05	15:45
Thropton, Three Wheat Heads	09:24	13:14	15:54
Rothbury, Queens Head	09:30	13:20	16:00
Rothbury, Rothbury Community Hospital	09:32	13:22	16:02
Rothbury, Garlegh Road before Silvertown Lane	09:35	13:25	16:05
This Service will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Years Day			
X14 (to Newcastle) arrives Rothbury*	10:00	14:00	17:05
471 (to Alnwick) arrives Rothbury**	09:33	13:33	N/A

	Departure times	
	16b	16b
Thursday Service		
X14 (From Newcastle) arrives Rothbury*	07:23	14:38
471 (From Alnwick) arrives Rothbury**	N/A	14:35
Rothbury, Silvertown Lane corner with Garlegh Road	08:10	14:55
Rothbury, Rothbury Community Hospital	08:13	14:58
Rothbury, Opposite Queens Head	08:15	15:00
Thropton, Cross Keys	08:21	15:06
Snitter, The Cottage	08:25	15:10
Netherpton, Old Coach House	08:35	15:20
Alwinton, Phone Box	08:49	15:34
Harbottle, First School	08:55	15:40
Holystone, Mill	09:02	15:47
Hepple, Post Office	09:15	16:00
Thropton, Three Wheat Heads	09:24	16:09
Rothbury, Queens Head	09:30	16:15
Rothbury, Rothbury Community Hospital	09:32	16:17
Rothbury, Garlegh Road before Silvertown Lane	09:35	16:20
This Service will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Years Day		
X14 (to Newcastle) arrives Rothbury*	10:00	17:05
471 (to Alnwick) arrives Rothbury**	09:33	N/A

Rothbury Shopper's Route

It is essential to book your place via Lesley to avoid disappointment. This **FRIDAY** only service is aimed at the elderly or mobility- impaired, providing door to door service and arrives at Rothbury at approximately 9.45am and leaves around 11am.

Upper Coquetdale Community Healthcare Transport

Visiting Rothbury Hospital or a local surgery? Having trouble getting there? Need a lift?

Upper Coquetdale Community Transport offers a friendly and cost effective Healthcare transport service to help those with no transport to get to their **GP appointments**:
£2 for journeys under 5 miles **£5** for journeys 5-15 miles
£10 if the journey is above 15 miles

We also go to various **regional hospitals**:

Alnwick **£15** Wansbeck/Morpeth **£20**
North Tyneside/RVI/Cramlington/Freeman/Hexham **£25**

Opticians/Dentists/Podiatry/physio and other essential appointments work alongside pricing for regional hospitals according to their locations (unless at Rothbury hospital).

DRIVERS NEEDED: UCCT are looking for volunteer drivers for both the car and the minibus services. If you feel that you could help then please contact Lesley in order to help keep these much valued services on the road.



PARISH OF UPPER COQUETDALE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2026



NEW: The Happenings

We enjoyed very good Christmas services with a full house on Christmas Day, and the Crib and Carol services were both really well attended and quite lovely. It all seems ages ago now and we have had some lousy weather since with a good covering of snow and now more rain than desired!

The Bagie competition at the Rose and Thistle on New Year's Day was a pack out! I don't suppose everyone is there for the competition but it is good fun. Ed Dungait won with a whopper of a turnip, so tootled off with the trophy which had been given a very smart plinth made by last year's winners - the Shells.

Tickets for the curry night have all gone so we should have a good night on Friday. All the curry makers are cooking up the goodies as we go to press, not forgetting the pudding cooks too!

Sadly still no Rector on the horizon so we continue to rely completely on all the marvellous retired clergy and are hugely grateful to them.

Until next time....

Julia

NEW: 200 Club Winners for February 2026



£20: Maisie Metcalfe
£15: Marion Farndale
£10: Philip Blakey

The Parish website has moved: to the Church of England site called **A Church Near You** - and it is important to include the "A": <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/> Simply type in the name of your church e.g. Alnham or the postcode and the site will take you there. Eventually we will probably add a Parish site but at the moment all the information is to be found at each church's page. Please remember it is a growing site and it will take a while to add everything and to make sure we are making the most use of the site.

Alison Ball

The latest copy of The UCRG Newsletter can always be located on this new website [under any of the local churches](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8034/news/notice-sheet/grid/) e.g. Rothbury All Saints/ Notice Sheets section at:
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8034/news/notice-sheet/grid/>

Thank you to Alison for updating this each month and helping to share news around Upper Coquetdale.





Cafe Church at Harbottle Village Hall

A Coquetdale Churches Together event.

ALL WELCOME!

We would love you to join us for an informal service with a cuppa & cake, songs, talk and creative activity. This is an opportunity for all generations to be together.

These services will now be happening monthly on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December), 3-6pm:

2026:

22 nd Feb	22 nd Mar	26 th Apr	24 th May
28 th June	26 th July	23 rd Aug	

For more information or to get involved please contact either:

Catherine Iley:
catherine.iley@gmail.com

Angela Feather
angela.feather@urc-northernsynod.org



New: And finally from all at the UCRG:

Thank you to all who submitted pieces and distribute this community newsletter. It all helps to share news, activities and opportunities up and down the valley and support the UCRG Newsletter's aim to help the valley communicate. We are always on the lookout for items to include from recipes, local activities, local successes, nature watch, items for sale/available/sought, local history etc. Please get in touch and we will try to include it in a future edition. Contact details and 2026 submission deadlines are on p1.

February is on the horizon and with it there is no leap year but there will be lots going on locally as well as...

*British Yorkshire Pudding Day on the 1st – grand!

*St Valentine's Day on the 14th,

*Random Acts of Kindness Day on the 17th

*Shrove Tuesday on the 17th

*Ash Wednesday on the 18th

Plus it will be getting lighter for longer every day, and hopefully warmer and drier. So wrap up warm, enjoy the emerging spring bulbs and catch you again at the end of next month with more news.

Take care

We are still trying to widen the Newsletter coverage, as well as our contact database. We don't have a complete set of contacts for all households in the area. PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? We are grateful to the many that we know of who already print and share copies with their neighbours, especially for those living "off the net." Also, if you have new or old neighbours ask them if they wish to join the blind copied distribution list by asking them to email me, Tracey, on stickypud@harbottle.net and I will add them to my list. Susan also has a distribution list and posts the latest copy on some local social media outlets. It isn't perfect but at least we keep trying to improve it. Thank you.

In addition to these sharing routes, since the start of COVID we have sent out blind emailed copies of each newsletter from our ever increasingly large contact list (new names always welcome so please always check with your neighbours). As many are aware we very occasionally use the same distribution network to speedily distribute additional items that perhaps have missed a newsletter deadline, or may aid people in anticipation of storms, or even help local businesses advertise a sudden bit of information. We always hope that this is acceptable and it has never be excessive (1-2 a year), but just in case anyone out there wishes to sign up only to the newsletters and nothing else, then please let me know via the email above and I can easily put you into a "no extras" mail box.

The UCRG has been established over 20 years as a registered charity. We promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Upper Coquetdale area, consisting of the parishes of Netherton & Biddlestone, Harbottle, Hepple & Alwinton. The charity provides facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations. Throughout the pandemic we were able to continue with our community newsletter in electronic form enabling isolated communities to keep in touch, and renewed batteries and consumables for the Alwinton & Netherton defibrillators in 2021.

In 2022 we funded the provision of a defibrillator in Harbottle village at a cost of £1510 plus the cost of several first aid/defibrillator training courses open to anyone in the local parishes. In 2023 we assisted with the training of members of the local Archery Club and again run a free First Aid Course for 7 locals. In 2024 we have covered the cost of consumables in some local defibrillators, contributed to the mat fundraising efforts of Rothbury Wrestling Academy, assisted in the repair of the trailer belonging to the Coquet Valley Archers and made a donation to Coquetdale Squirrel Group to help them continue their important work.

If you know of a group that may benefit from some funding and they meet the above criteria, then please contact us via jsirogerson@btinternet.com

If you would like to advertise your business in return for a small donation and reach many local households each month, then please contact Susan Rogerson: jsirogerson@btinternet.com All funds raised, plus extra donations and money provided via fund raising events, help The Upper Coquet Resource Group (UCRG) to keep this voluntary community group going.



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TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01669 650367
EMAIL: ELSDONMEMORIALS@GMAIL.COM

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Please contact me to discuss your requirements: Anna Hindmarsh.

Call/text: 07469249158 * Email: hindmarshequestrian@hotmail.com * PM on Facebook.

My "local" heroes; Pass it on:

Heads2toe: soft tissue and sports/remedial massage therapist Stephen Heads, based in Rothbury but can visit your home. 07921 568965 or <https://www.heads2toe.co.uk/>

Rothbury based Kevin T Coe for fixing plumbing leaks! Friends have been saved recently by Kevin appearing quickly to work his magic. When in need: 07970 539574.



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07825888462

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Twin_trees@yahoo.com

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- Crown lifting
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- Stump grinding
- Pollarding
- Hedge trimming
- Hedge reduction



Wag & Co: We are the only visiting dogs charity befriending older dog lovers in their own homes as well as in care or in hospitals. For further details either to volunteer with your dog or ask us to visit, then please check our web site:
www.wagandcompany.co.uk



Volunteer with your dog
...and help end loneliness in older dog lovers.

We're a community of dog owners sharing our dogs with older dog lovers across the North East.

There are thousands of lonely pensioners who can no longer look after a dog of their own and miss them terribly.

Just a couple of hours a week for a chat and a cuddle with your special dog makes all the difference to someone else's life and probably yours too.

Apply today, we'll make it safe and easy to volunteer.

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www.roseandthistlealwinton.co.uk



<u>Local Private Hire Taxi Service</u> I've just set up as a Private Hire taxi service here in the valley. I live in Netherton so I'm local for the needs of people living and working here. My contact details are as follows: Mobile number 07718 585508 and email rickycvph24@gmail.com Web site details will follow shortly. I have all my NCC licences and insurance in place and started the service recently. Please get in touch and I will get you to where you need to be! Ricky Lawrence	<u>DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS</u> Alnham: the wall of Kings Priory School Field Centre Alwinton: car park on the toilet block wall Biddlestone: wall of No1, Biddlestone Barn, NE65 7DT Clennell: at Clennell Hall Hotel Harbottle: Star Inn courtyard Hepple: on the village hall wall Holystone: Priory Farm wall Netherton: on the village hall wall Sharperton: End wall of Sawmill Close, nr junction Thropton: on the school wall  
<u>DRAKESTONE BUILDING SERVICES</u> Joinery, General Building, Tiling & Decorating Work <u>Billy Gibson</u> Tel: 01669 650206 OR 07979042499 Email: feeshearer@googlemail.com	<u>Collins Fish Van</u> Visits the area on a Thursday: Hepple Post Office: 8.00am Sharperton (on the hill): 8.30am Alwinton Village Green: 9.00am Harbottle (Chapel end then Pub): 9.10am Holystone Post Office: 9.40am
<u>Northumbria Pet Crematorium</u> • Beautiful Peaceful Environment • Compassionate and Caring Service • 100% Guarantee Your Pets Ashes Back • Pick Up & Delivery Service • 24hr Ashes Return Service Tel: 07393 481 561 Email: northumbriapetcrem@gmail.com www.northumbriapetcrematorium.co.uk	<u>POT HOLES DON'T REPORT THEMSELVES!</u> Have a go after every journey as it is very easy to do. www.northumberland.gov.uk , scroll down to TOP TASKS and click on Report a Pothole. Alternatively phone them on 0345 600 6400. How easy is that? NCC defines "an actionable defect" as a pothole of at least 40mm (1.5 inches) deep and a minimum of 300mm (1 foot) in diameter. However, we think that if you aren't happy, then report it!

RMAC Heating: Small business focussing on quality not quantity. With extensive experience in the Heating industry working as engineer and service manager I decided a few years ago to go solo and concentrate on the installation, service and repair of oil, gas and LPG boilers and heating systems. Undertaken work in Upper Coquet area as well as Alnwick & Morpeth. **Trades:** Gas Work, Central Heating & Plumbing. Annual visit to current Harbottle clients occurs in September, but can do more if you wish to coordinate with neighbours for a boiler service...please just get in touch.



Humanities Tutor Available

French, English, History, Classical Civilisation & Ancient Greek

I am a student at the University of St Andrews studying English and Classics with over three years of tutoring experience to GCSE and A-level. Available for enthusiastic, student-led sessions online and in-person!

Email: ibredmaynecontact@gmail.com

Litter Challenge: Enjoy, Respect & Protect our Countryside

Please help; if you see it then please pick it up safely and bin it.

LOCAL EV CHARGING POINTS:

***ALWINTON CAR PARK *HARBOTTLE: IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL**



Updated: Reminder from Northern Power Grid:

Winter is coming...Being winter ready isn't just about getting your big coat out. We know northern winters can be tough. Whilst we will do everything in our power to make sure the cold doesn't dampen our winter season festivities, the weather can be severe enough to damage your local electricity network.

We will do everything we can to prevent this, including spending millions of pounds on maintaining and looking after your power network. But it can still happen, particularly in winter weather. So, as we get ready for the season of fireworks and festivities, it's important that you know what to do and are prepared if your power goes off.

Support available for our customers: If you experience a power cut, the easiest way to report and access the latest information is via our website www.northernpowergrid.com/power-cuts. Alternatively, our teams are here for you 24/7 by calling **105.....store this number on your mobile or address book.**

You can also find some useful hints and tips on our website at www.northernpowergrid.com/what-to-do-in-a-power-cut. Our customer support vehicles are prepared and ready to go out into local communities, where possible.

Power cut advice and tips include:

- Bookmark Northern Powergrid's online power cut map and reporting service on your mobile devices – www.northernpowergrid.com/power-cuts
- Have a charged mobile phone with important numbers saved, including 105, the free national power cut phone line.
- check out our **Be Prepared** page on our website for handy tips on how to manage during a power cut
- Turn off electrical appliances at the socket (this is particularly important for heating or cooking appliances as your power could be restored at any time and potentially cause a safety hazard).
- Keep one light switched on so you know when power is restored.
- Keep a battery-operated or wind-up torch handy – they're much safer than candles.
- Have a grab bag ready in your home with a torch, spare batteries, charged power banks, and a blanket - just in case!
- Check on your elderly or sick neighbours and relatives.
- Ensure you have warm clothing and blankets handy and some food and drink in your home that does not require electricity to heat or prepare it.
- Call 999 in the event of a medical emergency.

If you have **additional needs due to your medical or personal circumstances**, and are not part of our Priority Services Membership, you should consider joining for **free** by visiting [Priority Services Membership](#) on our website or by **calling 0800 169 2996**. This will help us to support you during a power cut. This will include regular updates on the situation and consideration of any need for provision of hot food and alternative accommodation.

Those who can join include customers:

- Of pensionable age
- Who have a hearing or visual impairment
- Who have additional communication needs
- Who are in a vulnerable situation
- Who have young children at home
- Who are disabled, chronically sick, or have a long-term medical condition

Please remember to check on neighbours, friends and family members who may need additional support.

Advice and help with your bills this winter: We know that cold weather can cause worry about energy bills. You can find FREE independent advice from our charity partners on our web site.

Keeping in touch: If your power is ever affected, we might share a link with you to a video with more information. The link is safe to click.

Here for you, whatever the weather : Our teams work 24/7 to look after your power network and keep the lights on. If your power does go off, call us on 105 and we will do everything we can to get it back on as quickly as possible. Our teams will be ready to help whenever you need us.

Stay safe this winter season.

[CONTINUED OVERLEAF.....](#)



An Updated Message from Harbottle Parish Council

CIVIL EMERGENCIES PLAN FOR HARBOTTLE PARISH

Emergencies resulting in loss of power, telephone, mobile telephone, water.
Damage to property

In the Event of Electricity Failure

The Emergency Hub at the Star Inn will come into operation in the event of a long power outage, especially if there is no indication when power will be restored.

A varied response will be needed according to the emergency, but as a general rule:

Loss of power overnight: Emergency hub will open up in the morning and remain open as long as needed.

Loss of power during the day: Emergency hub will open late afternoon/early evening to provide hot food, drinks and hot water.

A sign will be placed outside the Star to indicate that the Hub is open and we will endeavour to spread information by word of mouth or telephone if they are working.

Emergency Centre:

Star Inn, Harbottle: Telephone: 01669 650221
Equipped with generator and providing shelter, heat, hot water and food.

Main Contacts:

Harbottle:	Sue Bolam:	The Old Mill, 01669 650360
Holystone:	Stuart Wardlaw:	Lanternside, 01669 650409
Sharperton:	Joe Ormston:	North Sharperton Farm, 01669 650321

Other contacts:

Simon Kenny, Park House Farm:	01669 650250
Alan Stripp, Well House Cottage:	01669 650324
Northumberland County Council:	01670 627599; 0345 6006400

Other Resources

Two tents, 10m x 15m and 3m x 4m with lights and heaters
Contact: Simon Kenny

Parish Emergency Fund

Held by Harbottle Parish Council
March 2024

As Storm Eowyn raged the Warm Hub Kicked In....Please remember this for next time...



The Star Inn - Harbottle

18h · 🌐

...

Our emergency warm hub is up and running in The Courtyard Barn via the generator. It's toasty warm with a log fire, tea/coffee facilities and WiFi. We also have food and drinks available via the pub/kitchen, eat-in or take-away. Tel: 01669 650221.

Everyone is welcome to use this space whilst the power is off, whether you buy anything or not. [#StaySafe](#). [#storm](#)

