



UPPER
COQUET
RESOURCE
GROUP
Supporting the Local Community
Registered Charity Number: 108388

Upper Coquet Resource Group COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER APRIL 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>	
May	22/04/26	
June	20/05/26	
July/August	24/06/26	DOUBLE ISSUE
September	19/08/26	
October	23/09/26	
November	21/10/26	
December/January 2027	18/11/26	DOUBLE ISSUE

Final call for 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 in response to requests. There are still a few places remaining on this free course which the UCRG fund to help the community. It would be great to be able to fill all of the remaining spaces.

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: jsirogerson@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.

NEW: The Upper Coquet Resource Group 2026 Duck Race

Sunday 28th June, 12 noon
at Shilmoor

Fund raising for the UCRG

The UCRG have been raising money to help fund local groups and activities for over 30 years. Details of their past activities can be found near the end (p26) of this monthly newsletter – another of their long standing contributions to local valley life.. In February 2026 the UCRG donated £400 to help the Coquet River Action Group purchase a new test kit to assist them with their work on the River Coquet. They have also funded the framing of a local banner and another free first aid course. They also fund the replacement parts for local defibrillators.

Funds are raised via the sale of calendars leading up to Christmas, monthly quiz sheets, donations and the duck race. Tickets will be on sale shortly and we are grateful for every penny as it enables us to continue adding to valley life around the Upper Coquet.

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 9/11). 

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Thursday 19th March, from 8pm: Charity Quiz Night in aid of Air Ambulance (p10)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 21st March, from 7.30pm: Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn (p10) 

Cafe Church, Harbottle: Sunday 22nd March: 3.45-5pm: Harbottle Village Hall. All welcome (p9/27)

Drama, Love & Loss during WWII: An exhibition and talk at Thropton Memorial Hall: Friday 27th March: 11am-8.30pm, with a talk at 7.00pm & Saturday 28th March 11am – 4.00pm. Entrance free, but donations welcome to cover costs (p12).

UCRG First Aid course: Saturday 28th March 2026, Harbottle - contact Susan Rogerson to book a place (p1). 

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 28th March, from 8pm: Live Music with Ten Bob Blind in the Bar (p10) 

Maundy Thursday: Thursday 2nd April, 6.30pm: Service at Holystone (p26).

Good Friday: Friday 3rd April, 1pm the children make the Easter Garden at Alwinton followed by an Easter egg hunt (p26)! 

Good Friday Service: Friday 3rd April, 2pm Good Friday service at Alwinton (p26)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 4th April, from 8pm: Acoustic Music Night in the Bar (p10)

Easter Sunday: Sunday 5th April, 10.30am Easter celebration service followed by Easter egg hunt and a glass of sherry (p26)!

Family friendly Easter Bingo: Wednesday 8th April, from 7pm: Harbottle Village Hall. ALL WELCOME. Includes prizes for the children. Fundraiser for Harbottle Show (p8) 

Hepple WI: Thursday 9th April: Charlotte Boxall: Willow Work. Competition: Basket (p5)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 11th April, from 8pm: Live Accordion Music Night (p10) 

The Coquetdale Music Trust: Saturday 11th April, Thropton: Christine Kydd & Alan Reid (p13)

Netherton EASTER Bingo: Saturday 11th April, Netherton Village Hall, 7pm start: All welcome. In aid of Netherton Village Hall (p4). 

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 (p15)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Thursday 16th April, 8pm: Quiz Night in aid of Lily’s World Challenge Trip to Borneo (p10) 

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 18th April, from 7.30pm: Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn (p10) 

DOMINO DRIVE: SATURDAY 18th APRIL, 2 pm start at Netherton Village Hall, plus raffle. Entry: £5 inc TEA/CAKE. All welcome (p4). 

U3A, Rothbury: Monday 20th April, 10am, Jubilee Hall: Bob Pullen: Sleep and Dreams (p14)

UCRG Newsletter deadline: Wednesday 22nd April for the May edition (p1) 

The Coquetdale Music Trust: Thursday 23rd April, Thropton: Holly Clarke (p13)

Repair Cafe: Saturday 25th April, 10am-2pm: Jubilee Hall, Rothbury. Pre-book items (p18)

Social Dance: Saturday 25th April, Harbottle Village Hall: Mellow Yellow with half hour Rumba workshop (p11) 

SAVE SOME DATES continued

- Cafe Church:** Sunday 26th April: 3.45-5pm: Harbottle Village Hall. All welcome (p9/27).
- The Star Inn, Harbottle:** Friday 1st May to Monday 4th May: Beer Festival and Live Music, May Bank Holiday Weekend (p10) 
- The Coquetdale Music Trust:** Thursday 7th May, Thropton: Gavin Fairhall Lever (p13)
- Cragend Farm:** Tuesday 12th May, 2 - 3.30pm: The Tree Trail (p23) 
- Hepple WI:** Thursday 14th May: A.G.M. (p5)
- The Star Inn, Harbottle:** Thursday 14th May, from 8pm: Quiz Night in aid of Harbottle First School (p10) 
- Harbottle Show:** Thursday 14th May at 7pm, Harbottle Village Hall: Committee Meeting. New volunteers welcome (p8).
- The Star Inn, Harbottle:** Saturday 16th May, from 7.30pm: Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn (p10) 
- U3A, Rothbury:** Monday 18th May, 10am, Jubilee Hall: Teresa Barnard: The Enlightenment Lunaticks (p14)
- UCRG Newsletter deadline:** Wednesday 20th May for the June edition (p1) 
- Cafe Church:** Sunday 24th May: 3.45-5pm: Harbottle Village Hall. All welcome (p9/27).
- School Summer Fair:** Saturday 6th June, 10am – 12 noon at Harbottle C of E First School. All welcome (p7).
- The Star Inn, Harbottle:** Saturday 6th June, from 8pm: Acoustic Music Night in the bar (p10) 
- Cragend Farm:** Tuesday 9th June, 2 – 3.30pm: The Tree Trail (p23) 
- Concert:** Friday 12th June, evening, in Alwinton Church. Gareth Davies-Jones, singer/song writer
Tickets and further details to follow (p6/26).
- The Star Inn, Harbottle:** Saturday 13th June, from 8pm: Live music night (p10) 
- Pimms Party:** Sunday 14th June, 12.30pm, Holystone. Advanced ticket purchase preferred. More details to follow. Fundraiser for Alwinton & Holystone Churches (p26).
- UCRG Newsletter deadline:** Wednesday 24th June for the double July & August edition (p1) 
- Social Dance:** Saturday 27th June, Harbottle Village Hall: Around the World with half hour Salsa workshop (p11) 
- UCRG Duck Race:** Sunday 28th June, 12 noon at Shilmoor. Fund raising for the UCRG (p1). 
- Cragend Farm:** Tuesday 7th July, 2 – 3.30pm: The Tree Trail (p23) 
- Music night & BBQ:** Saturday 25th July, 6pm at Alwinton Church: £10 Ticket. More details to follow (p6/26).

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.

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.

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

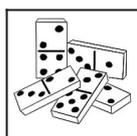


Netherton Easter Bingo



**Saturday 11th April, 7pm start
Netherton Village Hall**

**All welcome
In aid of Netherton Village Hall**



NEW: DOMINO DRIVE

**AT
NETHERTON VILLAGE HALL**

**ON
SATURDAY 18th APRIL 2026**

2 pm start

RAFFLE

ENTRY: £5 TO INCLUDE TEA/CAKE

All welcome

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.

Hepple Women's Institute Programme 2025-2026

Thursday Meeting starts at 7.00 pm,
Hepple Village Hall

Pooled supper. Visitors welcome £5

2026

April 9th Charlotte Boxall, Willow Work
Competition: Basket

May 14th A.G.M.

Contributions for raffle prizes will be gratefully received each month.



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.

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

ALWINTON



The Rose & Thistle

We have new menus to explore, so please come along and enjoy our traditional country pub deep in the heart of the wonderful Northumberland National Park.



ALWINTON CHURCH

NEW: Music and BBQ:

Saturday 25th July at Alwinton Church. Artists include Alistair Anderson, The Sturdy Beggars, James Tait, Mac Fielding & Cat O'Neil.

£10 Ticket contact Sharon or Julia.

More details to follow in due course.

NEW: Concert : A Troubadour Journey – Back to the Trails

Friday 12th June, evening, in Alwinton Church.

Gareth Davies-Jones, singer/song writer will perform songs inspired by his visit last year to Barrowburn en route to Lindisfarne:

<https://www.garethdavies-jones.com/home>

Tickets £10 – can be purchased via the website above or on the door. Further details to follow.

A Troubadour Journey - Back To The Trails : Alwinton Church

🕒 Fri, Jun 12 @ 7:30PM

📍 St Michael & All Angels Church, Alwinton, Northumberland

A special series of concerts as Gareth brings the new songs back to the trails that inspired them.

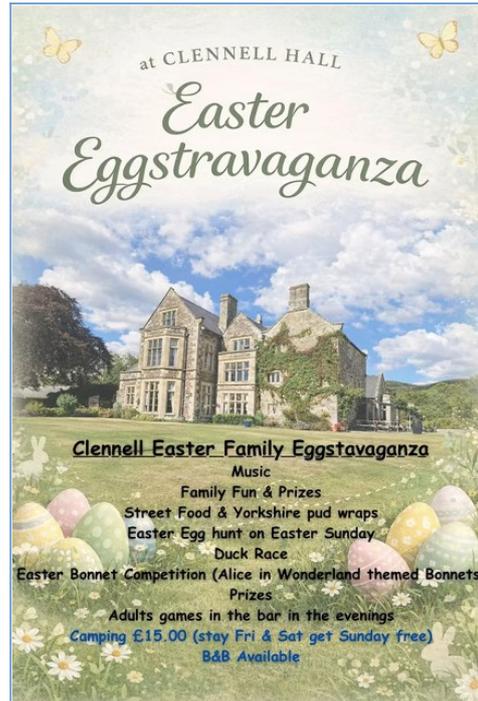
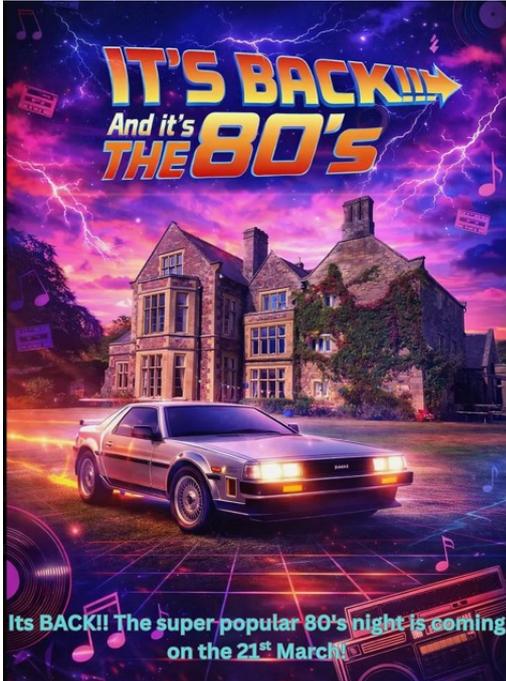
TONIGHT - Back to Coquet Valley and the beautiful surroundings of Alwinton Church in the foothills of the Cheviots. PLEASE NOTE: Doors Open 7pm, Concert starts 7.30pm.

In June 2025 singer-songwriter Gareth Davies-Jones walked from the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to Durham Cathedral via St Oswald's Way and The Way of Light (Northern Saints Trail). Wending their way through a captivating landscape of coast, castles, valleys and mountains, these special routes transport the traveller through the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria, land of the Northern Saints and cradle of the industrial revolution. As Gareth walked he carried a small guitar on his back and performed concerts for local communities everywhere he stopped. The journey provided the inspiration and raw material for a new album of original songs written on retreat at The Nightfold in the Cheviot Hills and back on Lindisfarne at the St Cuthbert's Centre in the Autumn of 2025. The new album, recorded with producer and guitarist Graeme Duffin (WetWetWet!) in Glasgow and called "A Troubadour Journey : Lindisfarne to Durham" is released in physical form on Friday 24th April 2026 and on all streaming services from June 2026.

During 2026 Gareth takes "A Troubadour Journey" on tour to selected venues. The concerts will gather together the stories and experiences woven into new music from his time walking through these beautiful parts of Northumberland and Durham. For audiences the events promise a vivid and entertaining musical encounter with the sights, sounds, history and contemporary heart of these Northern pilgrimage trails. As well as the new material, the concerts will also feature selected songs from across Gareth's career that capture a sense of journeying and particularly the spirit of the Northern Trails - for example "Lindisfarne" about Eadfrith and the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels.

CLENNELL

NEW: Clennell Hall Hotel



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: Harbottle C of E First School

We have moved our Easter fair to ensure that all of our farming families / community can attend and support. So, this year our fair will be a Summer event, to be held on Saturday, June 6th - 10am to 12pm.

Please come along and help us to mark the end of Spring and the beginning of Summer whilst having fun and raising funds for our wonderful school.

Easter



BINGO

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

NEW:

Harbottle Show
Saturday 5th September 2026

New volunteers always very welcome – please get in touch:
www.harbottleshows.com

NEW:

Harbottle Show Committee Meeting
Thursday 14th May at 7pm
Harbottle Village Hall

New volunteers always very welcome – please come along.

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, Music Evenings, community consultations, museum exhibitions, mindfulness training plus youth and toddler groups.

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	3.45 - 5 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, Viennese Waltz and Slow Foxtrot

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, 3.45-5pm:

22 nd March	26 th April
24 th May	28 th June
26 th July	23 rd August

For more information or to get involved please contact either:

Catherine Iley:
catherine.iley@gmail.com

Angela Feather
angela.feather@urc-northernsynod.org



A very peaceful spot for a Sound Bath.



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>Thursday 19th March, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Charity Quiz Night in aid of Air Ambulance</i> |
| <i>Saturday 21st March, from 7.30pm:</i> | <i>Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn</i> |
| <i>Saturday 28th March, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Live Music with Ten Bob Blind in the Bar</i> |
| <i>Saturday 4th April, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Acoustic Music Night in the Bar</i> |
| <i>Saturday 11th April, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Live Accordion Music Night</i> |
| <i>Thursday 16th April, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Quiz Night in aid of Lily's World Challenge Trip to Borneo</i> |
| <i>Saturday 18th April, from 7.30pm:</i> | <i>Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn</i> |
| <i>Friday 1st May to Monday 4th May:</i> | <i>Beer Festival and Live Music, May Bank Holiday Weekend</i> |
| <i>Thursday 14th May, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Quiz Night in aid of Harbottle First School</i> |
| <i>Saturday 16th May, from 7.30pm:</i> | <i>Cheviot Folk Night in The Courtyard Barn</i> |
| <i>Saturday 6th June, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Acoustic Music Night in the bar</i> |
| <i>Saturday 13th June, from 8pm:</i> | <i>Live music night</i> |

We enjoy this time of year, spring on its way with better weather and more customers through the door. Our cottage and rooms are open for bookings and it's nice to see the calendars filling up for the year ahead.

We will continue to open 7 days a week for the year ahead (closed Christmas Day), serving food all day between 12 noon and 8pm (8.30pm on a Friday and Saturday).

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. We will have 10 real ales on draught plus live music scheduled throughout the weekend... check out our website for further information!

As we are starting to plan for busier times we are currently looking for a chef or cook to join our team. Working for the Head Chef, this position will work across a 7 days rota with typically 2-3 days off each week. We are also interested in recruiting a young person interested in a catering career, to train alongside going to college. Please get in touch if you're interested, or let your friends/family know if you think they'd fit one of the roles.

Thank you for your ongoing support, it's very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you over the warmer days ahead 😊.

Kind regards

Karen

<p>The Star Inn, Harbottle Morpeth Northumberland NE65 7DG</p>	<p>Tel: 01669 650221 Email: info@thestarinnharbottle.co.uk Website: www.thestarinnharbottle.co.uk Follow us on Facebook - twitter - Instagram</p>
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Forever Yung Dance Classes in Harbottle Village Hall



Focus Dance Fridays 6 - 6.55 pm
 We are currently learning how Samba, Viennese Waltz
 and Slow Foxtrot:
 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
 8:00 - 8:55pm
 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**
 Wednesday Mornings
 10: 00- 10:55am
Beginner PLUS
 Wednesday Mornings
 11:00 - 11:55am
 Non partner form of
 Ballroom & Latin
 Dancing.
 Great exercise
 and lots of fun.

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

PLUS Tango & Quickstep!
£45 per 8 week program

£25 per
4 week program



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

2026 Community Social Dances at Harbottle Village Hall

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/>

NEW: The Coquetdale Music Trust – Thropton at 7.30pm

Saturday 11th April: Christine Kydd & Alan Reid
Thursday 23rd April: Holly Clarke
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

ROTHBURY

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.

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

NEW



ATTENTION ALL FEMALE WANNABE GOLFERS – Have you ever fancied giving golf a try?

ROTHBURY GOLF CLUB are participating in the 'Get into Golf' program for 2026

3 x 1 hour group beginner lessons with a female professional golfer for just £35

Proposed dates: 16th & 23rd April and 7th May

Proposed times: 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm and 6.30pm to 7.30 pm

All equipment will be provided so why not secure your place and give it a try? (min age 18)

Please contact Sharon for further details:

Call 07500 694912 or email sharon.wright2017@outlook.com

Booking is essential

We look forward to welcoming you

Retired? Or semi-retired? Thought about joining U3A?

Forthcoming Events for 2026

- 20th April, 10am: Bob Pullen: Sleep and Dreams
- 18th May, 10am: Teresa Barnard: The Enlightenment Lunaticks
- 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



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 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)

NEW:

ROTHBURY AND COQUETDALE FOR TOWN OF CULTURE 2028



A small, but growing, band of volunteers are working on making an Expression of Interest for a bid for Rothbury and Coquetdale to be the 2028 Town of Culture!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-town-of-culture-2028-expression-of-interest/uk-town-of-culture-2028-expression-of-interest-guidance-for-bidders>

Yes, this sounds audacious. But we all know that Rothbury and Coquetdale has a long and proud cultural history; and that a great many people today are doing wonderful things for our unique area. From the many *many* conversations happening about this heritage, about our past, combined with our active and inspiring present, it is clear that lead to an incredibly exciting future. The geographical area for the bid, is from the source of the Coquet, following along to Brinkburn. Water is a key theme - and the River Coquet is silver thread linking our communities.

Would you like to help us in this courageous adventure?

Our Story

This is what the EOI asks for:

1. *Your story: tell us about the unique story and culture of your town*
2. *Culture for everyone: tell us how you will design a cultural programme which will provide visible, accessible, culture that boosts the profile of your town*
3. *Making it happen: tell us how you will deliver a successful programme.*

If there are a great many Expressions of Interest for the judges to look at in detail, they will look at only one aspect – ‘**our story**’. This area therefore demands a good deal of attention. This is why the views of everyone the volunteers can find, are the views which will inform the EOI.

1. Our Story: Voices of the Coquet

Rothbury and Coquetdale are places where nature, heritage, and culture are inseparable. The Valley's identity is shaped by the River Coquet, the Simonside ridge, and the upland farms and moorland that have sustained shepherding, wool, weaving, wrestling, poetry, music, and rural craft traditions, for centuries.

Music, poetry, dialect, and storytelling run through the valley's history, from the Shepherds' music, to the Rothbury Traditional Music Festival and Highland Pipe Band, the Annual Shows, and contemporary poets, musicians, creatives, and photographers, *and more*.

We have an incredible heritage and culture, hewn from our landscape and people. The churches of Rothbury, Thropton, and Upper Coquetdale remain cultural anchors, hosting music, poetry, festivals, and intergenerational gatherings. These well-established traditions and legacies can be drawn on to tell our story, and create a substantial bid. **If you can add to this, or help, please get in touch. Everyone's voice needs to be heard.**

We recognise that we have very little time, and we have a steep hill to climb, but wouldn't it be amazing if we got through to the next stage? If we do, we would be allocated £60,000 to make a full and detailed bid! The winning town receives £3m. Two runners up, £250,000 each.

Thank you for reading, and we hope to hear from you.

The Rothbury Town of Culture Team: email: rothburytownofculture2028@gmail.com

From the parish
of Alwinton



To the parish of
Brinkburn



And everywhere between



“Our voices shall
with cheerful sound



Make hill and valley echo round”

Voices of Coquetdale

Help Rothbury (& Coquetdale) to be the
FIRST Town of Culture in 2028

*Tell us your story: contact the RTOC team on
rothburytownofculture2028@gmail.com*





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 on Saturday 25th April.

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.



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



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 | Rothbury Trees Uk



Next Coquetdale Repair Café for 2026:

10 am-2 pm in the Jubilee Hall, Rothbury

Saturday 25th April

Saturday 27th June

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.

NEW: Wild Garlic Season has arrived - time to search out those recipes for homemade wild garlic pesto or pickling the flowers (akin to capers). Don't forget to ask permission to pick first.

NPC Rothbury
4h · 🌐

! Important information: Meningitis B cases in Kent
We are aware of recent confirmed cases of Meningitis B in Kent and want to make sure our patients have the information they need to stay safe and seek help promptly.

◆ Meningitis symptoms
These can develop quickly. Symptoms may include:

- A high fever
- Severe headache
- Neck stiffness or difficulty bending the neck
- Sensitivity to light
- Cold hands and feet
- Vomiting
- Drowsiness, confusion, or irritability
- Rash that does not fade when a glass is pressed against it (not always present)

◆ When to seek urgent help
If someone has symptoms of meningitis do not delay in seeking medical attention. Contact your GP surgery if available but if not, go directly to the nearest emergency department.

◆ Vaccination information
The routine NHS immunisation programme currently only offers the Meningitis B vaccine to pre school children. If your child has been invited for immunisation please be sure to book an appointment get them the protection the vaccine provides.

Selective vaccination programmes may be introduced for other high risk groups if advised by public health authorities, but it is not routinely available for older children and adults.

You can check your own vaccination history through the NHS App and that of your child in their Red Book. For instructions using the NHS app please follow this link: Setting up the NHS App

◆ Further information
For full, reliable guidance on meningitis, please visit the NHS meningitis information page 🖱️ <https://orlo.uk/2oHd2>

About our urgent treatment centres (UTCs)
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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.

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

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**

NHS
FIT FOR THE FUTURE

UK Government

mole looks different

Tap it, type it and we'll take care of it

Service available at majority of GP practices. For info visit nhs.uk/GPOnlineForms

NPC Rothbury
15 February at 00:01 · 🌐

There's another way to contact your GP practice, by simply sending your symptoms and requests through our online form.

Tap it, type it and we'll take care of it.

For more info about online forms, click here 🖱️ <https://orlo.uk/miaTH>

News from the Valley

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



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.

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

NEW: Government Help for Off Gas Grid Homes

The UK Government has announced new financial support for households that rely on heating oil, aimed at helping rural and off-grid communities manage rising energy costs. The support will be targeted at low-income households in rural communities affected by the recent surge in energy prices.

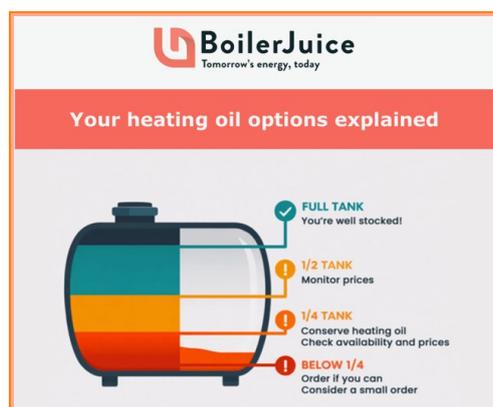
Support for rural & off-grid homes

The funding is intended to support homes **not connected to the gas grid**, many of which rely on heating oil for both home heating and hot water.

Support delivered locally

In **England**, the funding will be distributed by local authorities through the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which comes into effect on 1 April. Councils are expected to confirm how you can apply ahead of it's launch.

Full details about the support scheme are expected to be announced soon, including eligibility criteria, how households can apply or receive support and when the payments will be available.



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.

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

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.

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

British Summer Time (BST)

We will all be springing forward an hour between Saturday 28th March and Sunday 29th March when the clocks go forward at 1am early on Sunday morning.

UK Entry Requirements for Dual Nationals are changing on 25th February 2026

The new requirements are part of changes to the immigration system that aim to streamline and modernise the UK border. Dual nationals will need to show either a British Passport or a new digital version of the certificate of entitlement (£589) to attach to their second nationality passport.

The new rules are linked to the roll out of the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system, which requires visitors to the UK who do not have a visa to apply for a £16 entry document before arriving. The new rules do not affect Irish passport holders but do affect other EU citizens. However these new rules also affect dual nationals who can not apply for a ETA and must meet the new documentation requirements instead.

Check before travel (ideally before booking) as checks will be carried out by airlines when departing en route back to the UK.

For an overview of the changes: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy57p1v61d1o>

Some Ideas for the Coming Months

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.

REMINDER: POT HOLES DON'T REPORT THEMSELVES!

Have a go after every journey as it is very easy to do. www.northumberland.gov.uk , scroll and find Report road/street Issues (top left at present on the web page) - <https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/>

If you consider them to be dangerous or an emergency, please call **0345 600 6400**.

Go on, have a go at reporting at least two after each journey as there are plenty to choose from.

There were many reports of tyre and car damage occurring locally in the past year, so 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 after the first refusal letter.

Coquetdale 500 – that's holes not miles!

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/>

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 are attempting your first cut of the season and your trusty lawn mower needs a pampering, then please consider bringing it in for a service.



R & DM EDMONDSON LTD
t/a **NEWTOWN ENGINEERING CO.**
AGRICULTURAL - HORTICULTURAL - PLANT ENGINEERING
FABRICATION & COUNTRY STORE

Garleigh Road, Rothbury, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 7RG

We have now updated our website,
you can find it here:-
www.newtownengineering.co.uk

You can also now find us on Facebook:-
 Newtown Engineering Co
(please like and follow our page)

If you have any queries or are interested
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.”*

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN A NEW SKILL?
DO YOU ENJOY WOODWORKING?
DO YOU HAVE PRACTICAL SKILL YOU CAN SHARE?

If so we can help each other at

**"THE BARN"
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

Ryehill Framhouse NE65 7NG
(just North of Rothbury)
my three word ### candy.campfires.propelled



For more info:

Call Paul on 07792 728 262 or search for:

www.rcvbarn.info



"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: rcvbarn@gmail.com

COQUETDALE TRANSPORT



Route 16a and 16b Timetable

NEW TIMETABLE FROM 1ST 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 Garleigh 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
Netherton, 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, Garleigh Road before Silvertown Lane	09:35	13:25	16:05
<i>This Service will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Years Day</i>			
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 Garleigh 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
Netherton, 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, Garleigh Road before Silvertown Lane	09:35	16:20
<i>This Service will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Years Day</i>		
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

April 2026



NEW: The Happenings

Now we're in Lent and preparing for the Easter weekend there is plenty happening in the church calendar.

The Lent lunches in the United Reform Church on Friday lunch times have been well supported and the proceeds go to Christian Aid.

We have a service at Holystone on **Maundy Thursday** 2nd April at 6.30pm, and then on **Good Friday**, 3rd April at 1pm the children will make the traditional Easter Garden at Alwinton church followed by a wee Easter egg hunt! Following that at 2pm Bob will take our Good Friday service.

On **Easter Sunday**, 5th April at 10.30am we will hold the Easter celebration and we hope for a full church. This will be followed by an Easter egg hunt and a glass of sherry!

The new batch of **200 Club** tickets are now for sale and all the proceeds from this go towards keeping Alwinton and Holystone churchyards in good order - please ring Julia (630241) if you have missed the opportunity of buying a ticket for £10.

Unfortunately Jackie Bickmore has had to retire as a church warden at Alwinton due to her stroke. Jackie has been a fantastic active presence at our local churches for many years and we are extremely grateful for all that she has undertaken. She took over from husband Rudi, who had also been a warden for years as well as taking on the duty of cutting all the grass for a long time. He and Claire Friend were tremendous wardens and did so much in the church and took stock of all our possessions, which hadn't been recorded for years and, of course, is quite essential nowadays.

There seems to be lots of dates for your diary and we start with our **Pimms Party** again at the super venue of Marion and John's in Holystone on Sunday 14th June at 12.30pm.

We are also going to run a local **music night with a BBQ** with Alistair Anderson, The Sturdy Beggars, James Tait, Mac Fielding & Cat O'Neil all performing for us on Saturday 25th July from 6pm at Alwinton. Please do come along and support us. Tickets are £10 and available via Julia and Sharon.

Plus on evening of Friday 12th June at Alwinton Church there will be a "passing through" singer/song writer **Gareth Davies-Jones** who will play his folk music, much inspired by his time staying at Barrowburn last year en route to Lindisfarne. Tickets and further details to follow.

Lots to take on board but look forward to seeing you!

Until next time....

Julia



NEW: 200 Club Winners for April 2026



- £20: *Stuart Sillars*
- £15: *Olly Latcham*
- £10: *Hazel Warner*

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 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), 3.45-5pm:

2026:

- 22nd March
- 26th April
- 24th May
- 28th June
- 26th July
- 23rd August

For more information or to get involved please contact either:

Catherine Iley:
catherine.iley@gmail.com

Angela Feather
angela.feather@urc-northernsynod.org

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. 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 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 been 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 supports in the interest of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations and is run by local volunteers.

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

Funds are raised each year via the Quiz sheets, Duck Race, Calendars and other activities such as Bingo evenings. We have also been grateful recipients of the proceeds of a Thursday evening Quiz at The Star Inn, Harbottle (Thank you all and Karen). Donations are always welcomed.

Over the years we have supported many local activities and events including the local toddler group, sport equipment in Harbottle Village Hall, purchasing local defibrillators and their cabinets, music events in the church and Young Farmers events.

Throughout the pandemic we were able to continue with our community newsletter by switching to an electronic format thus enabling isolated communities to keep in touch.

In 2021 we covered the costs of renewing the batteries and consumables for the Alwinton & Netherton defibrillators.

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 ran a free First Aid Course.

In 2024 we covered the cost of consumables in some of the 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 conservation work. A grant was also made to fund some new Christmas lights in Harbottle. Harbottle Baby & Toddler Group also benefitted from a grant.

We have recently, February 2026, funded the framing of a Mothers' Union Banner, a piece of local heritage, which will be available to view in Alwinton Church. March 2026 sees us funding yet another free first aid course.

In February 2026 the UCRG donated £400 to help the Coquet River Action Group purchase a new test kit to assist them with their work on the River Coquet.





EM ELSDON MEMORIALS
MJ ROBERTS AND SON
MEMORIAL, VASES AND ENGRAVING SERVICES

ALL ENQUIRIES TO:
ANGI ROBERTS
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01669 650367
EMAIL: ELSDONMEMORIALS@GMAIL.COM

HINDMARSH EQUESTRIAN: Freelance groom covering Northumberland/Scottish Borders. Available for: Coaching/Teaching * Riding- schooling, hacking, jumping, competition * Lunging * All general yard duties: Bringing in/turning out * Competition/ hunt turnout * Plaiting * Trimming * Competition grooming * Pony Club grooming * Holiday cover * Tack cleaning *Holding for vet/ farrier etc. Fully Insured*First aid certificate*Full Pony Club B test*certified freelancer with British Grooms Association*Quad bike ticket



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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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



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<p><u>Local Private Hire Taxi Service</u></p> <p>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:</p> <p>Mobile number 07718 585508 and email rickyvph24@gmail.com Web site details will follow shortly.</p> <p>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</p>	<p><u>DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS</u></p> <p>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</p>  
<p><u>DRAKESTONE BUILDING SERVICES</u> Joinery, General Building, Tiling & Decorating Work</p> <p><u>Billy Gibson</u></p> <p>Tel: 01669 650206 OR 07979042499 Email: feeshearer@googlemail.com</p>	<p><u>Collins Fish Van</u></p> <p>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</p>
<p><u>Northumbria Pet Crematorium</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful Peaceful Environment • Compassionate and Caring Service • 100% Guarantee Your Pets Ashes Back • Pick Up & Delivery Service • 24hr Ashes Return Service <p>Tel: 07393 481 561 Email: northumbriapetcrem@gmail.com www.northumbriapetcrematorium.co.uk</p>	<p><u>POT HOLES DON'T REPORT THEMSELVES!</u></p> <p>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!</p>

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**

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.....](#)

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](#)