Upper Coquet Resource Group
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2026

Supported by

NEW:

The UCRG 2027 Calendars are now on sale.

We are grateful to everyone who makes this fund raising calendar such a success each year, adding vital cash to our pot of money to use locally for good causes such as free First Aid Courses in Harbottle Village Hall or replenishing consumables on local defibrillators.

Our special thanks go to local photographer Ian Glendinning for his generous donation of time spent throughout the year capturing many local scenes in spectacular ways.

The calendars are A4 sized, priced at £10 each and include an envelope. They can even be posted to your chosen recipient….just speak to Susan or Bessie for details and costs.

Your handy Christmas gift solver will be available through:

**The Star Inn, Harbottle*
**Rose & Thistle, Alwinton*
**Greenbrae, Newton*
**Bessie Rogerson, Hepple Post Office*
**Susan Rogerson, Alwinton*

Thank you, your support is very much appreciated.

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.

So if you are having a clear out or just want to help, please pass on any jigsaws to Tracey Boldy, Ann Hennessy or Margaret Ward and we will put them to good use. Alternatively if you wish to buy any then please get in touch.

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).

The UCRG monthly quiz sheets you may see in various outlets can be purchased either when you see them or 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.

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

NEW: Planned 2026 -Jan 2028 dates: submission deadlines with electronic distribution by the end of each month are:

Issue	Wednesday Deadlines	
December/January 2027	**02/12/26**	**DOUBLE ISSUE**
February	20/01/27	
March	17/02/27	
April	17/03/27	
May	21/04/27	
June	19/05/27	
July/August	16/06/27	**DOUBLE ISSUE**
September	18/08/27	
October	15/09/27	
November	20/10/27	
December/January 2028	17/11/27	**DOUBLE ISSUE**

NEW: And from all at the UCRG:

Thank you for opening this latest edition of The Upper Coquet Resource Group Newsletter for November 2026, keep going and hopefully you will find some items of interest.

Catch you next time for our double festive edition and final one of the year. And don't forget the many ways that you can support local groups through the many social events organised such as bingo or quiz nights, and of course the UCRG calendar at only £10!

Hoping the month ahead is kind to you all.

Until next time, take care

Tracey

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/Latin/salsa on Friday evenings. First dance, Father/Bride dance and 1:1 tuition also available (p 13/15).

Music & Memories: Saturday 17th October, open 7pm Harbottle Village Hall. Harbottle Show Memorabilia Display plus folk & blues music from Tillering Tree plus Valerie Fearless & Micky Ball from 8pm. Free entry but donations welcomed and will go towards Harbottle Show (p12).

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 17th October, from 7.30pm: Cheviot Folk Night in the Courtyard Barn (p14)

U3A: Monday 19th October, 10am: Poems and Music on the theme of Autumn (p17)

A&BLHS: Wednesday 21st October, 7.30pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall: Aln & Breamish Local History Society: "Hillforts" talk by Michael Thompson (p18).

UCCT Excursion: Wednesday 21st October: First & Last Brewery tour & lunch at Fountain Café, Bellingham. Depart Rothbury 10am, £6.50 each (tour and lunch not included) (p30).

UCRG Newsletter deadline: Wednesday 14th October for the November edition (p2)

Harden Quarry Talk: Thursday 22nd October, from 7pm at The Rose & Thistle, Alwinton: An UCRG event: Archaeologist Dr Clive Waddington will speak on his team's excavation work at Harden Quarry. Free community event, all welcome (p7).

Cafe Church: Sunday 25th October, 3.45-5pm, Harbottle Village Hall. All welcome (p13/33)

UCCT Excursion: Wednesday 28th October: Manor Walks, Cramlington – Rothbury 10am, £7 each (p30)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Thursday 29th October, from 8pm: Quiz Night in aid of the Alwinton & Holystone Churches with Sharon Graham as Quiz Master. £1.50 entry fee. Raffle donations welcomed (p14).

Coquetdale Wildlife Group: Monday 2nd November @ 7:30pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury: "Roe Deer" by Richard Muggeridge (p19)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Wednesday 4th November, from 8pm: Dominoes League Sign up in the bar (p14)

UCCT Excursion: Thursday 5th November: Elsdon fireworks. Depart Rothbury 5pm, £4 each (p30)

Regenerating Rothbury Event: Friday 6th November, 2-7pm in the U.R.C. Church, Rothbury (p22).

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 7th November, from 8pm: Acoustic Music Night in the bar (p14)

Social Dance: Saturday 7th November: Spooktacular Halloween Dance with half hour Tango workshop (p15)

FIREWORKS & HUGE BONFIRE: Saturday 7th November at 6pm: Trewhitt Hall – NE65 7ET. EVERYONE WELCOME (p5,31)

Coquetdale Music Trust: Monday 9th November: Thropton 7.30pm: Toby Shaer, Archie Moss & Jack Warnock (p16)

Hepple WI: Thursday 12th November: Charlotte Boxall, Christmas Wreaths Workshop Competition: Home-made Christmas Card (p6)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Thursday 12th November, from 8pm: Quiz Night in aid of Harbottle Show 2027 with Stewart Wallace as Quiz Master. £2 entry and raffle donations welcomed (p12).

Cheese & Wine: Friday 13th November, at Newton Farm. Tickets £15, in aid of Alwinton & Holystone Churches (p31,32).

UCCT Excursion: Wednesday 18th November: Heighley Gate Garden Centre; Rothbury 10.30am,£5 (p30)

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Friday 20th November, from 7pm: Coquetdale Y.F.C. Pizza, Pint and Quiz Night – ticket only. In the bar (p14).

The Star Inn, Harbottle: Saturday 21st November, from 7.30pm: Cheviot Folk Night in the Courtyard Barn (p14)

Repair Cafe: Saturday 21st November: 10 am-2 pm in the Jubilee Hall, Rothbury (p20)

SAVE SOME DATES continued

U3A:	**Sunday 22nd November, 10am: Annual Lecture: Dr Chris Ferguson: Anglo-Saxon Northumbria, a maritime kingdom (p17)**
Cafe Church:	**Sunday 22nd November, 3.45-5pm, Harbottle Village Hall. All welcome (p13/33)**
UCCT Excursion:	**Wednesday 25th November: York Christmas Market – depart Rothbury 08.30am, £22 each (p30)**
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Thursday 26th November, from 8pm: Quiz Night in aid of Lily's World Challenge trip to Borneo 2027, £2 entry and donations to raffle welcomed (p14).**
Coquetdale Music Trust:	**Saturday 28th November: Thropton 7.30pm: Grace Smith Trio & Archie Churchill-Moss (p16)**
UCRG Newsletter deadline:	**Wednesday 2nd December for December/January edition, slightly later than usual (p2).**
CHRISTMAS BINGO:	**Wednesday 2nd December, 7.30pm at Rose & Thistle Inn, Alwinton in aid of Alwinton & Holystone Churches. Family friendly fun evening, all welcome (p 8, 31,33)**
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Saturday 5th December, from 8pm: Acoustic Music Night in the bar (p14)**
Netherton Christmas Prize Bingo:	**Saturday 5th December, 7pm eyes down at Netherton Village Hall. Cash bar and raffle. All welcome (p10).**
Christingle Service:	Sunday 6th December at 10.30 am, Alwinton (p31).
Coquetdale Wildlife Group:	**Monday 7th December @ 7:30pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury: "Fungi" by Richard Thompson (p19)**
Hepple WI:	**Thursday 10th December: Christmas Dinner (p6)**
Social Dance:	**Saturday 12th December: Christmas Dance at St Michael's, Alnwick with half hour Viennese Waltz workshop (p15)**
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Saturday 19th December, from 7.30pm: Cheviot Folk Night in the Courtyard Barn (p14)**
"Carols at the Mart" Service:	**Saturday 19th December at 11 am, Rothbury Mart (p31).**
Christmas Carol Service:	**Sunday 20th December, 10.30am Alwinton, followed by mulled wine (p31).**
U3A:	**Monday 21st December, 10am: Fool's Gold – The Blaydon Races Show, Stories, and Live Music around this iconic Geordie folk song (p17)**
Crib Service:	**Thursday 24th December, 11 am at Alwinton Church (p31).**
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Thursday 24th December, noon – 10pm: Christmas Eve, food until 5pm, carols & mulled wine around village tree at 6.30pm, and then Christmas Prize Draw in pub (p14).**
Christmas Day Service:	**Friday 25th December, 11 am at Alwinton Church (p31).**
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Saturday 26th December: Boxing Day noon-10pm with food until 8.30pm, dominoes rally (1pm registration) and optional fancy dress (p14)**
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Thursday 31st December: New Year's Eve celebrations, food until 8pm. Fizz & Fireworks at midnight plus live music tbc (p14).**
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Saturday 2nd January, from 8pm: Acoustic Music Night in the bar (p14)**
UCRG Newsletter deadline:	Wednesday 2oth January 2027 for February 2027 edition (p2).
The Star Inn, Harbottle:	**Thursday 21st January, from 7pm: Burn's Night Supper with entertainment from Roddy Mathews & Malcolm Barrass. Ticket only available from 1st December at £30/head (p14).**
Cafe Church:	**Sunday 24th January, 3.45-5pm, Harbottle Village Hall. All welcome (p13/33)**

TREWHITT HALL

SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS

& HUGE BONFIRE!

ON SATURDAY
7TH NOVEMBER AT 6.00PM

TREWHITT HALL - NE65 7ET

EVERYONE WELCOME

ENTRANCE VIA FIELD GATE
ON SNITTER TO NETHERTON ROAD

ALL PROCEEDS TO
ALWINTON & HOLYSTONE CHURCHES
& THE COQUETDALE SQUIRREL GROUP

ENTRANCE £3
PER ADULT

CHILDREN FREE
FREE SPARKLER

HOT DOGS £4
PUMPKIN SOUP £2
MULLED WINE £3
PERCY SPECIAL £3
BEER £3

HEPPLE

Hepple Village Hall:

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

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

Hepple Women's Institute
Programme 2026-27
Thursday Meeting starts at 7.00 pm in Hepple Village Hall
Pooled supper. Visitors welcome £5

2026

Nov 12th	Charlotte Boxall, Christmas Wreaths Workshop Competition: Home-made Christmas Card
Dec 10th	Christmas Dinner, venue tbc

2027

January	No meeting
Feb 11th	Pie and Pea Supper, followed by Programme Planning **Subs Due**
Mar 11th	Kate Simpson, Talk on her Work as an Artist Competition: Drawing, any Medium
April 8th	Performance by Blyth Tall Ship Sea Shanty Singers Competition: Musical Instrument
May 13th	A.G.M.

Contributions for raffle prizes will be gratefully received each month.

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.

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.

Next week: Harden Quarry Excavation Talk by Dr Clive Waddington

The Upper Coquet Resource Group are delighted to announce that Archaeologist Dr Clive Waddington will speak on his team's excavation work at Harden Quarry on **Thursday 22 October from 7.00 pm at The Rose & Thistle Inn, Alwinton.**

The team, which excavated the site for several months in 2025, found platforms where roundhouses may have once stood and piles of stones cleared by Bronze Age farmers to create fields. Their work suggested that people lived on the Cheviot Hills as far back as 2400 BC. Although they already knew people from this era lived along the river valleys, the uplands were not believed to have been cleared for farming and settlements until late into the Bronze Age. The team also found multiple burial cairns (piles of stones that were used as grave markers) on the site. In these cairns the team found stone grave boxes, which once likely held skeletal remains that had since decomposed, as well as a fully intact pot containing cremated remains.

This will be a free to attend community event and will include a raffle to benefit the ongoing efforts of The Upper Coquet Resource Group to assist community groups, events and necessities such as defibrillator consumables and first aid courses.

We will also have our beautiful 2027 Calendars on sale.

Should anyone wish to donate a raffle prize please contact Margaret Ward, Susan Rogerson, Simon Taylor, Billy Gibson, Gail Johnston, Pauline Burke, Bessie Rogerson or Tracey Boldy. Thank you.

UPPER COQUET RESOURCE GROUP
Supporting the Local Community

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Wednesday 2nd December 7.30pm

at

Rose & Thistle Inn, Alwinton

All welcome for a family friendly evening of fun.

Includes “Children’s Prizes”

Fundraiser for Alwinton & Holystone Churches

CLENNELL

NEW: Clennell Hall Hotel

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 at 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.

Reminder: Netherton Village Hall – Offering a warm space during power cuts

Netherton Village Hall have acquired a standby generator, courtesy of Northern PowerGrid Foundation, to enable us to power the village hall during extended power cuts. That means that we will be able to provide a warm room during the day where people can meet and be able to heat up food, make hot drinks, charge their devices, and use the internet if needed.

With winter approaching, we need to be able to let people in the Hall catchment area who may need these facilities, know as and when they come into operation, so are compiling a list of people to contact as and when it happens.

If you think you would use the hall for any reason during a power cut, or know someone who would, (but who may not get this newsletter), then please get in touch with Siobhan (Hall secretary) on secretary.nwmh@gmail.com or 07786947278.

NEW:

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.

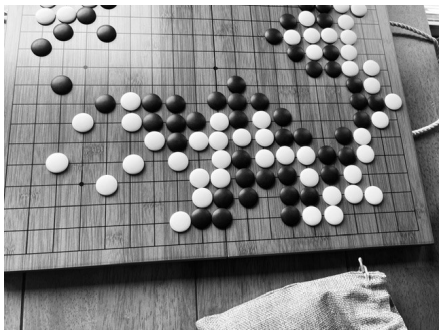
Iyengar Yoga in Harbottle Village Hall on Monday evenings from 6.00pm to 7.30pm.
This is a general Iyengar class suitable for all abilities including beginners. For more information call Margaret on 650281 or email margaret@ranken.co.uk

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

A New Go Club – Come and Have a Game



Fancy learning a fascinating game with a history stretching back thousands of years? Three local enthusiasts are starting a new club for anyone interested in learning and playing Go, one of the world's oldest board games.

Go originated in ancient China more than 3,000 years ago and later became deeply established in China, Korea and Japan. In China it is known as Weiqi, in Korea as Baduk, and in the West we generally use the Japanese name, Go. It has a wonderfully long history, yet the basic idea is surprisingly simple. See britgo.org

Go is played between two people using black and white stones on a grid. Players take turns placing their stones, aiming to surround territory while also capturing their opponent's stones. The rules can be learned quite quickly, but the game offers enormous depth and plenty of opportunity to develop new strategies and skills. Smaller boards can be used when learning, making it very approachable for complete beginners.

Our new Go club meets every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm at the Star Inn, Harbottle. Whether you have never seen a Go board before, have played a little and want to improve, or are already an experienced player, you are very welcome. There is no need to be an expert — just come along, meet some fellow players and give this remarkable ancient game a try.

Go Club – Wednesdays, 2pm–4pm at The Star Inn, Harbottle
New members very welcome

NEW: THIS WEEKEND: All Welcome for this musical Fundraiser

MUSIC AND MEMORIES

HARBOTTLE SHOW DISPLAY

WITH MUSIC BY

TILLERING TREE

(ELKE, WIM AND MALCOLM)

plus

VALERIE FEARLESS & MICKY BALL

Harbottle Show Memorabilia Display	A wide selection of old photographs, posters, programmes and press cuttings of the Harbottle Show	Free entry & Refreshments Donations welcome
Saturday 17 October 7pm		
Harbottle Village Hall	Folk & blues	Music starts 8pm

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:	*Iyengar Yoga*	6 - 7.30 pm
Tuesday:	Judali Hatha Yoga:	7- 8.30 pm
Wednesday:	*Ballroom & Latin Line Dance*	
	Beginner:	10 - 10.55 am
	Beginner Plus:	11 – 11.55 am
Friday:	*Ballroom & Latin Dance:*	
	Focus Dance*** or Beginner:	6 - 6.55 pm
	Beginner Plus	7 - 7.55 pm
	Salsa	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 Rumba, Samba, Viennese Waltz and Slow Foxtrot.

Come along and join us!

Harbottle Cafe Church at Harbottle Village Hall

Refreshments from 3.45pm. Service from 4pm – 5pm-ish.

A Coquetdale Churches Together event.

ALL WELCOME!

We would love you to join us for an informal interactive, intergenerational service with a cuppa & cake, plus music, discussions, activities and more. These services occur monthly on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December and August), 3.45-5pm:

The dates set for the next year are as follows:

25th October 22nd November

24th January 2027 28th February 28th March 25th April 23rd May 27th June 25th July

For more information or to get involved please contact either:

Catherine Iley: catherine.iley@gmail.com

Angela Feather angela.feather@urc-northernsynod.org

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:

Saturday 17th October, from 7.30pm:	Cheviot Folk Night in the Courtyard Barn
Thursday 29th October, from 8pm:	Quiz Night in aid of the Alwinton & Holystone Churches with Sharon Graham as Quiz Master. £1.50 entry fee. Raffle donations welcomed.
Wednesday 4th November, from 8pm:	**Dominoes League Sign up in the bar**
Saturday 7th November, from 8pm:	Acoustic Music Night in the bar
Thursday 12th November, from 8pm:	Quiz Night in aid of Harbottle Show 2027 with Stewart Wallace as Quiz Master. £2 entry and raffle donations welcomed.
Friday 20th November, from 7pm:	Coquetdale YFC Pizza, Pint and Quiz Night – ticket only. In the bar.
Saturday 21st November, from 7.30pm:	Cheviot Folk Night in the Courtyard Barn
Thursday 26th November, from 8pm:	Quiz Night in aid of Lily's World Challenge trip to Borneo 2027 with Claire Scott as Quiz Master. £2 entry and raffle donations welcomed.
Saturday 5th December, from 8pm:	Acoustic Music Night in the bar
Saturday 19th December, from 7.30pm:	Cheviot Folk Night in the Courtyard Barn
Thursday 24th December, noon - 10pm:	Christmas Eve, food until 5pm, carols & mulled wine around village tree at 6.30pm, and then Christmas Prize Draw in pub.
Saturday 26th December:	Boxing Day noon-10pm with food until 8.30pm, dominoes rally (1pm registration) and optional fancy dress
Thursday 31st December:	**New Year's Eve celebrations**, food until 8pm. Fizz & Fireworks at midnight plus live music tbc.
Saturday 2nd January, from 8pm:	Acoustic Music Night in the bar
Thursday 21st January, from 7pm:	**Burn's Night Supper with entertainment** from Roddy Mathews & Malcolm Barrass. Ticket only available from 1st December at £30/head.

October is proving to be another strong month, the weather has been kind to us, which has brought a lot of visitors to the pub for rooms and food/drinks. Alwinton Show weekend was very busy and we are hoping half term will be a good week or two as well. We get very good local support from across the area, something we very much appreciate.

We have a strong team here but will be losing a few of our younger staff members as they return to education and new jobs in the autumn/winter period. We are therefore looking for a chef/cook to join our kitchen team. If you know of anyone, please get in touch…

We will continue to open 7 days a week and are now serving food until 8pm Sunday to Thursday, and until 8.30pm on a Friday and Saturday. These hours will remain in place.

We look forward to seeing you again soon!

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 Rumba, 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."

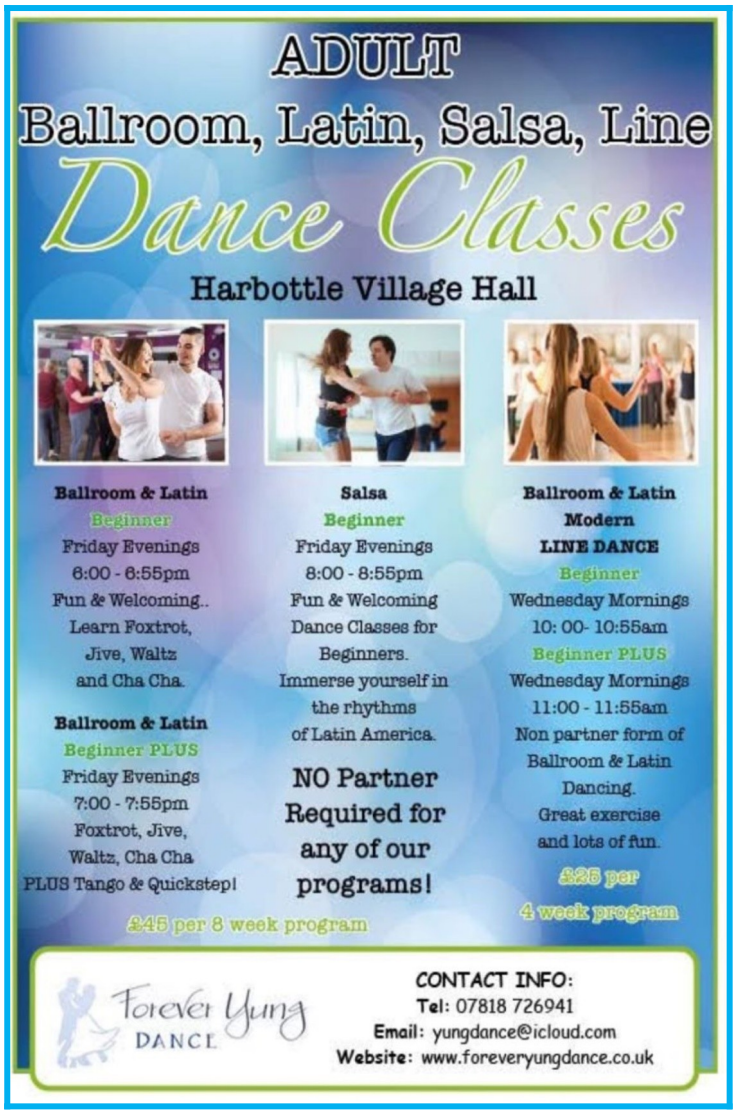
"We never thought ballroom dancing would be our cup of tea, but we joined when we moved here, just to get to know people. We've loved it ever since and I have even taken up Salsa classes!"

"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."



2026 Community Social Dances at Harbottle Village Hall

Saturday 7th November — **Spooktacular Halloween Dance with half hour Tango workshop**
Saturday 12th December — **Christmas Dance at St Michael's, Alnwick with half hour Viennese Waltz workshop**

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 at Harbottle, Alnwick, Wingates or Smailholm 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/

Coquet River Action Group

One of the activities that CRAG is undertaking at present is pulling out Himalayan Balsam (an invasive, non-native species) from the river banks in an attempt to stop it spreading.

We are keen to locate sites as soon as possible. If you know of any or find some then please get in touch via the email below with details, including if possible a photo and a What3words location or google maps pin drop location.

We would hope then to gain the landowner's permission to go and pull it out before it seeds.

Thank you.
couqetriveractiongroup@outlook.com

THROPTON

The Coquetdale Music Trust – Thropton at 7.30pm

Monday 9th November: **Toby Shaer, Archie Moss & Jack Warnock**
Saturday 28th November: **Grace Smith Trio & Archie Churchill-Moss**

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

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NEW: Scrap Van with possible bogus plates

Please could everyone keep an eye out for a scrap van, which is back in our valley area. Its occupants were reportedly helping themselves to items from people's gardens in Glanton, Whittingham and Longframlington recently, and also spotted near Warton. The vehicle registration is: **WF10 ZFY** , but is possibly bogus.

The vehicle and incidents have been reported to the police. However, it is still travelling around the area, so residents are asked to remain vigilant, particularly around gardens, yards, farms and outbuildings. If you see anything suspicious or witness a theft taking place, please report it to the police immediately — 999 if an offence is in progress.

NEW: A Request for Residents to Remain Vigilant

A warning to residents following a spate of at least six incidents across our wider area and neighbouring communities recently all following a similar pattern, resulting in the theft of quad bikes, tools, pick-up trucks and fuel. These thefts are not confined to farms and agricultural businesses as builders' yards, commercial premises and private homes are also being targeted. There are several things residents could consider:

* CCTV and doorbell cameras: Even relatively inexpensive systems can provide valuable evidence.
* Vehicle trackers: If you own quad bikes, agricultural machinery, pick-up trucks or other valuable equipment, please consider fitting trackers. They can make an enormous difference when it comes to recovering stolen property.
* Suspicious vehicles: Please report vehicles that appear to be out of place.
* Security: Make sure tools, machinery, fuel and vehicles are properly secured, particularly overnight.

If you see a crime taking place or believe one is about to happen, call 999 immediately. For other suspicious activity or information about offences that have already occurred, report it through 101 or Northumbria Police's online reporting system.

If in doubt, please report it in!

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 The UCRG are grateful for the ongoing link in Over the Bridges for people to find our latest newsletter via the Church website.

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

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Updated: Retired? Or semi-retired? Thought about joining your local U3A?

u3a Coquetdale

Forthcoming Events for 2026

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, Rothbury. Here's what's coming up over the next few months:-

Sunday 22nd November, 10am:	Annual Lecture: Dr Chris Ferguson: Anglo-Saxon Northumbria, a maritime kingdom
Monday 21st December, 10am:	Fool's Gold – The Blaydon Races Show, Stories, and Live Music around this iconic Geordie folk song

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

Membership is only £10 for the year up to April 2027 (or £5 if joining from January). For more information, email us at: coquetdale.membershipsecretary@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, 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	3 Book Groups	Ceilidh Dancing	French Conversation	Cycling
Discussion Group	Board Games	Food and Drink	Gardening	Running
Music Appreciation	Spanish Conversation	Table Tennis	Vegetarian Food	Walking
Natural History	Knit & Stitch	Italian Conversation	Philosophy	Ukulele
Poetry	**Pickle Ball**			

Messages from our local County Councillor

A. CLOSURE OF THE B6344 (BOTTOM ROAD INTO ROTHBURY)

I am writing to give residents advance notice that, from **2nd November 2026, the B6344 will be completely closed for a period of up to four weeks between just before the Cragend Straight and just before Cragend Farm.**

We are hopeful that the works can be completed sooner than four weeks, but the road will need to remain closed at all times for the duration of the works. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the works, there will be no access through the closure, including for the emergency services.

The closure is required to allow the installation of sheet piling along the section of road immediately before the Cragend Straight. This is an area that Northumberland County Council has been closely monitoring for more than eight years, and it has now reached the point where piling would be beneficial to provide additional long-term stability.

Just to reassure residents, this is not connected to any failure of the works carried out at the site of the original landslip. Those works remain secure more than ten years later and continue to be regularly monitored and maintained by the council.

I appreciate that a four-week closure of the B6344 will cause disruption, particularly given the importance of this road to the Coquet Valley, which is why I wanted to give residents as much advance notice as possible. If anyone has any questions regarding the closure or the works, please feel free to contact me:

Tel: 07590 032619 Email: Steven.Bridgett@northumberland.gov.uk

Many thanks for your patience and understanding while these important works are carried out.

B. C172 SHARPERTON BANK – ROAD CLOSURE

🗓️ SURFACING WORKS: A further closure will then be required for the final surfacing works:

Starting Monday 16 November 2026 for three days.

I appreciate that any road closure causes inconvenience, particularly on an important local route, but access for residents living within the closure will be maintained throughout the works.

WHITTINGHAM

Aln and Breamish Local History Society

Wednesday 21st October, 7.30pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall
"Hillforts" talk by Michael Thompson.

There is a small fee of around £2 for non-members.
New members are very welcome to come along and join.

Jeff Reynalds, ABLHS Committee member

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 November
"Roe Deer"
by Richard Muggeridge

Monday 7th December 2026
"Fungi"
by Richard Thompson

@ 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)

Rothbury Rubbish Friends

Rothbury Rubbish Friends are aligning their dates with the Coquetdale Repair Café sessions (see below). 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.

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 Reynalds. 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 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: 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

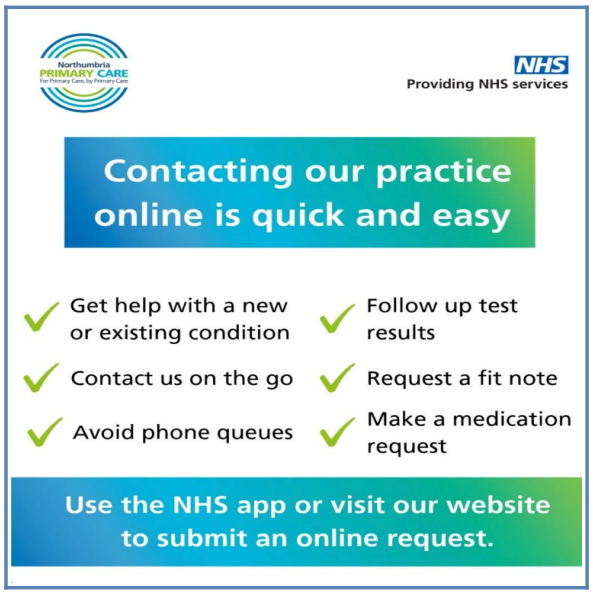
NPC Rothbury
14 November at 18:00

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/MI4Eo See less



NPC Rothbury
11h

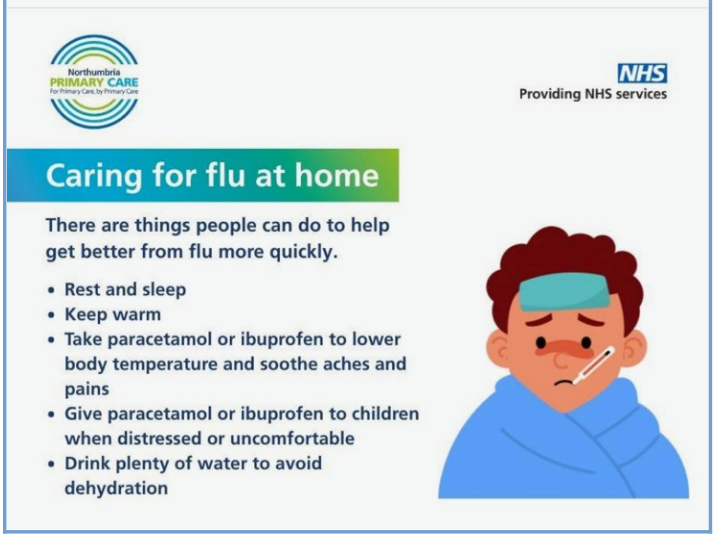
Do you have the flu?

There are things that you can do to help get better from flu more quickly.

- Rest and sleep
- Keep warm
- Take paracetamol or ibuprofen to lower body temperature and soothe aches and pains
- Give paracetamol or ibuprofen to children when distressed or uncomfortable
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration

Ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if you, or your child, have symptoms of flu and:
- You're worried about your baby's or child's symptoms
- You're 65 or over
- You're pregnant
- You have a long-term medical condition – for example, diabetes or a condition that affects your heart, lungs, kidneys, brain or nerves
- You have a weakened immune system – for example, because of chemotherapy or HIV
- Your symptoms do not improve after 7 days

You can call 111 from your phone or visit 111.nhs.uk. See less



NPC Rothbury
30 September at 08:01

Getting the flu vaccine will help protect you from becoming unwell with the flu this winter.

You can get vaccinated with your Northumbria Primary Care GP practice.

If you're eligible, you will have received a text message with booking instructions.

Please make sure to book your vaccine as soon as possible.

NEW: Regenerating Rothbury Event

Below is a poster advertising our Regenerating Rothbury Event on **Friday 6th November, 2-7pm, in the United Reformed Church,** Rothbury.

We are particularly keen to involve residents in all the villages of the Upper Coquet Valley as they use many of the shops and facilities that Rothbury provides. When we officially set up the Rothbury Regeneration Trust it will be for the benefit of all the local communities, so we are very interested to hear your views.

Everyone is welcome.

Have your say about Regenerating Rothbury

With increasing numbers of empty buildings, closed shops, pubs and banks in Rothbury, many of us have thought our market town could do with a spot of regeneration and support.

The Parish Council have responded by forming a working group tasked with helping to rebuild a thriving, resilient High Street that will served both our community and visitors alike.

The intention is to set up a Regeneration Trust for Rothbury.
This will channel the ideas, energy and vision of our community to secure up to £3 million Borderlands and other funding to enable that regeneration.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND IDEAS!

Friday 6th November 2-7pm

URC Church Rothbury
Market Place Rothbury NE65 7UW

Come and talk to NCC officers, Rothbury Parish Councillors and members of the Regeneration and Economy working group to find out what we are proposing and tell us what you think.

Tea, coffee and cakes provided

You can keep up to date with developments via the Parish Council app

Come and join us.

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.

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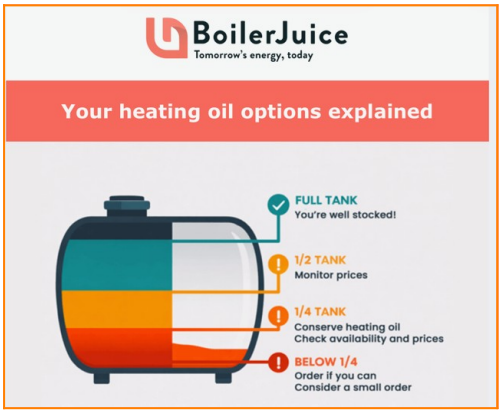
Out-reach Post Office Services
(aka Find Bessie)

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

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. In Northumberland further information regarding what it covers and how to apply can be found via the following link:

https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/cost-living-support/crisis-and-resilience-fund

It is worth noting that this fund remains in place until 31st March 2029 and aims to support vulnerable households and may help with food, energy & water bills plus essentials linked to them e.g. blankets, soap, warm clothing etc. The funds can also help build local resilience, so appears to be open to communities as well as individuals. Please check it out. Also, please think of your neighbours, family and friends – not all will be aware of this potential bit of help.

The £70 refund letter that isn't a scam

For more information : https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c23x0kd8eleo

You may be among the one million people, mostly women, who will receive letters explaining how you are eligible for top-up payments - and it's not a scam. Those entitled are low earners who have missed out on the money because of the way the pension they pay into is administered. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will write to people over the next few months, explaining how to receive the payment. Typically they will be due £70, but that may vary considerably depending on their circumstances.

Anyone eligible - the vast majority of whom will be of working age rather than pensioners - will be contacted automatically. But, if you receive a letter, there are various checks you can do to ensure the letter is genuine so you don't get hoodwinked.

What's the letter about? When you pay into a pension, the government allows some of the money that would otherwise have been paid in tax to go towards your pension instead. This is known as Tax Relief. For relatively complicated reasons, some low earners whose employer used what's known as a Net Pay Arrangement pension scheme received less than those whose pension was administered through a Relief at Source scheme. Employees have no control over the type of scheme that's used, so the government has decided to make up the difference to those who have missed out, through what's called a low earner's pension payment.

Have you seen?...."Get Prepared for Emergencies" : https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/

The Government has created a website to help people be more prepared for all manner of emergencies caused by severe weather, natural hazards, deliberate actions or accidents, or infrastructure failure. It details simple and effective steps that each household could consider from bottled water, first aid kit, batteries, torches, charged power banks, wet wipes, cans of non perishables that don't need cooking and a tin opener!

VAT Cut on Electric Bills – is now in effect

In July 2026, the Prime Minister cut taxes on electricity bills. From 1 October 2026, VAT will be removed from household electricity bills, saving households an average of £45 per year. This has limited the rise in Ofgem's energy price cap. It follows the £150 of costs removed from bills earlier this year.

Around 6 million households are also eligible for our Warm Home Discount this winter, which provides a further £150 off electricity bills. Find out if you qualify for the Warm Home Discount: www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

You do not need to do anything to claim the savings. Suppliers add up the amount of electricity used in a given period, along with your daily electricity standing charge, and apply 5% VAT to that part of your bill. From 1 October 2026, this requirement will be removed, meaning all suppliers should not charge VAT on your electricity bill. That includes fixed energy tariffs where you have already locked in your rate. **The exact amount you save will depend on the price of electricity your supplier sets, and how much you use.**

What if I use a pre-payment meter? When you top up your pre-payment meter, VAT is automatically charged on the money you load onto your key or card. From 1 October 2026, VAT will no longer be applied.

What if I'm on a non-domestic tariff? Small businesses, charities and residential care homes that already qualify for the reduced 5% VAT rate on electricity, including through the existing VAT certificate and declaration process, will also benefit from the 0% rate this winter.

How long will this last for? The VAT cut has been funded for the 2026 to 2027 financial year, through the cancellation of the digital ID programme.

More info: www.gov.uk/government/news/breathing-space-on-your-energy-bill

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Just a Thought…….

Have you got your Medical & Welfare and/or Property & Financial Affairs Lasting Power of Attorney in place?

"My spouse or children can make decisions for me"

This is a common misunderstanding. If you lose mental capacity because of illness or an accident, your loved ones may not automatically be able to manage your bank account or savings, sell your home if needed, make decisions about your care or pay your bills or mortgage. Without an LPA, they may need to apply through the courts for permission.

That's why it's so important to consider making an LPA while you're able to do so. An LPA is a legal document that lets you appoint someone you trust to step in and make important decisions for you, in case you're ever unable to make these decisions yourself.

This person is called your attorney, and you can appoint them to make decisions about the health and care you receive or about your property and finances, or both. You can appoint just one attorney, or you can appoint multiple attorneys. You can also name replacements in case an attorney is unable to act.

By making an LPA, you can retain control over who manages your affairs, how decisions are made for you and what you would like to happen in certain situations.

These documents can be set up by any adult, and are not just for the elderly.

They can be drawn up with the help of a solicitor or you can start an application yourself online via the Government website: https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney

Little Lanterns Project – Christmas Appeal

Little Lanterns Project is a small founder-led children and family support project based in Northumberland. We are currently in our foundation stage and working towards formal registration, so we are not yet a registered charity.

This Christmas, Little Lanterns is raising funds to support practical help for children and families through organisations and projects we are working with in the UK and overseas, including gifts, essentials, activities, packing, postage and delivery costs.

GoFundMe: https://gofund.me/a6bbff13d

You can also see more about Little Lanterns and follow our updates on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/share/1DjiZzQLgX/?mibextid=wwXIfr

Even sharing the appeal can make a big difference by helping Little Lanterns reach more people.

Little Lanterns was created to bring comfort, practical help and positive experiences to children and young people going through difficult circumstances, both here in the UK and overseas. Our developing work includes gifts and comfort items, sensory and creative resources, educational support, practical essentials, and needs-led support for organisations working directly with children and families.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read about Little Lanterns and for considering supporting our Christmas work.

You can read more about us in an April 2026 article in the Northumberland Gazette:
https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/community/morpeth-community-project-aims-to-deliver-blackout-kits-to-children-in-ukraine-6570055

Danielle, Founder & Programme Lead
Little Lanterns Project

Cost of Living Sources of Information

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.

Simpler Recycling in Northumberland....possibly by 2027/28 for rural areas like ours?

Across England from 1st April 2026 the Government is introducing new Simpler Recycling rules, which means that all councils must collect the same set of recycling materials from all households. Changes appear to include new food waste collections plus a new bin for additional recycling materials. The green bin general waste will still be collected every two weeks. For an update on where Northumberland County Council are with this please check their website:

https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/bins-recycling-waste/simpler-recycling-northumberland

It seems that food waste collections are going to start firstly in the urban areas from Autumn 2026, with a further roll out to remaining areas, dependant upon securing additional funding, in 2027/28. The additional dry recycling will begin its phased introduction in early 2027.

Social Tariffs

Social tariffs for broadband, phone and mobile are available to help people on Universal Credit and some other benefits to get connected at a lower cost.

Check if you're eligible by asking your provider.

If your provider doesn't offer a social tariff, you can switch to one that does. Your current provider might let you leave your contract without paying a penalty fee.

Mobile providers including EE, O2, Smarty and VOXI offer social tariffs for mobile phones.

For a list of broadband providers offering social tariffs visit **www.inorthumberland.org.uk**

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/

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UK Entry Requirements for Dual Nationals are changing: 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

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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.

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Northumbria Police

Phone scams

Your bank and the police will never ring and ask you to verify your PIN, withdraw cash or purchase high-value goods. They'll also never come to your home to collect your card, cash or purchased items. If you get a call like this, end the call.

If you get a call from your bank or the police, make sure you know who the person is before handing over any personal details. You can do this by calling your bank (the number on the back of your card) or the police (**101**) on a different phone line.

To get a different line, use a phone owned by a family member, friend or neighbour. This is because scammers can keep phone lines open after pretending to hang up. So while you think you're making a new phone call, the line is still open to the scammer, who pretends to be someone from your bank or the police (also see **Courier fraud**).

Depending on your bank, the security questions they ask may be different, but they'll never ask you to authorise anything by entering your PIN into your phone.

Never send money abroad to a person you've never met or to anyone you don't actually know and trust.

Likewise, never agree to keep your online relationship a secret. This is a ploy to get you not to tell your family and friends, who'll see the scam for exactly what it is.

Equally, don't accept any offer of money. A scammer may ask you to accept money from them into your own bank account, using a convincing story as to why they can't use their own account.

The circumstances may seem genuine, but you may unwittingly be committing the criminal offence of money laundering.

Some Ideas for the Coming Months

Cragend Farm - B&B & Self Catering Accommodation.

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.

Gift Vouchers are also available for Cragend Farm tours - ideal for Christmas and birthdays

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A "Local Hero" shout out 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."

For more info Call Paul on 07792 728262

or search for: www.rcvbarn.info

Upper Coquetdale Community Transport

Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy **driving**, **meeting people**, and **helping your community**?

If you can spare just a few hours a week, fortnight, or month, we'd love to hear from you. We are looking for **volunteer car drivers** to support elderly residents and people with mobility challenges, helping them get to:

- Essential healthcare appointments
- Warm hubs and community spaces

All **training** is provided, and **out-of-pocket expenses** are covered. Your time commitment can be fully tailored to suit your availability — we understand how busy life can be and will work around what you can offer.

Route 16a and 16b Timetable

NEW TIMETABLE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026

	Departure times		
Tuesday and Saturday Service	**16a**	**16a**	**16a**
*X14 (From Newcastle) arrives Rothbury**	*07:23*	*11:43*	*14:38*
*471 (From Alnwick) arrives Rothbury***	*N/A*	*13:05*	*14:35*
Rothbury, Silverton 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 Silverton 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*

*This service is run by Arriva and we cannot guarantee these times.
For their latest information see: https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/North-East/
**This service is run by Phoenix and we cannot guarantee these times.
For their latest information see:
https://www.nexus.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/bus/471-pho-260323.pdf

For more info contact Lesley Leeson on 01669 622 264 or visit our website - https://ucct-transport.wixsite.com/ucct

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Upper Coquetdale Community Transport Rothbury Shoppers Bus

Do you know about our **Rothbury Shoppers Bus**? Are you struggling to get to the shops each week or sometimes? Are you fed up of asking friends and relatives for a lift or help?

UCCT run a Shoppers Bus service **every Friday that picks you up from your home** and takes you to the shops in Rothbury and back home again. Our drivers will help with your shopping bags. Maybe you would like to have coffee/tea and a chat once a week with a bunch of very friendly people. Once our shopping is complete, we all head back to T's Cakes & Bakes for a **chat and a coffee** while we wait for collection.

We collect passengers from **Snitter, Cartington, Thropton, Whitton and Rothbury**.

Our bus caters for all your mobility needs but if you are concerned, please contact us. For more info and booking contact Lesley Leeson or Joy Dyson on 01669 622 264 Mon – Fri 10am – 3pm. Or Email: uct4@hotmail.com

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Upper Coquetdale Community Transport Community Bus Excursions

Wednesday 28th October: **Manor Walks, Cramlington** – Rothbury 10am, £7 per person

Thursday 5th November: **Elsdon fireworks**. Depart Rothbury 5pm, £4 per person

Wednesday 18th November: **Heighley Gate Garden Centre** –Rothbury 10.30am, £5 per person

Wednesday 25th November: **York Christmas Market** – depart Rothbury 08.30am, £22 per person
Excursions depart from Queens Head, Rothbury, but local pickups may be available.

For more info and booking contact Lesley Leeson or Joy Dyson:

on 01669 622 264 Mon – Fri 10am – 3pm 0r Email uct4@hotmail.com

PARISH OF UPPER COQUETDALE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2026

The Happenings

We have a number of events for your diary:

Fireworks at Trewhitt Hall on Saturday 7th November, 6pm, with hot dogs, soup, mulled wine all for sale, so no supper required (see page 5 for more details)!

Cheese & Wine Party on Friday 13th November, 7 pm, kindly hosted by Carolyn and George at Newton Farm (see page 32 for more details and how to get hold of tickets).

There will be a **CHRISTMAS BINGO evening** on Wednesday 2nd December from 7.30pm at the Rose & Thistle Inn, Alwinton. Please join us for a family friendly evening raising funds for Alwinton & Holystone Churches.

Our lovely, annual **Christingle Service** will be held at Alwinton Church on Sunday 6th December at 10.30 am, and hopefully will be attended by lots of children.

The **"Carols at the Mart" Service** will take place at Rothbury Mart on Saturday 19th December at 11 am.

Our **Traditional Christmas Carol Service** will be held at Alwinton Church at 10.30 am on Sunday 20th December, followed by mulled wine.

On Thursday 24th December, 11 am at Alwinton Church everyone is invited to join us for our family friendly **Crib Service.**

The **Christmas Day Service** (Friday 25th December) will start at 11 am at Alwinton Church. We would love to welcome you all to join us for this special service.

It all looks quite a lot but we look forward to seeing you at one or two of these events!

Until next time….

Julia

NEW:

200 Club Winners for November

£20: Sian Barett
£15: Denise Straughan
£10: Mac Young

*The profit from the sale of **200 Club** tickets goes towards keeping Alwinton and Holystone churchyards in good order.*

Cheese & Wine Night

Friday 13th November, 7pm

at Pedlars Law, Newton Farm

By kind permission George & Carolyn Graham

Tickets £15.00 (includes one glass of wine and cheese/canapés)

Limited tickets, please book through:

Julia Stott, Helen Holmes, Gail Johnston or Sharon Graham

Raffle

Supporting Alwinton & Holystone Churches

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Wednesday 2nd December 7.30pm

at

Rose & Thistle Inn, Alwinton

All Welcome for a family friendly fun evening.
Includes "Children's Prizes"

Fundraiser for Alwinton & Holystone Churches

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.

Harbottle Cafe Church at Harbottle Village Hall

Refreshments from 3.45pm. Service from 4pm – 5ish.

A Coquetdale Churches Together event.
ALL WELCOME!

We would love you to join us for an informal interactive, intergenerational service with a cuppa & cake, plus music, discussions, activities and more. This is an opportunity for all generations to be together.

These services occur monthly on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December and August), 3.45-5pm:

The dates set for the next year are as follows:

25th October 22nd November
24th January 28th February 28th March 25th April 23rd May 27th June 25th July

For more information or to get involved please contact either:

Catherine Iley: catherine.iley@gmail.com

Angela Feather angela.feather@urc-northernsynod.org

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.
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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. Then 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.

We appreciate all the support we receive and put every penny to good use locally.

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.

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

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**	**DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS** **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
DRAKESTONE BUILDING SERVICES **Joinery, General Building, Tiling** **& Decorating Work** **Billy Gibson** **Tel: 01669 650206 OR 07979042499** **Email: feeshearer@googlemail.com**	**Collins Fish Van** 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
Northumbria ***Pet Crematorium*** • *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**	**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 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!**

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:

We will do everything we can to prevent cuts to your power, including spending millions of pounds on maintaining and looking after your power network, but it can still happen, particularly in winter weather. 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.

----------*Please print and keep* safely in case of future need----------

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.

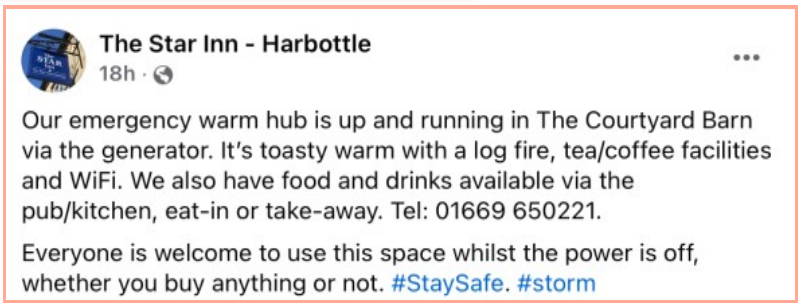
Main Contacts:

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…