NORHAM NEWSROUND
JUNE 2025

Condolences to the friends and family of Rosemary Lockwood who died recently.

NORHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Information re parish council is in separate enclosed document.

BIRCH HILL

On the 1st of May 2025 the care provider at Birch Hill Care Centre was transferred from BEN - Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund - to Lenore Care Ltd. The directors of Lenore Care Ltd are Jack and Grace Jenkinson and, operating since 2019, they have 3 other care homes situated within north Northumberland. Prior to that, Lenore Care Ltd homes were owned by Grace's parents so it is a real family affair. All 3 Lenore Care homes are specifically for people over 65's who require a little more support. Both Jack and Grace love the homely feel that Birch Hill has and wish for this to continue. The homes they already own are similar in stature to Birch Hill and the maximum resident capacity of the other homes is 27 where Birch Hill is 24 with no plans for expansion. I wish to reassure people that the rumours around the village that we were closing or going to be turned into a hotel are unfounded and Birch Hill will continue to run as a care home for the over 65's and the residents of the bungalows will continue to stay for as long as they wish. I am sure you will be delighted to hear that we will continue to operate and provide the same outstanding care and compassion we have always given to our residents.
We will also be continuing with our family fun day on the 26th July 2025 from 1pm - 4pm to which you will all be very welcome.

GLEBE LAND FOR HOUSING IN NORHAM

We are writing as the Vicar and former Chair of the Parish Council, to keep residents informed about the use of Glebe Land for housing in Norham.
The Glebe Land lies west of the existing Glebe Field development, and is owned by the Diocese of Newcastle. The field is already allocated for housing, following the consultation and approval of the Northumberland Local Plan, which was adopted in 2022. Neither Norham PCC (Parochial Church Council) nor Norham (civic) Parish Council have any direct control over how that land would be developed for housing.
However, the diocesan Property Manager, Ian Beswick, has been keen to engage with local representatives, to explore what should be considered for any scheme from a local perspective. Ideally, as we see it, any scheme should primarily comprise houses that are more affordable to purchase, or possibly rent, for a range of local people, from the more elderly to families with young children.
What can be achieved and getting the balance right is a complex issue, particularly in these uncertain times. Ian remains committed to an ongoing dialogue with local representatives (including the new Parish Council). In the meantime, the diocese plans to put the land on the market, with a view to establishing what kind of interest there might be, and on what terms, on the part of house builders.

Rob Kelsey & George Straughen

FLOWER FESTIVAL SERVICE

There will be a special service in St Cuthbert's to celebrate the opening of the Flower Festival.This will take place at 10am on Sunday 22nd of June at St. Cuthbert's Church.

TABLE TENNIS
Come along to the village hall on a Tuesday morning from 10-11 a.m. for a session of Table Tennis. You would be made welcome. We are a jolly bunch! Janet Heywood

SNOOKER
NORHAM SENIOR SNOOKER CLUB
Everything is now in place to start a new era for snooker enthusiasts in Norham. The table has been brought back to life being newly recovered, along with a set of new balls. It looks that good you could mistakenly think you are at the Crucible rather than Norham village hall. We intend to start a Wednesday afternoon session from 1pm until 4pm from 4 June for the senior members of our community.
The aim of our group is to provide an opportunity for the senior members of the village with a club to meet up and have a pleasant afternoon with friends old and new to enjoy a game of snooker. This is a non-profit group so there will be a £1 nominal entry fee plus a reasonable price of £2 per person per game. The costs are to cover the rental of the room and purchase upgrades to the equipment when necessary.
This will hopefully encourage other groups to form and make use of this excellent facility we now have on our doorstep.
I look forward to seeing you all. Ross Gray - 382250

NORHAM WI
Our speaker at our meeting on Thursday 5 June will be a representative of North Northumberland Hospice Care. We don't have a members competition this month but members are asked to donate toiletry items for Berwick Infirmary. Interested in WI and want to find out more then join us for a taster session free of charge on Thursday 5 June at 2 pm in Norham Village Hall. For further information please contact Secretary, Susan Thorburn on 07792 221554.

CRAFT & CHAT
Craft and Chat - As always we continue crafting and chatting away every Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4 pm with plenty of refreshments included. Come and join the crafters or just drop in for a cuppa. For further information please contact Jan L'Argent on 07777 611714

MOBILE LIBRARY
The revamped Mobile Library is back in town! With new books and DVDs, Simon will be coming to Norham every 3 weeks. He is only too pleased to bring books of your choice if you ask him. This is an invaluable contribution to village life so please support him so that we do not lose it. The van will be here on Wed 11th June and Wed 23rd – 13.10 in West St; 13.30 in Castle St; and 14.00 outside the Village Hall.

ST CUTHBERT'S CHOIR
We are working hard towards our anniversary concert on 13th July at 3pm. Our practices are a mixture of serious work and humour plus the essential tea and coffee break. Any singers who would like to join us would be welcome to come along for a trial session. We practise in the church through the summer - Thursdays 5.00 - 6.30pm. Occasionally visitors wander in when we are practising and may be surprised to hear the music a "church" choir is singing with our nonsense songs for 13th July!

NORHAM DEFIBRILLATOR
We are very fortunate to have a defibrillator in the village. However we need to be able to maintain it for everyone to use when necessary and the battery and the pads are costly. If you would like to contribute to the Defibrillator Fund please talk to Linda or James at the Mason's Arms.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT
There will be an open meeting on Wednesday 25th June at the Village Hall

PINTS & PRAISE
Songs of praise at the Fisher's Arms, Horncliffe on the 4th Sunday of the month – 6pm onwards. Next one is the 22nd June. Please contact Rob Kelsey with your requests (01289) 382325
ST CUTHBERT'S FAIR

Saturday 19th July 2- 4pm
Norham Village Hall and Green
Entry by donation
25% proceeds to Choices4Growth.
We need your help! And your STUFF!

IN ADVANCE

TOMBOLA
Bottles and jars of anything, boxes of chocolates, toiletries etc (unopened and within sell by date!)

BRIC A BRAC
Good quality bits and pieces, toys, other stuff (clean and complete please!)

BOOKS
Cookery, Gardening and Children's books ONLY

RAFFLE PRIZES
A box for donations for any of the above will be placed at the back of the church from 6th JUNE

ON THE DAY

HOME BAKING - sweet or savoury/small or large
PLANTS
PRODUCE – fresh fruit or veg, jams, jellies etc.
Please bring plants and fresh baking/produce to the hall on the morning of 19th July

AND WE NEED YOU!
We would be hugely grateful if you could lend us a hand on the day for an hour or two! Or the night before - just putting up and/or taking down gazebos, stewarding etc. The more help we have the less there is to do!
Please contact Tory Craig torylintoncraig@aol.com 07745130987 for more information.

Come and enjoy all the fun of a traditional summer fair !
The fabulous Norham Village Band : The wonderful Rag Bag Morris : The glamorous Luna Nigra :and all your favourite stalls - plants and produce, home baking, tombola, bric a brac, ice cream etc etc AND DELICIOUS CREAM TEAS!

COMMEMORATING VJ DAY – FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 2025

Save the Date!

Plans are afoot for a Norham commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Victory in Japan Day, which might include:

- A short commemorative service beside the war memorial, sometime in the afternoon, similar to the commemoration for Piper Laidlaw (held on 25th September each year).
- Refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards, comprising a cup of tea, and sandwiches and cakes (made using war-time recipes).
- An evening event in Norham Church, organised by the Berwick Literary Festival, involving poetry, first-hand accounts, and an expert in Japanese history and culture. (The theme of this year's Festival is 'The Things that Make for Peace'.)

More details will be available nearer the time, following the Norham Co-ordination Group meeting on 2nd June. Please make a note in your diaries for 15th August and, if you have any questions in the meantime, contact the Vicar, the Revd Rob Kelsey, on (01289) 382325.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall will be introducing a new online booking system soon. This will apply to all the regular hirings as well as one-off events. We would also like to move to an electronic payment method if possible. It will not be easy for every group but it would be good to try as the banks are now charging for cash deposits.

The broken curtain tracks have now been replaced – please take extra care when opening or closing the curtains and use the curtain pole at the back of the hall.

There will be a 'slow cooker workshop' in the autumn with cookers to be won - watch this space for details!

The Village Hall AGM will be on Wednesday 4th June at 6pm. All are welcome. We will be presenting the final plans for and information about our proposals for the hall and answering any questions you may have.

The St Cuthbert's Project - Bulletin No. 4, June 2025

The Standing Committee of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) continue to meet every month or so, with more work being done between meetings.

Our Funding Adviser, Katherine Williams, is helping us through the complex process of applying to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant in the region of £240,000. We recently had a preliminary meeting with a representative of the Fund, who was very positive about our project.

The PCC's Architect, Ninette Edwards, has made a preliminary submission to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), who offer advice and guidance on church projects, and oversee the equivalent of planning permission for work on church buildings. In her submission, Ninette put the case for improved heating along the following lines:

- In order to make the church more hospitable, the PCC would like to improve the heating. They are keen to respond to the Net Zero 2030 targets, and have explored a few electric heating options, bearing in mind that the church is not in continual use.
- The options reviewed have included ground source and air source heating for each of which the capital cost is very high, and they would be expensive to run. Biomass has also been explored, and dismissed for the same reasons. The position of radiators would be problematic, due to most of the seating being in the nave away from walls, and underfloor heating would require new flooring throughout. A Herschel Halo far infrared heating system, with lights, is therefore proposed, at a cost of about £90,000. The church at one time had chandelier lighting, so the concept of this type of suspended fitting is not new for the building. To find out more about the Herschel heating system, see: https://www.herschel-infrared.co.uk/heating-heritage-buildings/churches.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

- The Vicar, the Revd Rob Kelsey, (01289) 382325
- PCC Treasurer, Mr William Jackson, (01289) 382028

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th June	Village Hall AGM
5th June	WI meeting
11th June	Mobile Library
22nd June	Flower Festival Service
22nd June	Norham Open Gardens + teas
22nd - 29th June	Flower Festival
25th June	Open meeting – renewable energy project
13th July	25th Anniversary concert – St Cuthbert's Choir
19th July	Summer Fair
23rd July	Mobile Library
26th July	Birch Hill family fun day
15th August	Commemoration of VJ day
24th August	Family Fun Day

ITEMS FOR JULY / AUGUST NEWSROUND

Any contributions to be forwarded, in a word format rather than pdf, to Janet Young – Janetyoung.lazda@gmail.com

By Thursday 27th June

HOW TO ACCESS THE DEFIBRILLATOR

The defibrillator in Norham is situated on the corner of the west wall of the Village Hall.

If you think you might need to use the defibrillator:-

1. Dial 999 and ask for assistance.
2. You will be asked a few questions to ensure that the use of the defibrillator is appropriate.
3. The code for the keypad will then be given to you.
4. Once used, please replace in the box facing back to front.
5. The emergency services will then contact the village representative who will check the machine and replace used pads.

Please keep this for reference in case you need it!

Norham Industrial Show - 5th October 2025

Entry Categories - Preliminary Schedule

Categories for entries - Adult section

18 Knitted Garment (4-ply)
19 Knitted Garment (DK)
20 Knitted snood, any ply
21 Soft-toy knitted
22 Hats for the homeless, simple /basic beanie.
Pattern from Show Secretary or "www.ukhandknitting.com"
23 White hat for Premature Baby- 4 ply

Premature Baby Hat

Size 3mm (11) needles 20g 4-ply white wool
Pull on style with no ties

Cast on 70 stitches (not too tight);
Work 8.5cm (3.5 inches) in K1 P1 rib;
Decrease row – K1 (P3 tog K1 P1 K1) to last 3 stitches, P3 tog;
Work 3 rows K1 P1 Rib;
Repeat decrease row;
Next row – P2 tog on every 2 stitches to end;
Break off yarn, thread through stitches, pull up and sew up seam

24 Machine Sewn Article
25 Patchwork Article
26 Table runner – sewn
27 Childs toy sewn
28 Crocheted article
29 Handicraft Article which incorporates stitching
30 Any other handicraft
31 Cross stitch article
32 Upcycled article
33 Hot water wheat bag (or other similar sterilised filling)
34 Home made card, any craft
35 Diamond painting
36 Photo – Black and white - 'Look at that sky'
37 Coloured snapshot – 'A Great Invention'
38 Photo – 'A single flower'
39 Snapshot with humorous caption
40 Floating Bowl – items must be floating
41 Floral Arrangement – in a jam jar
42 5 different home grown herbs in a jam jar
43 Three fruit or vegetables (same species – not apples)

Must be organically grown

44 Three apples

Must be organically grown

45 Collection of fruit and / or vegetables.

Must be organically grown

46 Family exhibit **Theme – Space**

i) Table decoration re space.

ii) Open sandwich,

iii) Decorated biscuit

Open to any family group with a minimum of one adult and one child under 16

The biscuit can be bought, but must be home decorated

All three exhibits are required for this class.

Categories for entries - Children Section

47-51 Closed to Norham School

52 Handwriting - 5 years and under

Text will be provided in main schedule later

53 Handwriting as class 52 6-9 years

54 Handwriting as class 52 10-15 years

55 Printing with every day objects 5 years and under

56 Same as class 55 6-9 years

57 Same as class 55 10-15 years

58 'Space' 5 years and under

Drawing, paint or collage, any size and any medium

59 Same as class 58 6-9 years

60 Same as class 58 10-15 years

61 Any handicraft 5 years and under

62 Same as class 61 6-9 years

63 Same as class 61 10-15 years

64 Three fruit scones – 8 years and under

65 Three fruit scones – 9-15 years

66 Three Plain Buns – 8 years and under

One to be decorated

67 Three Plain Buns – 9-15 years

One to be decorated

68 Jam jar of flowers - 5 & under.

69 Same as class 68 6-9 years

70 Same as class 68 10-15 years

Norham Parish Council - June 2025

1. Minutes of meeting 28th April 2025

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Norham Parish Council held on 28 April 2025

Those present were George Straughen (GS), Jim Greenwood (JG), John Grahamslaw (JJG) Dougie Watkin (DW) Sheila Johnson (SJ) and Sheelagh Hume (SH). Several members of the public were also present, as was Cllr Colin Hardy (CH)

4.25.1 To accept apologies for absence

None

4.25.2 To make any Declaration of Interest

GS and JG both declared an interest in any items relating to Norham Development Trust (NDT), as directors of NDT, and to Norham Recreational Trust (NRT), which governs the Jubilee Field, as Trustees of NRT. JJG also declared an interest as a Trustee of NRT.

4.25.3 To confirm Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 24 March were agreed and signed.

4.25.4 Matters arising from Minutes

i) Parish Council Elections

The parish council would be inquorate after 5th May for an as yet undetermined period as no-one had put themselves forward. Accordingly, the council will be unable to conduct any business. This is unprecedented in Norham. NCC will make arrangements for a new election. If more than 7 people stand there will be an election on 12th June. If between 3 and 7 people stand they will become parish councillors unopposed. If fewer than 3 people stand the parish council will remain inquorate. If that happens NCC will make arrangement for a second election. If there is still no progress thereafter it is likely that NCC will take over the parish council's obligations.

ii) Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing to report. Process is somewhat on hold pending the outcome of elections, though the Housing Needs Assessment has been issued in draft and commented on.

iii) Public Conveniences

After discussion agreed, in order to keep the WCs open and in good condition whilst the council is inquorate, to pay the cleaner 6 months in advance.

iv) Play Areas

After discussion agreed to pay for plastic caps to cover nuts on equipment. Also agreed after discussion to proceed with 20 sq. metres grasslock round the old slide. GS will contact the providers to discuss and to ask for urgent invoice. Confirmed that RoSPA will be asked to proceed with their annual inspection in June and will be paid in advance. GS confirmed he will continue to inspect the play equipment weekly on an informal basis until a new council is in place.

v) Community Police Report

Report from Community Police Officer as follows:

No crimes of note since the last meeting and no incidents to advise on either. Certainly nothing which will impact on the vulnerability of anyone in the village. Nothing to pass on from any of the surrounding areas which I think might cause concern either.

There was discussion regarding the difference between what appears in Community Police reports and the information which appears on the police crime website. Agreed VLC will contact PC Ritchie for further explanation, would like more specific information about recorded crimes.

vi) Norham Development Trust

Nothing to report on Renewables project. Still awaiting information from GreenCat. Once the information is received it will be passed on to the community.

vii) Jubilee Field

GS in process of pointing the wall. Agreed an invoice for materials would be paid.

viii) Land at Glebefield

Nothing further to report except that a For Sale sign may appear at the site, as the Diocese wish to flush out any possible interest from developers. It was confirmed again that neither the parish council nor Norham Church has any control over what happens on the site.

ix) Mobile Phone Signal/BT Phone Box

NCC have contacted BT in support of the parish council's objection to removal of the phone box. This has also been supported by the new local MP. A suggestion has also been received from the Civil Contingencies Officer, Northumberland Fire and Rescue, (referred by NCC) that StarLink, a satellite communication system might be useful in rural areas, and has offered a demonstration. Agreed that this interesting possibility should be left for any new council to pursue.

x) Issues with Northumbrian Water/Sewage

Further contact had been made with Northumbrian Water including a meeting last week. They are clearly aware of the issues, they confirmed that Norham is high on their list of priorities because of the sensitive issue of discharges into the Tweed. The issues are caused by excess surface water entering the sewage system - they are looking for solutions as a matter of urgency.

xi) Resignation of Clerk

VLC will leave post officially on 5th May. She will remain a point of contact as required. Any new clerk will be appointed by the new parish council.

FINANCE

4.25.5 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Current Account Payments:

25 March	S Broadbent	£174.56
25 April	NALC	£154.49
25 April	S Broadbent	£223.74

Current Account Receipts:

8 April	NCC (Precept)	£3400

Business Account Payments: - Nil

Business Account Receipts: - Nil

4.25.6 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

As at 28 April 2025:

Current Account: £11285.73

Business Account: £618.19

4.25.7 Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2024/25

i) To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor.

The internal audit report was received and considered. No actions required. Confirmed an invoice from GWA had been received and would be paid immediately.

ii) To consider and approve the draft annual accounts for 2024/2025

Considered and approved.

Iii) To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement

Considered and approved.

iv) To consider and approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances

Considered and approved.

v) To confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption

Confirmed and approved.

vi) To complete agree and sign relevant Annual Return sections

Completed agreed and signed accordingly.

vii) To accept Bank Reconciliation

Considered and accepted.

4.25.8 To renew insurance

After discussion agreed to proceed with renewal albeit one month in advance.

4.25.9 To look at Planning Application decision
Four Shepherd Huts, Land West Of Newbiggin Farm - Granted
4.25.10 Footpaths, Roads and Pavements
CH thanked for his help in using his small capital allowance to re-lay the path round the village hall. After lengthy discussion agreed, as regards cutting of paths, that D Gibson would be paid in advance for one cut – which would normally be done in June. As regards a second cut – usually in August – this could be paid for if a new parish council is in place, be carried out by NCC or not done at all.
Any Other Business (For information only)
DW thanked GS for his chairmanship over the years, and also confirmed that he was now to become a parish councillor in Ord.
SJ indicated that her requests to have dropped kerb in South Lane painted still had not been completed. She will persevere.
SJ queried the position as regards the 3 Trustees of NRT. GS confirmed they were trustees because they were parish councillors but had agreed to continue in post as Trustees until a new parish council has been established, at which they would pass the responsibility on to new councillors.
GS confirmed he had drafted a Chair's Report, but this should be presented at the first meeting of any new council. Councillors had seen the draft and were happy with it. CH commented that the parish council was to be commended as they had tied up as many loose ends as they could at this point, by way of damage control, when many would simply have walked away.
Date of next meeting: TBC

2. News of new Parish Council

Norham Parish Council June 2025 – Update

As many villagers are aware there were no candidates to fill the vacant Norham Parish Council positions on the 1st of May 2025 with all the previous Parish Councillors choosing to stand down and not to seek re-election.
This left the village in an unfortunately precarious position whereby there was a very real prospect that the village would lose its parish council and come under direct control of Northumberland County Council.
The Parish Council vacancies were re advertised by NCC as is required under the electoral process, seeking candidates to be nominated and a second election date set for the 12th of June 2025. This cost would have had to be borne by the village from the Parish Council Funds.
Three candidates are required for the council to be quorate.There were only three candidates who stepped forward, individually nominated and seconded from within the village and they have been elected unopposed.

Louise Cockburn, John Grahamslaw and Bill White are the three who will now form the new Norham Parish Council.
We shall be meeting with George Straughen and Victoria Craig to try and ensure a smooth transition into bringing the New Parish Council up to speed. George and Tory have been very supportive and are quite happy to provide all the advice and knowledge they have to us. That said we have also managed to retain John Grahamslaw who stepped up to keep our Parish Council within Norham.

Patience will be key during the start-up process whilst we endeavour to re establish Norham Parish Council and keep the continuity of all the hard work done by the outgoing Councillors. There is going to be a concerted effort to try and recruit and co-opt people from the village onto the Parish Council who can provide individual skills and to support our village and its wellbeing. We have room for four more.

If anyone would like to express an interest with a view to becoming a Parish Councillor and bringing some good old-fashioned skills and common sense to help our village way of life to continue and succeed, please feel free to e-mail or contact one of us so we can start the ball rolling.

Contact Louise Cockburn, Bill White or John Grahamslaw using the following email address:-
“norhamparishclerk@gmail.com”