

NORHAM NEWSROUND

JULY/AUGUST 2025

Digital version

St Cuthbert's Fair

Sat 19th July 2025 2-4pm

Norham Village Hall and Green

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 23rd 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 OR
07745130987 for more information.

NORHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Perhaps you haven't played Table Tennis since you were at Youth Club many years ago!

Perhaps you play regularly. Whatever your level, you can be sure of a warm welcome at our
Table Tennis sessions on a Tuesday from 10-11 am in the village hall.

We have three tables and plenty of bats and balls so you don't need to provide your own
equipment. Just come and have fun (and maybe even improve your fitness levels?)

Janet Heywood

NORHAM PETANQUE CLUB

Do come and try your hand at Petanque. It doesn't matter if you're a complete beginner or an
expert, you will all be welcome!

We meet at the Petanque pitch in South Lane every Saturday from 10.30am to about midday.
A fortnight ago, we had an enjoyable tournament with Petanque players from Whitsome and
Peebles at the Whitsome pitch.

Janet Heywood

NORHAM VILLAGE BAND

The band meets every Tuesday in Norham Village Hall between 6.30pm and 8 pm, to practise a variety of pieces: marches, classical extracts, popular songs and much else.

Under our musical Director, Nick Elwood, a composer in his own right, we are learning a great deal and benefitting greatly. We also enjoy ourselves, and there's a great atmosphere.

New members are always welcome, whether you are an experienced player or a beginner. Our players come from both North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders so we transcend geographical borders!

If you'd like to join us or just come and hear us play, pop into the hall on a Tuesday evening.

Otherwise, we will be playing at the Norham Village Fair on Saturday 19th July 2025

Janet Heywood

ST CUTHBERTS CHURCH

'Songs of Praise' at Norham Church
10.00am, Sunday 3rd August 2025

Everyone is welcome to suggest one or more of their favourite hymns for the annual 'Songs of Praise' service at Norham Church on the first Sunday in August.

If you would like us to sing one or more of your favourite hymns (particularly if you would be willing to say a few words about why you chose the hymn, and what it means to you), then write your name and hymn choices on the list that will be available at the back of church from Sunday 6th July.

We will choose six to eight hymns, with a view to ensuring a variety of styles and an enjoyable and thought-provoking service. So feel free to suggest more than one hymn.....! To find out more, please contact the Vicar, Rob Kelsey, on (01289) 382325.

First Sunday Worship at Norham Church
10.00am, Sunday 6th July 2025

An informal, child-friendly service on the theme of
'Holidays are Holy Days!'

The service will be led by the St Cuthbert's Junior Singers.
People of all ages are welcome.

To find out more, please contact the Vicar,
Rob Kelsey, on (01289) 382325

HISTORY SOCIETY

The Funeral of Mary Queen of Scots

An illustrated talk by John Morden will be given to the Norham and Ladykirk History Society on Monday 14 July 2025 at 7.30 pm at Norham Village Hall.

All are welcome

Annual subscription £10.00 OR £2.00 per meeting.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

The community meeting about the Norham Community Renewable Energy Project was well attended and there was a lively discussion— see insert for presentation.

There was a consensus that the creation of a village Renewable Energy Group would be a good idea. If you would be interested in being part of this group, please contact Janet Young (phone, email or via the post box at 70 Castle Street) or the other directors of Norham Development Trust (George Straughen, Jim Greenwood and William Jackson) by email by the end of September - norhamdeveloptrust@gmail.com

The next meeting will be in the village hall in late September.

CONCERTS@STCUTHBERTS

Music at Paxton Comes to Norham

Wednesday 23 July 5pm

Tickets: £10 (concessions £6). Special offer for bookings through Helen Charlston/Sholto
Kynoch: £8 (concessions £5)

We are delighted to be hosting what will be a glorious late afternoon lute concert presented by Music at Paxton as part of their Summer Festival of Chamber Music.

The great English Renaissance lutenist and composer John Dowland was celebrated across Europe as the 'English Orpheus'. This programme traces his legacy in the works of Philip Rosseter, Daniel Bacheler and Robert Johnson, whose innovations led to new music of soft-edged delicacy and resonant beauty.

With its historic acoustics and peaceful atmosphere, St Cuthbert's provides the perfect setting for this late afternoon concert, whether you are a devoted early music enthusiast or simply looking for a moment of tranquility.

"Carr's playing is sensuous and vivid" The Guardian

Artist info: tobycarr.co.uk

<https://www.musicatpaxton.co.uk/event/toby-carr-lute-music-in-st-cuthberts-norham/>

A poster for the Feis Rois Ceilidh Trail 2025. The top half has a red background with a collage of photos showing people playing instruments and dancing. The text on the poster includes the Feis Rois logo, the title 'Cèilidh Trail 2025', the subtitle 'Cèilidh air Chuairt', and a Gaelic phrase. It lists activities like live traditional music, dances, and sessions. A white box at the bottom contains the event details: 'FEIS ROIS', 'THURSDAY 24TH JULY 6.30PM', 'ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH NORHAM', and 'TICKETS ON THE DOOR £7: U16s FREE'. Logos for various organizations are at the bottom.

FEIS ROIS
Cèilidh Trail 2025
Cèilidh air Chuairt
Tha sinn air ais air an rathad! Thigibh ann!
Live traditional music performances from some of Scotland's most exciting up and coming young artists!
The Cèilidh Trail runs from Monday 22nd July to Sunday 10th August and includes performances in the Highlands, across Scotland and at major international festivals. Experience:
Cèilidh Dances | Lively Sessions
Outdoor Performances | Formal Concerts
And More!
Airson barrachd fiosrachaidh: www.feisrois.org
Find the full programme at www.feisrois.org and follow the Cèilidh Trail this summer!

FEIS ROIS
THURSDAY 24TH JULY 6.30PM
ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH NORHAM
TICKETS ON THE DOOR £7: U16s FREE

Feis Rois is a company, limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland as SC20207 and recognised as Scottish charity SC035602. Feis Rois Ltd, Riddermans House, Greenhill Street, Dingwall, IV5 4JG.

Feis Rois:Ceilidh Trail 2025

Thursday 24th July 6.30pm

Tickets on the Door £7: U16s Free

Refreshments available!

Back for its fourth visit to Norham, we are excited to welcome the Feis Rois Ceilidh Trail team, live traditional music performances from some of Scotland's most exciting up and coming young artists. If you have seen this event before we know you will be back, because you already know how extraordinarily talented they are - and if you have not, you really should not miss this chance - their youth enthusiasm energy and musicality are a joy to behold....the performers change every year but the very high standard of performance skills does not!

<https://feisrois.org/?projects=ceilidh-trail>

NORHAM WI

Unfortunately the speaker booked for Thursday 3 July at 2pm is not able to join us so, after our normal business, we will have a social afternoon/open discussion. The members competition is a beaded item and the theme for our meeting is Carnival. For further information please contact the Secretary, Susan Thorburn on 07792 221554.

CRAFT & CHAT

Do you craft? Whether you knit, sew, sketch or enjoy any other art or craft you are very welcome to join our lively group in Norham Village Hall every Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4 pm. Refreshments available along with good company, biscuits and sometimes cake, yum! For further information please contact Jan L'Argent on 01289 545065

SNOOKER

The senior snooker Wednesday afternoon sessions from 1pm until 4pm have now started and are being enjoyed by many.

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.

There is be a £1 nominal entry fee plus a reasonable price of £2 per person per game. The costs cover the rental of the room and purchase upgrades to the equipment when necessary.

I look forward to seeing you all.

Ross Gray - 382250

NORHAM CLEAN UP GROUP

We have had 2 successful evenings clearing weeds and sweeping paths. It is a lot of hard work, but to see the results is amazing. Thank you to those volunteers who came along, it is much appreciated.

Moira Graham



The St Cuthbert's Project Bulletin No. 5, July 2025

The work of the Standing Committee continues, with progress as follows:

1. A Project Enquiry has been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The response has been positive, and we have been invited to go ahead. A great deal of work must now be done to develop a high quality application, since, according to NLHF, 'the assessment process is highly competitive and we are unable to fund all the good quality applications we receive.'
2. Various members of the Standing Committee have met with several other funders, and have also received positive responses.
3. The managers at The Maltings have offered us a pair of red stage curtains, which are surplus to requirements, as a result of the development work at the original site. We are extremely grateful, and would like to thank The Maltings publicly for their generosity.
4. A presentation on the work to date will be made to the congregation during the main service at 10am on Sunday 13th July.
5. We are due to meet members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) on 31st July, to seek their advice and guidance.

We are hopeful that the curtains from The Maltings might be in place by the autumn of this year. They would remain closed for most of the time, and hidden behind the chancel arch. But, when the weather is particularly cold, then they would come into their own. One of the main problems is that, when the under pew heating is on, then the warm air rises, and draws cold air from the east end of the church, thus creating a draught that makes people feel even colder! The curtains should prevent this problem, and create a smaller space that can be heated more effectively. It should be emphasised, however, that Norham Church, being a medieval building, comprising large volumes of stone, will never be as cosy and warm as someone's living room!

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

Churchwarden,: Lucy Carroll - 07974 416692

Churchwarden,: Nick Ellis - (01289) 382754

The Vicar: the Revd Rob Kelsey - (01289) 382325

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 th July	1st Sunday Worship – Holidays!
13 th July	25 th Anniversary concert – St Cuthbert's Choir
14 th July	The Funeral of Mary Queen of Scots – illustrated talk
19 th July	St Cuthbert's Fair
23 rd July	Mobile Library
23 rd July	Paxton comes to St Cuthbert's
24 th July	Concerts@StCuthbert's Feis Rois
26 th July	Birch Hill family fun day
3 rd August	St Cuthbert's 'Songs of Praise'
15 th August	Commemoration of VJ day
24 th August	Family Fun Day

ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSROUND

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

By Thursday 28th August




25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



St Cuthbert's Choir

Mendelssohn to Mice : Stanford to Swann
 An afternoon of beautiful and entertaining music
 to celebrate 25 years of St Cuthbert's Choir
 joined by St Cuthbert's Junior Singers

St Cuthbert's Church Norham

Sunday 13th July 3pm




Free Entry Refreshments
 Donations to St Cuthbert's Church

St Cuthbert's Summer Fair

Norham Village Hall & Green

Saturday 19th July 2025 2-4pm

A traditional summer fair!

Cream teas
 Norham Village Band
 Rag Bag Morris
 Luna Nigra

Plants, Home Produce, Home-baking
 Bric-a-Brac, Tombola, Face painting
 Children's activities, Raffle
 Ice Cream

25% of proceeds to Choices4Growth
Entry by Donation



NORHAM FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday 24th August
11am-3pm
 Norham Village Green & Hall

All profits raised for
 Norham Village Hall

- Bouncy Castle •
- Inflatable Slide •
- Face Painting •
- Tombola •
- Classic Sports Day Races from 2pm •
- Crafts •
- Retro Carnival Games •
- Pre Loved Toys •
- Slime Station •
- Foremans BBQ •
- Ice Cream & Sweet Treats •
- and much more!

Renewable Energy Project review and update June 2025

In November at the parish meeting, I promised that I would obtain further information as requested and then report back. Other than obtaining reports, no further work on this project has been undertaken.

The purpose of this meeting tonight is twofold - to offer a brief review of the project for anyone who was not at that meeting and then report on the various surveys that have been carried out. Thereafter everyone can consider what steps should be taken next. I will be happy to take questions after I have offered the summaries of the reports.

The Renewable Energy Project started and continues as a community project funded by government money to encourage local communities to create sustainable energy solutions to serve their communities by generating energy, protecting our environment and providing financial benefits for the community as a whole.

As the grant was not available to parish councils, it fell to Norham Development Trust to pursue this. Having been awarded a grant in 2021, NDT considered 3 consultancies to work through the project and GreenCat Renewables was chosen.

Their feasibility study looked at various types of energy that might be able to be generated locally and after due consideration recommended a mixture of solar and wind energy as being the most efficient and effective with a location just on the edge of the village. The proposal is to install one wind turbine, 67 metres tall and capable of generating approximately 1mW and a sufficient number of solar panels capable of generating a further approximately 9mW electricity. The landowner was consulted, was keen to participate and has continued to be involved to date.

Over the last 4 years, the project has been supported by Northumberland County Council, Community Energy South, North East Yorkshire Net Zero Hub, Berwick Community Trust. Over the same period of time NDT has reported regularly, as required, to the principal funder, North East Yorks Net Zero Hub to demonstrate the integrity and appropriate use of the grant monies.

NDT accepted the recommendations of the feasibility study and contracted GreenCat to take the work forward in preparation of a submission for planning permission. Such an application would be best presented with evidence of community support. Although the first 3 open meetings held in the hall had been met with overall support the 4th meeting last spring raised a number of concerns and so, after considerable thought it was decided to pause the progress of the project until such time as the level of community support could be fully assessed. At the meeting in November it was agreed that there was inadequate information available to enable everyone in the community to come to an appropriate and informed decision. The possibility of carrying out a parish poll was therefore deferred.

For this project to progress, it was suggested that a new community group was formed to take this opportunity forward. NDT is fully supportive of this proposal.

Planning permission from NCC will be required for this project to go forward and in order to meet the requirements of the planning guidelines, GreenCat have undertaken surveys to assess the impact resulting from a wind turbine and solar panels.

In carrying out all of these surveys, GreenCat has complied with all the relevant legislation, policy, strategic planning, current guidelines within the renewable energy industry, and other recommended practices. The surveys have met the requirements for Environment Impact Assessments including the employment of competent experts. Shadow flicker and the risk of

major accidents or disasters had already been researched by NCC and not been found to raise any concern in this specific location.

It is acknowledged that there will be a visual impact from the wind turbine from several directions. At the end of the project, should the turbine and panels be decommissioned rather than replaced, the visual impact will cease to be a consideration as all views from every direction would return to their current state.

There will be no archaeological impact from the panels or the turbine greater than the random chance already experienced of finding occasional artefacts.

It is reported that the main cultural impact will be visual. All landscapes have some cultural heritage as the land has always been used for purposes deemed to be relevant to the time – eg castles were constructed for reasons of defence, and this project proposes the use of land for the supply of energy which we all need but now needs to be sustainable in nature.

As far as noise is concerned, the turbine will create a certain amount of noise as such machines are not entirely silent. However whatever noise is produced will fall within the accepted parameter / limits set by the regulators. The noise levels may vary through the day and may be more or less noticeable depending on the direction of the wind.

Although the full hydrology report is not yet available it has been conveyed to GreenCat that there will be no increase of water running off the land and that the development will have no impact on the water table - so will not affect or increase the risk of flooding which already exists in the village.

From an ecological point of view, the location of the development is a poor habitat for birds, bats and protected species. No birds designated by local Special Protection Areas were found to be foraging or roosting over the time of the survey, no bat roosts were found, and none of the protected species of squirrel, otter, water-vole and pine marten was observed. The site was considered to be a poor habitat for any wildlife trying to create nests, dens, dreys etc. By contrast, the proposal to improve the grassland under and around the solar panels would improve the potential for some creatures' habitats – a wildflower meadow being an attractive site for several species. Equally, as some of the hedges would need to be replanted and / or enhanced they too would offer improved habitat potential. Furthermore there is a proposal to create log pile and bug hotels, which, if taken up, would offer safe habitats for several species. Overall there is the potential to create a biodiversity net gain of up to 30%, 3 times the statutory requirement of 10%.

There would be an increase in traffic during the period of construction but this would be temporary and once installed there would be no significant change in the traffic approaching and leaving the site. As the whole process of construction would be overseen by the planning department and governed by their requirements, there is no concern that the temporary increase in amount of traffic would be inappropriate.

The land proposed for the development has been determined to be Subgrade 3A and 3B. By government requirements, this means that the soil must be protected in order to continue to be of good quality. This will be achieved during the construction and running of the project through the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) each of which will adhere to the standards set by NCC. Overall the construction will not affect the quality of the soil although there may be a minimal amount of permanently lost land. The report considers that the great majority of the soil will be of enhanced quality at the termination of the use of the land for energy purposes and will therefore be able to be returned to as full agricultural use as it is now. Such a temporary change is in line with government policy.

Overall, the reports from the surveys found that the visual impact would be a reasonable concern of local residents but that all other matters would have a neutral or positive outcome over the projected 25 year lifetime of the project.

I accept that it is frustrating that we are still unable to give any accurate indication of the financial benefits to the community as they are dependent on interest rates, cost of electricity and the rate of inflation at the time, but other community projects have enabled the generation of funds which have created grant opportunities to small organisations within their respective communities – one such project distributed profits of £15,500 after 3 years; another facilitated the building of a local swimming pool; another was able to distribute £40,000 amongst their local groups and organisations. The local project you are likely to know about is that which incorporates what is called the the Steps of Grace turbine. This started as a joint community and commercial enterprise. When the community sold its share, the monies accrued were invested and made available to groups and organisations in this area through the CoRE legacy fund managed by Berwick Community Trust. Over the years they have supported over 35 small groups and organisations locally with grants – awarding over £127,000 since 2015. In each of these projects, the actual use of the funds that have been generated has been determined by a group set up in that community with the specific purpose of choosing how the money should be used.

It is anticipated that should the project go ahead it will have a productive lifetime of approximately 25 years after which it could either be upgraded or decommissioned. Should it be decommissioned then all the elements of the equipment can and will be recycled except for the blades of the turbine which at the present time cannot be recycled although some companies are beginning to re-use them as component parts of bus shelters and benches.

Going forward therefore the next steps as I and my fellow directors of NDT see them are as follows.

Firstly to create a group of interested people to take this project forward. If anyone here might be interested in being part of such a group then please get in touch with either myself or any of the other directors, - William, Jim and George.

That group would then work towards holding a parish meeting from which a question could be agreed to be put to a parish poll.

Should a poll – which would enable every person on the electoral roll of the parish to have their say – demonstrate that this community project is not wanted then the project will come to an end and any monies remaining will be returned whence they came.

Should the poll demonstrate support for this project, then the next step would be to proceed with an application for planning permission.

If planning permission is declined then the project comes to an end.

If it is granted then the next step is to apply for a grid connection.

Should a grid connection be offered a business plan can then be drawn up and the process of finding possible interested investors would begin. As I explained in November, the difficulties of obtaining a grid connection relate mainly to the problems of grid capacity. Whilst this is relevant across the whole country it is particularly true locally where the capacity is almost full. It is anticipated that the local grid capacity will be expanded but possibly not until 2030 at the earliest. The current government has suggested that they will support grid expansion.

Thank you for your attention and patience and I will do my best to answer any questions that you may have.

Norham Parish Council

Annual Meeting of Norham Parish at the Village Hall

followed by the

New Norham Parish Council First Meeting – 23 June 2025

The Annual Meeting of Norham Parish followed by first New Parish Council Meeting took place on the 23rd of June 2025 in Norham Village Hall. The Annual Meeting was Co-chaired by George Straughen (Outgoing Parish Chairman) and Bill White New Parish Councillor.

All that were present were welcomed and the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting on the 20th of November 2024 were approved. Both George and Bill took questions from the floor. The New Parish Council was convened, and The New Councillors, Bill White, Louise Cockburn and John Grahamslaw all signed their declarations of acceptance. Bill was elected as Chairman and Louise as Vice Chair. A vote of thanks was extended to George and to those on the previous Parish Council.

Four additional members were then co-opted onto the Parish Council who were volunteers to the role, they were Catherine Lorigan, Moira Graham, Victoria Mann and Paul Thompson. The New Parish Council commenced its agenda which was informative and managed to work through it. Much of it was taken over from George and his Team who will be a hard act to follow.

There is much to be done administratively, and it is a massive learning curve for us all. Our main goal was to preserve the Parish Council for Norham and continue to ensure that Norham remains the wonderful village it is.

We shall be updating the web page with our details and faces. We aim to be public facing and approachable to all and if there is anything you would like to bring to your Parish Councils attention, please speak to one of your Parish Councillors.

We are missing a vital part of the cog to enable us to fully function within the Village and are advertising for a Parish Clerk to come and join us. This is a paid role hourly and the Clerk does not have to be from the village.

Interested parties are welcome to contact us via the e mail address above. We shall be advertising externally and interviewing suitable candidates as and when expressions of interest are received. The closing date for applications will be the 15th of July 2025

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Bill White (Chairman)
Louise Cockburn (Vice Chairman)
John Grahamslaw
Moira Graham
Catherine Lorigan
Victoria Mann
Paul Thompson

E-mail contact:

norhamparishclerk@gmail.com

The Next Parish Council Meeting
will be held on
Monday the 21st of July 2025
at 7pm
in the Village Hall.