

NORHAM NEWSROUND

OCTOBER 2025

Digital version also available at www.norhamlife.co.uk

Condolences to the family and friends of Margaret McPhee and 'Pockets' Cockburn who have died recently.



HARVEST FESTIVAL ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH NORHAM

10am Sunday 5th October 2025

"A HARVEST OF THANKSGIVING"

The flower arranging team would be grateful to
receive any donations of
flowers, foliage and fresh produce for our
HARVEST FESTIVAL

Donations welcome at the church
from 10am onwards on

Saturday 4th October 2025

NOTICE FROM NORHAM PARISH COUNCIL

We are sad to have to report that there have recently been several incidents of vandalism and smearing of excrement in the public toilets. There has been a further incident which involved the smearing of chocolate spread in the Gents Loo. Whilst the latter may seem like a harmless prank it is not for our long-suffering cleaner tasked with removing the chocolate spread and excrement.

These incidents been reported to the Police and the situation is being monitored.

INDUSTRIAL SHOW

38th NORHAM INDUSTRIAL SHOW

to be held at

Norham Village Hall
SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER 2025



Schedules are available in the shops, or from the secretary Sheila Johnson, 28 West St. This year the show will include a fabulous display of Beanie Hats for Homeless on Tyneside, with special thanks to Joe Paish for drumming up volunteers to help her exceed 200!

You still have time to take part in this year's show whether it be by baking, flower arranging, taking photos or knitting, sewing and handicraft. (P.S. Men can enter too!)

Submit entries in an envelope through Sheila's door along with entry fee by day before and stage exhibits between 9.30 and 12 noon on the day. If you can't manage an entry please come and support us on the Sunday by coming to the hall between 3.30 and 5pm with cup presentations at 5pm.

NORHAM WI

Our meeting on 2nd October is the Annual Meeting and starts at the earlier time of 1pm with a pie and pea lunch. There is no speaker but after we have completed the business element of our meeting there will be a beetle drive. The theme of the meeting this month is Hallowe'en. For further information please contact the Secretary, Susan Thorburn on 07792 221554.

CRAFT & CHAT

It won't be long before "that time of year", so have you started your Christmas crafting?! If not, gather up your craft supplies, join us and craft with us every Wednesday afternoon from 2 - 4pm. Plenty of refreshments and good company. Contact Jan L'Argent on 07777 611714 for further information.

HALLOWE'EN BEETLE DRIVE



Norham WI cordially invites you to join us for a Beetle Drive on the evening of Friday 24 October at 6:30pm for 7pm in Norham Village Hall including a pie and pea supper. Take part in the Hallowe'en fancy dress competition for children and adults. Entry just £5 for Adults and £2 for children who must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be on sale at The Mason's Arms and the village shop from 3rd to 17th October. We look forward to welcoming you for an evening of fun and laughter.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

A public meeting about the Renewable Energy Project (REP) was held on 25th September. Norham Development Trust has worked on this project for the past 4–5 years, at the request of the previous Parish Council, and has now delivered what it set out to do: presenting the community with a renewable energy community project ready for a planning application to be made along with the funding to make that application.

The proposal is for a solar array and one wind turbine, together generating around 10 MWh of electricity per annum. Both sources of energy would be required to make the scheme viable, with the aspiration that - once costs were met - it could provide a minimum of £50,000 a year for the benefit of the community, from about three years after commencement.

The project was supported by grant funding ring-fenced for community energy initiatives. That funding carried deadlines, the last of which falls on 30th September 2025. It is no longer possible to meet this timescale so all unspent monies already awarded will be returned to the funder.

The project is technically ready to move forward to a planning application, but this cannot happen without clear evidence of community support, which has not yet been established.

The survey reports prepared for the project will, largely, remain valid for a few years and will be made available for public review. If there is interest in pursuing this or any other sustainable energy scheme, a new group of 4–5 volunteers would be needed to take ideas forward on behalf of the community.

VILLAGE HALL

The hall will be holding a Community Lunch for anyone who would like to come on Thursday 30th October at 12.30pm. This will be a simple menu of soup, quiche and a hot cuppa and cake. It will either be in the main hall or in the committee room depending on numbers! There will not be any charge. If successful we would propose to run these lunches on a regular basis throughout the winter.

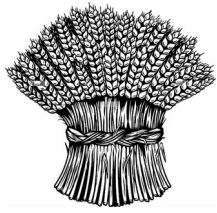
FRIENDS OF NORHAM CASTLE

The masonry around the Sheepgate is likely to be repaired over the next 2-3 months and so access to the grounds through the gate can be resumed. Plans for repair or replacement of the bridges have not yet been determined.

There is likely to be a maintenance workshop run by English Heritage sometime in the spring with a view to improving the car park. If you might be interested in taking part, please contact Friendsofnorhamcastle@gmail.com.

An important reminder that the fencing at the castle is there to protect the public against accident or injury. Any such incident incurred outwith opening times will not be covered by insurance.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, NORHAM



Harvest Thanksgiving 2025 10.00am, Sunday 5th October

Led by the St Cuthbert's Junior Singers.
Including a blessing for the new and recently restored kneelers.

Donations of flowers, foliage and fresh produce to help decorate the church are welcome from
10am on Sat 4th October.

Harvest gifts are welcome at the service itself, for the benefit of the Berwick Food Bank, as follows:

- Non-perishable food items, especially tinned potatoes, long life milk, adult's & children's toiletries and cat & dog food for those with pets at home.
- Financial donations, offered in the retiring collection at the end of the service.

For more info, contact The Revd Rob Kelsey, (01289) 382325.

You are invited to



A Healing Service 6.00pm, Sunday 19th Oct

The Sunday nearest the Festival of St Luke,
'the beloved physician' (Colossians 4.14)

The service will be quiet and low key,
with the opportunity to light a candle
and, if you wish, ask for prayers
for healing and wholeness
for yourself, or for someone you know.

The Vicar will be available to pray for you
(perhaps alongside another church member),
and confidentiality will be assured.

For more information please contact
The Revd Rob Kelsey on (01289) 382325.

First Sunday Worship at Norham Church 10.00am, Sunday 2nd November 2025 The Festival of All Saints and All Souls

An informal, child-friendly service of Holy Communion,
led by the St Cuthbert's Junior Singers.

We hope that the service will include the ceremonial
'closing of the curtains' behind the chancel arch,
to help make the main body of the church a warmer place
for worship, concerts and other events.

People of all ages are welcome.

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

CONCERTS@STCUTHBERTS

Thursday 2nd October 7pm

Bob Marley: How Reggae Changed the World

Adult £15; Concession £10

Available from <https://highlightsnorth.co.uk>

TICKETS ARE SELLING VERY FAST - BUY NOW!

possibly on the door subject to availability

Internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter and Toronto-based artist Duane Forrest brings his tour of *Bob Marley: How Reggae Changed the World* to Norham! Expect a vibrant, heartfelt production celebrating the legacy of Bob Marley through music and storytelling. Drawing on his own Jamaican heritage and years of international touring experience, Duane takes audiences on an engaging journey through Marley's life, the rise of reggae, and its global cultural impact. Songs like *One Love*, *Three Little Birds*, and *No Woman No Cry* come alive on stage alongside Duane's original music inspired by Marley's influence. As part of his Autumn 2025 tour, Duane will also be sharing music from his new work *Adrift, a reggae jazz and folk music fusion album*. After a sell-out run at Edinburgh Fringe in 2024, this show received weekly awards in early 2025, for Best Music Show at both the Perth and Adelaide Fringe Festivals in Australia, alongside a sold-out run at Perth Fringe. Duane recently completed successful new engagements at the San Francisco International Arts Festival (USA), the Montréal Fringe Festival, and the Ottawa Fringe Festival (Canada), where the production received the Jury's Choice Award, along with strong audience and critical reviews, before a highly anticipated return to the Edinburgh Fringe 2025. *"Duane shares the roots of reggae, Bob Marley's life, and the personal significance of his music, creating a historical lesson and a love letter to cultural heritage... Doctors should prescribe it as an antidepressant"* - BroadwayBaby ★★★★★

Saturday 4th October 3pm

Mediaeval Mixture:

This Worlde's Joie: Songs for the Seasons

Entry by donation

A journey from hunting in autumn through winter festivals and spring to summer pilgrimages, with appropriate readings ranging from the 13th - 17th centuries!

An afternoon concert of mediaeval delights, with tea and cake!

Saturday 18th October 7pm

A Poet's Journey

A Song Cycle based on 15 poems by the war-time poet

Edward Thomas

Tickets £15 from <https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/>

OR on the door (subject to availability)

Edward Thomas (1878-1917) was known chiefly as a prose writer and only wrote poetry during the last few years of his life, encouraged by his close friend, the American poet Robert Frost. Thomas is now widely regarded as one of the pre-eminent British poets of the twentieth century and poems such as 'Adlestrop' are among the best-loved in the language. His influence has been acknowledged by poets as diverse as W.H. Auden, Ted Hughes, Philip Larkin and Derek Walcott. He was killed at the Battle of Arras on Easter Day 1917. Andrew Motion, the Poet Laureate from 1999 to 2009, nominated 'Old Man' by Edward Thomas as one of his favourite poems 'because it so brilliantly proves, as do all his poems, that you can speak softly and yet let your voice carry a long way'.

If you are not familiar with his poetry try this <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0J1Ze5QXG8> - close your eyes and listen to Richard Burton reading what is probably Thomas' best known poem 'Adlestrop'.

Music by John Middleton

Tenor: Lyndon Gardner

Piano: Anthony Wilson



Sunday 19th October 3pm Andante Chamber Choir

Entry by donation

The ever popular a cappella choir return for a late summer concert, including Five Spirituals by Michael Tippett, some Magnificat and a touch of Lennon/McCartney and James Taylor. Something for everyone.....with tea and cake!

STASH SALE



Balls of wool lurking in a cupboard OR are you struggling to find that perfect colour? Folds of fabric staring accusingly at you OR do you need just that little bit of extra material to finish off your latest project? Card and trimmings waiting for a useful purpose OR are you looking for that final flourish?

Give them all a new lease of life AND let someone else fulfil their potential!! Come to the stash sale on Saturday 1st November 2025 11am – 1pm in the Village Hall.

Please contact Norhamvillagehall@gmail.com to book a table (£10 - proceeds to the hall) and then keep whatever profit you make from your sales.

NORHAM GARAGES SALE 2025

Don't forget the Norham Village Numerous Garages sale. Sunday 28th September 2025 11am until 3pm.

Maps available 10p each from 28 West Street or just look out for the balloons on each participating address.

Between 25 and 30 Garages/ Tables are taking part. Get out and grab a bargain.

VJ DAY

£104 was very generously donated at the teas following the Service on 15th August. This has been sent to Help for Heroes.

ADVENT WREATHS

Last year we again had a good response to Christmas door wreaths so please, would you like to do it again? The village always looks so festive, the wreaths are very much admired and give pleasure to villagers as well as visitors.

To participate simply hang a seasonal wreath/ garland/ decoration on your front door/gate/railings during November. You do not need to let me know.

Sheila Johnson

NORHAM'S ADVENT CALENDAR



Yes -it's that time again, and our traditional Advent Season is nearly upon us! I'd like to organise the Advent Calendar this year following the retirement of Mary-Rose Blythe who has run it so very successfully since, I believe, 2018. Many thanks for that Mary-Rose, we are very grateful for all your hard work.

But – in order to take over the reins and continue I will need your help. You are invited to take part by agreeing to be one of the 'days'.

You would decorate your own window in a Christmas theme and represent one of the 24 days of the Advent Calendar. A different window will be 'revealed' each day from December 1st until December 24th. This means that by December 24th there will be 24 windows on display. Places will be given on a first come, first served basis and each participating house will be given a number.

If you would like to be part of this Calendar, please contact me **before November 14th** to register your interest. You can choose your own number but again they will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you do not get your first choice I will try to allocate as close as possible to that.

Sheila.johnson@hotmail.co.uk or drop a note in my letterbox at 'Abbotsford' 28 West St.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library comes to Norham on a Wednesday afternoon every three (3) weeks. It carries a broad selection of books and DVDs and CDs.

if you are looking for something specific, Chris, the librarian, will order any item you wish and bring it with him the next time.

He parks up at three different locations in the village so it is easy for you to reach him and he will help you with your books when you leave. The van also has a mobility platform lift making the library accessible to everyone.

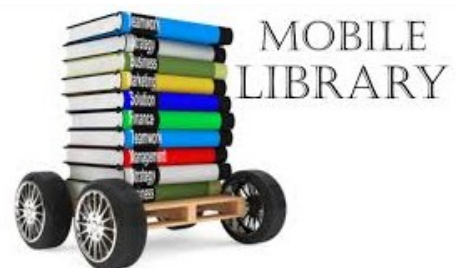
The exact timings will depend on the traffic he meets on the way but he aims to be:

- on West Street at 1pm;
- on Castle Street at 1.35pm;
- outside the Village Hall at 1.50pm.

The dates for the next few months are as follows:

15th October
5th November
26th November

17th December
7th January 2026



Please use this valuable service or we risk losing it



The St Cuthbert's Project Bulletin No. 7, October 2025

The St Cuthbert's Project aims to **improve the heating, lighting, seating and heritage interpretation at Norham Church**, in order to **make the church building more user-friendly and more useful to the wider community**. The project will also:

- Restore the pillars at the Bride's Gate.
- Upgrade the path from the Bride's Gate to the church.
- Develop visitor information and interpretation.
- Provide a range of events for both local people and visitors.

Our goal is to allow more people to access and enjoy St Cuthbert's Church in all seasons. As an historic stone building, the church is never going to reach 'toasty warm' temperatures in the winter, but a new heating system should make it more comfortable.

Attracting visitors to Norham brings money into the local economy, which helps to maintain local facilities. We are also mindful of the need to manage visitor numbers, and by no means expect a huge increase. We envisage a handful of additional people (in perhaps two or three cars) arriving on an average day. Concerts and other events already attract additional visitors to Norham, and the St Cuthbert's Project should allow concerts at the church to be spread more evenly throughout the year.

The story of Norham Church – together with Norham Castle, and the village as a whole – is inextricably linked to significant periods in our history, including the Golden Age of Northumbria and the Scottish Borders. Our rich heritage can sometimes be overwhelming, and so we plan to appoint an interpretation specialist to help us improve our visitor offer.

All are welcome to First Sunday Worship at 10am on Sunday 2nd November, which we hope will include the ceremonial 'closing of the curtains' by the St Cuthbert's Junior Singers. (See Bulletin No. 6)

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

WHITSOME'S BURNING

The current Duke of Somerset (direct descendant of Earl of Hertford who burned the Merse in 1545 after the failure of the Rough Wooing) is coming up to commemorate the event and we may have a couple of heralds in ceremonial dress (with the permission of the Lord Lyon) to march through the village with members of the Battlefields Trust who are re-enacting at the Ark during the afternoon. The Swinton family who were burned out are also coming. Dr Blakeway will lecture on the background to the Rough Wooing and there will be mulled cider, a welcome drink and a hog roast. His Grace will light a bonfire at sundown. The event is completely free and family friendly. After the burning, Hertford's troops gathered at Ladykirk and then crossed the river to Norham before embarking at Berwick, so Norham is part of the story.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 28 th September	Garages Sale
Thursday 2 nd October	Concerts@St Cuthbert's Bob Marley 'tribute'
Saturday 4 th October	Concerts@St Cuthbert's Mediaeval Mixture
Saturday 5 th October	Harvest Festival
Sunday 6 th October	Industrial Show
Saturday 11 th October	Whitsome's Burning
Wednesday 15 th October	Mobile Library
Saturday 18 th October	Concerts@St Cuthbert's Poet's Journey
Sunday 19 th October	Healing Service
Sunday 19 th October	Concerts@St Cuthbert's Andante
Thursday 30 th October	Community Lunch
Friday 24 th October	Hallowe'en Beetle Drive
Saturday 1 st November	Stash Sale
Sunday 2 nd November	1 st Sunday Worship
Wednesday 5 th November	Mobile Library
Friday 28 th November	Little Norham Christmas

ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER NEWSROUND

All contributions to be sent,
in a word or jpeg format rather than pdf please,
to Janet Young – Janetyoung.lazda@gmail.com
by 'close of play' on **Thursday 23rd October**