

NORHAM NEWSROUND
DECEMBER 2025 – JANUARY 2026
Digital version also available at www.norhamlife.co.uk

Condolences to the family and friends of

Pamela Kempe-Roberts of Millennium Cottage who died recently at the age of 95 years.
Paula Ellis of West Street

Congratulations to John and Joan Scarboro who have celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary. 60 years – wonderful!

CRAFT AND CHAT

Our meetings continue every Wednesday with Wednesday 17th December being the last of this year's fantastic creativity. We will be busy at Norham Village Hall from 1 - 4 pm with plenty of refreshments available. A few Christmas goodies are still to be finished so come along - enjoy good crafting and good company.

After such a successful WI craft day we hope that when we kick off the new season on Wednesday 7 January 2026 we hope we will welcome new members as well as new projects. We would love you to join us! For more information please contact Jan L'Argent on 07777 611714.



NORHAM WI

Our December Meeting is on Thursday 4th December. The theme is 'Favourite Christmas Decoration'. Members can make a Christmas Floral arrangement under the guidance of Lynne Ellerby. Materials will be provided. The competition is the Floral arrangement made on the day. Members are also invited to bring along a 'Secret Santa' gift to the value of no more than £5, which should, ideally, be wrapped.

At the January meeting on Thursday 8 January 2026 we will be joined by Lynsay Oliver for Seated Exercises. Details of the member's competition will be advised at the December meeting and at a later date by email and social media. For further information please contact Secretary, Sally Baylis on 07570 792074.

NORHAM COMMUNITY WEBSITE ASSOCIATION

Having spent some months revising the NorhamLife website, with considerable help and advice from an enthusiastic and younger technophile (!) we are delighted to announce that it is now live. The address is as before – www.Norhamlife.co.uk. We hope you like it and find it user friendly. It is free for everyone to use and in which to be featured. However, please be aware:

- the transfer of all the information from the old to the new is not yet complete and so do not worry if you cannot find something immediately.
- constructive feedback would be very welcome along with suggestions for any other information you would like to see there.
- if any more groups, businesses or organisations would like to be added that would be most welcome – many were contacted but if you missed the notice then please let us know. We would aim to enable all works and activities to be seen.

Our contact address is norhamwebncwa@gmail.com OR norhamlife@gmail.com

NORHAM VILLAGE BAND

Christmas Concert

Norham Village Hall - Tuesday 2nd December at 7 p.m.

Entry is by donation. There will be Refreshments during the interval. Everyone is welcome. Help us too, by singing a few Carols while the Band plays during the second half of the Concert!

John and Joan Scarboro would like to thank the WI for the lovely, delicious cake plus cards. Also Norham Village Band for cards and gifts and everyone else who sent cards on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. THANK YOU Regards Joan and John

ST CUTHBERT'S CHOIR

December is a very busy time of year for all musicians and we are no exception! Our commitments are :

Saturday 6th December 10am onwards -
Carol Singing at Morrisons raising money for
North Northumberland Hospice Care –
you would be welcomed if you came along to support us!
Card reader will be to hand if you forget to bring cash...!



Thursday 11th December 2pm - Carol Singing at Birch Hill

Sunday 21st December 10am - Carol Service in church with both choirs (kids and us!) followed by mince pies and mulled wine – a lovely collection of carols – old and new. Please come along and enjoy this beautiful Service heralding the coming of Christmas in a wonderful way - we love having lots of support and encouragement.

Of course we will keep singing at all Sunday services, except on 7th December when we will happily hand over to the youngsters!

CONCERTS@ STCUTHBERTS

A Candlelit Concert at St Cuthberts!
Gina McCormack & Marianna Abrahamyan
6th December 7pm

Tickets £15 (U16s Free) in Aid of the St Cuthbert's Project Available from
<https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/norham-church-concert-planning-group/candlelit-concert> /on the door if available.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear two truly world class musicians on your own doorstep!

Gina McCormack is one of Britain's leading artists, with regular performances as a soloist and chamber musician at venues across the country and abroad. Gina has performed at the Wigmore Hall, and as soloist with the Hallé, Royal Philharmonic and Scottish Chamber Orchestras. She was the leader of the Sorrel Quartet for many years, and, more recently, spent two years as first violinist of the Brodsky Quartet. She is currently teaching at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.



Armenian pianist Marianna Abrahamyan is an internationally recognised award-winning pianist and collaborative artist. In June 2024, she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Performing Arts by the University of St Andrews, and, in addition to her performing activities, she is a piano lecturer at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

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. This concert will be the first to benefit from the stage curtain behind the chancel arch, which should reduce draughts and improve the heating in the church - the curtains were installed at the beginning of November so its going to be positively balmy in the church! 🧡

MASON'S ARMS

Christmas Market - 6th December 2025

10 - 4pm, Free entry, all welcome.

The Masons Arms are having their first Christmas market. We would love it if you could pop along and support this event. Help us make it a success for years to come. There are also stalls for the kids too!

Boxing Day Bottle Draw

in aid of Andy's Man Club in Berwick-Upon-Tweed

This is a local charity who helps with mens mental health and suicide awareness. It's very close to our hearts especially this year and we would love to help raise some money for them.

We are looking for bottle donations to be handed into The Masons Arms. Tickets will go on sale in December.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

A huge thank you to our village school, Church, surgery, shops, pubs & everyone who supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year. The total sum collected by Norham Village was £1045.20, another tremendous effort for a small village.

Moiria & Gwen

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Apologies to everyone for the last minute cancellation of the lunch in November – a difficult decision but we decided that the sharing of illness was not really part of the community spirit! The next lunch will take place on Friday 12th December at 12.30pm. There will be lasagne and mince pies on the menu with vegetarian options available! Everyone would be most welcome. You are invited to make a donation on the day if you wish. The first lunch in 2026 will be on Friday 16th January.

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

Should you wish to contact St Cuthbert's Church about any matter and in particular in relation to the St Cuthbert's Project please get in touch as follows:

- Churchwarden, Lucy Carroll, 07974 416692
- Churchwarden, Nick Ellis, (01289) 382754
- The Vicar, the Revd Rob Kelsey, (01289) 382325

THE NORHAM LIVING NATIVITY 3.00pm - Sat 20th Dec 2025



**We meet at the churchyard gates, then go with
Mary, Joseph and the wee donkey
on their journey round the village to Bethlehem.**

We stop along the way to sing carols, as we encounter a Roman soldier, the star and the wise (wo)men, a shepherd and angel, the sign to Bethlehem, the innkeeper, and some real live sheep and lambs.

At the end of our journey, we gather round the stable outside the Village Hall to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, accompanied by a solo voice and the St Cuthbert's Junior Singers.

Our worship ends at about 3.40pm with refreshments served in the Village Hall.

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

CHRISTMAS 2025

all services at Norham Parish Church
(unless otherwise specified)

SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER

3.00pm – The Norham Living Nativity

We gather by the war memorial to go with Mary and Joseph and the wee donkey on their journey round the village to 'Bethlehem'.

SUNDAY 21ST December

10.00am – Carol Service

1.30am – Zoom Service

CHRISTMAS EVE, WED 24TH December

4.00pm – Crib Service

9.00pm – Holy Communion

using the Book of Common Prayer

There will not be a service at 11.30pm this year.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THUR 25TH

10.00am – Holy Communion

11.30am – Zoom Service

For more information, including a link to the
Zoom Services, contact the Vicar,
the Revd Rob Kelsey, on (01289) 382325.

NORHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

You are invited to a service to celebrate

Ceolwulf, King and Monk (died 765 AD)

2.30pm, Thursday 15th January 2025 in Norham Church

St Ceolwulf was King of Northumbria from 729 to 737 AD, when he became a monk at Lindisfarne. He was the 'most glorious king' to whom the Venerable Bede dedicated his *History of the English Church and People*. During Viking raids in the 9th century, the Lindisfarne monks brought the bodies of both Cuthbert and Ceolwulf to Norham. Cuthbert's body later continued its journey to Durham, but Ceolwulf remained buried somewhere in Norham. Norham Primary School was named after him in 2005.



The St Cuthbert's Project

Bulletin No. 9

December 2025

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

We submitted an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in October, and hope to hear back early in the new year. In the meantime, we are grateful to the Northumbria Historic Churches Trust and the Barmoor Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, which have both offered grants of £10,000 towards the St Cuthbert's Project. These grants are not only a boost to our funds, but also a vote of confidence in the project, which further strengthens our case in other grant applications.

Ros Lamont, CEO of The Maltings, has recently said, 'We're delighted that The Maltings' curtains have found a good home in retirement after their long and distinguished theatrical career. We applaud the team at Norham Church on a fantastic job of restoring and installing them. They make an impressive addition to an inspiring building – and a practical one, too, creating an ambience that's both welcoming and appreciably warmer!'

On 6th December, the chancel arch curtains will be put to good use, during a special, candlelit concert featuring the renowned violinist Gina McCormack (<https://www.ginaviolin.com/>), who has kindly offered her services to raise funds for the St Cuthbert's Project. You can obtain tickets here: <https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/norham-church-concert-planning-group>.

In other news, the renowned portrait painter, Susan Ryder (<https://www.susanryder.co.uk/>) is donating a painting of Norham Church to the St Cuthbert's Project. We plan to make it a centrepiece of a fundraising effort sometime next year, with the help of Norham Arts. You may not be a renowned musician or artist, but, if you have ideas for supporting the St Cuthbert's Project, please let us know.

NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday 8th December at 7.30 pm in Norham Village Hall

The Border Reivers - A talk by John Sadler of The Time Bandits. This will be a combined meeting of Norham and Ladykirk History Society and The Friends of Norham Castle

Entrance is £2.00 or free to members

VILLAGE HALL

The hall, committee room and snooker room are available for hire to any individual or group. We have now set up an online booking system so that it is easy to see when the different rooms might be available. To access this and book the hall please go to

<https://hallbookingonline.com/norham>. You can still book the hall via email by writing to

Norhamvillagehall@gmail.com. Details of the hall, its facilities and costs can be found online at Norhamlife.co.uk as well as on the online booking service.

With Christmas holidays coming up you may wish to book the hall at short notice to watch a film with friends, play snooker, dodge ball or maybe even table tennis! Please make a booking in the usual way and we can then facilitate access.

The hall committee has been made aware that many people do not feel they have had a chance to comment on some of the proposals for the transformation of the hall. Discussions about the plans continue and are very thorough and detailed. The aspiration is to offer a facility suitable not only for now but also going forward into the next 10- 20 years. Solar panels and double glazing are currently being actively pursued and we hope to report back on those matters soon. Should you have any comments or would like to see the initial proposals then please get in touch via email (as above) or by dropping a note into the post box at 70 Castle Street for the committee to consider.

LITTLE NORHAM CHRISTMAS

Despite the weather, a lovely crowd of people came along on Friday night to support A Little Norham Christmas and raise money for Cancer Cars and Northern Soul Kitchen. NSK made the most delicious canapés, as always, to suit all tastes and requirements and these were accompanied by festive drinks. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it a success whether making produce for the foodies' stall, decorating the hall on the day, taking tickets on the door, managing the raffle, offering us musical diversion or most importantly coming along to join in on the night. It was a great evening and the monies raised are still being counted!!



The decorations will stay up until Sunday December 14th so anyone using the hall can enjoy them until then.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

The reports of all the surveys undertaken for the Renewable Energy Project can now be reviewed online at: <https://norhamdt.org/>

Please submit any feedback as you wish

FRIENDS OF NORHAM CASTLE

A Talk by John Castling

'The Bishop's Palace Beneath the Lawns: Rediscovering Auckland Castle'

21st January 7pm - Norham Village Hall

Entry Free to FNC Members: £2 to non-members

Auckland Castle (now known as Auckland Palace) is widely considered to be one of the North East's most important medieval residential complexes, a significance amplified by the extensive survival of its medieval parkland setting. Since 2016 several excavations by Durham University and The Auckland Project have brought a great deal of new information to light that has enhanced the understanding of the site and its significance – not least the discovery of Prince-Bishop Antony Bek's magnificent early fourteenth century two-storey chapel. It's been featured on the BBC's Digging for Britain (twice) and Channel 5 TV programmes, with annual excavations until summer 2025. Post-excavation work to produce a published report is ongoing. This talk will highlight some of these remarkable discoveries and describe how they have transformed our understanding of the medieval Prince-Bishop's palace at Auckland.

John Castling is the Auckland Project's archaeology curator, and recently finished his PhD at Durham University focussing on the Roman and medieval archaeology of County Durham. He looks after the Auckland Project's archaeology and is a passionate advocator of the social and cultural power of community archaeology.

Looking for an idea for a stocking filler for Christmas? FNC have playing cards, keyrings and fridge magnets on offer for that very purpose!!!

friendsofnorhamcastle@gmail.com for details



Contact

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 2 nd December	Christmas Concert Village Band
Saturday 6 th December	Mason's Christmas Market
Saturday 6 th December	Candlelit Concert
Monday 8 th December	History Society / FNC meeting
Friday 12 th December	Community Lunch
Wednesday 17 th December	Mobile Library
Saturday 20 th December	Living Nativity
Sunday 21 st December	Carol Service

Wednesday 24 th December	Crib Service
Thursday 25 th December	Christmas Day service
Friday 26 th December	Boxing Day Bottle Draw
Wednesday 7 th January 2026	Mobile Library
Thursday 15 th January	Service for Ceowulf
Friday 16 th January	Community Lunch
Wednesday 21 st January 2026	FNC lecture

ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY NEWSROUND

All contributions to be sent, in a word /jpeg format please - not pdf -
to Janet Young – Janetyoung.lazda@gmail.com
by 6pm on Thursday 29th January