



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Caring about where you live

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 July 2016

Parish Council Information

Your local parish councillors are:

Eileen Carew
Andy Dunhill (Chair)
David McKenzie
Jill Mills
Malcolm Reid
Brian Singer

Contact details for
Catherine Harrison,
Parish Clerk
01434 682348 (office-hours
only please) or email
ridingmillclerk@gmail.com

*Dates for forthcoming Parish
Council Meetings held in Church
Cottage, Church Lane*
7.45 pm
(public questions from 7.15 pm)

12th September 2016
14th November 2016
12th December 2016
13th February 2017
13th March 2017
8th May 2017
12th June 2017 (tbc)

Annual Parish Meeting
April 2017 – date to be
confirmed

Contact Details for County
Councillor Anne Dale,
01434 673326 or email
anne.dale@northumberland.gov.uk

Have you read Riding Mill's own
website?
Check out www.ridingmill.org

Chairman's Notes

This is our second Newsletter and we hope you find it interesting and informative. The PC has had a busy year and brought some of its plans to fruition. The ramp adjacent to the single Tennis Court has been completed and seems to be the route taken by most people. This has allowed us to create an attractive Edible Garden on the adjacent land which we hope you will both contribute to and enjoy.

Work is progressing well on regenerating the Football pitch which we hope will be playable in the autumn. There seems to be a good level of interest in establishing a youth team so we look forward to seeing games

being played there once again. Further plans are in hand to improve the facilities significantly for both cricket and football, subject to grant assistance, so watch this space

The Gateway entrance at the east end of the village is now in place and we are working on how to landscape the area to emphasise that drivers are entering a village so should limit their speed.

Our Footpaths Group has surveyed all of the paths in the Parish and reported its findings to the County. Some ageing way marks have been replaced and foliage cut back on some of the paths especially

near stiles and gates. Working with the County, Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency we will put in place a Flood Management Plan to try to minimise the effects of future flood risks. We are looking for volunteers to help with this so please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

There are many other interesting things we are involved with and there are three vacancies on the Council so if you would like to help us contribute to village life please give me a call on 682018 for a chat.

Have a good summer,
Andy Dunhill



PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

The Parish Council and Councillor Dale receive repeated reports of traffic speeding in to the village. So, working with the County Council we have been looking at ways of slowing it down. A 'gateway' entrance has been installed on the eastern approach of the A695. This creates the perception to the

approaching driver that the road is narrowing and is enforced by additional road markings. The area around the Riding Mill sign will be landscaped with large plants again to create the impression that you are entering a residential area and need to slow down.



Northumberland County Council also has its own initiative to reduce traffic speeds at school times. Throughout the County, vehicles near schools will be limited to 20 mph for ninety minutes both at the beginning and end of the school day. This will apply to the A695 and there is a further proposal to make a permanent speed limit of 20 mph from Whiteside Bank past the school, something which most residents already instinctively follow.



GRAND PLANS

You may not have noticed but dramatic changes have been taking place at the sports field and hopefully even more dramatic changes will happen over the next few months.

Alongside the cricket pitch was a wilderness. This was formerly a football pitch unused since 1987. It was decided to restore it to its former glory and the Parish Council paid for it to be cleared, levelled and reseeded. All this has now been done and thousands of stones have been removed. Throughout the spring youngsters have been playing football on the tennis courts and it is hoped that with sufficient interest there will be teams for the eight to ten year olds and even the ten to twelve year olds. Very shortly the pitch should be ready for coaching and training sessions.

Until recently the cricket field has only been used for Sunday afternoon matches. This has changed. Riding Mill now has a side in the

West Tynedale League, three community teams play there midweek and Corbridge and Benwell Hill use it for junior cricket and women's cricket.

So the field is now used more and more by women and youngsters. This means that the present pavilion is unfit for purpose. It has no electricity, no showers or indoor toilets. We therefore plan to raise funds to build a new pavilion that would be suitable. The Parish Council has funded a feasibility study which is being carried out by local architect Neil Turner of Howarth Litchfield Partnership. Once this is completed fund raising will start in earnest.

The field should now be seen as a real community asset. It will also be used for any event such as sports days, boot sales or fund raising functions, not just for the sports club but for the community.

Clive Page
Chairman, Riding Mill Cricket Club

Bright Savings

Street lighting across the County is having a revamp. Current street lighting is being replaced with new units that use light emitting diodes (LEDs) which have the advantage of using much less energy and lasting far longer.

The County Council is spending £25m on the project and work in Riding Mill is expected to commence in Autumn 2017.

The PC is able to have an input into how the programme is implemented in Riding Mill. For instance, we could ask for lighting columns to be painted a particular colour or even request new lighting columns to supplement areas where the current street lighting is not sufficient (note: new lights will not be installed where there is no existing street lighting). In addition, the new LED lights will be fitted with technology that enables them to be dimmed or even turned off at certain times. Would people like to see the lights switched off at midnight on residential streets? Please email the Clerk with your views.

Forgotten Memories

Workers repairing the roof of Church Cottage discovered a hidden treasure lost in the attic; a Memorial Panel recording those who had served in the First World War. The panel originally hung in the entrance to the Old School and on viewing old record books retained by Broomhaugh First School we have established that it was unveiled on Saturday 11th September 1920. The extract from the records reads as follows:

"The Memorial to the Ex-Scholars who served in the War was unveiled by Miss

Wilson today. The Chair was occupied by the Reverend Canon Richmond (late Chairman of the Managers), and an address was given by the Reverend P. F. Slater. A large gathering of people was present"

The panel has lain forgotten for many a year and requires extensive restoration to bring it back to its former glory. The Parish Council and the Village Hall Trust are in the process of securing funding for this work and have so far obtained £500 from the Community Chest Fund. The outcome of an application to the War

Memorials Trust is anticipated soon which hopefully might fund up to 75% of the cost. Work to restore the panel will take 3-4 months after which the panel will be rehung in a suitable place and a rededication ceremony held.

Can you help? The War Memorials Trust would love to see a photograph of the panel hanging in its original location in the Old School. If anyone has such a photograph we would be grateful if you would contact the Clerk.



Riding Mill Preschool has places for September 2016.

The Preschool offers places for children 2-4 years old. We are registered with Ofsted and are able to offer private and funded places for up to 24 children. We pride ourselves on high adult to child ratios and a curriculum which is tailored to meet the individual needs of your child.

Cooking lessons, pottery and tennis are just a few of the special activities we provide.

The Preschool has a highly trained and very experienced team. We now have extensive outdoor areas to access including the Preschool garden and the Spinney where children spend hours of fun in the forest.

The Preschool is run by a parent-led committee and some fund raising is required to allow the school to keep operating to the highest standards.

Successful fundraisers organised by the Preschool include the annual Pumpkin Party which is a highlight of the year for many of the children.

All parents are welcome to join the committee and no previous experience is required. Anyone interested in enrolling their child in the Preschool in September should contact Suzanne Barker at the preschool before 20 July 2016. The contact number is 07754 395572

*Helen Hunter,
Preschool Chair*



So many people tell us that they don't know where the **Spinney** is or just thought it was someone's garden.



This area opposite the Church now has a sign to help you find it and we hope that you stop by occasionally and enjoy its beauty and tranquillity.



Play Park Plans:

Last year we wrote about adding some new pieces of equipment to the Play Park. This is still the intention but we have discovered that the PC is ineligible to apply to quite a few of the funding sources and so to access these grants we have encouraged the formation of a community group, the Riding Mill Play & Regeneration Group.

The Group, formed in January, has had to prepare a constitution and apply to open its own bank account. Now these formalities have been completed, the Group is about to commence fundraising.

The costs have been obtained for various designs following initial consultation with the children at Broomhaugh First School who identified what they would really like to see in the updated Play Park.

Preliminary designs will be displayed in the Parish Hall shortly.

To follow the Group's progress please like its page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ridingmillplay/>

If you would like to become involved with the Group or have a fundraising idea please email: ridingmillplayandregeneration@gmail.com



We provide free, confidential advice and campaign on big issues affecting people's lives.

Contact us for advice on benefits, energy issues and debt management.

03444 111 444
Hexham Office
Drop in sessions 10am – 2pm Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

Local Transport Plan Programme

The Parish Council has until 31st August to submit ideas to the County Council of ways Riding Mill could be made safer e.g. footpaths widened, traffic calming measures, junction improvements etc.

If you have a suggestion please contact the Clerk. We will then choose our top 3 for the County Council to consider.

At the **Annual General Meeting** of the Parish Council, Councillor Andy Dunhill was elected to continue as Chair of the Parish Council and Councillor Brian Singer as the Vice-Chair.

All Parish Councillors are happy to be contacted and their phone numbers can be found on the PC noticeboard or on the website: www.ridingmill.org

If you care about where you live and feel that you have something to contribute please consider joining the Parish Council. We currently have three vacancies. Perhaps come along to a future meeting of the Council and see what is discussed or contact the Chair or Clerk for an informal chat.





∞ RIDING MILL EDIBLE GARDEN ∞

To book the Parish Hall or Millennium Hall for a meeting or an event, please contact Mrs Pam Pryor on 01434 682927 or email pampryor@btinternet.com

Missed bin collection?
Street light not working?

Report these problems on the Northumberland County Council website with just a few clicks

Go to <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/> and click on REPORT on the header bar



The concept of choosing to grow in public spaces plants with edible fruits is not new. For example many Swedish play parks are surrounded by a hedge of blackcurrant and redcurrant bushes. But the idea has been given a particular fillip by inspirational work at 'Incredible edible Todmorden'.



You will now see small plots in central Hexham inviting people to enjoy the fruits, and last year Riding Mill acquired six planters on the station platforms with a similar purpose.



This year after the construction of a ramp between the Parish Hall and the Play Park and MUGA court had disturbed the surrounding land, the least costly manner of restoration was to create an edible garden provided that it was primarily created through the work of volunteers.



On three occasions around ten village volunteers have turned out to prepare the land under the guidance of a professional gardener, and planted six fruit trees, sixteen fruit bushes, some strawberries and herbs. Two of the apple trees were mature donations and should produce apples this year. You are invited to help yourselves to the fruits both here and on the station where lots of greens are already ready.

The project is ongoing and belongs to us all. If you have suitable plants to add to the variety or if you are prepared to contribute some time towards the maintenance, please approach the Parish Council.

Cllr. Malcolm Reid



In December 2015 and January this year there was some very heavy rainfall onto already saturated ground which resulted in the flooding of five houses in the village with quite devastating results for those involved. We are working with Northumberland County Council, Northumbrian Water (nwl) and The Environment Agency to try to mitigate future problems. One key aspect of this is to establish a Flood Management Plan. We are looking for some volunteers in the village to help establish a plan. No specific qualifications are needed just a genuine interest in helping the village to prepare for and avoid the worst effects of future flood risk potential.

Fires in your garden



Fires can upset your neighbours and can be a health hazard to some. **Please be considerate.**

Check out the guidance information found on the Riding Mill website

Local Walks: Into the valley of the March Burn

This walk takes in some of the most scenic areas of the quiet countryside in the valley of the March Burn to the south-west of Riding Mill.

7 miles/11 kilometres, 900 feet/270 metres of ascent. Paths and quiet roads. Sometimes muddy.

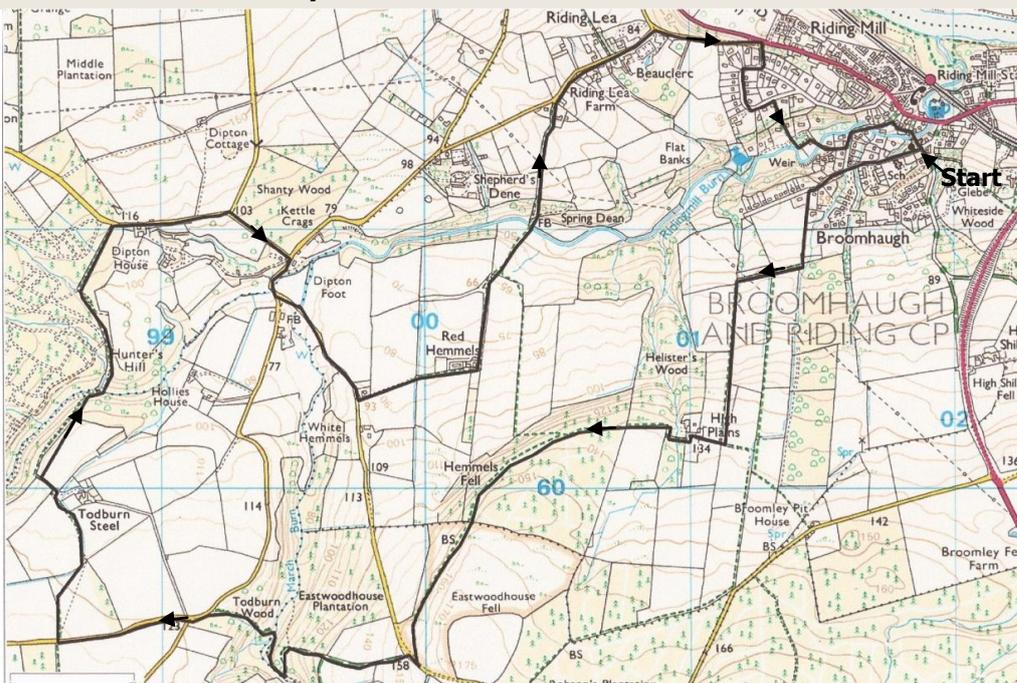
1. Leave the Old Playground heading west along Church Lane and up the hill towards Long Rigg. Where the hill ends, take the public footpath signposted Broomleyfell on the left heading south.

2. The lane ends at a stile into fields; here turn left and head steeply uphill towards High Plains.

3. At the hill top, turn right taking the footpath running west into the woods beyond the farmhouse. The level path follows the contour through the wood to a stile with concrete steps across the Parish boundary.

4. Continue onto Eastwood house Common with extensive views over Slaley Vale and Hexhamshire, following the way-markers until a minor road is reached. Almost directly ahead is a bridle path heading into the narrow valley of the March Burn. Keep straight ahead once a gate is reached and follow a zig-zag track to a bridge over the burn near the confluence of two streams. Cross the bridge and follow an easier track uphill to the Slaley road.

5. Turn left along the road for a short distance, then take the Wooley road until a public footpath heads northwards through fields towards Todburn Steel farm. Follow the yellow way-markers,



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keeping the farm buildings to your right, and over a ladder stile into the southern fringe of Dipton Wood. Here are some fine old oak trees bordering the forest, inhabited in early summer by birds such as the uncommon Pied Flycatcher alongside more common species such as Woodcock and Jay. The path heads down to the stream and then through beech woods to join a minor road west of Dipton House.

6. Follow the road downhill and at the junction with the Slaley road turn right, downhill to the next junction where you take the left fork signposted Healey. Soon the March Burn is crossed by a ford normally dry in summer which can flood, and is avoided by using the adjacent footbridge. The quiet lane ahead is deeply incised into the hillside and features a wide variety of wild flowers. The next right of way is a footpath on the left signposted Riding Lea; follow this to Red Hemmels and then downhill into pastures to cross

the March Burn for the third time below Shepherd's Dene. One last climb follows through mixed woodland fringed by ancient hedgerow trees, before emerging onto the road west of Beauclerc.

7. The route then heads back to Riding Mill. To avoid the main road, at the junction with the A695 turn right up The Nick and follow Sandy Lane anti-clockwise until a narrow way-marked path at a yellow hydrant sign leads down to the weir and then right onto Marchburn Lane.

8. Turning left onto Millfield Road, the footpath by the Parish Hall leads to the sixth and final crossing of the March Burn by the old stone bridge, and back to the walk's starting point.

HANDY TIP: The County Council provides a useful Rights of Way map for Northumberland online. Details can be found at <http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/prow/>.

Footpaths Group

Last year, a Footpaths Group was formed to help review the Rights of Way through the parish. A small group of residents surveyed each path and reported their findings to the County Council. Some issues can only be dealt with by the County Council but others such as cutting back vegetation along paths to improve passage and renewing waymarkings are being done by the Group. Should you have an issue with a Right of Way you can report the problem to either the Clerk or directly to the chairman of the Footpaths Group, Malcolm Chainey (malcolm@chainey.org.uk)



Photo showing the landslip on the footpath to Corbridge just after the devastating floods. This problem is in the hands of the County Council but we would love to see the footpath rerouted.



Daft as a Brush

Many of you may have noticed one of the Daft as a Brush brightly coloured ambulances darting around the region but did you know that children from Broomhaugh First School have adopted one of these vehicles and have helped design the livery? The emblem of the School is a red squirrel and children used this as the basis of their design.

Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care offers staffed custom-made vehicles to transport outpatients, free of charge, to and from hospital for their Chemotherapy or Radiotherapy cancer treatment. Access to this service is by referral from your doctor.

Further details should you wish to volunteer with the Charity or make a donation can be found at <http://www.daftasabrush.org.uk/> and remember to look out on your journeys for Broomhaugh's 'Speedy Squirrel'.



CHURCH COTTAGE is now available to book as a small, cosy meeting place. Contact Ena Clark on 682550 for details or email ena@enaclark.co.uk



Riding Mill Carpet Bowls Club is a small friendly club which meets on a Monday afternoon at the Parish Hall from 1.30 pm until 4.30 pm.

All ages are welcome and no equipment or previous experience is necessary.

There are occasional competitive matches but most weeks players fight it out for the honour of winning a chocolate biscuit.

To find out more contact Alan Armstrong 01434 298823

SMALL GRANTS:

The PC can on occasion offer small grants to clubs and organisations in the village. Further information can be obtained from the Clerk and applications should be submitted by 31st October.

Last year, the Preschool and Table Tennis Club both received grants from the PC together with other local organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Age UK and Tynedale Hospice at Home.



CANCER ADVOCACY WE CAN HELP

We provide one-to-one support, help and advocacy for people over 50 affected by cancer.

What we can do to help

- Accompany you to meetings and appointments
- Identify benefits and allowances that you are entitled to
- Find information on housing options
- Provide support when dealing with community care services
- Find local support groups
- Help you express your views
- Support you in your caring role

We make home visits and are available to patients and carers in Northumberland

☎ 01670 784847

@ macmillan@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

🌐 www.ageuk.org.uk/northumberland



Community Transport in Northumberland

Need help with transport to medical appointments, church, lunch clubs, shopping or social outings?

We can help you get transport whatever the occasion.

Contact WRVS Getabout Service Manager on 0783 475 3387 or 0845 266 8906

RIDING MILL TENNIS CLUB

Barbecues, Quiz Nights, mixed matches - there's nothing stuffy about Riding Mill Tennis Club. All you need is a couple of fluffy balls, a racquet and a pair of trainers. The only thing that's essential is a good sense of humour.

We boast that we're the cheapest and most family friendly club in the country and no one has contradicted us so far. Everyone can join, young and old, from absolute beginners to experienced players.

We enjoy casual play as well as more competitive matches, and although there is an online booking system, it is almost always possible to simply turn up and use a free court.

Regular tennis sessions are held for separate male and female players, as well as mixed doubles. We have a male team and a mixed team and we hope to have a women's team next season.

There is a rolling coaching scheme on Sunday mornings for adults and the classes for children after school and in the holidays.

More than 60 members, 3 hard courts, a quaint little clubhouse and a brook babbling by the courts - very scenic.

We also have a MUGA court with sessions for walking football, walking netball, 5-a-side football, and other sports. It will be used for young people trying different sports during the summer.

To join - and you won't regret it - contact Rob Archer on 07957509514 or go to our website. www.ridingmilltennis.co.uk



Clubs & Societies

Riding Mill has so many things going on – the following guide gives a flavour of what you could do ...



Allotment Society

Please contact: Eddie Nickson – 01434 682395



Angling Association

Please contact Peter Howe – 01434 682946



Art Club

Art Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Millennium Hall.

Please contact Janet Bennett – 01434 682478



Baby Group

This friendly group meets on a Thursday morning in Church Cottage to share a coffee and a chat.

Please contact: Sunniva Thompson – 07787 115142



Badminton Club

Badminton Club meets on a Thursday morning in the Parish Hall.

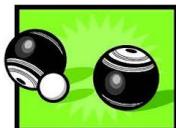
Please contact Evelyn Downs – 01434 682536



Bridge Club

This club meets on a Friday afternoon in the Parish Hall.

Please contact Pam Niven – 01434 682394



Carpet Bowls Club

This group meets on a Monday afternoon.

Please contact Alan Armstrong – 01434 298823



Choral Society

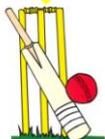
The Choral Society normally performs two concerts a year. Please contact Val Barnes – 01661 843787 or see the society's website: <http://ridingmillchoral.org.uk/>



Craft Class

Held on a Thursday afternoon in the Parish Hall.

Please contact Linda Shepherd – 01434 682069



Cricket Club

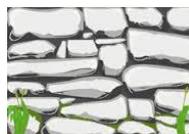
Please contact Clive Page – 01434 682566.

Clive can also be contacted about current football coaching.



Drama Club

Please contact Judy Wilthew – 01434 682590 or see the website: <http://www.ridingmildramaclub.com/>



Dry Stone Walling

Please contact Derek Blair - 01434 682434



Exercise Class for the over 50s to over 90s

This class is held on a Friday morning.

Please contact Linda Shepherd – 01434 682069



Golf

Meets once a month April – October. Please contact Rob Archer – 01434 682689



Evolution Gymnastics Club

Sessions for boy and girls aged 4-8 held on Wednesday afternoons after school.

Please contact Jill Tan – 07909 991351



Happy Hounds Dog Training Class

Classes held on Thursday evenings in the Millennium Hall

Please contact Jenny Sandiford – 07808 218999



IT Self Help Group

Please contact Ian Thompson – 01434 682308 or email ianthompson93@btinternet.com



Karate Class

Held on a Monday evening in the Parish Hall.

Please contact Sensei Peter Atkinson – 07912 533164



Lunch Club

A Lunch Club and Meals on Wheels service is offered twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays. At the moment it caters for around 10 people but has the capacity to cook for more. Those “who lunch” would welcome more company.

The Club is always looking for volunteers to help continue this service.

Please contact Christine Andersen – 01434 682535



Mothers' Union

Please contact Anne Foster – 01434 682437



Nia Dance Class

Please contact Allison Austick - 01434 676957

Northumbria Healers

This group meets on the last Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall. No appointment is necessary and further information about energy healing can be found on their website:

<http://northumbriahealers.co.uk/>



Photographic Society

This group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Please contact Rosie Cunningham – 01434 632515 or see the website:

<http://www.ridingmillphotographicociety.co.uk/>



Pilates Class

These classes are held on a Tuesday morning in the Parish Hall. Please contact Paula – 07990 774069. New beginners class hopefully commencing in September



Preschool

Preschool offers education and care to children from the age of two years until school age. It is based in the Millennium Hall and offers sessions each morning and some afternoons.

Please contact Suzanne Barker – 07754 395572 or see the website <http://www.ridingmillpreschool.btck.co.uk/>



St James' Church of England Sunday School and Crèche

Held in the Millennium Hall following the Sunday Service. Please contact Paula Steinlet – 01434 634719



Table Tennis Club

This group meets at the Millennium Hall on a Monday evening. A new session has also recently started on Tuesday afternoons. Please contact Linden Furness – 01434 682282



Tennis Club

For membership enquiries please contact Rob Archer – 01434 682689. Also see the website:

<http://ridingmilltennis.co.uk/>



Tynedale Chess Club

Meets at 7 pm on Tuesdays at the Ratcliffe, opposite the Angel Inn, Corbridge.

Please contact Steve Larkin for further details – 01434 682291



Tyne Valley Youth Theatre

TVYT is a youth theatre group for young people aged 8 to 19 living in the Tyne Valley and surrounding area. Please contact 0191 580 1250 or see the website

<http://www.tvyt.org.uk/>



Women's Institute

This group meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm.

Please contact Barbara Nelson – 01434 682739



Yoga Class

Held on a Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall.

Please contact Rose on 0191 413 7653 or email Rose@yogawithRose.co.uk

Useful Contacts

Northumberland County Council

0345 600 6400
01434 400388
Remember you can report problems via the website www.northumberland.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Mr Guy Opperman
01670 789161 email: teamoppy@gmail.com
020 7219 7113 email: guy.opperman.mp@parliament.uk

Hospitals/Doctors

Corbridge Medical Group
01434 632011

Branch End Surgery
01661 842626

Hexham General Hospital
0344 811 8111
Northumbria Specialist
Emergency Care Hospital
0344 811 8111
Newcastle RVI /
Newcastle General
Hospital
0191 233 6161

Emergency 999, Urgent
111

Police – 999 or 101 for
non emergency

Utility Services

Gas Emergency
0800 111 999

Electricity – loss of power
0800 66 88 77

Northumbrian Water –
report a leak -
0800 393 084
report water and
sewerage flooding-
0800 328 7648

Environment Agency:
Floodline –
0345 988 1188
Incident Hotline –
0800 80 70 60

Schools

Broomhaugh First School
01434 682374
Corbridge Middle School
01434 632191
Queen Elizabeth High
School, Hexham
01434 610300

Squirrels Breakfast &
After-School Club
Yvonne Stokoe – 07933
901732

Travel

Go North East
0191 420 5050
Northern Trains
0800 200 6060
National Rail Enquiries
03457 48 49 50
Newcastle Airport
0871 882 1121