



Parish Council Information

Your local parish councillors are:

Eileen Carew
Andy Dunhill
Christine Howe (Chair)
David Irwin
Stephen Lightley
David McKenzie MBE
Jill Mills
Brian Singer (Vice-Chair)

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

Dates for forthcoming Parish Council Meetings
7.45 pm
(public questions from 7.15 pm)

9 October 2023
13 November 2023
11 December 2023
8 January 2024
12 February 2024
11 March 2024
8 April 2024
13 May 2024
10 June 2024
8 July 2024
9 September 2024
14 October 2024
11 November 2024
9 December 2024

Please consult agenda for venue

Annual Parish Meeting
May 2024 – date to be confirmed

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

Keep updated with village news or check out the Minutes from PC meetings
www.ridingmill.org

Yearly Review

Christine Howe, Chair of the Parish Council

Welcome to the Parish Council's Newsletter providing a review of our activities during the last financial year and an outline of our plans for this year.

This has been a fairly unremarkable year for Riding Mill, but the parish continues to thrive, albeit without some dear friends. The Coronation, of course, was celebrated well and the knitters excelled themselves again!

In the last financial year we stuck to basic maintenance and replaced the three planters at the village entrances, put in a disabled gate at the sports club and located a new dog bin for dogwalkers coming out of the station. However, we have embarked upon more ambitious projects this year and we have managed to make a difference in the following areas:

Playground - You may have noticed the new play equipment. We've also given the old equipment a bit of a spruce up too. All in all, the play park is



looking good and we hope the children are enjoying it.

Weir Footbridge - After 40 years of service, albeit with some repairs, the timber bridge was found to be rotting earlier this year, and has just been replaced with a longer lasting but sustainable bridge. It's made from recycled plastic, with a minimum lifespan of at least 40 years and an expectation of much longer. This was our biggest expenditure and necessitated the use of a portion of our reserves, but it is hoped that it will be most cost effective.

War Memorial Plaque - This has now been corrected and a rededication ceremony was held in August. Thanks must go to Sandy Gardner, who pushed this through securing the help of the Royal Engineers, the Freemasons and, with crowdfunding, finished the project.

Defibrillators - Well done to Sandy Bank residents

for raising funds to install a defibrillator in their locality. And thanks to the ECB and the Club Cricket Charity for funds to install one at the cricket pavilion.

Mill Pond - It had been hoped to reinstate the pond itself and enhance the area with a boardwalk, with a much



Cont. overleaf

See the back page for your guide to what's on and how to get involved.

simpler scheme than that originally envisaged. However, Tyne Rivers Trust has recommended that it would not be cost effective to install the required outflow back into the river adjacent to the footbridge so sadly this scheme has now been abandoned. We will keep the area tidy though and, in time, add an interpretation board so everyone is aware of its history.



After a lot of hard work from the councillors and steering group, we have at last reached referendum stage. Northumberland County Council will be

organising this and have designated **5th October** as the voting day. Please see the article on pages 4/5.

Community Actions - As part of our neighbourhood plan, but not part of the formal section, (which will be part of the planning framework, if accepted) we have suggested some community actions which we hope to pursue in the coming years. You will have noticed the improvements to the grassed area below "Bobby's shop", and this is one of the townscape community actions. Other townscape areas to be investigated include the bottom of Whiteside Bank and the area in front of the MUGA court, which is no longer used by the Scouts or the Pre-school.

Neighbourhood Plan -



New weir footbridge—it's wider, allowing better access for everyone.

As part of our climate change actions, we are actively pursuing the possible installation of EV charging points with the County Council.

Finally, a big **Thank you** should go to all of you who have supported us by participating in the balsam bashing and the litter picking – we couldn't do it without you. Also, to the tireless Garden Invaders at the Parish Hall - as a recognition of all their hard work, we have entered them in a Northumbria in Bloom competition. The outcome of the It's Your Neighbourhood award will be known in September.

Well done to everyone involved in organising the village's Coronation celebrations—it was another memorable weekend!




Ash Dieback

Residents need to check any ash trees they own. Ash dieback has really taken effect now in the village with most trees showing signs of the disease. The majority of trees will not recover and advice should be sought from a qualified tree

Play Park Update

Our play park is very well-used and enjoyed. We have an independent safety inspector assess it every year and unfortunately, over the last couple of years, they have noted parts on the older pieces of equipment starting to fail. New playgrounds cost a lot, so we made the decision to repair the equipment where possible – new ropes and platforms have been fitted, some panels have been changed to plastic rather than wood. We have also fitted new swings and installed new springers. This work has cost over £15,000 and we are very

grateful to County Councillor Anne Dale for donating £2,000 to help install the new springers and to the County Council for a grant of £2,082 made from their Housing Developer Fund. The remaining funds have been taken from the Parish Council's reserve account (we make an effort each year to set some funds aside for future maintenance of this important village amenity).

Feedback on the new equipment has been positive and it's been very popular over the summer holidays.



Huge thanks to Martin, the PC's handyman, and his assistant Geoff, for all their hard work updating the play park.



War Memorial Correction

Thank you to everyone who supported our crowdfunding appeal at the end of last year to help raise the funds to have the World War 2 memorial plaque amended. As you will recall, Frederick Best had been incorrectly recorded as having served in the RAF when actually he was in the Royal Engineers. He had served with 235th Field Park Company in the Western Desert Campaign

before being captured and held as a Prisoner of War in Italy where he sadly died.

With additional support from Osbit, the Royal Engineers Association and the Northumberland Freemasons, we very quickly raised the funds to send the bronze plaque to a specialist metal conservator. The plaque was returned in July and we were delighted to welcome a number of retired Royal Engineers to a special rededication ceremony led by Reverend Diana Johnson.



This Village Needs Volunteers

We love our village and we want it to thrive. We choose to live here for the great quality of life it offers.

We enjoy all the clubs and organisations which make it what it is. Behind all this are countless volunteers who give up their time so readily and share their expertise. Many of these groups require additional volunteers to sustain them, please consider if you could help.

Volunteer at the Foyer Café

The Village Hall Trust is always looking for people to help out

Could you help in a flood?
Register as a Flood Warden

We've created a welcome letter for new residents. Could you be your street's representative and deliver the letter?

Enjoy working with young people? The Scouts could use your help

Help set up a monthly litter pick group

Have you green fingers? Help the Garden Invaders at the Parish Hall

Serve as a Parish Councillor - 1 vacancy to fill

Local Transport Plan (LTP):

Each year, the County Council asks us to submit three highways or transport priority issues for possible inclusion in the LTP programme. This year, we have suggested the following:

1. Pedestrian and cycleway alongside A68 - Whiteside Bank to Healey junction
2. Pedestrian and cycleway improvements along A695 to create a safe route between Stocksfield and Riding Mill.
3. Creation of additional parking bays opposite the school using wide verge.

If interested, contact the Clerk and she can direct you to the appropriate person.

Broomhaugh & Riding Neighbourhood Plan

DECISION TIME



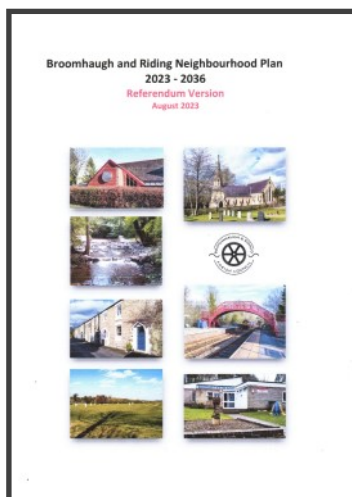
The Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2036, produced by the Parish Council with the aid of the Steering Group of residents and councillors has reached its final step. There will be a parish-wide referendum on **5th October 2023**.

The voting will be held in the Parish Hall (the arrangements will be the same as normal elections). It will be a simple **YES** (I support the Neighbourhood Plan) or **NO** (I reject the Neighbourhood Plan). It's time for your decision.

VOTE
YES
NO

The final step of a very formal referendum reflects both the importance of residents' decisions about the Plan and, if it meets with your approval, the status of the Plan as a statutory document.

For more information about the plan and the referendum please go to the Northumberland County Council website: www.northumberland.gov.uk/ourplan or the Riding Mill website: <https://ridingmill.org/neighbourhood-plan/>.



Printed copies of the plan documents are available to look at in the Parish Hall, St James's Church and are available to borrow from the Parish Clerk.

The following **Vision** has been agreed for the Neighbourhood Plan:

The vision sets out what the Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Plan intends to achieve over the plan period to 2036. It informs all the plan objectives, draft planning policies and community actions:

"Making the most of our heritage, connectivity and rural environment, we aspire to become a more balanced, diverse and sustainable community."

Objectives

To deliver the vision, six objectives have been developed. These clearly relate to the issues identified through early engagement with the local community and other stakeholders, as well as the evidence base supporting the plan. The draft planning policies and community actions contained within the plan, should deliver the objectives.

Objective 1 – Built environment: *To ensure that the built environment respects and protects our heritage whilst delivering a balanced provision of housing, reflecting the demographic of the parish and meeting the design policy and zero carbon targets;*

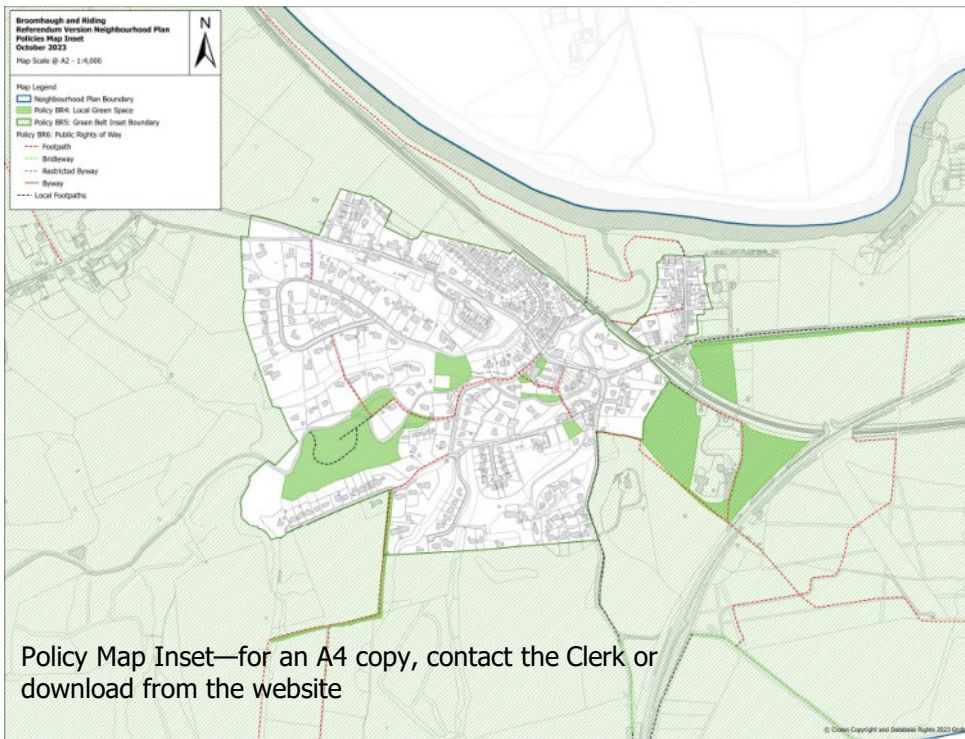
Objective 2 – Natural environment: *To maintain and enhance a thriving natural environment that can be enjoyed by residents of the parish both now and in the future. This includes preserving the dark skies of the parish for both residents and wildlife; reducing light pollution where possible to do so, whilst maintaining a safe and hospitable environment.*

Objective 3 – Transport: *To become a more attractive place to live and visit through better connections to different modes of public transport and easier to navigate as a pedestrian and cyclist with improved wayfinding.*

Objective 4 – Climate change and energy: *To work towards becoming a 'zero carbon' village by 2035.*

Objective 5 – Health and wellbeing: *To provide a lovely and friendly environment in which to live, providing residents of all ages with the opportunity to engage in a wide range of leisure and recreational activities for the benefit of their health and wellbeing.*

Objective 6 – Local economy: *To recognise the growth in home working and to ensure that local services meet the requirements of those choosing to spend more time working from home.*



The draft planning policies and community actions contained within the plan will deliver the objectives.

Statement by the Parish Council

The Plan has been the subject of extensive consultation within the village over the last few years. It is based on a wide range of views expressed by residents which we have considered and included at every stage. The draft Plan was assessed earlier this year by a statutory

independent examiner who has confirmed that the Broomhaugh & Riding Neighbourhood Plan has met the criteria to move to this final stage, the Referendum, which is being organised by Northumberland County Council.

We encourage you all to read the Plan and to come out and vote on Thursday 5th October to support or reject it (please note: postal voting is possible too).

NEW RULES WHEN VOTING – ID REQUIRED – PLEASE READ

Residents need voter ID to vote in planning referendum

Residents wishing to vote in the upcoming Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Planning Referendum being held on Thursday 5 October 2023 will need to show appropriate photographic ID if voting in person at the polling station.

Accepted forms of ID include: a photocard driving licence (full or provisional), passport, concessionary travel pass, such as an older person's bus pass, or blue badge. Voters will be able to use expired photo ID, as long as it remains a good enough likeness for the polling station staff to be able to identify the voter. The photo ID should be the original version and not a copy.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate either online or by completing a paper application.

These new requirements will not affect electors who vote by post.

The Planning referendum is being held to get residents views on whether they wish to support the Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Plan which addresses issues local people have identified as important in their area.

All residents in the Parish who are registered to vote will be able to have a say at the planning referendum. If the majority of residents vote in favour of bringing the Plan into force, the County Council will adopt the plan to ensure that it is used to help determine local planning applications.

Mark Crawford, Elections Manager at Northumberland County Council said: "New regulations that have been brought into force mean that anyone voting at a polling station in England from now on will need to show photo ID before they can be given their ballot paper.

"It is important that everyone understands what types of ID they can use, and how to apply for free ID if they need it.

"Please don't leave it until the last minute. If you need free photo ID apply now. We really don't want to turn anyone away on polling day, but we do have a legal duty to adhere to the new regulations."

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for free voter ID, at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.

If you have a query regarding Voter ID, or need help applying for a Voter Authority Certificate you can also contact the County Council's election team on 01670 624844 or by emailing voter-id@northumberland.gov.uk





Yearly Accounts

We publish our accounts each year on our website and the notice board. As a resident of the Parish, you have the right to view the accounts at certain times each year. To help make our work more transparent, we have summarised last year's accounts for information.

Last year's expenditure was particularly high due to the cost of redeveloping the sports pavilion. This year, it is comparable with our normal budget spending.

^{1.} This is higher than normal as a survey of our bridges, undertaken every 5 years, coincided with a full woodland survey, which is undertaken every 3 years.

^{2.} This shows an overspend and relates to the start of the additional maintenance work at the Play Park which included the installation of new rope parts.

^{3.} This figure is low as not all planned capital expenditure projects were undertaken in 2022/23.

Expenditure		
	2022/23	2021/22
Staff Costs	£12,726	£10,805
Insurance	£2,292	£2,112
General Admin (Stationery, room hire, subscriptions and website costs)	£1,876	£2,332
Professional fees ¹ (legal, audit and statutory inspection fees)	£4,271	£1,078
Donations	£3,610	£4,110
Maintenance ² (Grass cutting, tree works, maintenance of assets including Play Park etc.)	£17,185	£14,626
Capital Expenditure ³	£1,420	£59,088
Miscellaneous ⁴	£9,953	£4,704
Transfer to the reserves ⁵	£2,500	£3,100
TOTAL (excluding VAT)	£55,833	£101,955

Income		
	2022/23	2021/22
Precept	£45,000	£42,000
Interest	£456	£32
Rents, Covenants, Wayleaves	£271	£6,145
Grants and donations ⁶	£10,256	£36,975
Miscellaneous	£332	£0
TOTAL (excluding VAT)	£56,315	£85,152

Instead, funds were reallocated once it was known that the weir footbridge would have to be replaced in 2023/24.

^{4.} Miscellaneous expenditure includes the Neighbourhood Planning costs and consultant's fee, the changes to the War Memorial plaque and costs for staging the Platinum Jubilee events.

^{5.} The Parish Council has a sinking fund for the eventual replacement of Millfield Road bridge and/or Marchburn Lane bridge. £2,500 was set aside from the Precept last year.

^{6.} Funds received included a grant of £7,410 from Groundwork UK to cover all expenses relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. £2,047 was raised to pay for the amendment to the war memorial plaque and £800 was received for Platinum Jubilee events.



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 written requests should be submitted by **31st October** each year.

Last year, we made awards to the following village clubs and local charities: Outdoor Pre-School, Garden Invaders at the Parish Hall, Tuesday Drop-in Group, Great North Air Ambulance, Tynedale Hospice, Age UK Northumberland, Community Action Northumberland, Citizens Advice and Sport Tynedale.

We also support another local charity, Natural Ability. They do a fantastic job keeping our edible garden neat and tidy.



Ideas Welcomed!

This area of land by the MUGA court costs money to maintain but is unused. What could we do with it instead? Initial ideas include:-

- Adult outdoor gym equipment
- A table tennis table
- A petanque area

- Area for picnic benches
- An allotment

We'd love to hear your suggestions. You could also consider joining the Play & Regeneration Group and help fundraise to make ideas become a reality. Contact the Clerk for more information.

The Parish Council maintains an email list and sends out updates about community matters and events.

If you would like to receive a copy, please visit our website and complete the sign-up form or contact the Clerk and she will add you to the list.

To book either the Parish Hall or the Millennium Hall, please use the online booking system <https://www.ridingmillvillagehalls.org/>



The Community Centre
Gilesgate
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 3NP
0808 278 7944

01670 339985 (to cancel or rearrange an appointment)

Advice Line 0808 278 7944
Debt Line 01670 339960

Drop-in and appointments
Tues /Fri 10 -12

Advice available covering areas such as Benefits, Work, Debt and Money, Housing, Family, Law and Courts, Consumer Rights, Immigration, Health



Age UK Northumberland can provide a wealth of information for older residents. Their core services include advice, advocacy, health and wellbeing and befriending. In addition, they offer information on Scam Awareness, Bereavement Services and Living Well with Dementia.

To access their services contact

01670 784 800

info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk.



Northumberland Communities Together is here to help. If you or anyone you know needs support, please get in touch.
Phone the Community response hub: 01670 620015 between 9 am to 6 pm, seven days a week.



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

Adapt (North East) may be able to help. To speak to an advisor please contact

03333 441 740



WENTWORTH GRANGE

Wentworth Grange would love to invite local residents to participate in some of their weekly events. They host a number of activities and anyone wishing to attend should contact the coordinator, Jo Stichbury – 07855 247063/ eventsteamwg@outlook.com

Regular events include:

Monday – Book Club @ 3 pm

Tuesday – Seated Fitness @ 3 pm

Wednesday – Crafts @ 3 pm

Thursday – Sharing Latest News @ 11 am / History talk @ 3 pm

Friday – Quiz afternoon @ 3 pm



all by using their mobile phone.

Issues can be reported simply by going to nland.cc/fix on a mobile phone, computer, tablet or the council's website.

The system will significantly improve communication with residents, help reduce duplicate reports on the same issue and even speed up responses by giving staff a precise location of where the problem is.

A new online service for people to report problems on the county's streets has gone live.

Using FixMyStreet Pro, people can now photograph, locate and highlight an issue

All reports go straight into the council's digital systems where they can be assessed, allocated for any necessary actions and if the user sets up an account they can be informed of progress and completion.

FixMyStreet Pro can be used to report a range of issues from potholes and faulty street lights to abandoned vehicles and incidents of flytipping.

To book Church Cottage contact Ren Reed on 682691

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

01434 239205

email: guy.opperman@parliament.uk

www.guyopperman.co.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,
Non-Urgent 111

Police – 999 or 101 for non-emergency

Utility Services

Gas Emergency

0800 111 999

Electricity – loss of power
105

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

Clubs & Societies – *always check with the organiser before attending for the first time as occasionally dates and venues can change*

Club	Contact Details / further information
Allotment Association	Sally Rogers - sallyrogers2306@gmail.com
Angling Association	Peter Wood – 01434 682509 peterawood22@gmail.com
Art Club	Janet Bennett – 01434 682478 Meets 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Millennium Hall
Badminton Club	Evelyn Downs – 01434 682536 Meets Thursday morning in the Parish Hall
Bridge Club	Pam Niven – 01434 682394 /email: nivenpam@gmail.com Meets Friday afternoon in the Parish Hall, September - June
Carpet Bowls Club	Graham Walmsley – 07593 215785 / gwalmsley.bb@gmail.com or Bill Law - law682@hotmail.co.uk Meets Monday afternoon in the Parish Hall
Choral Society	http://ridingmillchoral.wordpress.com Meets Monday evening in the Parish Hall
Craft Club	Ann Gerrish - 01434 682937 Meets 2 - 4 pm Wednesday afternoons in Church Cottage
Drama Club	Email – rmdcsales@gmail.com Website http://www.ridingmilledramaclub.com/
60s to 90s Who Cares? Exercise Group	Linda Shepherd - 01434 682069 Meets Friday 10.30 - 11.30 am in the Parish Hall
Film Club	Judy Wilthew – j19wilthew@hotmail.com 2 nd Friday evening of the month
Karate Class	Run by Peter Atkinson of Seiken Ryu – 07912 533164 / email: peteratkinson89@icloud.com Monday evening in the Parish Hall
Mortal Fools Youth Theatre	General enquiries – 0191 580 1250 / Email: info@mortalfools.org.uk Various classes – see website for details http://www.mortalfools.org.uk
Northumbria Healers	Pam Down – 07960 380636 /pam@northumbriahealers.com / http://northumbriahealers.co.uk/ Meets last Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall
Parish Hall Maintenance Group	Judy Wilthew—j19wilthew@hotmail.com Meets as necessary
Photography Group	Rosie Cunningham – 07415 912237 / rosie.cunningham@ymail.com Meets 2 nd Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall @7pm
Pilates Class	Paula Bennett – 07990 774069 / pilateswithpaula@gmail.com Held Wednesday morning in the Parish Hall
Pot Luck Lunch	Christine Andersen – 01434 682535 / Anne Lawrence – 01434 682351 Held monthly in the Parish Hall
Preschool	Ruth Brown - 07368 223910 (term-time only) / leader@rmop.co.uk https://www.rmop.co.uk/
Riding Mill Singers	Carole Craig Gilby – 07950 974874 / craiggilby@gmail.com Wednesday 2 – 3 pm in the Parish Hall
Scouts	Gwyn McKenzie – 01434 682771 Tuesday & Friday in the Millennium Hall
Sports Club	Cricket enquiries: Steve Kent – 07910 035715 Football enquiries: Mark Robinson – 07810 580140
Table Tennis Club	Mark Twelftree – 07764 221942 / Monday evening in the Millennium Hall or Anne Lawrence – 01434 682351 / Tuesday afternoon in the Parish Hall
Tea & Tots - babies and toddler group	Not currently running - keep checking the notice boards for updates
Tennis Club	Caroline Coates - rmtccaroline@gmail.com Website: https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RidingMillTennisClub/
Tuesday Drop in Group	Jan Walmsley – 07955 630802 / jwalmsley.bb@gmail.com Meets Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 pm in the Millennium Hall
Tynedale Chess Club	Colin Ripley - colin.ripley@gmail.com / https://tynedalechess.wordpress.com/ Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 7 - 10 pm (October – May) at Corbridge Parish Hall
Women's Institute	Barbara Nelson – 01434 682739 / barbara.lambert.nelson@gmail.com Meets 1 st Thursday of the month in the Parish Hall
Yoga Class	Clare – 07956 407 905 / hopeyoga2018@outlook.com Held Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall

For further details visit the VHT website:

<https://www.ridingmillvillagehalls.org>