



Welcome to Riding Mill

Welcome to Riding Mill. We are delighted that you have chosen to come to a place that is fantastic to live and work. This leaflet has been put together by the Parish Council to help you get to know the village, what goes on here and who to contact if you need help.



A brief history

Riding Mill stands on the south bank of the Tyne sixteen miles west of Newcastle and five miles east of Hexham. In its present form the village is really a Victorian creation, incorporating the ancient hamlets of Broomhaugh and Riding, on the east and west banks of the March Burn, which flows from the south west to join the Tyne. Prehistoric man was clearly active in the well-wooded and fertile middle Tyne valley and the Romans settled hereabouts as well. Their road from Corbridge to York, Dere Street, can be traced as a grassy bank in the fields to the west and is still there as a road to the east. The so-called 'Roman Bridge' across the March Burn is really a 16th or 17th century packhorse bridge, although there was probably a real Roman one nearby.

Broomhaugh Farmhouse, Stable End and probably part of the Dower House are Bastle houses – thick-walled defensible farmhouses in which the owner lived on the first floor. The Manor House is of 17th-century origin and the Wellington Inn, once the Riding House, dates from 1660. It became notorious as the claimed meeting places of covens of witches: a lurid account of their meetings was given at the Morpeth Quarter Sessions in 1673 but the accused ladies were acquitted. The Mill that gave its name to the village faces the Inn: there was a corn mill here from at least medieval times but the present building, converted into a house in 1972, is of 18th or early 19th century origin.

The coming of the railway with the Newcastle to Carlisle line, the first coast-to-coast connection in the world, made Riding Mill the village it is today. Riding Mill Station opened in 1835 and the original building still stands. Riding and Broomhaugh used to be in the parish of St Andrew's Church at Bywell. The Anglican church of St James was built, as a chapel-of-ease to Bywell, in 1868; a transept and chancel were added 11 years later.

If you would like to read a detailed history, track down a copy of Marion Cooke's *Riding Mill: a village history*. It can be purchased from the Parish Hall or via the website.

Village Communications

Website – www.ridingmill.org - The website provides a wealth of local information including emergency services, bus services, train services, doctors, pharmacies, and much more. It also lists all the clubs and societies that are active in the village, ranging from art, drama, photography, tennis, cricket, football, chess: there is something for everyone.

Sign up for the **village e-mail list**: We promise that we will not bombard you with e-mails (to register use the pop-up form which appears when you log on to the website).

The Parish News: As well as providing regular news about the village and its activities, the Parish News also includes a parish directory and details of church services. It costs just £6 per year. A copy can be obtained from the foyer of the Parish Hall or the Church vestibule. If you wish to subscribe, contact one of the editors listed on the back page and they will arrange for a local volunteer to deliver it monthly.

Facebook: Two general groups are active on Facebook – “Riding Mill Forum” or “Riding Mill Parish and Millennium Halls”. Clubs and societies are likely to have their own groups too.

Parish Council Newsletter: this is produced yearly and delivered to all homes in the parish. If you would like to receive a copy of the last newsletter please contact the Clerk or download a copy from the website ridingmill.org/documents/newsletter.

Parish Council

The Parish Council usually meets at 7.45 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) in Church Cottage, Church Lane. Members of the public can attend and observe and there is time set aside before the meeting for residents to ask questions of the Council or our County Councillor.

A full list of councillors and their contact details can be found on our website – see above.

The Parish Clerk is Catherine Harrison and she can be contacted on 682348 or via email: ridingmillclerk@gmail.com.

The Parish Council is there to help you, so please feel free to contact any of your councillors should the need arise.

Northumberland County Council and our local County Councillor

A full list of council services is available on the Northumberland County Council’s website: www.northumberland.gov.uk/

It’s possible to report various issues via the website – missed bin collection, broken streetlight, potholes etc.

Our County Councillor, Anne Dale, is also happy to be contacted to help deal with certain problems. Her telephone number is 01434 673326 or email: anne.dale@northumberland.gov.uk.

A general guide to what’s where

EMERGENCY: **Defibrillators** are fitted in the porch of the Parish Hall, at the pavilion on the sports field and on Sandy Bank. In an emergency, call 999 and the operator will provide the code.

Post boxes: There are three post boxes in the main village: one on the main road at the road junction leading to the station; one on the old station master's house alongside the station platform and one at Broomhaugh, again near the main road. There is also one at Beauclerc.

Noticeboards: The Parish Council noticeboard can be found on the side of the Wellington Hotel. Here you will find the agenda for our next meeting and a copy of the previous minutes together with general announcements. Both the Parish Hall and Millennium Hall have noticeboards nearby. It is always worth checking the boards to see what is going on; events outside the village are also often advertised on the hall noticeboards.

Parish and Millennium Halls: The Parish Hall is on Millfield Road near the junction with the main road; the Millennium Hall is on the corner of Church Lane and Whiteside Bank. We are extremely lucky as a village to have two main halls which means there's always plenty to do. In the porch of the Parish Hall you will find jams and chutneys, eggs, garden plants and other seasonal goods. Selling these items raises funds for the halls. There is also a book and magazine bank which is always well stocked. For further details, visit: <https://www.ridingmillvillagehalls.org/>.

Deli at the Station: The café at the station is open 7 days a week. It sells a number of food items including milk and bread and other essentials. The deli regularly hosts visiting food vans on Wednesday evenings.

Rubbish and Recycling: You should have been left with two bins, possibly three. The green bin is for non-recyclable household rubbish. The black bin is for plastic bottles including tops, paper items and cardboard and drinks and food cans. Plastic trays, yogurt cartons and tetra pak items are not currently recycled. The green and black bins are collected alternate weeks. The brown bin is for garden waste and there is a yearly charge for its collection. A yearly list of collection dates can be found on the County Council's website or, to arrange an additional bin, contact the County Council on 0345 600 6400.

If you have any bulky items, such as large appliances or furniture, to dispose of contact the County Council on 0345 600 6400.

Bottle & Clothes Banks: These can be found in the car park of the Wellington Hotel. There is an additional clothing bank in the car park of Broomhaugh First School with all funds raised going to help fund activities at the school.

Recycling Centres: The closest council recycling centres are:

- **Hexham:** French Garden Industrial Estate, NE46 4DL – open 7 days a week
- **Prudhoe:** Broomhouse Road, West Wylam, NE42 5ED – restricted opening times

Allotments: The allotments are off Buffer Lane in Broomhaugh. Residents can apply for an allotment although there can sometimes be a waiting list. Contact the Secretary of the Allotment Association for further details (<https://ridingmill.org/riding-mill-allotments-association/>).

Churches: The Parish Church of St James holds regular services. For further details see the monthly Parish News magazine or visit the website: <https://ridingmill.church/>
Roman Catholic Services are held at St Elizabeth's Parish, Minsteracres - <http://minsteracresparish.org/>
Methodist Services are held at the church at Broomhaugh.

Schools: The village has a primary school, Broomhaugh First, which takes children from 4 to 9; the designated middle school is in Corbridge and the High School is in Hexham (both served by school buses – pick up from the Old Playground in Church Lane). There is also an outdoor pre-school.

Children's Play Area: The playground can be found to the rear of the Parish Hall.

Sports: The sports field is found to the east of the village at Broomhaugh offering both cricket and football clubs. There is also a Tennis Club based in Millfield Road.

Residents' associations: Some parts of the village have residents' associations. If your street does, this leaflet will have been delivered by the association and full details of how to join will have been provided separately.

Local suppliers - this list is not exhaustive

Window Cleaners: Gavin Howdon – 07817 973489 / Baxter's Exterior Cleaning – 07754 449702 / Alan – 07745 504050

Newsagents: Corbridge Paper Shop – 01434 632103 / Stocksfield Village Store – 01661 842215

Milk deliveries: Hanover Dairies – 0191 414 9300 / Gary Cant – 07485 091877

Fishmonger: Simon Robinson – 07931 996905. Calls Tuesday afternoons.

Fruit & Veg box deliveries: Stocksfield Village Store – 01661 842215

Leisure activities

To familiarise yourself with the village and the local area our website lists a number of walks and cycle routes which vary in length and difficulty (<https://ridingmill.org/category/walks/>). There is a lovely walk along the Tyne starting at either Broomhaugh and crossing the stepping stones or from the end of the station platform. Unfortunately, at the current time, there has been a landslip and it's not possible to walk all the way to Corbridge. There are also walks which take you along to Broomley Woods and to Stocksfield or a circular walk via High Plains and on to the "blue bridge" and Beauclerc.

There is also a village trail which takes in all the historic buildings. There are two interpretation boards, one by the Parish Hall and the other at the Spinney near the Church, and here you can pick up a leaflet to guide you.

