



CCCN
Coldstream Community News

Spring 2026

Spring on the Tweed

With the opening of the salmon season on the River Tweed, spring has arrived across Coldstream and the wider Scottish Borders. It's a time when the pace begins to shift — longer days, renewed energy, and for many, the first quiet thoughts about plans for the year ahead. As ever, the Tweed is a shared part of life across the Borders. Whether enjoyed from the riverbank, on a walk nearby, or simply as a sign that winter is behind us, it marks a season of movement and change.



A strong start to the year for local sellers

Hastings Legal — January 2026 property sales results

- Central Borders: **8.5% over** Home Report
- Scottish Borders overall: **6% over** Home Report
- Scottish average (ESPC, January 2026) **1% over** Home Report



Thinking of selling in Coldstream? Start with a clear, local valuation.

Changes within our team

We recently said goodbye to Marion, who retired from our Duns legal team after a long career as a Senior Executry Paralegal, having worked with Iain Smith & Partners since 1987 and with Hastings Legal since 2017. Her experience, knowledge and care for clients will be greatly missed, and we wish her a long and happy retirement.



We are pleased to welcome Lorna Kelly to a new role based part-time in our Coldstream office. Many clients will already know Lorna from her work as a viewing agent within our property team. With her wealth of local knowledge and experience, she is now stepping into the role of Property Manager, strengthening the support we offer to clients locally.

For more information on our property and legal services, visit our website, pop into our office at 51 High Street or call us 01890 230 999.



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As I write this column, the bright sun beating through the window seems to be a distant memory. Dark, dark skies filled with rain, rain, rain, throws a cloak over this beautiful corner of the world that we call our home. A blanket drapes over the normally superlative views when daring, with a shiver, to cross our doorsteps.
*"Mr. Blue Sky, please tell us why
 You had to hide away for so long (so long)
 Where did we go wrong?"*

More dampening to the spirit was the act of mindless and wanton destruction as an attempt was made this week to smash and grab the ATM machine from the Co-op store on the High Street. A genuine 'hole in the wall' was left behind, but thankfully the thieves cowardly fled into the night empty handed. It did however amount to a real violation of property and place and I sincerely hope the perpetrators will be brought to justice. How dare they shatter the peace of our town and treat it with such disdain.

Once again as I put together the content of this current edition of the CCN, I am humbled by the many and various ways individuals and groups work tirelessly to build up our community. So many of you are unsung heroes as you seek to make this place a better place to live. I salute you. Spring offers hope of new life. As the warm rays from that ball of fire in the sky 93 million miles away heats up the soil for new growth to burst through, so does every act of kindness and service to our friends, family and neighbours bring hope of better things to come.

Could 2026 be a year for you to make a new and unique contribution to Coldstream living? We can't all change the world, but we can change someone's world. Join a group, volunteer your time, give cheerfully, play joyfully, speak kindly, and remember that when you smile, the whole world smiles with you.

On that note how about bringing a 'Smile to my Dial?'



If anyone would like to learn more about how this CCN gets put together and give a helping hand, then you will be pushing against an open door. Whatever comes to your mind, don't go wrong and hide away for so long. Help bring the sun out. Put a SPRING in someone's step today.

Chris Faldon, Editor

Coldstream Community News

Brought to you by.....



CCN Summer Edition 2026
Deadline Mon 11th May
 e-version available on request
coldstream.community.news@outlook.com

Coldstream & District Local History Society

Lynne Burgess Our next meetings are:

- March 5th AGM at 6.45pm followed at 7.30pm by Mike Chandler "James Hutton of Slighouses: father of modern biology"
- April 2nd Linda Bankier "Evidence of Women in the Berwick Archives, 16th to 20th Centuries"
- May 7th Our final talk of the season will be by Michael Simpson on "Coal mining in the Glendale Area"

We hope many will come to hear these talks. Our membership fee remains at £10 per annum. Visitors can join us for £2 per meeting. We meet in the Leet Room in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. For further information see our website and FaceBook page or contact the Secretary, Lynne - 07766707330

Coldstream Burns Club

John H. Elliot Coldstream Burns Club, celebrating its 138th year, held its Annual Supper on Saturday 24th January in the British Legion Club. The night's entertainment got underway with the address to the Haggis delivered in stirring fashion by Rob Bell preceded by a humorous introduction.

The traditional meal which followed was of excellent quality and a credit to the caterer Michelle Stewart and her helpers who served it in a friendly and efficient manner. The principal guest for the evening proposing the toast to the 'Immortal Memory' was Wendy Lough from Eyemouth. A true 'Burnsian' her love for Burns' work was obvious by the passionate manner in which she took the audience through the ups and downs of the Bard's life. It was clear she was no stranger to his works or his story.

The toast to the Lassies was proposed by John Edwards, with his wife Marguerite providing the reply. A Canadian by birth, John's toast took an original approach by drawing a humorous analogy between the fairer sex and ships. Marguerite's witty reply was quick to counter John's remarks and both were well received by the audience. The 'Toast to the Toun' was proposed by club member David Shepherd. Well known for his quirky sense of humour, he made sure there was plenty of that, especially when he name-checked a number of local characters to great effect.



Recitations were performed by Erin Younger with 'To a Mountain Daisy', James Bell with 'Willie Wastle' and 'Gude Ca'stream Toun'. The latter poem which dates back to the 19th century, was presented in an original and innovative manner. Rob Smith delivered an outstanding 'Tam o'Shanter' in his own inimitable style.

The musical side of the evening was of excellent quality with Club stalwarts Bobby Hanlon and K2 (Kenny Hilsley and Kenny Brodie) putting on their usual professional performance which is hard to better, anywhere in the locality.

Piano accompaniment for the evening was provided by Chris Faldon whose presence and quality of playing is invaluable. Piping duties for the evening were carried out by Pipe Major Keith Guthrie in his usual expert manner.

In closing, David Douglas thanked all those who had made a contribution to the excellent evening including the British Legion Club for providing a warm and welcoming venue and excellent service.

Coldstream/Bennecourt Twinning Associations

Marguerite Edwards

Excitement is mounting as we eagerly look forward to the arrival of 57 visitors from our twinned town of Bennecourt in April, (18th-24th). We are delighted to welcome as part of the group, 14 young people under 16 years, some making a return visit to Coldstream with others visiting for the first time.

A central highlight of the visit will be the commemoration of 35 years of successful twinning between our two towns. To mark such an auspicious occasion, a celebratory afternoon tea is planned during the week for the visitors, their hosts and invited guests.

The 35th anniversary will also be marked by the planting of a time capsule by children from Coldstream Primary School and Ecole élémentaire Bennecourt, containing items selected by the children of both schools. Information on this momentous ceremony will be publicised closer to the visit.

The Twinning Association is extremely grateful to Coldstream and District Community Council for their generous donation towards supporting the 35th Anniversary afternoon tea celebration. In addition, the Twinning Association is indebted to the community who support our fund-raising efforts throughout the year, thereby enabling a programme of varied events and activities to be planned for our visitors during their stay.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Do you have memories/photos of previous visits from our Bennecourt friends over 35 years of twinning? If so, we'd love to hear from you! It is hoped we can display a wide selection of photos and anecdotes from over 35 years of Coldstream Bennecourt Twinning during the visit. If you can contribute, please contact Frances Mather, Secretary: frances.mather@leetstreet.co.uk or chairCTA@outlook.com

[Coldstream Community News](#)

Coldstream Community Trust

John Froggatt



Forthcoming events

- Coffee Morning Saturday 7 March 10:00
- Tech Support Session: Saturday, 11 April at 1:00pm. Bellview will return to help with any phone, tablet, or laptop issues. Refreshments will be available.
- AGM Friday 17 April 7.00pm. Further information and papers will be available nearer the time; we will also take the opportunity to update you on the work to make the Community Centre better for all
- Plant Sale: Sunday, 24 May. If you are taking cuttings or starting your spring gardening, please consider donating plants. We are also collecting gardening books and non-electrical gardening equipment in good condition.

Community Café Reopening

With our grateful thanks to the many people who have asked, the many who have volunteered and donated their time and baking, we are delighted to announce that the Community Café will be reopening shortly. This follows insulation installation, redecoration, electrical and joinery work to make our customers' and volunteers', experience even better. New volunteers to help and/or to bake would be given a warm welcome by our friendly group. Come and join the fun!

Look out for announcements in the near future.

Insulation works

Insulation work was completed in December. We are now moving on to seek funding for the fabric of the building, improved glazing in the Leet Room, and next stages of sustainability and accessibility to continue improving the Community Centre for all our users.



This work is a key part of the Coldstream Place Plan.

As always, we want to thank everyone who runs events and classes at the Community Centre, and all who come along to those events and classes. We could not continue without you.

Wendy Myers

We were sorry to see Wendy step down as a Trustee following her move away from town. She made a huge contribution to the development of the Community Centre during her time with us. We are grateful for all her hard work, and wish her well for the future. If you are interested in joining our small team of Trustees, please speak with any of our current members to find out more.

We organise occasional litter picks throughout the town (weather permitting) so if you like to be added to the e-mail list, get in touch, or watch out for announcements on FB.

The Community Centre is run by a group of volunteers for the benefit of the town, and we are very fortunate to have an excellent team of part-time employees to help us do this. We continue to have a policy in place which ensures that everyone treats each other with respect and dignity, and expect that this extends to people communicating with us.

Get in touch

01890 883332; FB [@coldstreamcommunitycentre](#); booking@coldstreamcommunity.com. Reserve tickets 07587668126.

Social & Literary Society

Sue Thouless We started the wet chilly New Year with a talk on Monday 12th January by Lieutenant Colonel P McCutcheon and Susan Higgins, from the King's Own Scottish Borderers Regimental Museum. This was an interesting delve into some personal letters donated to the museum from a relative of a young enlisted man who last century saw service in various parts of the world. Our next voyage of discovery on the 26th January was with Liz Stewart on the various sizes and types of Scottish Gardens open to the public. But I'm still not sure I would have the nerve to open my "weedy patch" to the general public gaze. On 9th February, V.E.H. Masters talked about merging 'Fact and Fiction in Historical Fiction'. Still to come for this session is:

- 23rd February - Will Ramsay from the Admiral Ramsay Museum, and finishing on last year's cliffhanger
- 9th March - Bill Hagan on the 'Cockpit Intrusion - The Cover Up'.

Our AGM will take place on Monday 23rd March at our usual time of 2P.M. and will be followed by refreshments and we don't know what yet - it's still in the planning phase - so be prepared!

We are trialling a book and jigsaw table (donations) at the end of each session which is proving popular. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served at the end of each meeting and there is time to socialise with other members and of course whichever speaker is there on the day. Annual membership remains at £15 and visitors are always welcome at a cost of £3 per meeting.

For more information about the Society call 07383 287587 or email sue.thouless@outlook.com



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Mental Health Focus

Changes

With winter behind us and nature beginning to show some early signs of spring, many of us may also be considering making changes.

Perhaps to lose those stubborn few pounds, quitting smoking or vaping, finding a job that really excites us, making more of our relationships or simply wanting to enjoy a fuller life. There are many different changes which can be made and which will bring to us a more positive fresh lease of life. Changes, of course, start with us making the choice to change. This choice can sometimes feel overwhelming with us not fully knowing where or how to achieve changes alongside nagging doubts about our strength or commitment to not only make changes happen but then keeping to them.

Professional help is available. Psychotherapy, Counselling, Life Coaching or even Hypnotherapy can all assist you in not only making sensible changes but more importantly how to build upon and enjoy them once they are made. By gaining a deeper understanding of why you feel or act a certain way you open the door to change. Just a few weeks of therapy is associated with significant and long lasting changes. Not only can therapy help heal emotional wounds, unresolved trauma, grief or pain from past experiences but it can also help correct the negative impact from daily life, relationships or self-esteem. You will develop coping strategies and resilience you never thought you were capable of. Furthermore you will find yourself clearer thinking, mentally stronger and more able to make the right decisions to bring about the positive changes you desire.

We are all unique and our individual needs, hopes and ambitions naturally vary a great deal, but one theme remains constant and that is we all seek fulfilment in our lives. We can achieve this through change. Doing exactly the same thing over and over again, yet expecting the outcome to be any different leads to disappointment. A qualified therapist can help you set attainable goals which suit your requirements and they will also discuss with you and advise on courses of action which will improve outcomes.

So don't put off making changes, you can start today by making an appointment for a free consultation and begin to discover the possibilities of change, leading to a happier, more rewarding and brighter future.

Berwick Borders Therapies, 07908 921 561

Coldstream Riders Association

Julie Kerr

Would you like to support Coldstream Riders Association for the Civic Week Ride outs 2026? You can do this by being one of our Civic Week Sponsors.

There are several options available – standard sponsorship for a suggested donation of £30 or 'main sponsor' of one of our larger costs of Civic Week. Emails will be sent in February with a March deadline.

To be involved in making Civic Week 2026 happen, please email our Treasurer, Hope Leifer and she will send you the information - hopebrown7@hotmail.co.uk

Foot Marshalls at Civic Week – we will also be looking for support from the local community to help with the in town road closures during Civic Week itself. If you can spare an hour of your time, and if you tend to watch the horses leave & return anyway, then this could be a way you could assist. email coldstreamridersassociation@outlook.com to let us know if you would like to help.



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- John2Win
- [JohnLamontBorders](https://www.facebook.com/JohnLamontBorders)

*Working hard for the
Borders, all year round*

The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

Coldstream Art Group

Gordon Thompson Our 2026 winter/spring session has started, and we are working on many new artworks in a variety of mediums, and preparing works for our forthcoming exhibition in August.

We do have demonstrations occasionally from visiting artists, which are always interesting and give our group a challenge.

Our group meets each Monday afternoon in the Parish Church Hall from 1.30 to 4.30 pm. We do have, at the moment, a few spaces available for prospective new members and if you would like to come along you will be made very welcome.

If you would like to know more about us please feel free to contact me on 07951 446 129



Masonic Lodge St John 280

Peter Greenwood



I expect many of the CCN Readers have seen the article in The Berwickshire News that the Lodge has now received its full Licence and will be opening the bar on a Saturday evening and continuing with the Bingo nights on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the month. The Lodge Hall is a warm venue for parties and gatherings of up to 50 people. There will be upcoming events over the next few months.

Over the past few years, the Grand Lodge of Scotland has raised over £1.3M for Prostate Scotland. The link is continuing and Prostate Champions have now been established to raise more awareness of the disease. Our Champion is Stewart Clark who has given several presentations to Lodges in the Borders and is offering to raise awareness in your Organisation or Group. If you think it would be beneficial just contact him directly. If you wish to know any more about Freemasonry or use of the hall then please contact: Peter Greenwood 07891 449 732 or Stewart Clark 07977 655 436

Coldstream Gateway Association



Pat Fulton

Calling All Knitters! The Gateway Association has recruited the generous assistance of Coldstream SWI to knit or crochet Christmas-themed covers for the bollards in the Market Square. If anyone would like to join in and 'adopt a bollard' please get in touch with Jan Brown, President of the SWI at deejaybrown98@aol.com and she will be able to supply you with a knitting pattern. Hopefully these will enhance our Christmas light displays during this year's Festive Period. Want to know more information? 883143; 07974 436361; jcmilne@btinternet.com



Coldstream Premier CRU - Cycling Club

Rob Smith

The weather so far, in 2026 has not been kind to us. All our rides through January have had to be cancelled. We are a social cycling club and, whilst it might be O.K. to ride in poor weather conditions or on icy roads as an individual, it is not safe for group rides. Safety will always be our number one priority.

In order not to lose any fitness, many of us have been riding indoors. With some trainers linked to computer programmes it is possible to have a very good and realistic workout. Programmes such as Zwift and Rouvy are excellent. An indoor ride need not necessarily be expensive. A static trainer can be picked up quite cheaply and an hour or so every day will still give a very good workout. It is important to keep doing something to maintain fitness so that, when the good weather comes round again, we are in a position to enjoy it on the open roads. Spring is just around the next corner and we will once more be able to enjoy good company and craic on our weekly Sunday Rides.

We meet (and leave from) Courthouse Car Park every Sunday (weather permitting) at 9am. We then cycle to Kelso and pick up more riders. From there we will cover up to 50 miles with a coffee and cake stop somewhere along the way. The pace is conversational and no-one gets left behind. Membership is free and everyone is welcome. All that is required is a reasonable level of fitness and a roadworthy bike. Our only rule is that cycling helmets should always be worn. No helmet means no ride!

You can follow us on our Facebook page where announcements and photos are always on display.

Hope to see you soon on 'The Best Sunday Ride in The Borders'.

[Coldstream Community News](#)





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Coldstream & District Community Council

Joy Thomson, Chair



Senior Citizens' Festive Bash

Thanks to all those that made this possible!



RBLs Coldstream Branch/Club

Thomas Hermiston - Chairman

The Royal British Legion Scotland started on the 18th of June 1921 in the Usher Hall in Edinburgh when Field Marshal Earl Haig brought together more than 100 existing veteran support organisations. Originally naming the new collective The British Legion, the 'Scotland' was added later when a separate organisation of the same name was formed south of the border. The Women's section for wives, widows and children of men who served was formed in 1924, with the Poppy Factory opening in 1926.



It was not until May 1971 when Queen Elizabeth II granted us the Royal title the same year, we celebrated our Golden Jubilee, and we became known as The Royal British Legion Scotland. As many Legion branches did not have premises in which their members could meet, a philanthropist came to the rescue with funding to buy suitable properties. This created the first Legion clubs in 1946, with many other branches raising funds and following suit over the coming years.

In 1981 membership was extended to serving members of the British Armed Forces, as well as ex-service personnel, and now anyone can become a member of the Legion. Coldstream became a member of the RBLs in 1925 and we celebrated our 100th Anniversary on Remembrance Sunday the 9th of November 2025. The Coldstream Legion Social club is 56 years old and was formed on the 11th of November 1970 and was opened by Major the Earl Haig of Bemersyde, OBE, DL.

Coldstream Branch is the charitable side of the Royal British Legion Scotland that helps veterans in need of support. Coldstream RBLs Social Club became a Limited Company 2 or 3 years ago and it is now run as the business side of the RBLs. The RBLs (Coldstream) Social Club is available for hire for a variety of functions. We can offer 3 function rooms, 2 bars and a fully equipped kitchen plus disabled access to the building. Access to the upstairs bar is via a stairlift that was donated to the social club quite a few years ago and underwent upgrading last year. The types of functions we have provided in the past include children's parties, official dinners, music nights, funeral teas, wedding receptions, birthday parties, and of course most coffee mornings are held in the social club.

To enquire re availability and prices contact our steward Michelle by either phoning her on 07922 343492 or e-mail michellestuart304@btinternet.com, we are also on Facebook RBLs Coldstream Branch & Club.

Hirers are reminded that they are responsible for the behaviour of their guests and rules of the club must be observed. e.g., No glasses or bottles on the dance floor; no smoking or vaping is allowed anywhere in the premises; abuse of staff and wilful damage to property will not be tolerated.

The size and location of the club make it an ideal venue so give us a call or come in and visit. Please check out some future live music events being held in our social club in the next couple of months. All our functions are either pay at the door or ticketed events. See the posters or articles on our Facebook page for details.

Coldstream Men's Shed



Steve Acornley Our new Chairman, David Mycock, took over from Dennis Armstrong at the last AGM. Dennis has had to stand down for personal reasons but is still an active member of the shed working from the shop when possible. Recent projects have been in the form of notice boards to several communities; posts for replica Guardsmen; flagpoles and Guardsman Puzzles for the Coldstream Civic week; servicing and hiring out of the Santa Sleigh; repairs to Coldstream Community Centre scaffolding; planters for the community; garden and bug hotels for the junior school; and various sizes of bird boxes - to name but a few.

We have this month conducted a bit of an early spring clean and have a large number of second-hand electric tools which are excess to our requirements and looking for a new home - see them in the main street shop. Woodwork lathe training is still being conducted by Steve McLaughlin on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10h00 to 12h00.

As mentioned previously the Coldstream Men's Shed want to extend an invitation to community members that currently do not have a 'shed' to work from. The typical member is a retired male, but the offer really is open to anyone interested in taking part regardless of age. The workshop at the Rodger Hall, situated in Victoria Street, is well equipped with all the equipment required for wood-working projects. We are open Tuesday -Thursday, with Wednesday being a quiet day with limited machine use. All three days run from 10h00 - 13h00,

The 'Shedders' also want to hear any ideas for further projects that people in the community believe to be worth consideration. Such community work is always undertaken on a no profit no loss basis and funding will be applied for, as necessary. Please be aware that the Shed do not take on work that can be conducted by local contractors.

Contact Steve Acornley, the Secretary, on 07881 520 345 or via email coldstreamshed@gmail.com

All welcome, no previous experience necessary, all ages catered for, bowls will be supplied adult and junior.

The club has been established for over 150 years and we need new members to ensure the club continues to play a vital role in the community.

Come and try for FREE during the month of April

Membership is £100 for the season

If you would like more information please contact Kerry Howie, Club Secretary cbcl1970@gmail.com or Kath Fletcher on 07936 406370.

Community Larder

Alison Campbell We have been very lucky to receive funding from Sainsbury's and others to allow us to fund a series of cooking lessons for the Youth Club and for adults. The adult sessions will be delivered by 'Let's Eat Better CIC' for six weeks from the end of January to mid March and will be completely free. If these are successful we would hope to offer something similar later in the year.




We have also been successful in getting a grant from SBCAN to fund a repair café on Saturday 28th Feb 1-3pm. The wonderful Men's Shed and Kiki Pearson from Borders Community Sewing Club will be on hand to fix or repurpose broken items.

On the same afternoon we will launch our Tea in the Garden meet-ups where we hope to attract people to visit our award winning garden and maybe volunteer themselves. After that we will have Tea in the Garden every third Thursday and all refreshments will be free.

Contact us on 07977 296891 or coldstreamlarder@outlook.com or pop in when we are open for more information.



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Coldstream Scottish Women's Institute

Jan Brown A fantastic Christmas party in the Hirsle Tearoom finished off 2025 with a bang. Thirty-four members enjoyed a delicious meal, plenty of various beverages, fun and laughter and to top it all off Santa came for a visit! Some members sported the bead necklaces they had made with Georgina in our November meeting and everyone looked very smart in their party finery. Many thanks go to Susan V and Lou for organising it, to the staff at the Hirsle Tearooms and of course to our 'mystery' Santa. Roll on this year's party. We were joined in January by Lynn Young who shared stories of her time volunteering at the Commonwealth Games. Many of us will long remember her high heel stuck in a grating in the pouring rain and Prince Edward coming to her rescue - one of many hilarious stories that made for a very entertaining evening.

The Craft Group enjoyed their **January** meeting in the Masonic Hall, a new venue which proved a great success. By the time this goes to print our Quiz Night will have been held. We hope to have raised a lot of money for the Samaritans. Our **February** meeting on 19th will also be over. Pauline Beaumont will talk about the benefits of bread making and have many samples. Our Visitors' Night in **March** is by invitation only - the hottest ticket in town with the opportunity to be a Saxon for a night. Persuade a Member friend to invite you if you want to join us. Look out for our 16th **April** Meeting when Graeme Wilson will be teaching us about bats. Visitors are very welcome. 7pm in the Leet Room of the Community Centre.

It seems as if our season is drawing to a rapid close. We hope your 2026 will be as enjoyable as ours will be.

Community Learning & Development in Partnership



CLD is working in partnership with Bavs (Berwickshire) Ltd. and the Local Area Co-ordination team to deliver accredited learning opportunities for volunteers. These opportunities are available within Bavs charity shops across Berwickshire, as well as at the furniture re-use hub in Chirnside. This project has been made possible thanks to funding from The National Lottery. If you'd like to find out more about this exciting opportunity in your community, please feel free to get in touch for an informal chat and a cuppa.

Contacts: Annette McGraith Annette.McGrraith@Bavs.org.uk or Amanda Dempsey Amanda.Dempsey@scotborders.gov.uk 07776 116 936

Peep Group in Coldstream Primary School A weekly group hosted by Community Learning & Development in Coldstream Primary School Community Room every Wednesday morning 08.45 – 10am. It is completely free to attend – mums, dads, grandparents, friends, all welcome! Bring your wee ones along any time, to join in the fun, from birth to three years. A lovely opportunity awaits adults and children to meet and interact with others, with some songs and crafts most weeks. Tea and coffee for the adults and snacks for the children are served every week.



Parish Church

Michael Rowe Since early January we have been holding our services in the Church Hall while a new heating system is installed in the church. We have had a varied programme, including a service of prayers and readings from the churches in Armenia for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and a Burns themed service in which we heard of Burns' scathing words about hypocrisy and patronage in the church of his day, his love of God's creation and passion for justice and equality. We were joined for the service by the congregation of St Mary's and we shared a lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties. We have also heard about working in mission with the organisation Operation Mobilisation.

We will continue to meet in the hall every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. until the work in the church is finished. Services coming up include "Thinking Day" on 22 February, the day when Guides world-wide think of each other, when we will be joined by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – if you were ever in the Guides you will be especially welcome for this celebration of Guiding and 100 years of Thinking Day. We will have a shared service with St Mary's for Mothering Sunday on 15 March.

During Lent we will be hosting a series of Lent reflections in the church hall, once again shared with St Mary's. Do join us on Tuesday evenings at 7.00 from 24 February to 24 March for "Worship in the Wilderness – a journey with Jesus through the desert".

As we approach Easter our Palm Sunday service will be on 29 March. We will have an informal communion service on Maundy Thursday 2 April at 7.00 p.m. Our ecumenical Walk of Witness on Good Friday 3 April starts from Henderson Park at 10.00 a.m., and our Easter celebration at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 5 April.

To keep in touch please check our website: www.coldstreamdistrictchurches.org.uk or take a look at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ColdstreamKirk>. If you have any questions or comments you can message us via the website or the Facebook page, email us at ColdstreamPC@gmail.com or contact the Session Clerk, Michael Rowe, by phone on 883333. Come and join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30 and share a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with us after the service.

Parish Church Guild

Helen Park The Guild is open to everyone – male and female – and takes place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Parish Church Hall at 7.00 p.m. There is a £2 charge for visitors who will be made most welcome.

The second half of the session got off to a flying start when we welcomed Eric Grounds who gave a fascinating talk on his reminiscences of being Mark Philips' Best Man at his wedding to the Princess Royal. It was most interesting but what made it extra special were the small insights we were given into the care the late Queen took to make sure that everyone was comfortable and at ease. On 11th February we look forward to John Edwards' illustrated talk on "Titanic. Myth and Reality" which sounds most interesting. The meeting on 11th March welcomes the Rev Susan Brown with "A Night in India" which sounds very intriguing! Our session ends on 8th April with our A.G.M. followed by our own Isobel Johnson leading us in a Craft Evening.

Come along and join us – we are a very friendly bunch and you will be made very welcome – we make excellent tea and coffee!!



Ruthven Open Garden

Sunday 21st June sees the garden at Ruthven House open all afternoon for charity under Scotland's Garden Scheme. The lovely ladies from Coldstream Charity Fundraisers will again be providing their delicious teas. The lavender and roses should be in full swing, and the borders close to their glorious best, and perhaps a smattering of early sweet peas. The small fold of highland cattle will be taking an interest too.

Ruthven is 3 miles north of Coldstream on the old Duns road, and will be clearly signposted, with plenty of free car parking. The garden is open from noon until 5pm and entrance is £6 per person (cash only, I'm afraid), but children are free. Further information from ruthvenhouse@btconnect.com, or Keith on 07786 235052.

Coldstream Charity Fundraisers

Susan Vassallo

It hasn't been a very nice start to the New Year regarding weather, but we've got a few events for you to look forward to in the coming months.

First on the calendar is our Soup and Sweet event on the 21st February, held in the Community Centre from 12 noon till 1-30pm. The cost will be £6 to include a hot bowl of homemade soup and a delicious pudding of your choice. It's always a very popular event, a time to meet friends, have lunch and a good blether and there's usually extras to take home at a small cost. So bring along a container just in case. There will be the usual raffle with maybe a few surprises, so please come along and join us.

As summer ascends on us we have a couple of dates in the diary for you to look forward to:

1. Firstly on Sunday, 21st June from 12 noon till 5pm we will be serving our legendary afternoon teas at Ruthven garden opening. Come and have a feast of savoury and sweet items accompanied by a cup of tea sitting in the beautiful surroundings of their wonderful garden with magnificent views of the Cheviot Hills. What could be better on a beautiful sunny afternoon? ☀️☀️.
2. On Saturday, July 11th, we will be holding a coffee morning in the British Legion at the usual time of 10-30am. There'll be a cake and savoury stall and with it being strawberry season might include a few strawberry delights, along with the customary raffle and wheel of fortune etc. Entry is by donation, so please be generous. It's all for a good cause.

Before Xmas we sent off a cheque for £4500 towards purchasing a scalp cooling machine to assist with hair loss for those going through chemotherapy. This wouldn't have happened without the generosity of the people of Coldstream.

Alzheimer Scotland

Gayle Thomson As the the Community Activities Organiser for Alzheimer Scotland in the Scottish Borders, I support two groups in Coldstream for people living with a diagnosis of dementia, or who have concerns about their memory and their family carers.

1. **Café Connect Coldstream** is a monthly cafe for people living with dementia or a cognitive impairment and their family member, carer or friend. During the café, information, support, and fun activities will be available to anyone worried about their memory, has a diagnosis of dementia or is supporting someone with dementia. It will give participants an opportunity to get to know other people in similar circumstances and share experiences in a safe space. All attendees must either be able to meet their own care needs or be accompanied by a carer who can assist them whilst at the group. Occasionally we will invite guest speakers along to share information relevant to those attending. Date: 4th Tuesday of the month. Time: 2pm-3.30pm. Location: St Johns Masonic Lodge, Duke Street, Coldstream TD12 4BS.
2. **Coldstream Gentle Walking Group** meets at the car park in the Hirsle Estate (beside The Homestead Café) and enjoys a gentle stroll around the beautiful gardens. Walk moves at everyone's walking ability. Meet friends and enjoy fresh air, nature and flora. This is a group for people who are able to attend safely on their own or who are accompanied by someone to support them. We will enjoy a coffee and blether afterwards in the Homestead Cafe. Date: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Time: 10.30am until 12.30pm. Location: The Hirsle Estate, Coldstream. TD12 4LW

For more information, please contact, Tel: 01573 400324 email: Borders@alzscot.org



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AM's Community Craic

Annemarie McCall

1. **Pirates Are Behind It... and Coldstream is the Prize.** Something mischievous is afoot in Coldstream — and this time, it's been instigated by pirates. On Saturday 9th May, the town will be swept up in the **Coldstream Reiver's Rum Run**: a swashbuckling, pirate-led Treasure Hunt where clues, riddles, and cheeky challenges are scattered across the streets for crews and raiders brave enough to chase them down. Expect cunning puzzles, hidden trails, teamwork, and plenty of laughs as crews and raiders navigate the town in true Reiver fashion... with a salty pirate twist. Whether you're sharp-eyed, puzzle-minded, or just along for the adventure, there's mischief for everyone. Keep a lookout for posters appearing around town. Follow on the Facebook Coldstream (Scottish Borders) Community Group page for updates and clues.



Register your crew or raiders by 2nd April — before the pirates close the books! For the tech-minded, registration will be available via email hearthetreefall@gmail.com. For those less tech-minded, simply grab a hold of Annemarie around the town once the posters go up — pirates are surprisingly accommodating. The price per person (18+ £10pp, 5-17's £5pp, under 5's free) covers two drinks along the route (under 18's will be soft drinks). Any surplus will be donated to a local cause.

There are no age restrictions (although if you're very little, having some big people in your crew will definitely help). It's all about shared fun, community spirit, and a touch of pirate chaos. Hoist your colours or raise your standards, gather your crew or raiders. The Pirates have spoken — *the Rum Run is coming!*



2. **Easter Bingo with a Twist** On Tuesday 24th March, Bingo at the Masonic Lodge is getting a little seasonal sparkle. As the date falls closest to Easter, we're adding a few fun extras to make the evening even more enjoyable. Doors open at 6:00pm, with eyes down at 7:00pm. It's £10 all in, which covers 6 games and includes the raffle—and as always, raffle prizes are very welcome and the proceeds raised from the raffle go to a local cause. Alongside the usual games, there will be an Easter-themed twist—think bonnets, hats, jumpers, or any festive Easter attire you fancy. These will be judged on the night, with prizes awarded for the best outfits, so it's the perfect excuse to get creative and have a laugh. To add to the nostalgia, the bingo will also feature traditional-style bingo calls, bringing a classic feel to the evening. This is all intended in good fun, with no offence meant—just a light-hearted nod to bingo's roots. After the main games, you can keep the fun going with Speed Bingo —3 games, £1 per game, playing for a full house only.

Venue: Masonic Lodge, Duke Street, Coldstream. Age: 18s and over only. So dust off your Easter finery, bring your lucky dabber, and join us for a cheerful night of bingo, laughter, and seasonal fun.

3. **A Big Thank You for Your Stamps – and Your Kindness** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated used stamps for Bransby Horses and Donkeys by dropping them off at Howdens Pet Shop. Since November through to February, an impressive 1.23 kg of used stamps has been collected and has now been sent on to Bransby, where they will help raise much-needed funds for the rescue, care, and long-term welfare of horses and donkeys. What might seem like a small, everyday item truly adds up when a community comes together. Howdens Pet Shop is continuing to act as a drop-off point for used stamps throughout the year, making it easy for everyone to keep supporting this worthwhile cause.



Thank you once again to everyone involved for turning simple generosity into real support.

Presenting Coldstream

Fiona Shepherd. A Year of Change and Excitement for Coldstream Civic Week

This year brings a fresh chapter for the Coldstream Civic Week Committee, with change, gratitude, and plenty of excitement in the air. At our recent AGM, we said a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Chairman, Derek Balmbro, and Treasurer, Gary Tait, who both stepped down after many years of dedicated service, and their efforts are sincerely appreciated by everyone involved.

We are delighted to introduce our new Office Bearers, who bring enthusiasm, experience, and fresh ideas. Fiona Shepherd takes on the role of Chairman, with Zosia Skutecki as Treasurer. They are supported by Vice Chair Sandra Law and Secretary Chloe Guthrie, forming a strong team ready to make Civic Week 2026 truly special. We are also pleased to welcome the Right-Hand Man Elect, Mr Alastair Skinner, who was announced by the Ex-Coldstreamers in December and now joins our team of Principals.

Planning for Civic Week 2026 is already well underway, and we are thrilled to have the kind permission of Lord Home to host our ever-popular Civic Week Ball at the Hirsell Golf Club site once again this year, providing a wonderful setting for an evening of celebration.

One of the first highlights of the Civic Week calendar will be the Installation of the Coldstreamer 2026, Mr Josh Kerr, taking place on Friday 10th April at 7.00 pm in Henderson Park. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and be part of this special occasion. The celebrations will then continue with a disco at the British Legion at 9.00 pm, a fantastic way to start the year's festivities together.

Civic Week does not just happen — it's made possible by a small but hardworking group of volunteers behind the scenes. We are always keen to welcome fresh faces. We meet once a month and are especially looking for a Civic Week Programme Editor and someone to help with driving the speaker van during Civic Week.

Please also look out for the Civic Week Patrons slip in this edition and return it to Mrs Chloe Guthrie — your continued support is very much appreciated. To place an advert in the Civic Week programme, purchase a number in the Civic Week 200 Club, or explore sponsorship packages, please email presentingcoldstream@btinternet.com

Coldstream Civic Week 2026 promises to be another memorable week, running from Sunday 2nd August to Saturday 8th August. It is a time for the whole community to come together, celebrate our traditions, and make new memories, and we cannot wait to share it with you — come along, get involved, and be part of the fun.

Coffee Mornings & Town Diary



Elsbeth Bell At the time of going to press, these entries are the most accurate. Dates are available in the Coldstream Town Diary. Coffee Morning usual start time is 10:30am. Free dates does not mean there will be no coffee morning. It could be just a late booking. Check with the Legion, Town Diary, posters, social media announcements. The Diary is held in Sanderson's Butchers. Please fill in all events, not just coffee mornings, to avoid clashes & check with venues before booking in diary. Again, please fill in the details yourself rather than ask the shop staff.

Royal British Legion = RBL

Coldstream Community Centre = CCC

7 th March	Community Centre	CCC	25 th April	Coldstream Guards	RBL
14 th March	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	RBL	2 nd May	Bavs	RBL
21 st March	Twinning Association	RBL	9 th May	P7 Primary School	RBL
28 th March	RBL Coldstream	RBL	16 th May	SWI	RBL
4 th April	St Mary's	RBL	23 rd May	Community Larder	RBL
11 th April	Gowanlea	RBL	30 th May	Defibrillator Group	RBL
18 th April	Riders Association	RBL			

On the Editor's Couch



Welcome **John Lamont, MP for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk**. As a resident of Coldstream your face is well known. Your communications regularly drop through our letter boxes. Readers here will be interested to get a glimpse of the person behind the politician.

What on earth possessed you to choose politics as a career?

I wanted to make a difference. From an early age, I was asking my parents what was going on in our own country and further afield. As I got older, I found myself shouting at the TV news and eventually I thought that maybe I could do a better job than some of the politicians we had! I was working as a solicitor and began to think about how I'd make the move to becoming a politician. Whilst my parents had political views, neither of them were members of any political parties, so stepping into politics was a first for our family.

As a boy what did you dream of becoming?

My dad is a farmer and my mother was a maths teacher but I knew that teaching or farming weren't for me. At one point, I thought about being an architect. Eventually, I decided I wanted to be a lawyer. But I've discovered my dream job is being an MP for the Borders and representing the place that I call home.

You became the first UK politician to complete an Ironman Triathlon. Are you not just a frustrated athlete?

I'm definitely no athlete! A year after I was first elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2007, one of my campaign team told me that she hadn't worked so hard just to elect an overweight politician, which was brutal...but it worked! I joined the gym, started running and a few races later, I was four stones lighter and competing on the local Borders triathlon circuit. In 2014, I took part in the UK Ironman contest in Bolton - a 2.4 mile open water swim, 112 mile cycle and then a 26.2 mile run to finish. Completing an Ironman is an achievement in itself but I made it round in around 12 hours and 30 mins, coming home in 555th place of the 2000 finishers.

You have run marathons for charity. What causes are close to your heart?

I like to support charities that I've got some sort of connection with - I raised money for the Friends of the Borders Hospital, MacMillan Cancer Research and the Doddie Weir MND Foundation. I like having the extra motivation of competing for a local cause that I know makes a difference and helps to improve people's lives.

If you could spend a day in the company of a famous person (alive or dead) who would that be and why?

Meeting Ronald Reagan would have been special. He was President of the USA during the end of the Cold War and he could have taught us a lot about how to deal with imperialist presidents like those in Russia and China just now. He also had a great sense of humour!

Why choose Coldstream to live?

I moved to Coldstream many many years ago because I loved the house and it's also a great location to reach all the different Borders communities that I represent. My parents and family are just outside Duns so it's handy for them too. I'm spoilt living on the High Street. I don't think I've lived anywhere before that I can pop into the butcher, post office or the Co-op within 30 seconds of my front door!



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