



**THE BOOK**  
*The Hadrian Rally*  
*Corbridge*  
*5-8 July 2024*



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*Many thanks to Peter White for another great logo and contributions from Simon Robinson and Judy Murray.*

## Welcome to The Hadrian Rally and Northumberland



The club and organising committee hope you have had a great ride to the rally, enjoying some great scenery on the way and are ready to enjoy the weekend. All we need now is some good weather!

Northumberland is England's largest county and its least populated. It is also the home of 'Vera'!

The west of Northumberland contains part of the Cheviot Hills and North Pennines, while to the east the land becomes flatter before reaching the coast. The county contains the source of the River North Tyne and much of the South Tyne; near Hexham they combine to form the Tyne.

In the Roman era most of the county lay north of Hadrian's Wall, and the region was contested between England and Scotland into the Early Modern era, leading to the construction of many castles, peel towers and bastle houses, and the early modern fortifications at Berwick-upon-Tweed. Northumberland is also associated with Celtic Christianity, particularly the tidal island of Lindisfarne.

## The Rally Venue



## Rally Schedule

### **Friday**

Reception will commence at 15:00 hours or at the discretion of the organisers!

The usual meet, greet and reacquaint with old friends and make new ones!

### **Saturday**

This Rally Book details several places for attendees to visit either individually or in small groups. There are also several organised runs planned:

1. Along Hadrian's Wall combined with a visit to Scalegby Hill Vintage motor bike museum.
2. Hawick Museum, via Kielder, to view the Steve Hislop and Jimmy Guthrie rooms.

In the evening there is a barbeque followed by entertainment by Marty Cragg's Little Jam Band (ex-Lindisfarne).

### **Sunday**

A run to Weardale Railway with an opportunity to take the train from Stanhope to Bishop Auckland (about 2 hours), departing at 11:00. The discounted cost is £14.40 for adults and £12.60 for seniors.

Judging of bikes at Tynedale Rugby Club is at 16:00.

Evening - Prize-giving and a quiz.

### **Monday**

Depart after breakfast.

### Meal times

Breakfast – will be available from 07:30 to 09:30 on each morning.

Dinner – On Friday and Sunday it will be from 18:30 until 19:30. The barbeque will be served from 19:00 on Saturday evening.

The bar is open until 11 pm each night.

### Safety

You are in charge of your motorcycle at all times and responsible for your own safety and for riding within the law. Norton Owners Club or its members cannot accept any responsibility for actions you take or any incident that might occur. Always ride for yourself and within your own capabilities.

**Be Seen, Use your Mirrors, Ride Safely and Enjoy the Beautiful Scenery. Please be especially aware of cyclists and farm vehicles, particularly on the narrower, more rural roads.**

Please take special care when in the rugby club grounds as there will be a lot of bikes there, as well as pedestrians and cars.

## What to do if.....

### There is a medical emergency:

If in the rugby club grounds, please ask at the clubhouse for a first aid kit in the first instance. Call **111** for a minor injury assessment.

In the event of a serious accident, on or off the rugby club site, please dial **999** and give your location. Please notify the rally organisers so that they are aware of the incident and location.

Use these hospitals if you need urgent medical attention/care, but it's not a life-threatening situation:

### Hexham General Hospital - Urgent Treatment Centre (4 miles)

- Corbridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1QJ
- Opening times: 08:00 until 22:00 each day.

### Shotley Bridge Hospital – Urgent Treatment Centre (13 miles)

- Shotley Bridge, Consett, County Durham DH8 0NB
- Open 24 hours

### My bike breaks down:

Please contact your motorcycle recovery company for assistance and advise a committee member on 07483 888801.

It is hoped that the Rally Team will have a dedicated repairs and maintenance tent on site together with a small range of tools and spares where work may be carried out under cover.

### I want to discuss a rally issue:

Please contact one of the Rally Team members and they will try and address the issue (members identified in the participant list).



## Petrol Stations

There is a petrol station in Corbridge and the general area is well served with additional stations, however when out on runs, availability can be poor in the rural areas, therefore please make sure you are well topped up before heading out!

A selection of local petrol stations include:



Bishop's Garage & Spar Shop. **Sells E5.**

Main St, Corbridge NE45 5LB

Opening times: 07:00 to 21:00, except Sunday:  
07:00 to 20:00.



French Garden Industrial Estate, A6079, Hexham  
NE46 4DL. Opening times: 24 hours.



Haugh Ln, Hexham NE46 3QQ

Opening times: 24 hours.



Branch End, Painshawfield, Stocksfield NE43 7DW

Opening times: 07:00 to 22:00.

In the event of mechanical issues, there are several Halfords in Newcastle. Additionally, there is also Westgate Road and if you require general spares on Saturday, Hunters can be recommended. They just might be able to help you out of a pickle!

## Tynedale Rugby Club



Our hosts for the 2024 National Rally are Tynedale Rugby Club. The club was formed in 1876, almost by accident, when a letter arrived in Hexham for the 'Captain of the Hexham Football Club'. As there was no Captain and not even a Hexham Rugby Club, it was decided to form one and thus the Tynedale Football Club was created.

Some notable achievements by the club include in 1886 winning the fourth Melrose Sevens - the first English team to win the tournament, carrying off the Northumberland Senior Cup in four successive seasons from 1933 to 1936 and winning the Northumberland Senior Cup in 1988 after a gap of 40 years - beating Gosforth in the final.

The ground is now home to over 23 teams; from the seniors, which includes the First Team, to the Juniors, the Girls and Touch teams and not forgetting the 'Mini's for boys and girls under the age of 6!

We hope all our attendees enjoy the use of this great facility for our rally in the beautiful town of Corbridge.

## Corbridge and Surrounding Area

Corbridge is a historic town in the Tyne valley. It was a supply base where Romans and civilians would pick up food and provisions. It remained a vibrant community right up until the end of Roman Britain in the early years of the 5th century.

There are the usual pubs and cafes, a good selection of independent shops and there is the Roman town to visit (English Heritage). Visiting the Roman town allows visitors to walk through the town's streets and experience a time-capsule of Roman life. Also on display at the museum is Roman armour and trinkets uncovered together with the Corbridge Hoard. The Hoard was one of the most significant finds in Roman history, providing a fascinating insight into the life of a soldier on the Wall.

For those interested in exploring more about the Romans, Chesters Roman Fort and Museum, Housesteads Roman Fort and Vindolanda are all within a reasonable riding distance from the rugby club.

Corbridge also has other delights to explore. Visit The Pele Tower by St Andrew's Church in Market Place – now a historic Game of Thrones-style pub which must be experienced to be believed!

St Andrew's Church itself is one of the oldest churches in Britain and the bridge, the oldest surviving over the Tyne, looks over some lovely river walks.



Also, within a few miles of Corbridge is Hexham and its Abbey and old Gaol – well worth exploring if you have time!

## Corbridge Local Services and Shops

**The Coop** on Hill Street is a supermarket open from early morning until around 10pm each day.

**The Corbridge Larder and Deli** has a great selection of wholefoods, provisions and cheese.

**The Corbridge Cookshop** has all sorts of things; it's a proper Aladdin's cave. They have a variety of tools, screws, nuts and bolts, glue, cleaners, cookware, cups etc... Well worth a visit just for a mooch around. But I warn you, you will buy stuff!

**Grants of Corbridge** you need to visit this shop...it's a proper bakers and patisserie which draws people from miles around. You've never seen cakes like these.

**Corbridge Sandwich Bar** open from around midday until mid-afternoon. Great sandwiches to take away.

**Boots Chemist** the usual well-stocked pharmacy.

**The Paper Shop and Post Office** it is what the name suggests...very good it is too.

Philip, who owns and runs **Coffuffle** makes the most amazing handmade truffles and coffee. He's not usually open on a Sunday, but is usually around from about 10am most other mornings.

**Forum Books** is one of the best bookshops anywhere! they don't have many motorcycle books, if any, but they have pretty much everything else. They win awards too.

Corbridge also has three pubs:

The **Pele Tower** is a micro pub in a Pele Tower.

The **Blue Bell** and the **Black Bull**; both serving food.

## What the Romans did for us

A poem by Jon Bratton

Roman roads were long and straight  
You would not need much steering.  
They really were a triumph of  
Ancient engineering.  
Now, every schoolchild knows  
About the Roman roads,  
But Romans gave us so much more,  
Yes, they invented loads.

Aqueducts – those big arched bridges  
Which brought the water down  
From the rivers in the hills  
To the folk in town.

They gave us public libraries,  
Great if you were a keen reader.  
Before then books were hard to find -  
There were no Kindles either.

The Romans built some public baths,  
They built the sewers too.  
Presumably, before they came,  
The whole place smelled of poo!

They gave us apples, pears, and grapes,  
Cabbages, turnips, carrots, peas.  
Thanks to them we can now all eat  
Our five-a-day with ease.

They invented the calendar,  
It's just as well because  
Without it you would never know  
When your birthday was.

In fashion, men wore the "toga" –  
A big white woollen sheet;  
It was draped from the shoulders to  
The sandals on their feet.

So let's give thanks, they left behind  
So much when they had gone.  
And let us give thanks also that  
Wearing togas never caught on.

## Organised Runs

### Hadrian's Wall/Scaleby Hill vintage motor bike museum



Departing from the rugby club, we will head towards Chollerford. After passing over the bridge, we will turn right onto the 'Military Road'. The road was built eight years after the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 to provide easier movement of troops between Carlisle and Newcastle.

We will have a stop at Carrawburgh Roman Fort and the Temple of Mithras. The fort is one of 16 forts along the 73-mile long Hadrian's Wall, which was begun around AD 122. The nearby temple was probably built by soldiers at the fort around AD 200 and destroyed about AD 350.

Passing by Houseteads Fort which is set high on a dramatic escarpment, we will continue to Steel Rigg, where a short walk will take us to the site that was home to the famous Sycamore Gap tree, until it was destroyed by vandals in 2023.

The run will divert off the main road and head to the Augustinian Lanercost Priory, which belies an often troubled history. It suffered frequent attacks during the long Anglo-Scottish wars, once by Robert Bruce in person. The mortally sick King Edward I rested here for five months in 1306-7, shortly before his death on his final campaign.

After this short excursion along Hadrian's Wall and some of its famous attractions, we will head to the main event of the run - Scaleby Hill vintage motor bike museum!

## Hawick Museum - The Steve Hislop and Jimmy Guthrie rooms



This route will include riding through Kielder; home to England's largest forest and the biggest man-made lake in Northern Europe. After enjoying Kielder, we will head over the border into Scotland and onto Hawick and the museum. The exhibitions at the museum showcase the lives and achievements of Hawick's two tragic motorbike champions.

By 1926, Jimmy Guthrie was Scottish speed champion and in the 1930s broke the world record several times, became European 500cc champion and won TT races and nine grand prix. He was close to winning another when he was involved in a fatal crash aged just 40.

Steve Hislop won 11 TTs on the Isle of Man and was, in 1989, the first rider to crack the 120mph lap - a speed which many had considered impossible. He died in a helicopter crash aged only 41.

Depending on the time available and the weather conditions, we have several options for the return journey.

## Weardale Railway



The line of the Weardale Railway was started as an offshoot of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 1847 to transport material to the ironworks of Teesside, and by 1895 it had been extended along the dale as far as Wearhead. The passenger service was withdrawn in 1953 and the branch was progressively cut back a total of 7 miles to a terminus at Eastgate by 1968.

1993 saw the formation of The Weardale Railway Preservation Society (WRPS). This was a group of supporters of the line, who, with the support of Durham County Council, developed proposals firstly to prevent its removal, and secondly to promote its future.

It is only a short, 22-mile, ride to the station at Stanhope.

We will depart from Stanhope at 11:00, heading to Bishop Auckland. The return trip takes two hours, returning to Stanhope around 13:15. After the train ride, the rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy. For those wanting to go back to the rugby club and relax in the summer sun, head east to Wolsingham and onto the A68. Alternatively, head west towards Allenheads and then to Allendale Town, both in the North Pennines Area of Natural Beauty (AONB).

Allenheads has a purpose made exhibition hall chronicling the local mining industry and has a preserved Armstrong Whitworth hydraulic engine which was located in the mine's sawmill. Allendale Town is a pretty town centred on a small market place.



## Somewhere Different to Visit - The North East Riviera!

For those new to the area, take a ride east to the coast, starting at sunny South Shields by heading to Marsden Bay, where there is the famous Marsden Bay, see the Rock and a pub in a cave!

Ride north following the coastline, enjoying the natural beauty of the Leas, where the Great North Run ends. Pass by the beaches, grabbing an ice cream at the Minchella's parlour.

Continue, following the coastline until it joins the river, and then head to the Tyne Tunnel and pass through it to the north of Tyne.

From here, head either to the North Shields Fish Quay for some traditional fish and chips or head to Tynemouth and visit the Priory.

From Tynemouth, follow the coast, passing Long Sands Beach and continuing onto Whitley Bay, where you will see the iconic 'Spansh City', which has been recently restored.

Continue all the way to St Mary's Island and, if the tide is right, blow away the cobwebs by having a walk to the lighthouse! It'll now be time to head back to Corbridge.

More details of this route are available from the organisers.



*St Mary's Lighthouse*

## Places to Visit

### Beamish (21 miles)

Beamish open air museum brings the history of North East England to life at its 1820s Pockerley, 1900s Town, 1900s Pit Village, 1940s Farm, 1950s Town and 1950s Spain's Field Farm exhibit areas. It's somewhere to spend the whole day enjoying the atmosphere. If you visit, try Davy's Fried Fish Shop in The 1900s Pit Village. It gives visitors a real taste of traditional fish and chips, cooked in coal-fired ranges using beef dripping!

### Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens (16 miles)

The Belsay that visitors see today comprises three distinct but related elements: a medieval castle that was enlarged in the early 17th century, a Greek Revival mansion that superseded it as a family residence at the beginning of the 19th century, and an outstanding garden linking the two buildings.

While you are here, explore the rejuvenated formal gardens, the open space near the castle and the much-loved Quarry Garden, which takes you on a spectacular journey through a dramatic rocky ravine.

### Cragside (32 miles)

Illuminated by hydro-electricity and powered by hydraulics, this pioneering home was filled with Victorian gadgets for efficient modern living.

Some of the technical wonders include a hydraulic lift, a water-powered spit and, most brilliantly, electric light. Cragside was a home that dazzled all who visited and set the standard for modern living.

Man-made lakes, tumbling waterfalls and swathes of rhododendron combine to form the surrounding fantasy

mountain landscape imagined and engineered by inventor and arms manufacturer Lord Armstrong and his wife Lady Margaret.

### [Discovery Museum \(18 miles\)](#)

The Discovery Museum is housed in the old Co-operative Wholesale Society building, Blandford House. Opening in 1899, it quickly became an iconic building in Newcastle city centre and became a museum in 1978.

One of the main exhibits on display, and which takes pride of place in the museum, is the Turbinia, Charles Parsons' 34 metre steam powered ship that was once the fastest ship in the world and an iconic part of the history of Tyneside.

### [Gibside \(17 miles\)](#)

Gibside is one of a few surviving 18th-century designed landscapes and was fashioned with two things in mind: spectacular vista views and 'wow' moments.

The estate, commissioned by coal baron George Bowes, offers a glimpse into the past and the compelling story of heiress Mary Eleanor Bowes.

### [Northumberlandia \(23 miles\)](#)

Also called 'The Lady of the North', Northumberlandia is a stunning human landform sculpture of a reclining lady. Made of 1.5 million tonnes of rock, clay and soil, she is 100 feet high and a quarter of a mile long.

The idea for Northumberlandia originated in 2004 when the Blagdon Estate and the Banks Group were applying for permission to dig for coal and fire clay (for bricks) on farmland near the new town of Cramlington and realised that there was also a unique opportunity to create a spectacular art form that would provide a legacy for future generations.

### The Tyne Bridge and the Quayside (20 miles)

One of seven road bridges crossing the River Tyne, the Grade II listed bridge was officially opened on 10 October 1928 by King George V and has truly become an iconic structure, recognised around the world.

At the time of its construction, the Tyne Bridge was the world's longest span bridge and it had the same design team as Sydney Harbour Bridge.

While visiting the bridge, take the opportunity to explore and walk along the revitalised quayside and take a walk over the Millennium Bridge.

### Vindolanda & Roman Army Museum (17 miles)

Vindolanda lies just to the south of the curtain wall of Hadrian's Wall and has a very different 'feel' to other sites along the Wall. It lies upon the first Roman frontier in the north – The Stanegate Road.

Although first built by the Roman army before Hadrian's Wall Vindolanda became an important construction and garrison base for the Wall, a Hadrian's Wall fort in its own right. During this time Vindolanda was demolished and completely re-built no fewer than nine times.

The Vindolanda site today contains a modern world class museum using the latest interpretation techniques and display to tell a very old, very interesting Roman story and is well worth a visit.

## NOC National/Norton Rallies

1984	Shelve, Shropshire	2006	East Retford, Notts
1985	Skegness, Lincolnshire	2007	Atherfield Bay, Isle of Wight
1986	Matlock, Derbyshire	2008	Stirling, Stirlingshire
1987	Buxton, Derbyshire	2009	Keynsham, Bristol
1988	Tetley, Gloucestershire	2010	Shaldon, Devon
1989	Tetley, Gloucestershire	2011	Brooklands, Surrey
1990	Portsmouth, Hampshire	2012	Weeley, Essex
1991	Ringwood, Hampshire	2013	Morpeth, Northumberland
1992	Sudbury, Suffolk	2014	Hingham, Norfolk
1993	Worksop, Notts	2015	Caernarfon, Gwynedd
1994	Worksop, Notts	2016	Kendal, Cumbria
1995	Hamble, Hampshire	2017	Sudbury, Suffolk
1996	Manchester	2017	Weston-super-Mare, Somerset
1997	Llangollen, Denbighshire	2018	Weeting, Norfolk
1998	Chiddingly, East Sussex	2018	Melrose, Borders
1999	Nottingham, Notts	2019	Morpeth, Northumberland
2000	Bisley, Surrey	2019	St Audries Bay, Somerset
2001	Midsomer Norton, Somerset	2020	Cancelled
2002	Dereham, Norfolk	2021	Aberfoyle, Stirling
2003	Market Harborough, Leics	2022	Aylesford, Kent
2004	Kirby Longsdale, Cumbria	2023	Aberfoyle, Stirling
2005	Mersea Island, Essex	2024	Corbridge, Northumberland

**Have an idea for a Rally location?**

**Would you like help organising one?**

**The Club's Rally Team is ready to help**

**Just ask a member of the Team, don't be shy!**

## Notes