

Spennymoor Town Hall's

Bob Abley

Art Gallery



Norman Cornish Coming Home Exhibition



Image: Berriman's Chip Van, Norman Cornish Limited

The Bob Abley Art Gallery
Open 10am - 4pm, Monday - Saturday

Town Hall, High Street, Spennymoor,
County Durham, DL16 6DG



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SPENNYMOOR
TOWN COUNCIL



The Coming Home Exhibition refreshed 2026

We are delighted to announce an exhibition of original works by Norman Cornish in *The Bob Abley Gallery* at Spennymoor Town Hall. The exhibition includes paintings and drawings from private collections and features some pictures previously unseen and exhibited for the first time.

This popular exhibition, which is part of the wider gallery experience, also includes Cornish's studio on long-term loan from Beamish Museum, and some works owned by Spennymoor Town Council. The exhibition first opened in January 2016 and subsequently attracted over 45,000 visitors from all over the UK and beyond.

A selection of recent visitor comments:

'The gallery has exceeded my expectations. It has a wonderful range of artwork. Moreover, it represents a part of the world that is vastly underrated – The North East – A real place full of real people.'

'This is a wonderful place – I'm seeing the places that my grandparents worked, the mines it brings it all to life.'

'Thank you. A fantastic place to visit. Norman is new to us, but we love his work.'

'Seeing the studio was a lovely addition. It made me feel a strong nostalgia. The whole exhibition gave me a strong sense of pride.'

'A Rembrandt of the North East.'

Rare video material is also available to view, including a memorable discussion between Cornish and Richard Swallow of Northumbria University, although only four questions were possible in sixty minutes!

Visitors may also enjoy the Norman Cornish Trail, which starts and finishes at the John Kitson Archway, where a selection of Cornish's images, wonderfully illuminated on glass panels, can be viewed. Here you can collect a free Norman Cornish Trail brochure guide or download a version at www.normancornish.com/trail

The Durham Mining Museum is also located within the Town Hall building on the mezzanine floor – lift access is available to all areas including the gallery.

The gallery has recently undergone some major changes and, as well as being able to view and purchase a range of Norman Cornish's work, it also shows work by a range of artists from across the North East region.

The Gallery opening hours: **Mon to Saturday 10am to 4pm**

Mining Museum opening hours: **Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 2pm**