



Monthly Digest

April 16th, 2024

News, Events, Updates



Hub & Steering Group News

NGH April 6th - Community Event Success

Nearly 30 people came to the third NGH event on Saturday April 6th to hear Hannah Davison and Heather Carlisle from NCC talk about their new Climate Action Plan for 2024 – 26. The plan hasn't been published yet, so this was an opportunity to be amongst the first to hear about it. NGH members were able to discuss how they might work with NCC to support the delivery of net zero targets – and how NCC can work more effectively with NGH, Climate Champions and other community groups. Thanks to everyone who came along and made the morning such a positive event. It's always a boost to see such a diverse range of interests represented and in the words of one member '*it was very heartening*'.

DIARY DATES!

The next in person NGH Community events are on

- Saturday 20th July – St James Centre, Potterygate, Alnwick 9.30 – 1.00pm
 - Saturday October 19th - St James Centre, Potterygate, Alnwick 9.30 – 1.00pm
-

Membership

The Hub now has 70 members.

Thanks to our new website <https://nghonline.co.uk/join-us/> the process of onboarding new members is now faster and easier. We no longer need to send out a flurry of emails to check we've got permission to add personal data to the mailing list or confirm that individuals are happy to accept the terms of the NGH Members Guide. Thank you and a warm welcome to all new members who have recently joined us through the website portal. We hope you enjoy your first copy of the Digest and will continue to spread the word about the Hub.

Directory of Useful Contacts

A reminder that we've created a list of [Useful Contacts for NGH Members](#). It contains details of local charities, NGOs, funding bodies, NCC Contacts, local environmental and organisations etc. You get the idea!

It's all contained in a spreadsheet on the Google drive in the NGH Members Shared area, and has a number of 'Tabs', for example for Groups, Venues, NCC etc.

We really need your help in adding details for organisations / contacts that you think others might find useful. If you're confident adding information to a spreadsheet, you can add your contact information directly. If you would prefer the Steering Group to add it – then please email to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com, or send it via a WhatsApp message.

New SIG Co-ordinators

To make sure that we get the best out of our WhatsApp Special Interest Groups, we're trialling new 'Co-ordinators' for four of the groups. Co-ordinators will add and welcome new members, introduce topics of interest (along with other members of the group), provide updates for the Digest and load documents to the Google Drive for members to access.

The Co-ordinators are –

- Biodiversity & Wildlife – Julia Chambers and Liz Clark
- Community Food – Lesley Long and Jo Hart
- Arts & Culture – Ali Elly and Colin Elliot
- Warmer Homes – Colin Elliot and Martin Laidler.

We'll ask for feedback later in the year about how you feel this has worked. In the meantime, all the other SIGs will continue to operate as they currently are.

Please do support all the SIGs that you've joined – that old maxim applies – '*the more you put in, the more you get out!*'

Please Confirm Your Acceptance of our NGH Policies

All potential new members can now read the NGH Guide for Members before their confirming they want to join. However, we do have a significant number of existing members who have yet to confirm their acceptance of the Guide. Your agreement to accept the network's policies is one of our expectations of you. If you have not responded by submitting the form online, we kindly ask you to take a minute to do so now. We will then keep your Acceptance on file for the duration of your membership of the Northumberland Green Hub.

It's very easy to click and complete the form online here: <https://forms.gle/3ixBoHa3NeqRpAgy8>

We will email individuals directly over the coming weeks to tidy up the outstanding signups.

Would you like some IT Training?

If you've got questions about accessing NGH documents on Google Drive, or you just feel you'd like a bit of help about using WhatsApp groups – then look no further! We're planning on running some small group sessions that should do the trick.

Just email Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com and put 'IT Training' in the subject line. Then just tell us what you'd like help with and where you are, e.g. Alnwick, Berwick etc – that will help us plan the sessions.

There will be a small charge – probably £2 - £3 to cover the cost of room hire.

Tell Us What You Think

NGH is here to support our members – whether you've joined as part of a community group or as an individual. We'd love to get your feedback on how NGH is developing – whether that's about the new website (www.nghonline.co.uk), the Special Interest Groups, the amount of communication from the Steering Group – or ideas for future events. Whatever it is, we'd love to hear from you on northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates



Warkworth Green Matters Fundraiser

Wednesday 17th April at 7.00pm.

Bar open from 6.30 pm £5 ticket entry

Phil Derry is providing the entertainment recounting his experiences of travelling in the Amazon. This social event is to raise funds for water-based projects at the cricket club. Think water butts, wildlife friendly garden and rain gardens!



Alnwick Volunteer Fair. Northumberland Hall Saturday, April 27, 10am to 2pm

The Volunteer Fair has been organised by Alnwick Town Council and is supported by more than 30 local charities and community groups. The aim is to showcase the diverse range of volunteering opportunities available in the area.

Whether you're looking for a specific volunteering opportunity or simply want to learn more about the benefits of volunteering, feel free to drop in and find out more.



Rooted Climate Art Exhibition - Dovecote Centre, Amble 18th May-1st June

Rooted is a new exhibition of work from 18 different artists centred around their relationship to the landscape and environment. Taking the context of the climate crisis as a central thematic point, Rooted seeks to explore the ways in which these artists engage with, and utilise, the landscape in their work. Thanks to the support of the Northumberland Coast National Landscape the Dovecote Centre is able to broaden its offering by creating a number of opportunities to run alongside the exhibition. These include **free-to-attend workshops** during the Amble Puffin Festival, **facilitating workshops with local art groups**, **staging an evening panel discussion involving artists from the exhibition** as well as allowing us to appoint a writer-in-residence for the project – local poet Ali Rowland. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on all the above over the next couple of weeks.

Save the Date for The BIG GREEN Week: 8th – 16th June 2024

Get involved: Whether you take part with your school, your family, your community, your place of worship or your business – there are so many ways to get involved in the Great Big Green Week!

FIND Out More Here : <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>



**SING FOR THE PLANET - What a Wonderful World
Festival June 2024
Sunday 30 June Workshop 10.00 - 4.30
Concert with Voices of Hope 5.30**

Organisers of What a Wonderful World have announced an exciting new event in their Festival of Arts, Science and

Nature 27 - 30 June 2024. **Sing for the Planet Sunday 30 June 10.00 - 4.30** is a special day for people who love to sing.

Award-winning composer, conductor and chorus director, Janet Wheeler, will lead the one-day workshop teaching songs that celebrate the beauty and wonder of our world. The day concludes with a concert by 'Voices of Hope', recent winners of the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year. Janet is writing a new piece for the event which will give the workshop participants the chance to perform in the concert with 'Voices of Hope'.

Festival Co-Director, Liz Anderson says "*A life-long champion of the environment, Janet has worked with and written for singers of all ages and choirs of all sizes. Many of her compositions feature environmental themes. Among these, The Measure of a Tree, explores the many-faced role of trees and their life-giving powers while On the Breath of the Sky highlights the plight of the albatross*".

The workshop is open to anyone over 18. Tickets for the workshop are limited. Registration is now open from www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk. Tickets for the workshop and concert combined are £10.00 and for the concert only are £6.00 and £3.00 for 18s and under.

Contact Liz Anderson for further information on anderson926@btinternet.com or on 07970 219052

What a Wonderful World Festival dates 27 - 30 June 2024 – Alnwick Playhouse

The focus this year is on something we all need – clean air! To find out more about the programme for **The Air We Breathe** and when tickets will be on sale [Click here.](#)

What a
WONDERFUL
WORLD

'My Northumberland'
Photography Exhibition

3 June - 4 July Alnwick Playhouse

ENTER NOW!

What is your favourite place in Northumberland?
How do we ensure its future?
You are invited to submit your images and words to What A Wonderful World for inclusion in the 'My Northumberland' Exhibition and 2025 Calendar.

Full details at: <https://whataww.org>

ZEFELI secure digital payment

Wildlife Talks

The Hauxley Wildlife Group (run by Northumberland Wildlife Trust) has a programme of talks that are open to both members and non-members. They include:

- Stronger Shores – April 17th
- Poet in Residence – May 15th
- Watervoles in Northumberland – June 19th
- Ospreys at Kielder – July 17th
- Wildlife in our Seas – August 21st

All talks are at 7pm at the Hauxley visitor centre. They are free to members, suggested donation for non-members £3 (including tea / coffee).

It's well worth looking at the NWT site for details of other groups and local events.



British Food Fortnight is coming to Warkworth.

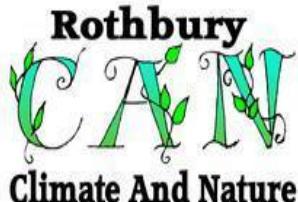
Please save the date: **20 September - 6 October 2024.**

British Food Fortnight is a national celebration of the diverse and delicious food that Britain produces. Always popular with communities and organisations across the country making plans to take part. It will be a fortnight of events celebrating local food growers and producers. More details to follow nearer the time.

Repair Cafes

1. **Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 27th April 2024 in the Salvation Army Hall, Church Street, Berwick. 10.00-1.00pm.** Darning, sewing repairs, toys, phone software, computer software, blade sharpening, general repairs. The repair café will run on the last Saturday of every month, same venue, and same time. For information contact info@greenerberwick.org.uk and put FAO Repair Cafe Team in the Subject heading.
2. **Coquetdale Repair Café – Sat June 8th, 2024, in the Jubilee Hall Rothbury 10.00-2.00pm** Combine fun & learning with reducing waste. Have your broken items repaired or learn to repair them yourself with the help of friendly volunteers. Tea and cakes available! <https://www.coquettrepair.co.uk/>
3. **Felton Repair Café – June 15th, 2024, at Gallery Forty5, Felton 11am – 3.00pm** Bring along your sewing, clothes, bicycles, knives, and tools for sharpening – and if you need help with that tricky bit of IT – bring that along too. Join the Repair Revolution! [Find us on Facebook.](#)

News from Around the County



FREE or LOW-COST Events

We now have a [Calendar of Events](#) on our website. Many of these activities are free, and you are very welcome to take part. Here are a few examples of upcoming events:

May 5th, Mike Pratt, CEO of the Wildlife Trust, is leading an outdoor Tai Chi session, followed by a nature talk.

May 16th, Pollinators! A Nature Talk and Walk with Mark Welfare - Booking essential



May 19th - Pastel Drawing of Flowers. Art Session suitable for all abilities, led by Pam Stevenson. Pam will provide all the materials and expertise for you to make a beautiful pastel picture of flowers.
To BOOK your place by email rothburycan@gmail.com.

You will need to book for these events, by emailing rothburycan@gmail.com.
Katie Scott: Co-ordinator, Rothbury CAN



Swarland & Newton Action for Climate (SNAC)

Successful Bus Service Launch

Following a successful two-year campaign by SNAC, we're delighted to report that the new service began on March 30th.

We were pleasantly surprised at how well used it was with local residents taking the opportunity for hassle-free and low carbon trips to Alnwick, Morpeth and beyond!

We're now hoping to work with NCC to add a weekday service later in the year.



Email: Talktosnac@gmail.com

Website: [Swarland and Newton Action on Climate \(snac.online\)](http://Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (snac.online))



Women's Workshop

Women's Workshop, Amble

Women's Workshop Sensory Garden

The Women's Workshop have successfully received funding from the National Garden Scheme to create a sensory seating area in the garden. We'd love to hear from others who have made a sensory garden, or where we could visit for a few extra ideas.

Contact Angela Davis: info@womenworkshop.net

Mondays @Women's Workshops

10.30am - 12.30pm Women's Workshop @Amble

A weekly group for women living in or near Amble, taking place at the Women's Workshop on Coquet Enterprise Park. 'Wonderful Women' sessions with Sally Roach, 'weaving self-care with earth-care as we move through and honour the seasons.' Mindful and gentle movement activities. You're welcome to just turn up and see what it has to offer.

1.00pm- 3.00pm Drop-in to the Women's Workshop on Monday Afternoons

Pop along for a hot drink and friendly chat or find out more about the Women's Workshop activities.

Wednesdays at the Women's Workshops

10.30 - 12.30 - Wildlife Trust Workshops

Wednesday 17th April: Solitary Bee Homes

Made from bottles, cans, bamboo, reeds and twine. I'll bring resources about bees and pollinator friendly gardening.

Wednesday 24th April: Cyanotype Printing

We'll collect wildflowers and leaves and make cyanotype prints on light sensitive paper. These could be turned into greetings cards or printed onto tote bags.

Wednesday 1st May: Plant Protection:

Make cloches from recycled materials.

1.00pm - 3.00pm Wednesday Gardening Activities & Weekly Gardening Group

Come along to the Women's Workshop and join in our weekly gardening group. This week we will be tidying the herb beds and transplanting seedlings and plants (no digging involved). A cup of tea/coffee/hot chocolate, biscuit and friendly chat is always available.

Contact angela@womensworkshop.net for more information, or just pop along on the day.



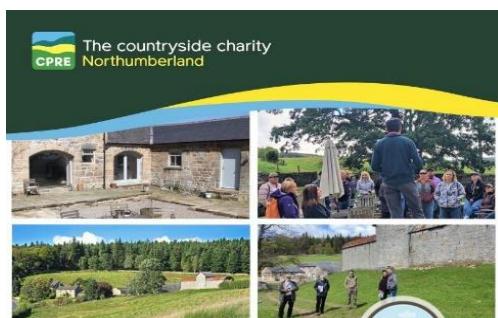
Climate Action Wansbeck (CAW) is based in the Morpeth, Ashington area. We came together as a group nearly two years ago and since then have organised an Eco Fair for Big Green Week, created a website, stalls in Ashington markets, field visits to nature reserves, and brought in expert speakers for our meetings.

Our current events are: establishing an orchard in Ashington with the support of Ashington Town Council, Northumberland CC and

Wansbeck Road Allotment Association where the orchard will be based: planning an Arts based event in Morpeth for this year's Big Green Week in June which will include film, music and art-based activities.

Please check out our website climateactionwansbeck.org.uk where you can sign up for membership and our newsletters.

Tour of Cragend Farm, Rothbury



Tour the historic Cragend Farm, Rothbury

11am on Wed 15 May 2024

We are delighted to welcome you along for this expertly guided tour of Cragend Farm, adjacent to National Trust Cragside. There are fascinating tales aplenty about the links to Cragside and to its owner, Lord William Armstrong.

We will look at his extraordinary Grade II* Listed silo, his machinery including the unique weighbridge, the farmhouse and the unusual outbuildings that make up this historically fascinating farm. Free to members, £15pp to non-members.

11am on Wed 15 May 2024

Rothbury

We are delighted to welcome you along for this expertly guided tour of Cragend Farm, adjacent to National Trust Cragside. There are fascinating tales aplenty about the links to Cragside and to its owner, Lord William Armstrong.

We will look at his extraordinary Grade II* Listed silo, his machinery including the unique weighbridge, the farmhouse and the unusual outbuildings that make up this historically fascinating farm. Free to members, £15pp to non-members. Refreshments are included. Non-members who join CPRE on the day will not be charged for the event.

To BOOK

Contact Annie Lloyd Branch Co-ordinator, CPRE Northumberland. Annie.CPRE@gmail.com

£15pp for non-members
CPRE members FREE
Member join ups on the day are free too!

For details & booking
email Annie.CPRE@gmail.com

New Projects in Northumberland

Return of the Lynx

Lynx have been successfully reintroduced in Europe and now Northumberland Wildlife Trust is part of a project investigating the possibility of reintroducing them to England. A travelling exhibition is being launched in April so that people can find out more about this lost mammal, which was hunted to extinction. Lynx were top carnivores and would have been crucial in maintaining their wider ecosystem.

The exhibition is free and will tour venues across Northumberland, including The Sill. More information and tickets are available at www.missinglynxproject.org.uk

A New Greenway for Northumberland

A group called The Borderline Greenway CIC is developing ambitious plans to develop a circular 'greenway' using disused railway tracks between Alnmouth and Berwick. The group are currently working on Phase 1 which will connect Alnmouth Station and the Aln Valley Railway Greenway to the former Alnwick to Cornhill line. They are hoping to get support from Northumberland County Council for what's described as an 'aspirational' project. Find out more at www.borderlinegreenway.com

Campaigns & Surveys

The Big Plastic Count - Our Results

We took part in the Big Plastic Count 2024 in March and saved every piece of plastic we produced in 7 days.

With just 2 of us (and three cats) in the house, and with us being more aware of the need to reduce plastic use - I was shocked that we produced more than we had in 2022. We think the increase was due to our move from tins of cat food to pouches.



That said, we are recycling more of the plastic waste we generate and regularly take clean plastic film to Aldi to dispose of it. We could take the pet food pouches too but they are disgusting to clean out.

However, to maintain our 'green credentials' we're going to have to bite the bullet and start cleaning the pouches. The cats wouldn't support the idea of going back to tins of grub!



Most plastic packaging is single-use - designed to be used once and then



Commuter Census 2024

Help MobilityWays - Liftshare for Work reduce commuter emissions and win a £50 Amazon voucher.

[MobilityWays](#) are inviting members to spare a few minutes to complete the Commuter Census 2024, which will offer valuable insights into how people from across the UK are travelling to and from work. As a thank you for your time, you can enter the prize draw. Five lucky people will win a **£50 voucher** each.

The Commuter Census, now in its fourth year, is the UK's largest independent commuter survey. The aim in 2024, is to accurately track commuting behaviours across different regions and over several years, taking into consideration the influence of hybrid working patterns. The survey data will also gather data to quantify commuting emissions, helping to identify key areas for emissions reduction.

As an illustration of the impact, we can make together, following the last census, 19% of respondents highlighted challenges in using public transport. This information empowered [MobilityWays](#) to collaborate with Local Authorities, pinpointing areas that could benefit from improved public transport options.

You can see the [results from last year's Commuter Census here!](#)

(Please only complete the survey if you have been working in the last year - whether commuting or working from home.) No personal information will be shared from your responses.

[Click here to complete the Commuter Census 2024](#)



Brilliant Ways to Celebrate Earth Month

Thanks to [One Tree Planted](#) for this brilliant list of things we can all do to celebrate Earth Month 2024

Earth Month is the perfect time for communities to come together to secure a more sustainable future. From planting trees for impact to volunteering in our own communities, there's so much we can do to give back. Let's roll up our sleeves and celebrate the beauty of nature by taking action!

How to Celebrate

At Home - There are plenty of ways you can get outside and celebrate Earth Month — no matter where you live! [CHECK OUT THE LIST](#)

At Work - From greening up the office to participating in sustainability challenges, celebrating Earth Day at work can be rewarding and impactful. [ENGAGE YOUR OFFICE](#)

Training Opportunities



Trust the People Training – Starts April 29th, 2024

Trust the People is a grassroots community building movement, sharing democratic tools to help people build their communities in the face of local and global crises. Their free online community organising course is back on Monday 29th April. It will run for 4 weeks at 6.00 pm- 8.30pm BST and will take you through different aspects of community building – from connecting with people one to one to running community assemblies, which harness the wisdom and power of the community.

The Course is in 4 separate modules and will explore how to understand ourselves better, so we can better connect with others; how to reach out to people in our communities in an inclusive way; how to build healthy and supportive relationships rooted in trust; and how to run community assemblies to promote local democracy and get people sharing ideas and talking about the change they would like to see! You can find [more information and book your place here.](#)

Funding Opportunities



Northumberland County 4 Community Funding Portal is an online portal which allows you to browse and search for sources of funding depending on your organisation or project. Click the link below to visit the Home page. You will need to Register as a User the first time you use the portal: provide the name of your organisation, a contact name, email address, password, and your postcode. Once you have created a User profile you can login at any time.

<https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/northumberland>

There are 388 sources of funding for community associations or groups, 440 for charitable trusts and 101 for Parish Councils, plus many more. You can select filters to help you narrow down the source of funding you seek.

The website includes specific guidance on the following topics.

- [About government funding](#)
- [About Lottery funding](#)
- [About trust funding](#)
- [What are social enterprises?](#)
- [Applying for funding](#)
- [Community jargon made easy](#)

User Guide to Get the Most out of the Funding Portal

Go to the User Guide first. Only seven pages long it explains how to get the most out of the portal.

There are also 3 helpful videos - How to Run a Search, How to Save Items and How to Download Items. [Click here to read it.](#)



The Steering Group are drawing together a list of relevant funding bodies and crowdfunding sources to help all NGH member communities. If you know of any that have worked well for your group, please send details to: northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com

NCC Climate Change Team – April Update

Thank you to the NCC Climate Change team for their latest newsletter. We've captured the highlights here.



Home energy upgrades

The NCC Warmer Homes team has installed a total of 219 insulation and low-carbon energy solutions in eligible homes across the county, helping Northumberland residents become more energy efficient and reduce their bills and carbon footprint.



Fighting fly-tipping

NCC are stepping up efforts to combat fly-tipping in the county by deterring offenders and holding them accountable. CCTV coverage has increased, and fines will target perpetrators. Cleansing staff have been trained in gathering evidence from fly tipped waste to support increased enforcement activity.

Fly-tipping is illegal and can be reported to the Council by going to nland.cc/fix or by ringing the Environment Agency on 03708 506506



Student's environmental message

Matthew MacDonald, a student at King Edward's VI (KEVI) High School in Morpeth, won our waste competition vibrant design, featuring the slogan 'make the bins happy,'. The idea behind this was that the bins are happy when people recycle properly and put the right materials in. His design will be displayed on our bin lorries county-wide and at our Morpeth depot



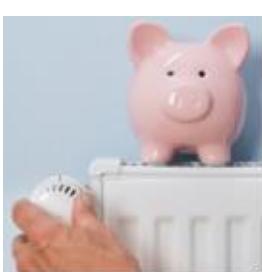
LOVE Northumberland awards

Applications are now open for this year's LOVE Northumberland Awards – the annual celebration of all that is great about community environmental work in the county. Community groups, schools and individuals can apply in seven different award categories for projects and initiatives which improve their local areas or neighbourhoods. **Deadline: Friday 3 May at 4pm.**

Entries are invited for the categories of:

- Best children's project
- Best young people's project
- Best urban project
- Best coast or countryside project
- Outstanding individual
- Best community response to the climate change emergency

Winners will be presented with their awards by Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland at an event at The Alnwick Garden on Thursday, June 13.



Funding for home energy upgrades

Eligible residents could access a range of energy-saving improvements, including insulation for walls, lofts and floors, air source heat pumps and solar panels. You could be eligible if you live in a private home in Northumberland which is not heated by mains gas, have an income of up to £44,000 per year (depending on your circumstances), receive a means-tested benefit or you live in a specific postcode area. [Please see Council website for full eligibility information.](#)



Funding is available for your community energy project

Extra support for Community Energy Projects

The Northeast and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub has appointed Sue Manson as the new Community Energy Development Officer to enhance support for Community Energy Projects in the region. Sue will identify potential community energy projects, offer advice, support, and facilitate community-led initiatives for energy saving, management, and generation. If you're interested in having a chat about your community energy project, please get in touch via enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com

Community Energy Fund (CEF)

The Community Energy Fund (CEF) is designed to help urban and rural communities develop clean energy projects that save, manage, or generate energy including small-scale wind farms and rooftop solar partnerships, battery storage, rural heat networks, and electric vehicle charging points. It can also be used to fund fuel poverty alleviation schemes such as energy efficiency, retrofit, and advice projects. **Deadline:** 5 May 2024



Free Woodland Management Events

Northwoods have two free woodland management events aimed at woodland owners, farmers, estate and land managers and anyone interested in better managing their woodlands.

Woodland Management at the Wallington Estate

A full day event at Wallington exploring managing

woodlands and wildlife on a public access site.

Date: Wednesday 24 April 2024

Time: Full day

Location: Wallington Hall Cambo NE61 4AR

[**BOOK Your Place at Wallington**](#)

Woodland Management and Biochar Workshop

A structured workshop exploring the opportunities biochar could present for land managers to bring more woods into better management.

Date: Thursday 2 May 2024

Time: 10am - 3:30pm

Location: Hexham Auction Mart, Tyne Green, Hexham, NE46 3SG

[**BOOK Your Place at Hexham**](#)



Net zero guidance published for village halls

Guidance published by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) as part of National Village Halls Week outlines what can be done to improve the energy efficiency of village halls.

The guide features several pioneering communities that have

sought to decarbonise their building and reduce bills by improving insulation, replacing heating systems and generating their own energy. [**Download a Copy Here**](#)

Welcome to Heather Carlisle – Project Manager Partnerships & Engagement

Heather has recently taken over from Hazel Scurr and will be your contact for all things Climate Champions. Heather is keen to organise an online Teams meeting later in May, so NCC Climate Champions can chat through a few issues, as well as having a few colleagues from the Climate Change Team in on the call. The plan is to talk you through NCC plans for the new Climate Action Plan, go through updates, share ideas and information, and run through any AOBs that you'd like to raise. Heather will be sending out an email shortly to confirm a date and time. Her hope is to host meetings 2 - 3 times a year.

Climate Champions are invited to contact Heather using her email address below. She'd love to know if you have any questions and would appreciate a brief introduction to yourself and your work in Northumberland.

Heather Carlisle

Project Manager

Climate Change Team – Northumberland County Council

E: heather.carlisle@northumberland.gov.uk

And in Other News Local & Global

Human Rights Breached in Landmark Case

This week The Guardian reported that a group of 2,400 older Swiss women used a powerfully direct approach to confronting the crisis. They took Switzerland to the European court of Human Rights, claiming that, by missing its climate targets, Switzerland was putting them more at risk of dying in a heatwave.

On Tuesday, the *KlimaSeniorinnen* won their landmark case and raised pressure on other governments to act more quickly. The Court ruled that Switzerland had "[failed to comply with its duties under the Convention concerning climate change](#)" and it had therefore violated its citizens human rights. The Guardian's European environment correspondent, Ajit Niranjan, discussed the precedent-setting case in detail with Ian Sample in the [Science Weekly podcast](#).

Arriva to reduce frequency on some bus routes in Northumberland after 'service reliability' issues [from Northumberland Gazette 12th April 2024]

Arriva will reduce the frequency of some Northumberland bus services from next week amid a shortage of trained drivers. Weekday service on the 35, X21, and X22 routes will be reduced from a 20 minute frequency to a 30 minute frequency from Monday, April 15. The changes on the routes apply Monday to Friday. The timetables for Saturday and Sunday have not been changed.

UK MPs will be debating the Global Ocean Treaty on April 25th. [Source Greenpeace]

Governments have finally agreed a Global Ocean Treaty at the United Nations, after almost two decades of negotiations. It sets the rules and tools for protecting ocean life over nearly half of our planet. Most importantly, it provides a pathway to creating marine protected areas across the world's oceans. This treaty is the biggest conservation victory ever. It's a huge moment for our blue planet, and a hopeful sign that in a divided world, protecting nature for the benefit of all people can triumph over global politics.

The new Global Ocean Treaty finally makes it possible to create a network of ocean sanctuaries across the globe, areas where fragile ecosystems and marine life can recover and thrive. This gives governments the opportunity to actually reach the vital '['30x30' ocean protection target](#)' that they [committed to](#) just three months ago. Without a treaty, there would be no legal route to protecting large areas of international waters.

What is the Language of Tomorrow? Climate Words

Climate Words is on a mission to raise climate literacy across the world. Did you know increased climate literacy correlates directly with increased climate action? Words are fundamental carriers of meaning in language. [Climate Words](#) are curating an extensive lexicon of key words, written by experts on the frontlines. Definitions are supported by research, books, bibliographies, photography, stories, interviews and further reading. We have created an [accessible database for effective climate communication](#). **Word of the month :** [Intersectional Environmentalism](#)

May Digest – Copy Deadline

Please send your items for the next edition by email together with any attachments to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com by **May 10th latest!**



To ALL contributors to this month's Digest.
You know who you are, and your efforts made pulling this edition together so much easier.