



Monthly Digest

March 13th, 2024

News, Events, Updates



Hub & Steering Group News

April 6th Community Event

We're holding our third NGH Community event on **Saturday April 6th at St James Church, Pottergate Alnwick**. The programme will be coming out shortly – but we're really pleased to say **that Hannah Davison, from the Climate Team at Northumberland County Council** will be joining us.

NCC are about to publish their new Climate Action Plan so this is a great opportunity to hear firsthand about the key themes and to have a dialogue about what this means locally and how individuals and community groups can get involved.

NB. the next Community Event will be on **Saturday July 20th - SAVE THE DATE.**

Membership

The Hub now has 63 members.

Directory of Useful Contacts

As we announced in the last edition of the Digest, 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 information direct. If you would prefer the Steering Group to add it, then please email northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com, or send it via a WhatsApp message.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

NGH Special Interest Groups provide a great way of sharing news, asking questions or making new contacts. There are now eight topic groups, a geographically based group for Coquetdale as well as 'Introduce Yourself' and the Community Announcements group.

NGH is still very new, and the Steering Group are keen to find ways to help members get the best from the groups. A couple of you volunteered to become a SIG Co-ordinator – we're very grateful to you. We've decided that over the next few weeks we're going to develop the role for a selection of groups as a starting point. That will give us the opportunity to try out some things and get feedback from you.

We'll be sharing details shortly about who the new SIG co-ordinators are.

Bookshare

Several NGH members have indicated they would be willing to share their collection of books on climate action, environmental and sustainability issues.

If you have a book, or maybe more than one, that you are willing to share with another NGH member please bring it with you to the April 6th Meeting. We will set out the **PR and Publicity table** as before for members to put out any community leaflets and flyers. If you would like to borrow or offer a book, we suggest you stand at the Information Sharing table to meet up with anyone keen to connect with you. Over to you to agree for how long you share and to swap contact details so it can be returned in a timely manner.

Only 50% response SO Far! Please Confirm Your Acceptance of our NGH Policies

All members have now received a copy of the NGH Guide for Members. We subsequently emailed and asked you to confirm that you have read and are happy to ACCEPT the policies and procedures included in the Guide.

To date, we have only had 33 responses from an active membership of 63. Our aim is to keep NGH red tape and procedures to a minimum. However, if you wish to continue as an NGH member, 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>

If you can't access the form online and prefer to send us an email confirming that you've read the NGH Members Guide and are happy to accept the policies in it – that will be fine. Thank you.

Drop In Peer- to-Peer Led IT Training Sessions

Owing to shortage of team members, we've not been able to progress our IT training sessions as quickly as we would have liked. However, Lesley has recently asked Members via WhatsApp to tell her about any suitable venues around the county that we could use for small training workshops starting later this Spring. If you know of a venue near you - FREE or Low Cost with enough seating for 6 people and good wi-fi – please let Lesley know by email to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com as soon as you can. Lesley will then send out a short survey via the WhatsApp Announcement Group to find out your priorities for training topics.

Upcoming Dates

Hold the Date – June 27th – 30th – Alnwick Playhouse



What a Wonderful World Festival 27 - 30 June 2024

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.](#)

Volunteers Fair

- Learn new skills
- Meet new people
- Improve your well-being
- Give something back to the local community

Northumberland Hall, Alnwick
Saturday 27th April.
10am-2pm

ALNWICK TOWN COUNCIL

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.

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>

QR code

WWWW is a registered charity number 1195577

Repair Cafes

1. **Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 30th March 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. **Felton Repair Café – April 13th, 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](#).
3. **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/>

Volunteers Please



What a Wonderful World (WaWW) Seeks Website Manager

Could you use your passion and skills for climate action as our Volunteer Website Manager?

Contact **Alistair Anderson** on concertina.anderson@gmail.com or info@www.whataww.org



Greener Berwick Growing Communities Seeks Volunteers

Growing Communities have started work on their take-over of some neglected NCC flower beds in Berwick town centre. They meet every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, at 10am outside Berwick Library to garden. In April they are holding a consultation in the library to gather community input of what to grow. We would welcome any gardening volunteers, especially right now as we are working hard to remove old, large shrubs!

For more info contact **Jo Thomas** through info@greenerberwick.org.uk

Special Interest Group News



Community Food

Alnwick & District Food Bank - continues to be very busy, with new clients coming in every week. We need your donations, and if you fancy the challenge of making them "green" (in colour) please go ahead 😊 We have donation boxes in Morrisons, Sainsburys and Lidl. A bit 'bah humbug' but no Easter eggs please, we have a lot already!



The 2nd Annual Great Northern Fruit Moot was held in Todmorden, Yorkshire this February and was very well attended. The Moot was a chance for any fruit growers, home growers and community gardeners to network, learn new skills and engage in peer-to-peer learning and discussions. This year the day-long programme included a pruning debate and a presentation on late-fruiting apples.

There is always a 'stick swap' of scion material to propagate Northern varieties of fruit tree! Each year a new host volunteers to organise the day with support from the previous year's host.



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.

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF PLANTING
ALL ARE WELCOME. HELP WITH
SOME LIGHT DIGGING AND PLANT
UP THE NEW HEDGING.

**HELP US PLANT A HEDGE
AND GROW OUR
COMMUNITY!**



**FRIDAY 15 MARCH &
SATURDAY 16 MARCH**
for more details contact
matthew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk
01665 712929

HEDGE PLANTS ARE EASY TO PLANT AND FORM AN ATTRACTIVE BOUNDARY. AS WELL AS PROVIDING STRUCTURE AND PROTECTION TO THE GARDEN, THEY CAN BE PERFECT FOR WILDLIFE, AND PARTICULARLY NESTING BIRDS.



Arts and Culture & Live Well with Less

No Time for Waste Event Report - Sunday 25th February

What an amazing event! It was lots of hard work pulling everything together for this environmental gathering, but it worked brilliantly. So many people came, we counted in over 1,000 people (not including ourselves and stall holders).

We had a creative room full of bunting made by local schools and community groups which filled the space above the many free workshops. These included, making a protest sign, scrapbook journaling, making a bird feeder, seed planting in origami planters, making a pledge tree, hands on rock pool school and many more. We had local and national charity and community groups providing information.

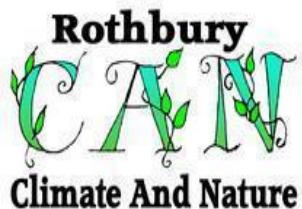


Local sustainable food businesses and a whole hall with 40+ stalls full of environmentally conscious businesses turned up to sell everything from recycled ghost net jewellery, original artworks, organic soaps and surf boards to soya candles, t-shirts and chocolates. We even had a raffle with over 30 amazing prizes donated from local businesses.

People came for an hour and stayed all day! We even made the ITV local news. Most importantly we showed this is a much-needed event, a fantastic way to connect people and we made a space for inspiring others and making future plans. We will absolutely be making this an annual event and hope to see you all at the next one. **Ali Elly**

https://www.instagram.com/buy_the_kilo/

News from Around the County



Climate And Nature

Rothbury Climate and Nature groups are coming out of hibernation as Spring arrives!

Many of us planted acorns and hazelnut seeds to grow for the [Seeds2Trees Living Woods](#) project. About 20 of us have these seeds germinating in our gardens, ready to give back to the project in a year or so. We are about to plant willow and alder seeds.

ROWANS (Restoring Our Wild and Natural Spaces) continue with their work planting trees and hedges, wildflowers, and bulbs. The Spar in Thropton is very kindly supporting them by providing staff volunteers for one of their projects. Spar staff will be removing hedge protectors, clearing weeds, trimming willow, marking out a path, creating willow and hazel structures alongside ROWAN members. Chris Cann tells me, '*This is just the start! We have lots of exciting planting plans in the year ahead*'. Spar volunteers are helping Rothbury Rubbish Friends also, they take part in the community litter picks, and do litter pick around their shop.

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:

April 24th - Guided walk to the famous Yardhope Oaks, and, hopefully, the Cocidius Shrine.

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



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.

Rothbury Tree Wardens are proud to share with you that the **Ancient Tree Forum** has chosen Rothbury to come to explore the possibility of ... A North East *Branch* (excuse the pun!) In April, 15-20 members of the ATF will be participating in the Rothbury Tree Trail, led by Katie Scott, and then meeting in the Queens Head to discuss these plans.

We have lots going on! Do have a look for events which might appeal to you: www.rothburycan.org

Katie Scott: Co-ordinator, Rothbury CAN



Report from Swarland & Newton on the Moor Action for Climate (SNAC)

SNAC has been campaigning for the last 2 years to get a bus service for the parish. We're finally able to announce that a Saturday service will be starting on March 30th between Morpeth and Alnwick. When we carried out a survey in early 2022, many residents told us that they wanted to be greener but had to rely on their cars to get to local shops and amenities so we're hoping that the new route will be well used. We'll be continuing to campaign for a weekday service later in the year.

We've also had funding to commission Northumberland Wildlife Trust to survey a large wildflower meadow in Swarland and to train a number of volunteers to manage the area in the future.

And finally, we're about to start a project to map and improve wildlife corridors. We're beginning by working with a local farmer who already works in a wildlife friendly way and then hope to use this as a local case study. If any other groups have done something similar, we'd love to hear from you.

Liz Clark: SNAC

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, Amble

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 27th March: Natural birdfeeders

Using fruit, seeds, pinecones and vegetable fat and natural wool holders for nesting birds and birdwatching with ID sheets.

Wednesday 3rd April: Wildflowers:

Making wildflower seed bombs.

Wednesday 10th April: Natural nest making (with chocolate eggs) & decorated eggs

Using flowers and natural dyes (this involves boiling eggs wrapped in leaves and flowers).

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.

Angela Davis – Women's Workshop



Report from Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst PC

In March 2023, Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council adopted a 5-year Climate Change & Biodiversity Plan. The PC established a Climate Change & Biodiversity Committee to work with residents, landowners, and Northumberland County Council. It's been a busy year with many activities taking place.

An Information Event in Summer 2023 received an enthusiastic response with likeminded individuals seizing the opportunity to network and plan future collaborations. Other parishes, planning their own events, were able to ask for help. Volunteers joined the litter picking team and residents signed up for bird -box making and hedge-laying projects.



Creating Laid Hedges The transformation of hedgerows to laid hedges started with a showcase hedge at Embleton Terrace playing field. A laid hedge creates a habitat for more species. Unmanaged hedges often have little ground cover at their base, which provides no habitat for the winter. Laid hedges are denser and provide more fruit and cover over the winter and sequester more carbon due to their denseness. The PC ran 3 Hedge Laying Courses for volunteers in February – training over 20 people.



Meadow Seeding. The committee gave 1kg of seeds to people in the area for their land and gardens and set up a database to monitor who has the most productive show next season. Working with landowners and NCC Highways, the PC has identified 4 areas which it plans to turn into seeded meadow areas. The aim is to increase insect and bird habitats and create visually aesthetic spaces which will host community events at harvest time. This also lowers the carbon footprint as the areas won't be cut by machines. Meadows

will be hand cut as part of a community event and the cuttings will be made into hay bales. The bales will be entered in the Forestburn Gate Hay Show and donated to the local pledge auction.



Bird Population The Committee secured funding to build 50 bird nest boxes to provide nesting for Pied Flycatcher, Nuthatch, and Redstart. These boxes have been sited around the parish with landowners' permission.

River Monitoring The PC is part of the CRAG river monitoring project and is currently training a group of volunteers to monitor the Coquet from the Rothbury boundary to Weldon Bridge.

Geo Mapping The Committee obtained a Toughbook tablet and survey software to record data from around our Parish and beyond to establish a baseline habitat survey. The data will be invaluable to monitor those parts of our environment which are thriving or declining. A local ecologist is leading on this project.

Litter Picking There have been several litter picking events on roads throughout the parish throughout the year with mounds of rubbish collected.

Going Forward in 2024 The Committee will focus on the eastern corridor of the Coquet, west of Weldon Bridge, known to us as the Pink Whale because of its shape and colour used in our mapping. Thanks to the development of good relationships with the landowners, all of whom are passionate and knowledgeable about biodiversity, the area has the potential to become a perfect example of a biodiversity corridor. In 2024 the Committee will:

- Host a 2nd biodiversity event at Embleton Terrace playing field.
- Build a further 200 nesting boxes.
- Extend hedge laying with help from course students and volunteers and hold an amateur hedge laying competition.
- Complete the Habitat Survey of the Pink Whale
- Extend wildflower and tree planting activity.
- Continue litter picking throughout the parish.

Funding We have been lucky to secure significant funding from the Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund (WWCF).

Contact Us We are keen to work with, share experience and develop knowledge and expertise with other like-minded groups. Email **Garth Rhodes, Parish Clerk.** Clerk@Brinkburn.net

PLEASE NOTE: This is abbreviated version of the original article. To read the full version, [please click here.](#)

Warkworth Green Matters

Has two events coming up.

Monday 25th March – Rivers Evening Warkworth & Amble - Invertebrate Training Feedback, Update on Testing and Tyelaw Burn. **7.00pm.** Venue: **The Hermitage Inn, 23 Castle St, Warkworth. NE65 0UL**

Sunday 17th April - Warkworth Green Matters Fundraiser. Rio Caqueta to the Coquet with Phil Derry 7.00 pm. Venue : **Warkworth Cricket Club, Castle Field, Warkworth, Morpeth NE65 0TD**

Report from Greener Berwick



Volunteers from Greener Berwick are volunteering to take part in the event below as part of Connecting Threads which has been set up by the Southern Upland Partnership. You don't have to live in Berwick or the Borders to take part.



Event title: The Tweed Estuary River Clean

Date and Time: Sunday 7th April 2024, 12-4pm

Location: Queen's Gardens, Tweedmouth, (W3W: //fence.print.joke)

Activity: Join Connecting Threads to paddle along the Tweed Estuary by canoe, cleaning the river as we go.

As part of the Great Borders River Clean, we are looking for keen river volunteers to help clean the Tweed as it makes its way to the sea. Outdoor instructor Ollie Jay will lead an expedition by canoe, helping us to get to hard-to-reach places on the wide river estuary. Other groups will continue on foot, targeting the riverbank. Artist Chloë Smith will lead a creative zine making workshop, helping participants to explore the wildlife of the river.

Lunch, litter picking equipment, canoes and PPE provided – but please do bring a picker and gloves if you already have some!

Canoe spaces are limited and must be booked in advance. Each canoe can hold two people and at least one person per boat must have previous experience and be a competent paddler. Buoyancy aids will be provided.

All volunteers must dress appropriately for the outdoors, and must wear sturdy, thick soled footwear. Canoeists should wear clothes they are happy with getting muddy and wet and are recommended to bring a change of clothing. The river estuary is an unpredictable ecosystem and weather can change rapidly. Be prepared for anything!

Volunteer travel bursary available for those travelling from outside the Berwick area.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Canoe activity suitable for ages 10+ if accompanied by an experienced adult.

The aim of this event is to clean the Tweed, creatively highlight the importance of tackling pollution, and celebrate this incredible river and what it means to us and the wildlife that calls it home.

BOOK YOUR PLACE Please book in advance to let us know you are coming, any dietary requirements and if you require support with travel costs. **Call Jo 07887 861767 / joanna@sup.org.uk**

Big Community Clean Up Organised by Sea the Change with participation by Greener Berwick members.



Duchess Community High School Climate Club

This month at Climate Club students have been preparing for the Big Plastic Count and look forward to welcoming visitor **Caitlin Burns** from **the Environment Agency**. We are also looking to distribute our remaining tree saplings to our feeder Primary Schools to keep the momentum behind our planting programme despite having run out of space along our own perimeter. **Contributor - Rosie Bush**

Terry Smith, of Alnwick Friends of the Earth, works with the Climate Club each week, sent in this report of recent activities at the school.

During term time I attend the weekly DCHS Climate Club. I help to run this with Rosie Bush. During this year we have focused on plastic pollution, the sea temperature rise, overfishing, sea level rise, sewage and field run off pollution etc. We did a beach clean (7 bags collected) and followed this up with a letter to the fishermen's organisation about the fishing equipment pollution we found. One of our members made a short film about our beach clean.

We have also held sessions on the Arctic and Antarctic, 'Warm Homes & Full Tummies', Trees and on Air. We have had visitors and speakers including our county councillors and a representative from

Surfers Against Sewage. We've recently been awarded a sum of money from the school's Boost Fund to make a short film and plans are quite advanced to do this.

The Tipping Point Game which I devised with the help of Rosie Bush has been successfully tried out with the young people. It is a tool to educate and develop discussion. (It's relevant to adults too!) The DCHS purchased a large Jenga for this activity. The Climate Club has about 20 to 25 members with about 15 attending on a regular basis.

Environmental Talks to School Pupils

For the second year, and over five days, I gave a short, illustrated talk to most of the 1,600 pupils at the DCHS. The theme of this was of 6 major environmental and nature threats in Northumberland. The presentation included some ideas about what young people could do and guidance on how students might deal with the anxiety and worry about this. As yet, there are no firm plans to continue these talks which is a shame. If anyone is interested, I am happy to support them and liaise with the school.

Contributor – Terry Smith



Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth - Divestment Tyne & Wear Pension Fund

Following the excellent and informative (but poorly attended) public meeting organised by Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth, two members met to draft and send a comprehensive letter to the leader of NCC. Terry Smith also wrote a letter on the issue to the Gazette which was published. The response to the letter from Cllr Sanderson was general but quite positive. A copy of our letter went to the leader of the Labour group. Green Councillor, Martin Swinbank put forward a resolution to NCC on the issue of the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund's investments in fossil fuels and proposing that they divest from fossil fuels. This resolution was voted against by the Labour group whilst the Conservatives largely abstained. We have now met with and written to the leader of the Labour group to challenge his party's apparent views on this issue. **Contributor - Terry Smith**



**The countryside charity
Northumberland**



Hexham's Net Zero Fair

11am - 1pm on Sat 23 Mar 2024

Queens Hall Arts Centre, Hexham

Join CPRE committee members at this meeting of minds, as we look for local solutions to address climate change with partner organisations. Town centre parking available. No admission charge & no booking required.



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.

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

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

Tour of Cragend Farm, Rothbury

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

Campaigns & Surveys



The Big Plastic Count – 11th – 17th March 2024

Organised by Greenpeace, the plastic crisis isn't going away, so the Big Plastic Count is back. Plastic is everywhere. From the candy-coloured vapes that litter our streets to the pots and packets our food and drink often comes in. **Plastic is harming our health and our environment.**

Want to do something about it? This year we have a huge opportunity. The UK government could play a leading role at global negotiations about plastic waste. But first, we need to show our government the scale of the problem. **The Big Plastic Count - the UK's biggest investigation into household plastic waste.** By taking part, you can help pressure the government to turn off the plastic tap once and for all.

This year, when nations come together to agree on a [Global Plastics Treaty](#) they will set new global rules for the production of plastic. With public pressure, they could choose to turn off the plastic tap once and for all.

For just one week – 11-17 March 2024 – households of all shapes and sizes, schools, community groups and businesses all over the country will count their plastic packaging waste and share their results.



The Great British Spring Clean

This campaign runs from **15th to 31st March 2024**. Each year in the UK over 3 million small mammals are killed by littered cans and bottles. They are attracted to the sugar, climb inside, get trapped and die. In one bottle alone, Lynne Russell of Warkworth Green Matters, found 4 dead shrews. Please can as many people as possible promote the event and get involved in some way, whether through your parish/town council or individual groups.

Full details are on the [Keep Britain Tidy](#) website.

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 – March Update

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



Historic pollution clean-up works getting underway

NCC have allocated £5m to clean up historic pollution at the coast at Lynemouth and to stop historic waste deposits from washing into the sea in this area. Team have continued to visit the site to monitor and remove waste material being eroded from the cliffs and washed onto the beach, where able and safe to do so. The main works start in June 2024. The public is reminded that for health and safety reasons they should not remove waste material from the beach themselves.



County Council welcomes reopening of Farne Islands

NCC welcomes the reopening of the Farne Islands to the public, marking the end of a two-year closure due to a bird flu outbreak. The popular tourist destination and important ecological site is set to welcome visitors from March 25th, allowing them to enjoy the breathtaking scenery and observe the return of the birds as they breed and nurture their chicks.



Funding for home energy upgrades

Our Warmer Homes Team is encouraging residents to apply for fully funded home energy upgrades. Eligible residents could access a range of energy-saving improvements, including floor, loft, and wall insulation (internal or external), low carbon heat systems like air source heat pumps and heating controls, as well as solar panels.

Funding is available for your community energy project

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero north east & yorkshire NET ZERO HUB

Extra support for Community Energy Projects

The North East 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 - Hexham

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**](#)



'Go Green' Northumberland Celebration Event

CAN is holding its Northumberland celebration event to look at how committees can 'go green' and celebrate the Heritage of Village Halls, as a project involving 30 halls shares its findings.

Date: Monday 18 March 2024

Time: 9:45am - 12:45pm

Location: County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2AP

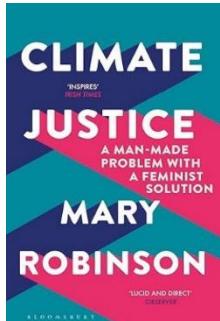
Film Reviews

Act Now

[ActNow Film](#) is a youth voices film project produced by the University of Bath Institute for Policy Research (IPR) and Cambridge Zero, as part of the UK Universities Climate Network (UUCN).

The 2021 film, *Youth Voices on Climate*, showcases the views of 16–30-year-olds and is drawn from films submitted by over 140 young people from 32 countries. In the film, young people from across the world share their lived experiences of climate change; their hopes and ambitions for the future; and their 'asks' of the climate change negotiators, as well as their own climate pledges. They share, in their own words, why stopping climate change is important to them – the future generation.

Book Reviews



Climate Justice: A Man-Made Problem with a Feminist Solution. Mary Robinson. [Bloomsbury 2019]

Holding her first grandchild in her arms in 2003, Mary Robinson was struck by the uncertainty of the world he had been born into. Before his fiftieth birthday, he would share the planet with more than nine billion people - people battling for food, water, and shelter in an increasingly volatile climate. The faceless, shadowy menace of climate change had become, in an instant, deeply personal.

Mary Robinson's mission led her all over the world, from Malawi to Mongolia, and to a heartening revelation: that an irrepressible driving force in the battle for climate justice could be found at the grassroots level, mainly among women, many of them mothers and grandmothers like herself. She shares their histories and achievements in this book.

From Sharon Hanshaw, the Mississippi matriarch whose campaign began in her East Biloxi hair salon and culminated in her speaking at the United Nations, to Constance Okollet, a small farmer who transformed the fortunes of her ailing community in rural Uganda, Robinson met with ordinary people whose resilience and ingenuity had already unlocked extraordinary change. A powerful and hopeful read about the power of women to mobilise their communities.

Available to borrow from [NCC Library Service Climate Change](#) Collection.

April Digest – Copy Deadline

Please send your items for the next edition by email together with any attachments to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com by **April 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.