



Monthly Digest

June 15th, 2024

News, Events, Updates



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Hub & Steering Group News

Since our last event in April, the NGH network has continued to grow, and we're pleased to introduce new members - Jane G, Rachel, Sue, Pat, Ginny, Helen, Sonia, Jane H, Pete, David, Graeme, Joel, Aileen, Fiona and Sandra - welcome to NGH! The Hub now has 81 members!

We're in the Press!

We've also had some great publicity recently with an article about [NGH in the Northumberland Gazette](#). You can read it via the link. AND, if you can, please SHARE our story via the Facebook, X or email links at the foot of the article.

Steering Group Action

The Steering Group has been busy behind the scenes and one of things we're looking at is how to make information more accessible. One of the aims of NGH is that it provides members with a source of useful information and resources. We know that Google Drive isn't the easiest tool to use and so we've started work on creating an Online Resources area on the website (www.nghonline.co.uk). We're hoping that that we'll have something to share with members within the next month or so.

NCC Climate Action Plan

Those of you who came along to our event in April know that we had an early preview of the **NCC Climate Action Plan 2024 - 26**. The plan has just been released ahead of going through formal approval by the County Council in early July and [you can find it here](#). The Plan information is on pages 31 to 220.

Climate Champions

There has also been a Zoom meeting with the NCC Climate Champions group, hosted by NCC Project Manager for Partnership and Engagement, Heather Carlisle of the NCC Climate Change Team. We're keeping in close touch with this to ensure that individuals and community groups have clear opportunities for dialogue and consultation going forward.

NEXT Community Event – July 20th

Finally, we're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the next NGH Community on **July 20th at our usual venue of St James Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick.**

This time it's NGH members taking centre stage as we hear about some of the projects and activities that are happening across the area. It'll be a chance to listen, learn and connect with others – and perhaps be inspired to do something similar or work together.

2 Talk Slots Left

If you have a project or activity that you'd like to share with the group, we still have 2 spaces left. Please **book your slot by emailing us at Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com by Friday June 21st** with a title for your 10-minute slot [5 minutes talk & 5 minutes to take questions].

BOOKING and DONATION for ROOM HIRE & REFRESHMENTS

Your invitation to the July meeting will come out very shortly when we will ask you to register your place via the NGH website. We will be asking you to make a minimum £3 donation in cash on the day. Until now, we have been able to cover our outgoings with generous help from Alnwick Friends of the Earth. However, as a fully self-funded community network are now asking for your help towards our costs going forward. We hope you will understand and be happy to contribute.

Many thanks
The NGH Steering Group

DIARY DATES!

The autumn in person NGH Community event is on

- **Saturday October 19th - St James Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick 9.30 – 1.00pm**

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.



Biodiversity & Wildlife SIG News



Mown Down! Why Our Verges are Getting the Chop?

Members of the Biodiversity Special Interest Group have recently been discussing concerns about NCC's mowing regime following several instances in which wildflower areas have been mown. NGH member Fiona Macleod contacted NCC and received the following explanation.

Neighbourhood Services cut rural verges annually, on behalf of NCC Highways for the reasons below:

- To improve lines of sight for vehicles, not only at junctions, but also around corners.
- To control long vegetation which, particularly when it is wet, flops onto the road narrowing the carriage way causing a potential hazard to drivers.
- To control the growth of saplings and shrubs. If the land to the side of the road is not cut at least once a year saplings and shrubs take over, again causing narrowing of the highway. This vegetation, if left, can damage drainage systems and the road surface, and is costly and time consuming to remove.

- To ensure pedestrian safety. Cutting a strip at the side of the road allows an area for pedestrians to step out of the way of traffic.

Neighbourhood Services are responsible for verge cutting county-wide and do this once a year in June and July. There are exceptions for sightlines and junctions with restricted vision. These are cut as needed, to reduce health and safety risks.

Budgets only allow for a single verge cut throughout the county due to the vast scale of the road network. Some villages prefer a more frequent cut, and we have no objection to them arranging this.

How to Nominate a Protected Verge

There are about 70 protected verges in Northumberland which have been recorded in the County Council's mapping system.

The public can nominate a verge using the [Online Suggestion Form](#):

Each verge identified as potentially being of high conservation value is assessed individually. The verge must be considered floristically diverse by the county Ecologist, or by Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Certain unusual species would result in us potentially giving the verge special consideration. These include areas containing *Briza maxima* (Greater Quaking Grass), Dyers greenweed or certain species of orchid.

NGH Response

NGH will try and obtain the information about the current list of protected areas and make it available to members, along with a copy of The Good Verge Guide published by Plantlife.

Ask your Local Councillor to Act

Hannah Davison, from NCC's Climate Change Team, suggests that NGH members may want to take this issue up with their local councillor as some town and parish councils have particular arrangements for wildflower beds which come at an additional cost.

Apply for Funding for a Survey

Hannah suggested that it may be possible to obtain funding for further survey work to identify verges with high conservation value.

Update to Follow

No doubt there will be more discussion in the Biodiversity SIG and we'll report back in the next Digest.



Look Out for Nesting Hedgehogs in your Garden

An article in a recent Northumberland Gazette, urged residents to take care in their gardens, following the rescue of 4 young hoglets. The hoglets were disturbed and abandoned by their mum at the St Mary's housing estate near Stannington. Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue is warning gardeners to be careful with their tools with this advice.

"If you're digging up a shrub, look underneath it first to make sure there's not a family nesting under there. If you're going into your compost heap, don't go straight in with a fork and start pulling out the compost because that's an ideal place for a family to nest and don't go in with a strimmer until you've checked that the area is safe to trim."

Hedgehogs are endangered and in decline in both rural and urban areas, with a big factor being 'tidy gardeners' removing 'messy' habitats. Their peak season for giving birth is in June and July.

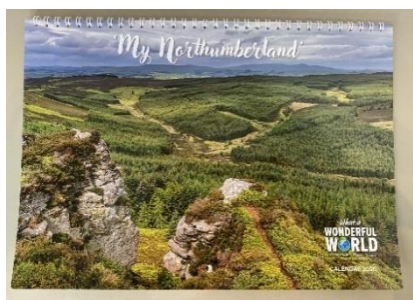
Upcoming Event Dates



'My Northumberland' Photographic Exhibition - 3rd June – 4th July. Alnwick Playhouse

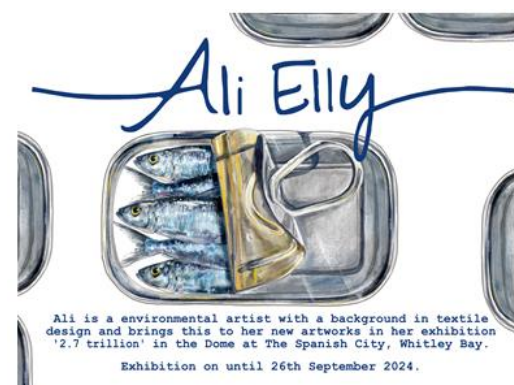
A unique exhibition of over 100 photographs depicting **'My Northumberland'** opened on 3 June and runs until 4th July at Alnwick Playhouse Gallery as part of the What a Wonderful World Festival.

The public were invited to send a photograph of a special place or a scene in the County and to write a few words about what it means for them.



"The overall quality of the images is really inspiring" said Chair of the judging panel, Sue Patience. *"This free exhibition captures the beauty and character of Northumberland's landscapes and wildlife as they are now and suggests some of the changes to our region that we might expect due to global warming. We were particularly pleased to receive some excellent entries from young people 18 and under".*

A **2025 calendar of 13 of the photographs** will go on sale during the exhibition to raise funds for the What a Wonderful World Trust, a registered charity.



2.7 Trillion - Art Exhibition. Every day until Sept 26th at The Dome, Spanish City, Whitley Bay

NGH member and climate activist with Surfers Against Sewage, Ali Elly is a Northumberland environmental artist. Her current exhibition is entitled 2.7 Trillion and encourages us to have important conversations around the number of fish we haul from the oceans each year as seafood.

With this exhibition there is an opportunity to join a **FREE** Creative Walk along the coast in Whitley Bay led by Ali. *"We will be sketching what we see then ending with private viewing and cuppa at the exhibition on **26th June**."* This is fully funded working with the [Helix Arts](#), 'Here to There' programme. There will also be another similar Creative Walk at **Low Lights, North Shields on 24th Aug**. Please sign up using this [link](#).



Restore Nature Now – Saturday June 22nd, 12 noon in central London

This legal, peaceful, inclusive, and family-friendly demonstration aims to be the biggest gathering of people for nature and climate that the UK has ever seen.

"The natural world is in trouble, and we need to take action. We want to see UK politicians show strong domestic and global nature and climate leadership by:

1. Giving a pay-rise for nature
2. Making polluters pay
3. Delivering more space for nature
4. Putting a right to a healthy environment in law
5. Ensuring fair and effective climate action

You can pledge to march via this link. <https://www.restorenaturenow.com/>

UK GENERAL ELECTION • 4 JULY 2024

Environmental Hustings

Wednesday 19th June 2024

Featuring Parliamentary Candidates
for the North Northumberland Constituency



7.30pm (Doors open 7.15pm)

St James's Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick.

ADMISSION FREE BUT DONATIONS WELCOMED



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

www.nwt.org.uk/



Friends of the Earth
Alnwick Area

www.alnwickfoe.org.uk/



nclnli.co.uk/



FREE ACCESS

For more info, please e-mail: contact@alnwickfoe.org.uk

24-hour Bioblitz
21-22 June
1PM-1PM
Warkworth Beach
Picnic Site

Northumberland
Coast
National
Landscape

Saltmarsh
exploration

Butterfly walk

Bird ringing
demonstration

Moths after dark

Sea watch

Small mammal
identification

And many more
activities

Come along, join in and record as many
species as possible! Free entry
Email info@northumberlandcoast-nl.org.uk
for more info

Photo by Joanna
Chillingsworth

What a Wonderful World Festival Events 2024



'My Northumberland'
Photography Exhibition
3 June - 4 July
FREE
Alnwick Playhouse Gallery & Bar

5 & 17 JUNE | 10.00-1.00
Creative use of Natural Materials workshops
with Anna Corbett (CHARGES APPLY*)

28 JUNE | 11.00 - 12.00 | FREE
Sounds of the Earth dance workshop with
Virginia Kennedy

Festival Weekend - Thursday 27 June to Sunday 30 June

THURSDAY 27 JUNE

A Flight of Poets

7.00 Rothbury Golf Club **£5.00**

With Jane Burn, winner of the Michael Marks Environmental Poet of the Year 23-24, Catherine Ayres, Peter Edge, Paul Mein. With music from Lindisfarne's Rod Clements.

The Air We Breathe

7.00 Alnwick Playhouse Auditorium **£6.00 / £3.00**

Local young people present two newly-created pieces intertwining music, dance and drama, examining the importance of clean air for future health and prosperity.

FRIDAY 28 JUNE

The Air We Breathe

7.00 Alnwick Playhouse Auditorium **£6.00 / £3.00**

Another group of young people perform this special new piece (as Thursday).

SATURDAY 29 JUNE

A Flight of Poets

10.30 to 12.00 Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre **FREE** (incl. entry ticket)

With Paul Mein, Hauxley Poet-in-Residence, Catherine Ayres, Peter Edge and Mike Pratt CEO Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

The Owl's Gaze

10.30 Playhouse Studio **FREE**

Storyteller Malcolm Green takes us on a quest from science to story. **ADULTS AND CHILDREN OVER 7**

The Science Around Us

11.00 Playhouse Auditorium **£6.00 / £3.00**

Students from Alnwick's DCHS present a specially-created science show.

Change in the Air?

1.30 to 4.10 Playhouse Auditorium **£6.00 / £3.00**

ONE TICKET FOR THREE TALKS
CHAIR: TOM BURSTON

Dirty air - why should we care?
1.30 - 2.10 Dr. Laura Keast
How dirty air affects our health? How does it relate to climate change?

Wind energy - and why what you know may be wrong
2.30 - 3.10 Prof. Alastair McDonald, Edinburgh University
What is the future of wind energy? He can't wait to answer your questions!

All the Birds of the Air
3.30 - 4.10 Beth Chamberlain, RSPB Senior Policy Officer for Climate Change Adaptation
As our climate changes, wildlife has to respond. What are the implications?

The Lorax

2.00 Playhouse Studio **£6.00 / £3.00**

Film of the classic children's book **ADULTS AND CHILDREN OVER 6**

Kathryn Tickell 'My Northumberland'

7.30 Playhouse Auditorium **£18.00 / £6.00**

Kathryn and Amy Thatcher in a special concert that expresses her love of the Northumberland landscape, people and wildlife

SUNDAY 30 JUNE

Sing for the Planet

10.30 to 4.30 Playhouse Studio & Auditorium **£10.00**

An inspiring day of singing led by Janet Wheeler, renowned choir leader and composer, with the opportunity to take part in a world premier alongside award-winning choir, Voices of Hope.

Six Inches of Soil

2.00 Playhouse Studio **£6.00 / £3.00**

Film - British farmers transforming the way they produce food

Voices of Hope

5.30 to 6.30 Playhouse Auditorium **£6.00 / £3.00**

Sainsbury's Choir of the Year (2016) in concert

Music Stage

1.30 to 4.00 Alnwick Garden** **FREE**

Lively mix of music and song.

** Usual Garden entrance fee applies - concert free

Change in the Air? Alnwick Playhouse Auditorium

Saturday 29 June 1.30pm to 4.10pm

The air reflects our changing climate in so many ways: in the quality of the air we breathe, in the development of wind power as a vital green technology, and in the way birdlife responds to the changes. Come to listen and discuss with three expert speakers, pick up information and leave with hopeful messages and positive steps you can take.

ONE TICKET FOR ALL THREE TALKS



DR LAURA KEAST

1.30 to 2.10pm - Dr Laura Keast who led a study to investigate **Air Quality** outside Newcastle schools. She believes the problem of dirty air is fixable with simple ideas like turning off our engines when idling, reducing carbon and other noxious gases that pour out of internal combustion engines into our streets, our homes, and our lungs.



ALISDAIR McDONALD

2.30 - 3.10pm - Wind Energy - Why What you Know May be Wrong. This is the theme of our second speaker **Professor Alasdair McDonald**, Chair in Renewable Energy Technology, Edinburgh University.



BETH CHAMBERLAIN

3.30 - 4.10pm - All the Birds of the Air. Beth Chamberlain, RSPB Senior Policy Adviser for Climate Change Adaptation talks about how wildlife has to respond to climate change.

TICKETS: £6.00 Adults / £3.00 for 18s and under

One ticket for all 3 talks

<https://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/event/air-pressure-3-lectures/>

My Northumberland Concert – Kathryn Tickell – Sat 29th June – Alnwick Playhouse

Internationally renowned musician Kathryn Tickell will express her love of the Northumberland landscape, people and wildlife at a concert on **Saturday 29 June at 7.30** in the Playhouse Auditorium, with accordion player Amy Thatcher. Kathryn Tickell is the foremost exponent of the Northumbrian pipes, a composer, performer, educator and successful recording artist.

Tickets at £18.00 and £6.00 are selling fast from

<https://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/event/kathryn-tickell-my-northumberland-concert/>

Check the Festival website www.whataww.org for full details of the Festival weekend of events.



Sing for the Planet – Alnwick Playhouse Sunday 30 June Workshop :10.00am- 4.30pm Concert with Voices of Hope: 5.30pm

Raising Our Voices Together This is a one-day workshop on Sunday 30 June 10.00 - 4.30 for people over 18 who love to sing and care about the environment.

An inspiring day of singing led by Janet Wheeler renowned choir leader and composer with the opportunity to take part in a world premier alongside award winning choir Voices of Hope. An award-winning composer, Janet writes mainly for voices. Janet has written a new song to be sung by workshop participants with the award-winning choir **Voices of Hope** at a grand finale concert at 5.30pm.

BOOK TICKETS <https://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/event/sing-for-the-planet-workshop/>



Edible Gardening Event – Sunday 30th June 2024 at 2pm - Berwick

Everyone is invited to an Edible Gardening Workshop on Sunday 30th June at 2pm, at the **Castlegate Community Garden bed (just next to the War Memorial)**. The workshop coincides with Berwick Open Gardens, so once you've seen a few gardens do pop over to us, especially if you have kids with you!

The event is completely FREE, and you can plant some seeds to grow at home, make a natural plant label, and learn about what grows in our edible beds.



Community Energy Conference - July 4th in Newcastle

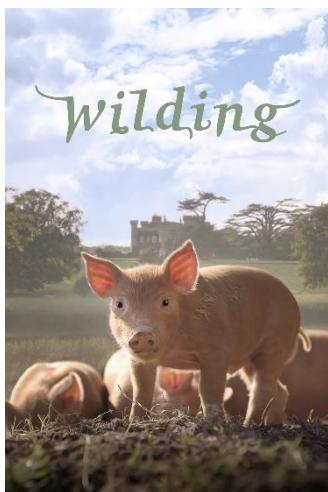
A forum with Northern Powergrid in partnership with Community Energy England, for community energy organisations, climate action groups, local authorities and any people or organisations across the Northeast who want to help their local area to decarbonise energy and achieve net zero.

This event is a great opportunity to:

1. Network with and learn from community energy organisations and local energy stakeholders in the region.
2. Discuss key issues in collaborative breakout sessions.
3. Hear inspiring examples of work leading community energy groups are doing
4. Learn more about community energy

This year, the organisers are also promising ‘surgeries’ for the Community Energy Fund and Northern Powergrid Net Zero Community Energy Fund – an opportunity for you to ask any specific questions you have about the funds.

You can **Register with Eventbrite** at the following link: [Community Energy Conference – North East](#)



Screening of 'Wilding' 5th – 11th July at Alnwick Playhouse

Based on Isabella Tree's best-selling book, Wilding tells the story of a young couple that bets on nature for the future of their failing estate. Battling tradition and ripping down fences, they set the land back to the wild and entrust its recovery to a mix of animals both tame and wild. It is the start of a grand experiment that will become one of the most significant rewilding experiments in Europe.

The film is followed by a recorded Q&A session with Isabella Tree, moderated by Craig Bennett from the Wildlife Trust.

Screenings

Friday 5th July 12.30pm (Screen 2)

Wednesday 10th July 7pm (Screen 1)

Thursday 11th July 12.30pm (Screen 2)

Thursday 11th July 4.15pm (Screen 2)

Screen 1 - £9.50 Standard ticket, £9 concession

Screen 2 - £7.50 Standard ticket, £6.50 concession

[Book Tickets Here](#)



Environmental June & July Dates for Your Diary

The Great Big Green Week – 8th June 2024 – 16th June 2024

This is one of the UK's largest celebrations of actions taking by local communities to tackle climate change and to protect nature. This can involve anything from litter picking to writing to your MP. See their [website](#) to find out how you can plan an event in your area and get your community involved.

National Clean Air Day – 15th June 2024

According to their website 'Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK.' We all have the right to access clean air as pollution causes so many health problems, especially in children.

[Their website has a wealth of resources where you can get involved in this important day.](#)

World Refill Day – 16th June 2024

Held annually on the same day, World Refill Day encourages us to ditch our single-use plastic bottles and use refillable bottles where we're out and about. There is an [app](#) to find out where your local refilling station is.

World Rainforest Day – 22nd June 2024

Working with various organisations and indigenous people, their mission is to highlight and celebrate the importance of our rainforests which are at threat due to human activity. This is a global movement with the aim of protecting and restoring the rainforests we have left. Filled with biodiversity and are home to so many species, some of which we may not have even discovered yet.

Plastic Free July – 1st July 2024 to 31st July 2024

This month-long campaign has grown year on year encouraging use to adopt sustainable habits to reduce our plastic consumption. We don't realise how much power we have as small changes can make a huge difference. #PlasticFreeJuly is a great way to find ideas on what you can do for this month.

Don't Step on a Bee Day – 10th July 2024

This day is observed annually in the UK. Bees are amazing pollinators, and they are key to our long-term survival playing a massive role in balancing our ecosystem. If you'd like to know more, check out this blog on why they are so important and how you can [help](#) them.

The Big Butterfly Count – July 12 – August 4th

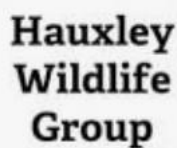
This is a UK wide survey to access the help of our butterflies. It's so easy to sign up and take part and it's a great way to help encourage little ones to care about nature.

Love Parks Week – July 26th – August 4th

Having access to green spaces is vital to our mental health and this week is dedicated to celebrating these spaces and everyone who contributes to them. Go for a walk in the park and enjoy nature and the blue skies.

National Bog Day – 28th July 2024

Held annually on the fourth Sunday in July '*...in celebration of bogs, fens, swamps & marshes is an opportunity to raise awareness of [peatlands](#) – the benefits they provide, the threats they face and the ways we can all help protect them.*'



Hauxley Wildlife Group

Wildlife Talks

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

Water voles 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 - 20 September – 6 October 2024 in Warkworth

The national celebration of the diverse and delicious food that Britain produces -is coming to Warkworth in 2024.

Reasons to support British food

- **Environmental** – eating local food in season gives the lowest carbon footprint.
- **Welfare** - The UK has some of the highest welfare and food safety standards in the world.
- **Food security** – We need to support our farmers, horticulturalists and food producers to make sure they can keep feeding us.

What is British Food Fortnight?

A fun and delicious national celebration that everyone is invited to take part in!

Every year communities across the country take part with foodie festivities in villages, towns and cities; fun activities for children in schools; menu promotions in pubs and restaurants; and British food on the plate in hospitals and care homes.

In Warkworth the celebrations will start with an event in the Memorial Hall on 21st September with foodie stalls, demonstrations and talks.

This will be followed by events including:

- Hauxley Dairy speaking at the WI
- A Food Quiz at the Hermitage Inn
- The Film Night will feature a food themed film and local food
- The History Society will feature a talk on the History of Cheese
- Harvest Festival in the Church

Plus, throughout the fortnight an art exhibition in the Memorial Hall and an exhibition in the church.

For more details see the **Warkworth British Food Fortnight page on Facebook** or contact Sue Brown via email suecbrownsb@gmail.com.

Repair Cafes

1. **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](#).
2. **Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 29th June 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 runs on the last Saturday of every month, same venue, and same time. Repairs are free but donations very welcome. Tea, coffee and cake provided by Northern Soul Kitchen (Zero Waste)

If you've got a skill and want to experience the thrill of community repairing, please get in touch. The more, the merrier. We're always looking for volunteers. And you don't have to be a professional. All skills welcome. We're especially looking for clock and watch repairers. Bought to you by Greener Berwick and kindly supported by Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council and NCC Climate Fund. For information contact info@greenerberwick.org.uk and put FAO Repair Cafe Team in the Subject heading.

3. **Coquetdale Repair Café – Sat Sept 28th, 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.coquetrepair.co.uk/>

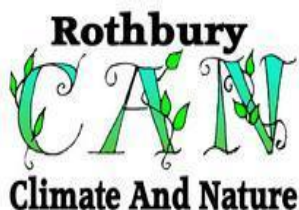
News from Around the County



Alnwick FoE Earthmovers Award for Local Activism

Congratulations to Alnwick Friends of the Earth for being awarded the Earthmovers Award for Local Activism.

Organised by Friends of the Earth, and supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, Earthmovers Awards recognise the inspiring work of local environmental groups in their communities.



FREE or LOW-COST Events

Rothbury Climate and Nature host a number of mostly free events throughout the year. Here is blog which tells about recent ones:

<https://www.rothburycan.org/post/passion-pollinators-and-pastels-this-week-s-rothbury-can-s-events-may-2024>

We now have a [Calendar of Events](#) on our website. Here are a few examples of upcoming events:

Events coming up:

In conjunction with What a Wonderful World, Coquetdale Creatives host **A Flight of Poets** on Thursday June 27th.



July 21st: Herbalism with Anna Willow

12.30-2.00pm

Cheviot Room, Jubilee Hall

Join Anna from Willows Herbal Therapy to learn about the healing powers of herbs. At this session Anna will give a talk on different herbs, plus tasting and mixing. Anna will show us how to mix a variety of herbal teas.

Booking essential

Free event, donation appreciated for the room hire.

Details on the website: www.rothburycan.org



Farming Review for Northumberland

At the end of May Northumberland County Council held a meeting with Robbie Moore MP, Minister for Water and Rural Growth, to present the Council's farming review. Well, the Minister has now gone (pending the election) so they will have to arrange a meeting with a new minister in due course.

Meantime the report summary is available here on the NCC website (with a link to the full document contained in the summary):

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Economy-Regeneration/Programmes/Rural-Growth-and-Innovation/Future-of-Farming.aspx>

In summary, the main points are centred on the Council developing advice and guidance on how to create a future for farming in the county that is both sustainable and profitable. This guidance should be developed in partnership with the NFU, landowners, farming tenants, the Northumberland National Park Authority and other interested parties.

The Council will support diversification to sustain viable agricultural activities. It will continue to support education and training in sustainable agriculture and support demonstration projects to show how agriculture in the County can become more sustainable.



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

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

Come along to the Women's Workshop and join in our weekly gardening group. 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 are currently working to establish an orchard in Ashington with the support of Ashington Town Council, Northumberland CC and Wansbeck Road Allotment Association.

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



West Northumberland Food Bank are Recruiting an Outreach Support Worker

West Northumberland Food Bank are on a mission to better our communities and need YOU to make a difference! We're looking for a passionate and motivated individual to join our team and participate in a transformative 18 month-long Pilot Project.

Our aim? To see if Outreach Support can effectively reduce isolation, boost well-being and improve the circumstances of people who access our Food Bank services.

Transferring the valuable support we provide through our Helpline right into the heart of the community, you'll lead and shape this vital community project. If you're as excited by this opportunity as we are and would like to learn more, email sam.gilchrist@westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk

[Click to visit West Northumberland Food Bank](#)

Volunteers Wanted



Want to do something special?

Could you spare some time to help create and deliver our amazing yearly Festival in and around Alnwick?

What a Wonderful World is always looking for volunteers, and we can use all sorts of skills!

You like numbers – could you assist our Treasurer? Our finances are simple!

You enjoy liaising with creative people – could you get involved in co-ordinating publicity?

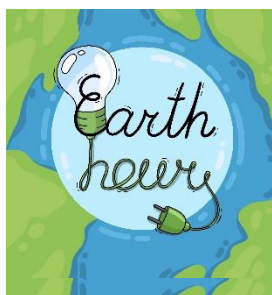
You like planning and organising things – we have lots of opportunities for you!

Just want to do an hour or two? Could you help distributing leaflets around the area or handing out audience questionnaires?

Got another skill you'd like to offer or develop? Just talk to us!

Please either give us your details today, email info@whataww.com or call Chris on 07739 180599. We'd love to hear from you!

Facebook: What a Wonderful World Instagram: [alnwick_waww](https://www.instagram.com/alnwick_waww)
Website: whataww.org



Other News Local & Global

FREE RHS Resources to Help Set Up a Community Garden

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has developed a series of online resources for any group considering setting up a community garden. A community garden can bring a wide range of benefits – from connecting people with each other to growing fresh food to enjoy.

If well-planned, a community garden can offer people a place to relax, a way to engage with nature, meet others and get active outdoors. Online resources include advice on how to engage local people, fundraise, get insurance and write risk assessments – plus a host of other topics. [Follow this link to learn more](#)



Hedgerow Protections Passed into Law before Parliament Dissolves

The Tree Council welcomed the passing of UK Government legislation to protect hedgerows in England, including a cutting ban between March and the end of August. In April, the Government announced its intention to introduce hedgerow protections, which had lapsed as cross compliance with European rules ended at the beginning of the year.

Now [The Management of Hedgerows \(England\) Regulations 2024](#) has been made into law, effective from May 23 2024, providing a legal baseline for hedgerow management practices.

This includes:

- a 2-metre buffer strip, measured from the centre of a hedgerow, where a green cover must be established and maintained. Also, no cultivation or the application of pesticides or fertilisers should take place within this buffer strip.
- a hedgerow cutting ban from 1 March to 31 August (inclusive).



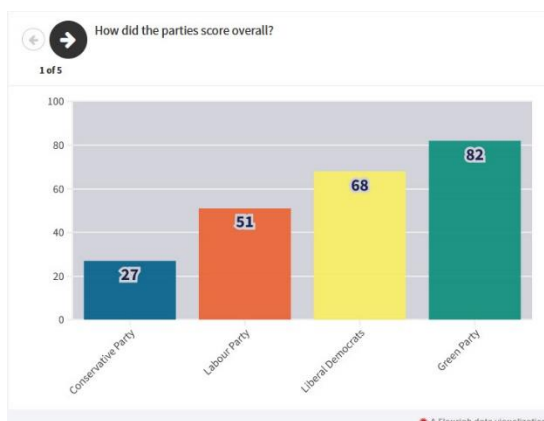
How You can be Part of Growing the Great Northumberland Forest

Source: [Northumberland Gazette](#)

The Great Northumberland Forest is an ambitious plan to plant millions of trees creating more wooded landscapes across the county by 2030. The call has gone out to all landowners, managers, agents and farmers to help make ambitious forest plans a reality.

But they will not be alone – expert advisors are on hand to help **anyone** apply for grants for more tree cover on their land and support them all the way with the planning and planting process. This is more than just a tree-planting scheme, the aim is to create diverse, sustainable and extensive wooded landscapes – planting the right trees, in the right place to benefit everyone. It's a win-win for the environment and landowners as more trees can improve land by helping to increase biodiversity, shelter for livestock and flood mitigation.

[Visit the NCC web page for more information](#) or email enquiries.forest@northumberland.gov.uk



Green Policies and the General Election: Who Leads the Pack?

Urgent climate and nature action is needed from the next government whatever its political colour. With the July 4th election date fast approaching, what are the questions you need to ask prospective candidates on your doorstep when they start spouting their green credentials?

One of NGH's members found this [useful analysis](#), prepared by **Friends of the Earth** campaigner Connor Schwartz and policy expert Mike Childs. It will help you

ask the salient questions and gauge how the parties' policies on environmental issues are shaping up before you head to the polling booth...

DO remember to take your ID when you go to the polling station, so you are eligible to vote!

[Read the full analysis HERE](#)



Is There Any Training for Young People Around Climate Activism?

Someone posed this question in the WhatsApp NCC Climate Champions Group earlier this week.

And it turns out there is. If you are working with young people in an educational or youth setting, or need resources for home schooling – then you might find the following links and resources helpful.

OXFAM

Oxfam has developed a Teaching Pack of Ideas for taking climate action at home specifically for 7 – 14-year-olds. The pack includes lots of online resources, video and as well as Activities such as conducting a Green Audit. [You can download the teaching pack from this link.](#)

To find out more : <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/home-learning-activities/climate-action/>

Kids Fight Climate Change

An inspirational website providing climate education made by youth and built for youth, and led by a youth leadership team. KFCC's mission is to educate young people about the global climate crisis using youth-created content to inspire and empower them to take action in their communities and across the globe, working together to transform the world. Resources include: An Action Calendar, Climate Newsletter and a Climate Action Starter Guide.

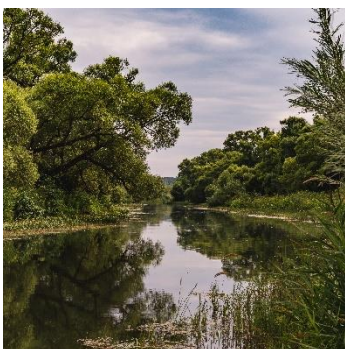
To find out more go to: <https://www.kidsfightclimatechange.org/>

Fridays For Future

FFF, is a youth-led and -organised global climate strike movement that started in August 2018, when 15-year-old Greta Thunberg began a school strike for climate. In the three weeks leading up to the Swedish election, she sat outside Swedish Parliament every school day, demanding urgent action on the climate crisis. She was tired of society's unwillingness to see the climate crisis for what it is: a crisis.

The FFF website has details of young people's strike actions worldwide, webinars, resources and learning materials

To find out more go to: <https://fridaysforfuture.org/>



Northumbrian Water to Use AI to Improve River Quality

Source - BBC Radio Newcastle – 16th May 2024

Contributor - Harry Roy

Northumbrian Water has been awarded funding from water regulator Ofwat to work with IT firm Cognizant to track river health trends and pollution patterns. The money is part of the Ofwat Innovation Fund, which is a £200m project to grow the water sector's capacity in England and Wales.

Earlier this year, the water firm [paid £50,000 to an environmental charity](#) after a burst pipe polluted a small river.

The project aims to improve the quality and biodiversity of the rivers in the North East. The long-term goal The project's long-term goal is to improve the quality of drinking water, as well as the eco-systems in the rivers.

The new technology, which uses machine learning as well as artificial intelligence, will be able to track pollution and river health, as well as agriculture, road run-offs and storm overflows.

Read the full story here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cl7l7rk99gx0>



Tipping Point Challenge Game

Alnwick FoE and NGH member Terry Smith has created a fun, new game to increase awareness of climate change, help participants think about realistic solutions and encourage working together as a team.

What is the Game About

An **ENVIRONMENTAL TIPPING POINT** is a critical threshold that when crossed leads to large and often irreversible changes in the climate system.'

A **HUMAN TIPPING POINT** is when we as humans come together to build the pressure for change. Pressure can bring sudden or gradual cultural change.

This game is about both these tipping points.

- The **built tower**, known as the **Global Tower**, represents our world as we know it now. It is a world where nature and humans exist alongside each other in some sort of balance. However, we humans are putting that balance at serious threat.
- The **tower to be built** known as the **Challenge & Change Tower**, represents our small, but important efforts to create a safer world for all and to prevent the collapse of the ecological and environmental systems as we know them now.

Can our positive actions, leading to us building our **Challenge & Change Tower**, create our positive tipping point which will help protect our world and limit the destructive environmental tipping points? Or do our selfish, short term activities contribute to triggering a major tipping point and collapse of our built **Global Tower** representing the ecological and environmental system as we know it?

Trying the Game Yourself

Terry has already used the game very effectively with students at the Duchess Community High School Alnwick, as well as with other community groups. Terry has applied to Friends of the Earth for funds to make 6 or 7 new game packs.

He is also running a FREE Workshop for anyone aged **6+** at **Alnwick Library** on **8th August** between **2 – 3.30pm** and is hoping that the game will be available at the **WaWW festival** at **Alnwick Playhouse** on **29th & 30th June** for visitors to try it out for themselves.



If you are interested and would like to find out more, contact Terry by email at tezzalamezz@icloud.com.



Good News You Might have Missed

Source: Ted2024

Whether or not you believe the world is doomed might depend on where you get your news, says journalist Angus Hervey. He delivers stories of progress that mainstream media organisations missed last year — from advances in clean energy to declining rates of extreme poverty, crime and disease — and suggests we should pay more attention to such occurrences.

"If we want more people to devote themselves to the task of making progress, then maybe we should be telling more people that it's possible to make progress," says Hervey.

[Watch the TED Talk or read the transcript here](#)



Climate Majority Project Launches Climate Majority Thinks Webinars

On June 20th, from 9:00 to 10:30am the [Climate Majority Project](#) is launching a new initiative, **ClimateMajority Thinks** - a series of interactive webinars that bring together voices from across the political spectrum on issues core to serious mainstream climate action.

In this first conversation, conservationist, **Conservative and philanthropist Ben Goldsmith** will offer a short talk entitled ***Nature-resilience: ecosystem-based adaptation as a key future direction for climate thinking and action.*** In-depth discussion will follow, chaired by Rupert Read.

Britain is chronically nature deficient. The situation leaves our nation poorly adapted to damaging climate impacts (for just one example, the depletion of our wetlands has removed an important buffer against flooding). This badly needs to change. Ben Goldsmith is a key supporter of [Wild Card](#): one of Britain's most successful cutting-edge rewilding organisations which aims to spearhead this key aspect of transformative and strategic adaptation.

Britain needs a national agenda that links rebalancing and restoring ecosystems with the need to become resilient or even anti-fragile (growing stronger through challenges, rather than merely absorbing impacts without damage).

The webinar will also discuss '**agriwilding**' - a synthesis of rewilding with food-growing that can also function to reduce 'culture war' stigma sometimes attached to rewilding.

[Sign up for FREE or with a donation here](#)



Volunteers Building Cycle Paths One Yard at a Time

Source – The Guardian 16th May

The Strawberry Line network of paths in Somerset has found a way to speed up planning permission and harness the goodwill of the community.

In the past two years, multiple sections of a 76-mile rural cycling and walking route spanning [Somerset](#) have sprouted up around the small town of Shepton Mallet, seemingly every few weeks.

One 300-metre section of path in the heart of the town, uses one of Historic Railway Estates' bridges for the first time for a cycle. The path, with its smooth surface and artwork, ducks under a busy road that was previously terrifying for walkers and cyclists to cross. Now a large housing area is safely

connected to schools, shops, parks and local businesses. Within a year, digital counters detected 104,000 trips – in a town of fewer than 10,000 people.

Active travel routes offer one of the highest-return transport infrastructure investments going, delivering on everything from health to rural tourism, access to employment and education, and to the environment. Yet in the UK it can be fiendishly hard to deliver them. Ros Wyke tried for more than 25 years, including as leader of the former Mendip district council. Cautious council officers denied the paths planning permission.

Then, in 2022, they began experimenting with using “**permitted development rights**” – the separate process that a farmer uses when building a new track through a field. This process still requires application forms and licences for hedgerow removal, water or drain crossings, and to protect newts or bats. However, it removes the need to survey every tree within 50 yards of a path, and other elements of the planning process designed with large out-of-town developments in mind, like topographical surveys. This can easily cut two years off the process and make a path’s success far more likely. Under this model, planning permission needs to be granted only for those sections of path that meet roads, which cuts delivery timescales from decades to weeks.

Once they have been agreed, the paths can then be built by local volunteers, with expert guidance, for far less than it would cost a government organisation. While it can cost £1m per kilometre for a National Highways-delivered cycle route, groups such as the Strawberry Line, using G&C’s expertise, can deliver one for £170,000/km.

[Read more here](#)



UK Breakthrough Could Slash Emissions from Cement Source – BBC News

Scientists say they've found a way to recycle cement from demolished concrete buildings.

Cement is the modern world's most common construction material, but it is also a huge source of planet-warming gas emissions. That is because of the chemical reactions when you heat limestone to high temperatures by burning fossil fuels.

Recycling cement would massively reduce its carbon footprint. Researchers from Cambridge University say that if they switched to electric-powered furnaces and used renewable energy like wind and solar rather than fossil fuels, that could mean no greenhouse gases would be released at all. And that would be a big deal as cement forms the foundation of the modern economy, both literally and metaphorically. The process has been trialled at an arc furnace in Middlesbrough.

Full article here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxee01m5yero>

NCC Climate Change Team – June Update

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



Award Winners

Congratulations to the team who have won the Regional Vulnerable Customer Support Organisation of the Year category in the North East Regional Energy Efficiency Awards 2024 for initiatives including Northumberland Communities Together and the Warmer Homes program. The Awards recognise achievements in the energy sector which help to save energy, help the environment, and drive down energy bills.



Lynemouth Clean Up Due to Start

Final preparations are underway for major works to address historical pollution on the coast at Lynemouth. The Council has allocated £5 million for the clean-up. In late June, contractors BAM Nuttall will begin excavating and processing the waste materials. This will involve separating the waste materials for safe off-site disposal and reinstating the landscape, with completion aiming for autumn 2024.

Can you help us reduce emissions in agriculture?

The team wants to hear from farming communities, related businesses and supply chains about the barriers they are facing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across agriculture and forestry in Northumberland.

Funded by **Innovate UK**, the team is working on a project with the Rural Design Centre to identify and address these barriers. Fill out the survey to help the team better understand the unique and local challenges.

SURVEY



For more information, please email agriculture@northumberland.gov.uk or call 01661 721001.

Funding



Get FREE Tailored Energy Advice for your Property

Expert advisors from Energy Saving Trust are providing over-the-phone advice to support you in making energy-saving home improvements such as insulation or heating system updates. Advisors can help you access funding, signpost you to local installers and provide a one stop shop to help you reduce your energy bills and improve your home's energy efficiency. Call **Home Energy Advice North East on 0808 175 9345**.



Northern Powergrid Net Zero Community Energy Fund

Your group could be eligible for a grant of up to £10,000. The 2024 Northern Powergrid Net Zero Community Energy Fund has £50,000 available for new and existing community energy organisations and climate action groups in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber, and northern Lincolnshire. The fund aims to help community energy organisations start-up, build capacity or explore the feasibility of new energy projects. **Deadline: 15 July 2024.**

Gas Safety Grants

Grants of up to £500 are available for the replacement, repair, and servicing of gas appliances to provide vital gas safety interventions for vulnerable people in their homes. There can only be one intervention per household per year which may include more than one measures such as gas safety checks, gas servicing, gas boiler repairs, gas boiler replacements etc.



Applicants must live in privately owned accommodation and be one of the following:

- 60 years old or over and have low household income and/or a disability.
- Under 60 and have a low household income and/or a disability or
- Considered exceptionally vulnerable by the HIA (This is reviewed on a case-by-case basis)

To apply, email Warmer Homes Team warmerhomes@northumberland.gov.uk.



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.](#)

July Digest – Copy Deadline

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