



Monthly Digest

August 16th, 2024

News, Events, Updates



Image by Oleksandr Ryzhov on Freepik

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1. Hub & Steering Group News

Spotlight on Members!

More than thirty members of NGH came along to our fourth Community Event on July 20th. The event shone a spotlight on some of the many and varied projects that NGH members are involved in.

We tried to squeeze in as many as we could – including talks on The Tipping Point Game, Rural Transport Challenges, Re-establishing a Rural Bus Service, Rothbury CAN and its many groups, The Amble Women's Workshop and their Straw Bale House, Rewilding Fen Letch, Trees for Climate Mitigation and Carbon Capture and Biodiversity Projects in Brinkburn and Hesleyhirst. Phew! We also heard from Natasha Helmsley from NWT about the Wilder Druridge project.



Many thanks to Terry, Steven, Carolyn, Katie, Angela, David and Judith for their talks – and to Julia and Lesley for providing the ‘hooter’ to keep everyone on time!

It was great to hear about such a diverse range of projects and it certainly shows the huge amount of work going on throughout the area. There was plenty of time for networking too, with connections being made and offers of help exchanged. You can

find more information about the event, including a summary of the talks on the NGH website at <https://nghonline.co.uk/community-events/>.

Steering Group News

It's been another busy month, and we'd like to welcome Catherine, Vienna, Hannah P, Andrew, Hannah B, David and Brycchan who have joined recently. Incidentally, David was our 100th member!

We've now gone live with a new Resources section on the website. This replaces the Google Drive as the place to go to find everything from information about funding to How To guides, previous copies of the Digest and details of all the NGH events.

The How To guides currently cover topics such as getting an article published in the press and facilitating a climate café. We're also working on a directory of Useful Contacts which will be appearing soon.

There are pages for each of the Special Interest Groups. So far, we've published a variety of information for the Biodiversity and Water Quality groups. If other groups have information, they'd like to make available, then just let us know.

You can find it all at <https://nghonline.co.uk/resources/>. We're continually adding new content, so if you have something that you think other members would find useful, do get in touch on northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com.

Members of the Steering Group are continuing to make new contacts and promote NGH. We have been talking to the [East Lothian Climate Action Network](#) [ELCAN] to find out more about what they offer. We've also met with the [Longhougton Community Gardeners](#), the Communities Officer for the Wilder Druridge Project [WilderNorthumberland@northwt.org.uk] and with [Groundwork North East and Cumbria](#) to find out more about their energy projects.

DIARY DATES!

1. Make a note of the next event which is being held on **Saturday October 19th** at our usual venue of St James Church Centre, Alnwick. 9.30 – 1.00pm
2. Our winter community social event is on **Saturday December 7th** 9.30 – 1.00pm at our usual venue.

BOOKING and DONATION for ROOM HIRE & REFRESHMENTS

We will ask 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 we 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

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.

2. Active Travel



Cargo Bikes In Northumberland

Over the last 2 years the Transport team within Northumberland County Council (NCC), delivery partners and stakeholders, have been ‘pedalling’ the benefits that cargo bikes are able to offer our rural communities throughout Northumberland.

This journey started in Berwick (Summer 2022) with the Local Neighbourhood teams (NCC) using a cargo bike to keep Berwick tidy and accessing areas that their usual van could not reach, in turn reducing the carrying distance of heavy litter bags.

In September 2023, Berwick on Tweed was chosen to pilot cargo bike training in Northumberland. The training is offered for free and Northumberland County commissioned [Cycling4Everyone](#) to deliver the training.



The next phase in **Berwick**, instigated by the Chamber of Trade, has been the adoption of a community cargo bike for businesses and other community organisations. This project is a year old at the end of August, and Greener Berwick members have been using the cargo bike on a regular basis to carry out their activities. To find out more visit the [Greener Berwick](#) website.

A wine business in the town has now bought their own cargo bike to help reduce their vehicle use and realise the many health benefits that a cargo bike is able to offer.



The Ranger Team, Druridge Bay Country Park have been using a cargo bike to carry tools and materials for maintenance work around the site since early 2023.

Hexham to Corbridge Cycle Route & Community Cargo Bike.

The newbie town for a community cargo bike is Hexham and this has taken 3 years of engagement and events to finally having a permanent cargo bike for the town.

On Friday 12th July 2024 [Hexham TV](#) presented a update from Ed Clark of the Northumberland County Council’s Strategic Transport Team on the [Hexham to Corbridge Cycle and Walking Route](#), the provision of accessible cycles and a new community cargo bike scheme coming to Hexham. So far 4 volunteers have received training.



The project aims to create a cycling and walking corridor connecting Hexham to Corbridge, connecting key locations such as Hexham Station, Hexham General Hospital, Hexham Priory School and local businesses. It is intended to enhance sustainable travel options for residents, workers, learners and visitors and reduce the necessity for residents to undertake journeys by private motor vehicles.



Cargo Bike Training by Cycling for Everyone

Free cargo bike training is principally aimed at traders; however, individuals can be considered depending on their aspirations, i.e. perhaps taking children to school or going to work.

To find out more about cycling training contact [Cycling for Everyone.](#)



Tackling Rural Transport Challenges in Rural Communities

A Rural Catalyst event took place on Thursday 18th July 2024 at the Rivergreen Centre, Stannington. The Rural Catalyst is a partnership between the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise at Newcastle University [NICRE] and the Rural Design Centre [RDC] funded by the North East Combined Authority [NECA]

NGH Member and Innovation Associate for NICRE, Steven Morrison Cairns took part in the event which brought together a wide range of stakeholders including:

1. Bus Lead for North East Combined Authority [NECA]
2. Community transport operators (Kielder & Bellingham / Wooler Hopper)
3. Transport Planners
4. Passenger Transport Users Group
5. Wheels 2 Work in County Durham
6. Greener Berwick

The session was attended by 25 people and attendees had the chance to explore local transport issues and spend a few hours thinking about a variety of topics including: Problems, People Affected and Places. Smaller group sessions attempted to break down these problems and devise possible solutions, for now and in the future. A productive event, with useful contacts made for ongoing discussions and possible projects. Steven will keep NGH updated on progress.

Evidence is Key to Engaging with Active Travel Detractors

The health benefits of active travel are huge, but evidence is key to engaging with detractors, said Professor Chris Whitty at the [Active City Leicester](#) conference on 24th July. Professor Whitty called on delegates to 'respectfully' treat those with genuine misgivings about cycling and walking schemes, and stressed the importance of connecting with people with most to gain from taking up active travel.

See full story at [Transport Extra](#)

3. Biodiversity & Wildlife



Biodiversity SIG – Concern Over Pesticide Use

Over the last few weeks, there has been much discussion among the group about the use of pesticides by local councils, especially on verges and the edges of green areas.

Members have been interested in information on the Pesticide Action Network UK (<https://pan-uk.org>) which supports campaigns for pesticide-free towns.

One member of the group has written asking NCC to clarify their policy about the use of pesticides and the response has been published on the NGH website (LINK to be added).

Another member is following up with local contacts in Morpeth. The intention is to bring together the findings and decide on an appropriate course of action.



Butterfly Numbers Lowest Since the Count Began

Source: The Guardian – 29th July 2024

Butterfly numbers are the lowest on record in the UK after a wet spring and summer dampened their chances of mating.

Butterfly Conservation, which runs the [Big Butterfly Count](#), sounded the alarm after this year's count revealed the worst numbers since it began 14 years ago.

This article by Helena Horton in the Guardian talks about the effects of climate breakdown on butterfly populations and how the figures are an indicator for other invertebrate species. It includes some information about how we can help butterfly populations and some sound advice which would also help other invertebrate populations. [Read the Full Article Here](#).



Dogs Rewilding with Seed Packs

Source: The Guardian – 26th July 2024

Backpack-wearing dogs are being enlisted to "act like wolves" to help rewild an urban nature reserve in the [East Sussex](#) town of Lewes.

Before wolves were persecuted to extinction in the UK in about 1760, they were known to roam large areas, typically covering 12 miles (20km) or more each night. In doing so, wolves would inadvertently pick up wildflower and grass seeds in their fur, dispersing them many miles away and helping establish new colonies of plants, which is vital for biodiversity and for ecosystems to thrive.

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust in Lewes, funded by Ouse Valley Climate Action, aims to recreate this ecological benefit by equipping local dogs with seed-filled backpacks to help reseed the landscape. The project is thought to be the first of its kind in the UK. [Read the Full Article Here](#)

Wildlife Talks

Hauxley Wildlife Group

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

- Wildlife in our Seas – 21st August
- The Trees of Howick Hall – 18th September
- The Story of Hepple Gin & Nature Recovery – 16th October
- An Oasis of Abundance – Recreating the Middleton North Estate - 20 November

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](#).



Find Out About Biodiversity Net Gain

Climate Action North CIC have recently held an online event titled Demystifying Biodiversity Net Gain event. A video of the event can be found on their [Youtube channel here](#).

They will also be holding an event on "Biodiversity Net Gain in Action" event which will be taking place early September.

4. Community Food



Do You Have Surplus Produce to Donate ?

If you are an allotment owner / gardener with a glut of produce, the Alnwick District Food Bank would love to hear from you. They'd love to receive your surplus fresh fruit and vegetables to give to their clients to help them eat healthier.

You can contact the Foodbank by email alnwickdistrictfoodbank@gmail.com or via their website <https://www.alnwickdistrictfoodbank.co.uk/donations>.

Alternatively, you can contact Adrian Brown, a trustee with the Food Bank, directly through the **NGH Community Food WhatsApp group** within this community. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Warkworth Food Fortnight 20 September – 6 October 2024

Launch Event in the Warkworth Memorial Hall, Saturday 21st September, 10am – 1.00pm

The national celebration of the diverse and delicious food that Britain produces is coming to Warkworth next month.

10am – 12 noon: Stalls

Including local farmers and growers, Community orchard apple tasting, Oswin project, Warkworth Show celebrating all things locally grown,

Warkworth Green Matters, Amble and Alnwick foodbanks, Amble Women's Project.

Speed Talks

A series of rapid 10-minute introductions to a range of topics including sour dough baking, the importance of bees as pollinators, food banks and healthy food, making and cooking with rapeseed oil.

12.15 – 1.00pm: The People Who Feed Us: Why Growing Matters

Panel discussion and questions from the audience.

Without farmers we have no food. Come and hear from local farmers and growers about the challenges of producing the local food we love and why we should all value the work that they do.

What is it like trying to grow food in the extreme weather conditions we experience more and more?
How are growers innovating to ensure they can keep growing the food we need?
Why is it so important to support our local producers?

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.

Follow [Warkworth Food Fortnight Facebook page](#) for updates and other events in the village during the two weeks, or contact Sue Brown via email suecbrownscb@gmail.com.



Local Pride and Passion in Our Food

The North East of England is widely recognised for the warmth and quality of our hospitality, but our region also has a long history of food and drink entrepreneurs. From the launch of Lucozade in 1927 through to iconic heritage brands such as Bero, Newcastle Brown Ale, Greggs, Ringtons Tea and Primula Cheese.

There is also high-quality produce such as Craster Kippers, Lindisfarne Oysters and langoustines landed at North Shields. We have nationally acclaimed food growers, restaurants and chefs as well as some of the best cheese and organic dairy in England. Our region is experiencing an upsurge of premium, entrepreneurial food and drink brands, as well as growth in categories such as organic, 'free-from' and plant-based innovation, helping the North East rapidly become a dynamic manufacturing hub.

Our Challenge

For too long the North East's food and drink sector has been under-valued. While other regions have flourished, we have hidden in the shadows of our industrial past. A lack of identity and several attempts to redefine the Northeast as one homogeneous place failed to consider this region that is fiercely proud of celebrating its tribal differences.

Our Vision

Food and Drink North East is a community interest company (CIC) whose aim is to build a vibrant and engaged community that champions positive trade, promotes a sustainable, circular economy and acts as a collective and inclusive voice for the region's food and drink sector. Our overall objective is to grow the sector's contribution to the regional economy to 10% Gross Value Added by 2025.

Our Mission

To build the North East of England's reputation as a food and drink destination. To help our region become a recognised centre for innovative start-ups and world-class manufacturing. To showcase and celebrate its diverse food and drink offer while placing heritage, sustainability, provenance and community at its heart.

To find out more go to <https://www.fadne.org/our-mission/>

5. Upcoming Event Dates



Women's Workshop



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

Groups Team Up for Insect & Bird Survey

Wednesday, 21st August 2024 at 1pm - 3pm

Women's Workshop, Amble, NE65 0PE

Join Helen and Shannon from Northumberland Wildlife Trust to survey insects and birds. Refreshments provided. angela@womensworkshop.net

August Workshop Activities

We are currently clearing areas to expand our garden, if you can help, we would appreciate it. It's nice and relaxing with refreshments provided. This is on a Wednesday afternoon across August.

September Workshop Activities

Starting with the final coat of clay on the internal walls of the strawbale build (it is an enjoyable and creative part of the project) and throughout this month, we have woodwork projects including building an outdoor kitchen and a wheelchair access ramp. Come along and get involved, learn to use a drill, saw and other tools. These sessions will be across the week for the whole of September and are facilitated by an experienced instructor.

Starting from Wednesday 2nd October

Building raised beds for the garden, creating an accessible garden for all to and extending our growing area. You will also make a wooden herb/veg planter to take home.

For more information and to register to get involved contact angela@womensworkshop.net.

Join our Email List

We do a lot more than just environmental activities. To find out about the wide range of projects we are involved in, add your name to our newsletter mailing list. Email us at info@womensworkshop.net and we will make sure you receive our regular updates.



Northumberland, Climate Change and Action

7pm Thurs 22 Aug 2024

Stannington Village Hall
NE61 6EL

Prof Brycchan Carey of Alnwick area FoE gives a brief and gentle introduction to the science of climate change and the impacts in the North East, concluding with practical steps local people can take towards positive change.

For more details email Annie.CPRE@gmail.com
CPRE members free
Non-members £5 donation to FoE



Thriving Together Northumberland Informal Network Event

Wednesday, 4th September 2024, 10am to 12pm.

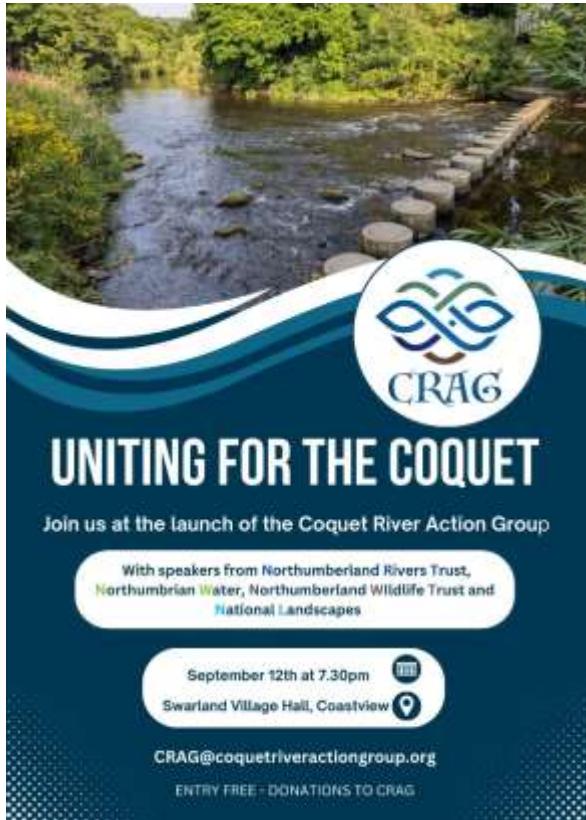
Morpeth Rugby Club, Mitford Road, NE61 1RJ

TTN networking events are open to any voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisation in Northumberland. The morning is relaxed - there's no formal presentations or speeches. It's a perfect opportunity to chat with others to connect and celebrate community-based projects and activities.

The staff team are there to help you and can introduce you to new contacts. After you have registered, you'll get a list of all the organisations attending so that you know who will be there. And if you still need persuading ... there are always pastries!

Ample parking on site. Please confirm your attendance by [completing this form](#). If you cannot attend but would like to be notified of future events, there is an option on the form to choose this.

If you have not already signed up to our Newsletter to keep up to date with our activities and other VCSE activities in Northumberland, [please see our website to sign up](#). Looking forward to seeing people there! Any questions, admin@thrivingtogethernorthumberland.org.uk



Uniting For the Coquet – the Launch of the Coquet River Action Group (CRAG)

Sept 12th, 2024. 7.30pm

Swarland Village Hall, Coast View, Swarland, NE65 9JG

The 'Coquet River Action Group' (CRAG) is being formally launched on September 12th, 2024, and NGH members and member groups are invited to the launch event.

CRAG is a newly formed umbrella organisation, currently bringing together nine local groups – including parish councils, environmental groups & Women's Institutes as well as the Northumberland Rivers Trust to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the River Coquet.

As part of a CRAG Citizen Science project, groups are carrying out water quality testing along the length of the Coquet from Thropton to the coast. CRAG will be using the data to build knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting the river and its catchments.

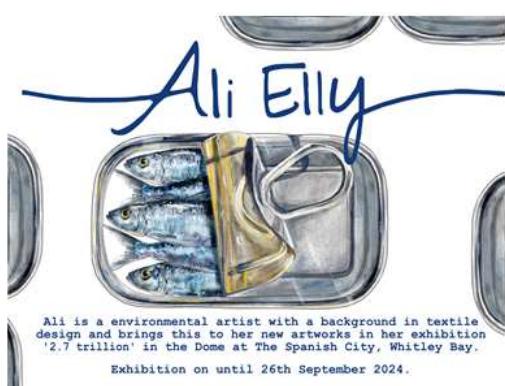
CRAG plan to develop links, collaborate and share information with all key stakeholders and communities to

support the long-term sustainability of the river.

Hosted by Steve Lowe from the Northumberland Rivers Trust, there will be speakers from CRAG, Northumbrian Water, Northumberland Wildlife Trust and National Landscapes covering a diverse range of subjects which impact the river.

The launch event is being held in Swarland Village Hall, Coast View, Swarland, NE65 9JG at 7.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 7.00pm.

For more information, contact CRAG@coquetriveractiongroup.org



7 Trillion - Art Exhibition.

Every day until Sept 26th

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. This is fully funded working with the [Helix Arts](#), 'Here to There' programme.

With this exhibition there is an opportunity to join a **FREE** Creative Walk along the coast at **Low Lights, North Shields** on 24th Aug led by Ali. To book a place contact Ali aliellydesign@gmail.com.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ROTHBURY CAN'S SCREENING OF

SIX INCHES OF SOIL

Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
Friday 13th September
7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.
Wine and soft drinks for sale.
Donations welcome (to pay for film and room hire.)

Screening is followed by a discussion led by Walter Riddell of Hepple Wilds and Judy Fortescue of Clantees Farm. Chaired by Mike Pratt, CEO of Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

Get Tickets <https://kinema.com/events/six-inches-of-soil-at-jubilee-hall>

ROTHBURY CLIMATE & NATURE'S

Great Big Green Event

Friday 13th September
FREE FILM SCREENING "Six inches of Soil"
short discussion afterwards
7.30 pm Jubilee Hall, Rothbury

COLLABORATE
ADVOCATE
NURTURE

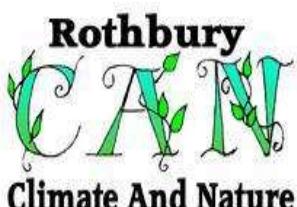
FOR A CONNECTED, BIODIVERSE, COQUETDALE

TALKS AND EXHIBITIONS - NCN's NEW FARMING STRATEGY, CRANE WATER TESTING PROJECT, NORTHUMBERLAND PEAT PROJECT, NORTHUMBERLAND WILDLIFE TRUST, TALK ON WILDFLOWERS, BY JANE AUSTIN-WALKER, FIND OUT WHAT ROTHBURY CAN GROUPS ARE DOING, NORTHBANK, LOWER LEAD ENERGY HOLDING, REPAIR CAFE, RENAISSANCE ROTHBURY HERB FRIENDS, TREE WARRIORS, SEEDSTREES

STALLS AND INFORMATION - ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ALNWICK FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, CANNY DORROUGH, COLOURS OF COQUETDALE, ROTHBURY ROOTS AND SHOOTS, COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND, MAGICAL POTS, ODEON HANDMADE, PAM STEVENSON ART, RAINBOW YARNS, RSPCA, ROTHBURY VA, WILLOWES HERBAL THERAPY, TILLYS

REFRESHMENTS - TEREZA'S CAKES AND BAKES IN THE KITCHEN AND CAFE AREA - SOUPS AND A ROLL, THIRYBAKES, CAKES

SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2024
JUBILEE HALL, ROTHBURY
10AM - 4PM



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>

You can find our [Calendar of Events](#) on our website at <https://www.rothburycan.org/events-1>

6. Make My Money Matter



Switch to a Green Bank

We trust our banks to look after our money, but can we trust them to look after our future? Our Big 5 high-street banks are all financing the climate crisis.

In 2023 alone, the Big 5 UK high street banks – Barclays, HSBC, Santander, NatWest and Lloyds - provided \$55bn to fossil fuel companies, helping drive climate change. But you can change this. Switch to another bank AND tell your bank why you are doing so.

This easy tool will help you send an email in seconds.
<https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/hiddenrelationship/>
The website to switch current accounts is
<https://www.currentaccountswitch.co.uk/how-to-switch/>



7. Environmental Awareness Days in September



Second Hand September – 1st Sept to 30th Sept 2024

This campaign is a month-long annual celebration by Oxfam to promote buying second hand and reduce waste. By buying second hand, we can reduce our carbon footprint.

Organic September – 1st September 2024 to 30th Sept 2024

This annual campaign is led by the [Soil Association](#) who work tirelessly to raise awareness of the benefits of organic farming. This isn't just important for our health, but the planet too. This environmental day is one for the diary. Artificial fertilisers are depleting the nutrients we need in our soils to grow food.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer – 16th Sept 2024

This is a key [environmental day](#) in history when, in 1987, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted. As the treaty turns thirty five on Ozone Day, we will remember how the Montreal Protocol ended one of the biggest threats ever to face humanity as a whole: the depletion of the ozone layer. When the world found out that ozone-depleting gases used in aerosols and cooling were creating a hole in the sky, they came together. They showed that multilateralism and effective global cooperation worked, and they phased out these gases. Now the ozone layer is healing, allowing it once again to shield humanity from the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

World Car Free Day – 22nd Sept 2024

This annual event is led by [Living Streets](#), promoting and encouraging us to leave our car at home and allowing everyone to experience traffic-free roads. Their [website](#) has some great examples of how other people travelled to celebrate World Car Free Day.

World Rivers Day – 22nd Sept 2024

Held annually on the fourth Sunday in September, this is a celebration of our waterways. It focuses on the numerous benefits of our rivers, aims to boost public awareness, and promotes better care of rivers worldwide. Rivers in nearly every nation confront various challenges, and it's only through our active engagement that we can safeguard their well-being in the future.

Zero Waste Week – 2nd Sept – 6th Sept 2024

This environmental campaign focuses on helping and encouraging homes, schools, businesses and community groups to find ways on how to reduce waste that is destined for landfill. Check out their website to see how to get involved.

Great British Beach Clean – 20th Sept – 29th Sept 2024

This is a great initiative where thousands of people get involved in cleaning up our beaches allowing people to enjoy them without having to avoid rubbish. [Find out how you can get involved and how it helps here.](#)

World Clean Up Day – 20th September 2024

This global annual event had some amazing results in 2023: 19.1 million participants took part from 91% of listed UN nations and collected a whopping 205,000 tons of waste!

FSC Forest Week – 21st September 2024 – 27th September 2024

Each year, the FSC Forest Week is a global initiative that urges all those responsible for forests to raise public consciousness regarding the significance of sustainable forestry. The objective is to motivate these consumers to make a difference by selecting products that carry FSC certification.

8. Repair Cafes

1. **Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 31st August 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.

2. **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!

9. News from Around the Region



Women's Workshop, Amble

Investors in the Environment Award

Congratulations to the Women's Workshop who have achieved full Bronze accreditation for the Investors in the Environment.



Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC)

Meadow Survey in Vyner Park

Vyner Park is a much-loved park at the heart of Swarland and offers many facilities to residents and visitors alike, including a popular café, dog walking area, tennis courts and football pitch. SNAC recently commissioned a survey which was carried out by Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) which suggests that it has much to offer biodiversity as well!

At one end of the park is a meadow area which has become established over several years. In 2016, a specialist from NWT carried out a survey and noted a wide range of species. SNAC decided a repeat/update would be useful and applied for funding from NCC for this. This was carried out in June, led by Sara Frisby from NWT who also trained a group of local volunteers in species identification and discussed ongoing management. The survey included identifying the different habitats with the park, which all provide valuable food and shelter to a range of birds and mammals. A good range of species was found in the meadow, including yellow rattle, spotted orchids and birds-foot-trefoil.

Recommended management is for the meadow to be cut in late August, with cuttings left for a few days and then collected up. This is exactly what happens at present, with the cut just in time for the Swarland Show, when the area is used for archery! SNAC plans to continue monitoring the site in future years. Sara has also given us some advice on future tree planting plans, avoiding the risk of falling leaves adding unwanted nutrients to the soil in and around the meadow.

The full survey can be found at [Vyner Park Wildflower Meadow \(snac.online\)](http://Vyner%20Park%20Wildflower%20Meadow%20(snac.online))

Swarland Show – Saturday, August 31st from 11 – 4pm. SNAC will have a stall at the show where we will be highlighting some of the benefits of hedgerows, showcasing the meadow and encouraging people to 'go wild' in their garden. All welcome!

Seed Collection - Later in the autumn we will be working with a local organic farmer and member of NGH to collect crab apples and hawthorn berries. These will be prepared for propagation and grown onto into new hedging plants.



Investment heading upstream to combat pollution and enhance water quality in the River Till

Source: Northumberland Gazette – 18th July 2024

Significant investment in the River Till, a tributary of the River Tweed, will help to help combat pollution from agriculture and enhance water quality.

The [Harehope River Restoration Project](#) is out to tender with an estimated £400,000 price tag. The works will include channel and scrape excavation alongside a large timber installation. [Tweed Forum](#) is working in conjunction with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Newcastle University to deliver the so-called [Life Wader project](#), a five-year plan backed by a contribution of four million Euros from the European Union.

Consultants AECOM have been involved in designing the restoration plans for the Breamish which forms part of the River Till. It is a designated Special Area of Conservation due to its importance for species including Atlantic salmon, brown trout, sea trout and otters.

However, a three-kilometre reach near Harehope has been heavily realigned and degraded by past land use practices, including extensive straightening, and raised flood embankments. These have also affected the river's ecology and its ability to support fish populations.



First Part of Borderline Greenway Opens

Source: BBC News July 30th

The first section of a project to create a greenway from a disused railway running from Alnwick to Cornhill has been completed. It's hoped that the first two-mile section will open as a greenway for walkers and cyclists by autumn 2024.

The [Borderline Greenway Community Interest Company](#) are leading the project which hopes eventually to open the whole of the line from Alnwick to Cornhill, together with a link to Route 1 of the National Cycle Network, creating a 100 mile loop through north Northumberland.



Northumberland pupils' poetry and artwork inspired by the environment goes on display at National Trust's Wallington estate

Source: Northumberland Gazette – 23rd July 2024

40 students from Astley Community High School in Seaton Delaval and James Calvert Spence College in Amble took part in the [Species: Past, Present, and Future](#) project, run in partnership with Newcastle University and the National Trust.

Students examined items from the university's special collections, took part in poetry classes, worked with academics from the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences and spent time immersed in nature at Wallington. They then picked a species to focus on from the extinct wolf representing the past, the protected red squirrel representing the present, or the [recently reintroduced beaver](#) representing the future.

Working with the university's School of English and art studio Northern Print, each student wrote a poem and produced a print inspired by their chosen animal.



Wilder Druridge Project

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is developing a vision for a new *Wilder Druridge* project to deliver landscape-scale changes that benefit nature, climate and people.

The project covers the area from the River Coquet in the north to the River Lyne in the south, and from the coast to the A1. It incorporates six existing Trust sites: East Chevington, West Chevington, Hauxley, Cresswell Ponds, Earsdon West Forest and Linton Lane, as well as Druridge Bay Country Park.

Wilder Druridge is a feasibility project with the goal of producing a vision which is practical, community backed and fundable. Consultation has already begun, and members of the community are being asked about how they see the landscape and what species they would like to live there.

In addition to the sites owned by the Trust, it's hoped that other areas that are managed for wildlife could be included. Just as important as large pieces of land are potential wildlife corridors such as field margins and hedgerows, or unproductive areas of farmland.

Residents of the area are encouraged to complete a questionnaire about how connected you are with nature. To find out more about the project, you can contact the team at wilder.northumberland@northwt.org.uk.



Over 16km of hedgerow planted at former surface coal mine near Cramlington

Source – [Northumberland Gazette](#) 7th Aug 2024

Work to plant more than 16km of hedgerow has been completed at a former surface mine in Northumberland as part of a project to restore the site.

Mining operations at Shotton Surface Mine, near Cramlington, stopped three years ago and the pit's former operator Banks Mining is now returning the land to agricultural and conservation use. A mixture of native species has been used within the hedgerows, while a seasonally wet habitat area has been created in the southern portion of the site for local wildlife.

The draining of the site's fields is ongoing and will be followed by recultivation, reseeding, and the laying of an additional 10km of tracks. Banks Mining expects to complete this work within a year.



National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise

The National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE) put knowledge to work for an enterprising countryside - combining research with practical innovation to find new ways of unlocking potential and supporting thriving rural businesses and communities.

NICRE work with a variety of stakeholders to find new ways of unlocking potential and supporting thriving rural businesses and communities.

From community groups to business support organisations, local enterprise agencies to all layers of government, NICRE liaise with a range of bodies to help address the challenges faced by rural enterprise and identify new opportunities.

Find out more at <https://nicre.co.uk/>



Join Us for an Exciting Evening at Climate Action Wansbeck's AGM!

Mark your calendars **for September 5th at 7 pm** in Morpeth for Climate Action Wansbeck's Annual General Meeting.

Get inspired by a special talk from Northumberland County Council's Climate Change Team, discover what we've achieved over the past year, and find out how you can get involved with our dynamic committee. This is your chance to make a real difference in our community!

Don't miss out—email us at climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Let's take action together for a greener future. Do check out our website climateactionwansbeck.org.uk where you can sign up for membership and our newsletters.



Community Foundation Seeks Groups to Host On the Table Events

The [Community Foundation](#) is inviting local charities, community organisations, businesses, schools, public bodies and individuals to join an important conversation about our region.

Organisations or individuals can host an On the Table conversation. We suggest around 6-8 guests gathered over refreshments or food – anything from tea and biscuits, sandwiches, a take-away or a home-cooked meal! We can help with some costs where needed.

If you're a charity or community organisation, your guests could be people you work with or support. Businesses might host a conversation among colleagues or clients. Schools might facilitate an On the Table with students or parents. Individuals could host an On the Table with friends, family and neighbours.

We'll give hosts a toolkit to help get conversations going. [The Vital Signs report](#) is a starting point but there's lots in it, so we suggest kicking off with what's most important to you and your guests. Afterwards, we'll ask you to feedback through an online survey, highlighting issues raised and ideas proposed.

If you're interested in hosting an On the Table event, please read our [FAQs on our website](#). You can then complete our quick and easy Expression of Interest form [here](#) by **5pm on Friday 6 September 2024**.

We'll be back in touch with more information in early September once we've reviewed all the Eols. If you've any questions, you can email Ali Walker aw@communityfoundation.org.uk or call **0191 222 0945**.

10. Training Opportunities



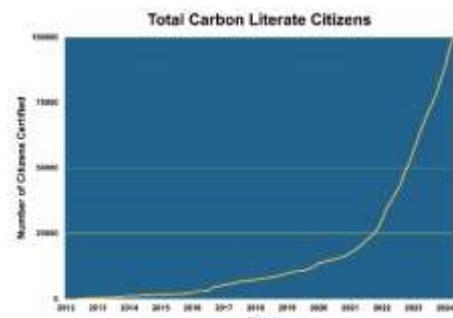
Carbon Literacy Project Achieves Cultural Shift

In July, the Carbon Literacy Project announced that they achieved a significant milestone, building a community of over 100,000 certified Carbon Literate citizens – spanning seven continents, 33 nations and over 7,500 organisations.

Together this global movement has pledged at least 200,000 actions and saved approximately 360,000t CO2e - equivalent to

driving 921 million miles or 36,986 trips around the Earth's equator!

These aren't just abstract stats. And this isn't just a milestone. It represents a cultural shift that is not only anticipated but already happening as this graph showing the increase in certified individuals from 2012 to 2024 shows.



The Project knows there is much more work to be done in this critical decade for climate action. They have now set an ambitious yet achievable aim to certify **one million Carbon Literate citizens by 2030.**

Find out more about the Carbon Literacy Project at www.carbonliteracy.com



Gain Confidence in Tackling Climate Change with Carbon Literacy ONLINE Training

17th, 18th and 19th of Sept at either 10 am- 12 pm, or 10 am- 7 pm to 9 pm each day

Are you passionate about reducing your environmental impact and safeguarding the planet for future generations?

Join Annie, The Sustainable Life Coach, for an accredited Carbon Literacy course designed to empower individuals to make a positive difference.

Carbon Literacy involves understanding the carbon costs and impacts of daily activities and gaining the motivation and skills to reduce emissions on individual, community, and organisational levels. Over 100,000 people are now certified Carbon Literate.

In this course, you'll learn:

- The fundamentals of climate change science.
- Global and local climate developments.
- How your actions influence climate change.
- Tools and strategies to minimise your environmental footprint.
- How to create your personal climate action plan.

Gain confidence, reduce overwhelm, and learn how to take effective action against climate change.

To Book Your Place

Tickets available from <https://www.tickttaillor.com/events/thesustainablelifecoach>?



Help Train Community Leaders in Carbon Literacy

If you're already Carbon Literate or looking to become Carbon Literate, there's an exciting opportunity to train Community Leaders using a comprehensive toolkit course.

Depending on eligibility, the toolkit can be provided free of charge. In those circumstances the only cost would be the assessment fee of £10 per person, which can be covered by the organisation, funding, or by the participants.

Alternatively, there is a fee to purchase the course under licence. Additionally, there are various funding opportunities available that organisations can apply for.

Community groups also have the option to develop their own tailored course and get this accredited and I'm here to help guide them through the process.

Interested? Email Annie at communities@carbonliteracy.com and kick start taking action together!

11. Funding & Support



Tree Council Branching Out Fund is [open for applications!](#)

Branching Out supports schools, Tree Warden Networks and community groups with grants of between £250 and £2,500 for tree, orchard or hedge planting, non-plastic tree protection and mulch.

Visit the [webpage](#) for revised application guidance and eligibility criteria.

The deadline for applications is **Sunday 1 December 2024**, so don't delay and get your applications in early to plant your trees from National Tree Week 2024!



Royal Countryside Fund

£250,000 is available to support rural community-led activities in Northumberland. Organisations can apply for up to £30,000 over a period of 18 months to deliver activities along the themes of powering up rural communities and increasing environmental sustainability.

<https://www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk/how-we-help/rural-communities/>



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

Nextdoor Nature Northumberland

Northumberland Wildlife Trust [NWT] have spread their Nextdoor Nature project to Northumberland thanks to funding from the UK Government, offering support to local communities along Northumberland's coast to act for nature where they live.

Do you have an idea, or want to start a wildlife friendly project but don't know where to begin? Whether you are an individual or a community group; with a small patch of land, balcony, yard, local park or beach; whether you'd like to improve biodiversity, protect a particular species, or something else nature related – get in touch!

Through Nextdoor Nature, NWT will support 12 local projects from Berwick to Amble, to kickstart community led ideas to protect wildlife in Northumberland's coastal towns and villages. The Nextdoor Nature **project team can help with access to funding, advice, resource and skill sharing**, and can support communities by offering training opportunities and organising nature themed events where you live.

If you'd like to be a part of the project, please call or text Tash and Raven on 07393571998 or email natasha.hemsley@northwt.org.uk – we'd love to hear from you!

Struggling for ideas? See our website for actions you can take to help nature where you live: [Actions | Northumberland Wildlife Trust \(nwt.org.uk\)](#)

Or read about inspiring actions for nature in communities across the UK via the Nextdoor Nature Hub: [The Nextdoor Nature Hub](#) – there's lots of advice here if you're just starting out!

*This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the North East Combined Authority Investment Fund with the North East Combined Authority (NECA) as the lead authority. *



General Grant Applications

We consider applications for core running or projects costs all year round from organisations in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland with no set deadlines or special criteria. Just complete our general application form and we'll see if we have any funds available that could support you.

[You can apply using our general application form here.](#)

Rolling Funds

Like our general applications, rolling funds are open all year round but have criteria covering specific issues and areas.

[All of our rolling funds are listed alongside our current calls here.](#)



12. National & Global News

UK's only free-roaming bison herd thriving in Kent

Three female Bison were released into countryside near Canterbury, Kent, in July 2022 to help restore the area to its natural state.

The project has also overseen the release of Iron Age pigs, Exmoor ponies and longhorn cattle into the area.

Following the introduction of the original trio, the project has welcomed a bull bison and seen the birth of two baby bison. The animals are having a huge impact.

Bison ranger, Hannah Mackins, said: *"The reserve is teeming with life in areas that were once in darkness, and you can feel a renewed energy in the woodland. Everywhere you look, there are success stories of nature's resilience – from seeing dung beetle larvae to the monitoring programme discovering species of insects we thought were extinct. This project shows the incredible power of nature to heal. Wilder Blean is more than just a conservation effort; it's a story of hope unfolding right in front of us."*



Photo Source – Kent Wildlife Trust

13. NCC Climate Change Team – August Update

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



Did you know? Cattle and Trees Go Really Well Together

Agroforestry, which combines trees and farming, can benefit farms, livestock, and the environment.

If you think this could benefit your land, NCC are asking farmers and landowners to reach out to the Great Northumberland Forest team at enquiries.forest@northumberland.gov.uk to find out more.



Have Your Say on NCC's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The network of public rights of way provide access to the countryside, unique landscapes and places for a wide range of people to experience and enjoy. This NCC consultation invites comments from all those with a stake in public rights of way in Northumberland. The consultation is open until October 18th, 2024. [CLICK to Have your say here.](#)



Can You Help Reduce Emissions in Agriculture?

NCC want to hear from farming communities, related businesses and supply chains about the barriers they are facing to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions across agriculture and forestry in Northumberland. Funded by Innovate UK, the Climate Change Team are working on a project with the Rural Design Centre to identify and address these barriers.

You can complete a survey to help identify the local challenges.

[Fill in the survey here.](#)

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

14. Funding for Greener Homes



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**.

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 warmehomes@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.](#)

15. Closing Thoughts

A Poem: “Turning to One Another” by Margaret Wheatley

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.
Ask: “What’s possible?” not “What’s Wrong?” Keep asking.
Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams.
Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters. Talk to people you know. Talk to people you don’t know. Talk to people you never talk to.
Be intrigued by the differences you hear. Expect to be surprised. Treasure curiosity more than certainty.
Invite in everybody who cares to work on what’s possible. Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something. Know that creative solutions come from new connections.
Remember, you don’t fear the people whose story you know. Real listening always brings people together.
Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.
Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

16. September Digest – Copy Deadline

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