



Monthly Digest

September 14th, 2024

News, Events, Updates



Image by Freepik

Contents

1. Hub & Steering Group News - Page 1
2. The Digest Interview with Terry - Page 2
3. Active Travel - Page 4
4. Biodiversity & Wildlife - Page 5
5. Community Food - Page 6
6. River and Sea Water Quality - Page 7
7. Upcoming Event Dates - Page 9
8. Get to Know ... Page 17
9. Environmental Awareness Days - Page 18
10. Repair Cafes - Page 18
11. Green Building Design - Page 19
12. Volunteers Wanted - Page 19
13. News from Around the Region - Page 20
14. Funding & Support - Page 20
15. NCC Climate Change Update - Page 21
16. Copy Deadline for October - Page 22

1. Hub & Steering Group News

NGH Survey

It's nearly a year since the Northumberland Green Hub was formed and since then we've grown faster than we imagined! We've developed a variety of ways for members to meet, connect and share, and it's been great to be able to say hello to so many members at our Community Events too. There's a wealth of knowledge and experience within NGH, and we are hugely grateful for all the contributions that members have made. We've also made valuable contacts with organisations across north Northumberland, and it really feels as though NGH is getting known!

As we approach our first anniversary, it feels like a good time to take stock and make sure that we are delivering what members want and find useful. So, we will shortly

be inviting you to complete a short online questionnaire to share your views and give us some feedback. We would be really grateful if you would take 10 minutes to complete it - whether you've been a member from the start or have just joined - we would really like to hear from you.

Next Community Event - October 19th, 9.30 am – 1.00pm

The next Community event is on **Saturday October 19th** at our usual venue of St James Church Centre, Alnwick. We'll be feeding back the headline results from the Survey and discussing some of the issues raised.

We've also invited **Pete Barrett, a Senior Programme Advisor from Community Foundation** to come and speak. Community Foundation's ambition is to be the region's most trusted and effective charitable foundation by supporting small, local charities and community organisations through grants

and help from their networks. They have recently published a Vital Signs report outlining the environmental challenges facing the North East which is well worth reading - [Vital-Signs-North-East-2024-Environment.pdf \(communityfoundation.org.uk\)](https://communityfoundation.org.uk/Vital-Signs-North-East-2024-Environment.pdf).

Pete will talk about the work of the Foundation and how groups can engage with them to get support.

[**Preview the October 19th Community Event Programme**](#)

[**BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE**](#)



Website Resources - Useful Contacts for NGH Members

It can sometimes be difficult finding contact details for local and regional groups and organisations. That's why we've recently [added a new section to the Resources area of the NGH website](#) where you can find details of more than 140 local groups and organisations within the Northumberland area. We hope that this will be a useful resource and we will add new contacts as we find them.

If you know of groups or organisations that are missing, please let us know by email to Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com.

Membership

It's been another busy month with 5 new members joining us, and we'd like to welcome Jan, Linda, Jamie, Andy, Peter and Maria. We now have 110 members.

DIARY DATES!

Saturday December 7th will be our final Community Event of 2024 - and we thought we'd make it a purely social get together. Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and a mince pie or two with plenty of time to chat and share ideas and plans. More details to follow.

BOOKING and DONATION for ROOM HIRE & REFRESHMENTS

We will ask you to make a minimum £3 donation in cash on the Community Event days. 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

2. The Digest Interview with...



Terry Smith

Terry has lived in Northumberland for 22 years and is a member of Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth. He's been a member of NGH since it began in September 2023.

Quick-Fire Questions

Night owl or early bird?
Night owl.

Glass of wine or cup of tea?
Can't beat a good cup of tea!

Walk on the beach or art gallery?
Both are great. Walking on the beach, admiring the beauty can help appreciate art.

TV Soap or a good book?

I'm not a TV Soap person so I guess a good book is my choice.

What's your favourite place in Northumberland?

Ros Castle near Chillingham for its wonderful views including of seven castles and a real sense and evidence of Northumberland's history and with Old Bewick nearby.

What's your biggest bugbear?

Small 'c' conservatism and 'can't do' attitudes.

What's your favourite book and why?

*Oh, that is difficult. I've chosen *The Greening of America* by Charles A Reich. I read it over 50 years ago whilst I was training to be a social worker. It was an exciting period of my life when I was both idealistic and naive. I really felt at that time that the world was ready for positive change, and I was going to be part of that change! It was *The Greening of America* with some other books, together with a couple of inspirational tutors that set me on the way. I got a bit lost on the journey - but so did many others!*

What first made you interested in climate, environmental and sustainability issues?

I was brought up in beautiful Derbyshire. My parents got me interested in nature and the fight for justice for people throughout the world. Recently, I have realised that the climate and nature crisis we face is intrinsically linked to justice issues. During the middle period of my life, I was involved in campaigns which could be labelled justice issues such as the Anti-Apartheid movement. My career in social work, youth work and education reflected and informed my understanding and perspective. More recently I have seen just how much we need to do to address the climate and nature crisis, and that challenge drives me on.

Tell us about a project you've been involved in?

The children and young people project which began about three years ago. The Climate Club at the Duchess Community High School has resulted in tree planting, beach cleans, litter picks and there is now a film in progress. Links have also been forged with Ellingham CofE Primary School. The Environmental Tipping Point Challenge Game I invented reflects the global environmental and nature challenges we face, while exploring the positive actions we can all make.

Have you got a project or activity that you're looking forward to starting?

The Tipping Point Challenge Game works well with children, young people - and adults too. It stimulates lots of discussion and, hopefully, a commitment to act. I've had requests for the game packs from different groups around the UK. The next step will be to contact local primary schools to run short sessions engaging the school's older pupils in the game and discussion. As well as learning from us oldies, I have discovered that we can learn a good deal from young people. Being open to that is important and inspiring at times.

3. Active Travel

New Phase of Work to Improve Cycle Links Set to Start in Blyth

Source: Northumberland Gazette – 30th Aug 2024



This is the latest in a network of schemes in Blyth, building on the recent improvements around Waterloo Road, which involved upgraded crossings on the A193 Renwick Road, connected by shared use footways.

The new section picks up where the previous one finished, starting at Bondicar Terrace, crossing

Marine Terrace then onto Cypress Drive. The route then follows the east side of Broadway Circle to the roundabout, onto Princess Louise Road and then onto Broadway Crescent and Kingsway.



Finally, it's on to Plessey Road and along to Wellesley Drive. The work is expected to complete around May 2025. In future there are plans to continue these improvements south to link up with the Coastal (NCN1) route in North Tyneside.

The £1.9m scheme is being funded by the Department for Transport administered via the North East Combined Authority.

Cllr Richard Wearmouth, who leads Northumberland County Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy, said: *"This is yet another step forward towards more active and sustainable transport in our county."*



Image by Wirestock on Freepik

Consultation on Improvements to Public Rights of Way

Northumberland's network of public rights of way provides access to a huge range of landscapes and places to enjoy. The County Council are currently consulting on a Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan which sets out the council's approach to enhancement of the network over the next ten years (2025 - 2035).

The consultation is open until October 18th and the plan and an online form to send in your views are available at

[Northumberland County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2025-2035 - Have Your Say](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations/2024/09/01/2025-2035-rights-of-way-improvement-plan)
[Northumberland - Citizen Space](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/citizen-space)



Exciting Online Talk on the Emerging Second-Hand Electric Vehicle Market!

Tuesday 1st October at 7pm ,ONLINE

Are you ready to **save money** and **save the planet**?

We invite you to an exclusive online talk featuring Mat, an advocate for used electric cars. Mat will share how these vehicles can help you cut costs and reduce emissions. Discover why good used electric cars are better and cheaper in 2024 than ever before. You'll be getting insider info on this dynamic market from an expert in the field who is 100% committed to climate action.

Mat will provide valuable insights on who can benefit from used electric cars and how to make them work for you. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can make a positive impact on your wallet and the environment.

Book your place via email to Annie.CPRE@gmail.com

Creating a public realm for all



Creating a Public Realm for All

In August the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) [released a new report](#) that highlights the importance of creating inclusive neighbourhoods by incorporating inclusive design principles into the public realm.

[Creating a public realm](#) for all serves as a guide for transport professionals to identify and address challenges faced by disabled people, older individuals, and those with temporary disabilities when navigating public spaces. It emphasises the need for co-cultivation, meaningful engagement, and representation throughout the design, construction, and operation processes to ensure accessibility, safety, and ease of navigation for all users.

[Click HERE for the Easy Read Version of the Report](#)

4. Biodiversity & Wildlife



Five More Seabirds Go 'Red'

The Northumberland coastline is known for its colonies of seabirds, in particular at sites such as the Farne Islands and Coquet Island. But along with other locations around the UK, seabirds are in trouble. According to last years' Seabird Count, more than 60% of UK seabird species are in decline - kittiwakes and common gulls are down nearly 50% and puffin number have fallen by a quarter.

The UK's seabird colonies are globally important, but the latest research shows that 10 out of the 26 seabirds that breed on our coastlines and islands are now on the red list of birds most in need of conservation. They are in trouble because of multiple factors including climate change, unsustainable fishing practices, offshore renewable-energy development and habitat loss. There was some good news however, with two species (the shag and the black guillemot) moving off the red list.



[The England Seabird Conservation and Recovery Pathway](#) has made a list of actions to help and the banning of fishing for sand eels in the English and Scottish waters of the North Sea has been praised as a positive step. David Noble from the British Trust for Ornithology said, "*continued monitoring, by volunteers and professionals, is essential to provide timely evidence of the impact of threats and to assess the effectiveness of any conservation actions.*"



Seed Gathering Season

Although it's not quite officially autumn yet (although it feels like it!), the first signs of change are appearing. That means that [Seed Gathering Season](#) is approaching and it's a crucial time of year in the tree growing calendar.

The Tree Council are running a series of free, online talks throughout September, including a seed gathering masterclass and a talk entitled **Seeds: Time Capsules of Life**. Their website at <https://treecouncil.org.uk> also has a wealth of resources including a seed identification sheet and videos about how to grow trees from seed.



Dig Deep in Northumberland

[Dig Ventures](#) is an online Citizen Science project using a collaborative mapping platform to baseline and monitor landscape features and ecological habitats. They run several online projects giving people the opportunity to get involved in both 'in the field' and online.

A number of projects are starting in the next few months, including:

- a search for multiple habitat types along Hadrian's Wall corridor beginning in October 2024 in partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust, and
- another project, working with the National Trust, looking at habitat types at Wallington in November 2024, and
- an exploration of the Northumberland Coast including the Aln and Coquet estuaries, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne. This project is being run in partnership with Northumberland Coastal National Landscape.

Online training takes between 4 and 8 hours and includes two lessons plus practice exercises. It can be done at your own pace and you'll learn about different types of habitats and ecosystems, different types of observation data, how to record data and how to collaborate with fellow citizen scientists.

Find out more at [DigVentures | Archaeology in your hands](#)

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:

- 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](#).

5. 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.



Incredible Edibles Network – Guerilla Gardening and Food Growing

Source – The Guardian, September 13th 2024

Friday's Guardian explains how [Incredible Edible's](#) guerrilla gardening movement, started over a cuppa between two friends in 2008, encourages people to take food-growing – and more – into their own hands.

Pam Warhurst, the founder of Incredible Edible, wants the state to get out of people's way.

"The biggest obstacle is the inability of people in elected positions to cede power to the grassroots," she says.

Sixteen years ago, Warhurst left a conference addressing sustainability and climate change feeling utterly bereft at the prospect of what faced humanity. It was on the train home from that event that she made up a plan to encourage people to take charge of their own food resilience.

Since then her idea has taken root across the UK and around the world, with at least 150 Incredible Edible groups across the country, from Orkney to Cornwall, and sister movements in France, Spain, Australia, New Zealand and even Argentina.

Her message is simple. Failures of leadership around the unfolding disasters of climate breakdown, plummeting biodiversity and social disintegration have left people with only one choice: to take matters into their own hands.

“Because I am interested in systems change,” she says. “It’s the system [that is the] problem, not the people.”

[Read the full Guardian article here](#)

Start Your Own Incredible Edible Group

If you would like to mobilise a guerrilla food growing group in your area, you will find lots of How To Resources on the Contact page of the network’s website at :

<https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk/contact/>

6. River & Sea Water Quality



Coquet River Action Group Makes a Splash!

More than a hundred people attended the launch of the Coquet River Action Group (CRAG) in Swarland recently. The group brings together ten community groups, including parish councils, Women’s Institutes and environmental groups as well as the Northumberland Rivers Trust, to carry out citizen science water quality testing along the River Coquet from Thropton to the coast.

The large turnout reinforced what an important issue this is to many people and the wide range of interests in the river and its biodiversity.

Chair of CRAG, Jane Davis, explained that the aim is to collect scientifically relevant data that can be used to collaborate with other organisations to form a catchment community working to improve the river and its habitats.

Steve Lowe, from the [Northumberland Rivers Trust](#), told the audience that although the Coquet is a SSSI there are still many issues including invasive species, mine water legacy and farming-related run-off.

Steve then introduced speakers from several organisations which have different responsibilities for the river and its habitats. **Graham Holyoak from Northumberland Wildlife Trust** talked about plans for the Druridge Bay area, focussing on a number of key species including water voles. Steve Robson and Laura Molon from **Northumbrian Water** provided an overview of the multi-million-pound investment plans to reduce sewage overflows and improve sewage treatment works. Lastly, **Mark Middleton from National Landscapes** talked about a variety of projects taking place around the Amble and Warkworth.

An enthusiastic question and answer session included discussion about extending the project into the upper Coquet, how to obtain [Designated Bathing Water](#) status, issues related to mine water pollution and ‘forever chemicals’, the types of monitoring carried out by Northumbrian Water and how to get young people involved in the project.

Finally, Jane invited anyone who is interested in getting involved to email coqueriveractiongroup.outlook.com, or to visit the website: <https://coqueriveractiongroup.org> for more information.

Saving the Seas One Dive at a Time in Northumberland

Source: The Guardian – Sept 1st, 2024

Phoebe Smith writes about a fantastic new eco initiative in the diving community. With 70% of all marine debris sinking to the bottom of the ocean, some dive shops are now teaching divers how to safely pick litter from the sea floor with '**Dives Against Debris**'.

Other green diving skills are being taught alongside the litter picking to help protect and minimise impacts to marine life and habitat on dives. By teaching these skills, the dive centres can be classed as eco centres by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI).

One of the dive companies, in South Shields, offers a seal awareness course. Run by marine biologists, the course covers the ecological importance of seals, encouraging responsible interaction with the seals, and reducing the impact of dives on the seals' habitats.



Photo by Phoebe Smith of Nick Emery of Fifth Point Diving Centre near St Mary's Lighthouse while Diving for Debris.

To read the full article in **The Guardian** click [Here](#)



Is it a Bird? No, It's a Drone!

Source: Northumberland Gazette – 29th August

Northumbrian Water are piloting the use of a drone to accelerate water quality monitoring.

They will be carrying out flights in the Coquet estuary during September and October and will measure various water quality parameters in hard-to-reach areas, with minimal disturbance to the natural environment.

The drone has a wingspan of 2m and can fly up to 45 km/hr and it's hoped the project will demonstrate how this technology could monitor water quality in real time.

[Read the full story here](#)



Stronger Shores

The [Stronger Shores project](#) is working to make British coastlines and communities stronger in the face of flooding, coastal erosion and climate change. It's being carried out in conjunction with the Environment Agency, Newcastle University, Plymouth University, North Sea Wildlife Trusts and Tees Rivers Trust.

Part of the project will involve rebuilding sea grass meadows, kelp forests and oyster reefs. They are looking at sites around Alnmouth and Amble and will shortly be looking for volunteers.

In the meantime, you can get involved in a **Seaweed Survey** at Hauxley Nature Reserve, near Amble on **Sunday October 6th between 10.00 – 12.00**.

To book a place email strongershores@southtyneside.gov.uk

You can find out more at <https://strongershores.com>

7. Upcoming Event Dates



Women's Workshop Programme

Mondays through September and early October with Dry Water Arts

While our Opening Doors project (more info below) gets underway at the Workshop, members of our 'Wonderful Women' Monday group are really pleased to be able to decamp on Mondays through September, to some fantastic **free** workshops being run by the amazing Amble-based [Dry Water Arts Centre](#) and anyone can sign up....

9.45 – 10.30 Breathing Room – 'A class to focus on your overall wellbeing by paying attention to your breath. Understanding the mechanics of your breath can help in the management of pain, anxiety and can also help you feel grounded, at ease, more connected and generally better.' To book click [here](#) and add 'WW' to your name when you register.

10.30 – 11.30 Adventures in the Drawing Room – 'enjoy making using lots of different materials. It's an invitation to explore. We will cover simple drawing projects and exercises that will help you to become familiar with basic drawing techniques. This class is for total beginners with an emphasis on enjoying the process. We provide the necessary materials and an encouraging positive environment in which to enjoy drawing and exploring!'

Smudge/splosh/doodle/sketch/shade/scrape/scatter - we might even paper the room!!' To book click [here](#) and add 'WW' to your name when you register. There are free refreshments from 11.30 till 12, then if you'd like to make a day of it, come on over to the Workshop for the afternoons and get involved in our hands-on autumn programme.

Opening Doors

Through September and October, there will be lots of opportunities to get involved in a hands-on programme to improve our community site in Amble and its unique self-build spaces. There will be gardening, landscaping, woodwork, clay plastering, and time out to enjoy food and chat. Here are some of the activities coming up:

From Wednesday 4th September - Working with Wood

We'll be getting started on woodworking projects including building an outdoor kitchen, and a wheelchair access ramp. Come along and help out, and/or learn new skills such as how to use a drill, saw and other tools and help us create an accessible garden for all to enjoy. These sessions will be across the week for the whole of September and facilitated by experienced instructors and volunteers.

Starting from Wednesday 2nd October – Garden structures

Building raised beds for the garden. These sessions will include helping to build new raised beds for the Workshop site to extend our growing area, but also making a wooden herb/veg planter to take home.

More details about days and times, for more information or to let us know you're interested, contact our Environment Manager Angela on 07538 592912 or email angela@womensworkshop.net

Both the Opening Doors programme and the Dry Water Arts sessions are supported by the Northumberland Inclusive Economy Community Partnership.



Fri 20th and Weds 25th September - Changing Seasons Festival

Come and enjoy women's spaces together as the season changes. These events are part of the programme for the developing Rural Women's Recovery Network. You can join Nurtured in Nature CIC near Lowick on the 20th for some lovely craft activities in a relaxed and meditative space, including getting close up with shire horses if that's your thing. On 25th Women's Workshop is inviting women to celebrate by cooking a shared meal from our own produce, trying some woodwork to make our site more accessible and planning for winter. More details on the attached poster and to register please click here - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChangingSeasonsFest>

Changing Seasons Festival

Northumberland Women's Recovery Network Events



Solstice...



11-2.30 Fri 20th Sept at Nurtured in Nature CIC Lowick

Indoor and outdoor spaces

- Decorating horseshoes, with stories of their symbolism
- Willow weaving a fish or a dragonfly
- Guided relaxation and storytelling with an autumn theme
- A session with the horses for some who are drawn to them
- Light lunch provided



11 - 2.30 25th Sept at Women's Workshop, Amble

Celebrating the fruits of our labour

- Leek and potato soup and blackberry pudding!
- Sowing seeds for the year ahead
- Woodworking to improve access for all



Harvest...

To book, for info or help with transport

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChangingSeasonsFest>



Community Museum Passes

We are pleased to be able to share free access to various local museums with community museum passes, with thanks to Becki Cooper, Community Connector at Museums Northumberland. These passes allow someone free entry into Berwick Museum, Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum, Hexham Old Gaol and Moot Hall and Woodhorn Museum Ashington for the calendar year 2024. We would be happy to organise visits to these sites, but women known to Women's Workshop are also welcome to request use of them for themselves and their families. Just let Libby know – **07432 404932** or libby@womensworkshop.net - and we will organise for you to collect and return any you need

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.

And remember.... The Women's Workshop team is available to offer time and a listening ear to any woman who would like to meet up or phone us for support.

Contact Gemma, our Practical and Emotional Support Manager, at gemma@workshop.net or ring / text 07852 877224. Women's Workshop, Coquet Enterprise Park, Amble NE65 0PE



ROTHBURY CLIMATE & NATURE'S

Great Big Green Event

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

- ♥ COLLABORATE
- ♥ ADVOCATE
- ♥ NURTURE

FOR A CONNECTED, BIODIVERSE, COQUETDALE

♥ TALKS AND EXHIBITIONS - NCNC'S NEW FARMING STRATEGY, CRAG WATER TESTING PROJECT, NORTHUMBERLAND PEAT PROJECT, NORTHUMBERLAND WILDLIFE TRUST, TALK ON WILDFLOWERS, BY JANE AUSTIN-WALKER. FIND OUT WHAT ROTHBURY CAN GROUPS ARE DOING, HEDGEHOG, LICHEN, LOW ENERGY HOUSING, REPAIR CAFE, HOWARD, ROTHBURY RUBBISH FRIENDS, TREE WARDENS, SEEDS2TREES.

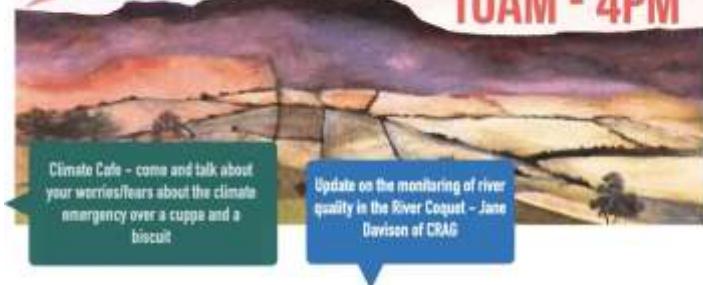
♥ STALLS AND INFORMATION - ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ALNWICK FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, CANNY SOURBROUGH, COLOURS OF COQUETDALE, ROTHBURY ROOTS AND SHOOTS, COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND, MAGICAL POTS, OTTER HANDMADE, PAME STEVENSON ART, RAINBOW KIRNS, PDSA, ROTHBURY M1, WILLOWSFERBAL, THERAPY, TULIPS

♥ REFRESHMENTS - TERESA'S COOKIES AND BAKES IN THE KITCHEN AND CAFE AREA: SOUPS AND A ROLL, TRAYBAKES, COOKIES

SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

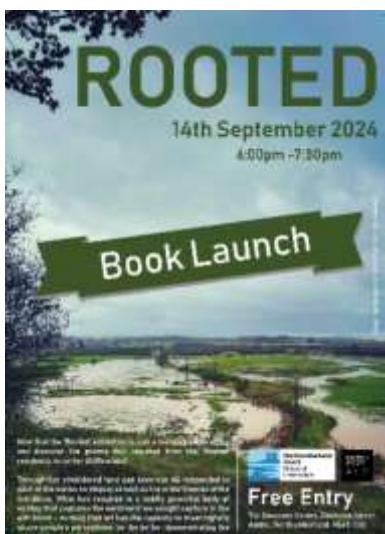
JUBILEE HALL, ROTHBURY

10AM - 4PM



Climate Cafe - come and talk about
your worries/fears about the climate
emergency over a cuppa and a
biscuit

Update on the monitoring of river
quality in the River Coquet - Jane
Davison of CRAG



Book Launch for Amble Writer Following Art Exhibition Residency

When: Saturday 14th September, 6pm-7:30pm

Where: at the Dovecote Centre in Amble

Fee: FREE Entry and free copy of the booklet of poems

The Dovecote Street Arts is holding a launch event for a new poetry booklet by local writer Ali Rowland this weekend, thanks to funding from the Northumberland Coast National Landscape.

Ali was writer-in-residence at the 'Rooted' exhibition in May which showcased the work of 18 North East artists. The exhibition centred around the artists' relationship to the landscape in the context of the climate crisis. The booklet of poems produced during Ali's residency, was displayed alongside images of the works that inspired them. Attendees can hear from Ali and get a free copy at this event.

Ali said: "I was able to do some readings during the exhibition fortnight and hear firsthand some very positive feedback from those attending. Now that the pamphlet is out and it is free, thanks to funding from Northumberland Coast National Landscape, there is a chance to look at the exhibits again. I hope readers will enjoy the poems."

The book will be distributed to various locations after the launch on Saturday. If you can't make the event, keep an eye on the Dovecote Street Arts social media channels for information about where to get a copy.



IG: dovecotestreetarts | FB: Dovecote Street Arts | X/Twitter: @DovecoteStArts



**SEEDS
2 TREES**

The Hithe Coffee Co. and SEEDS2TREES presents a promotional and fundraising event to help "Grow the change we need"

SEEDS2TREES & a "waffle"

Thursday 19th Sept - 7- 9pm

Through the community project "SEEDS2TREES" residents, school children, & community groups, in Amble and surrounding villages, are growing the woodlands, that our future generations need.



They are a part of a larger community of nature lovers across the North East of England, who are on an extraordinary journey, growing trees from seeds in their own garden, yard and grounds.

Come and hear how you too can help "grow the change we need", and support this environmental, community engagement, project.

Join us for a delicious Hithe waffle, a glass of fizz, and a chat

£15 per person
Raffle available

SEEDS2TREES is an initiative of Living Roots North East CIC. SP01CE-NB is Reg'd in North East England. Reg. No. 1084473. COMPANY NUMBER 1084473.

VENUE: Hithe Coffee Co. 104 Queen Street, Amble, Morpeth, NE65 0DQ

Warkworth Beach Clean

Sunday 22nd September 2024, 2pm

Warkworth Green Matters is taking part in the Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach Clean. Meet at Warkworth Beach car park at 2pm. All equipment will be provided but please bring your own gloves.

Any queries, please contact Lynne on 07547 071197.





Free Nature and Wellbeing Courses

Northumberland Wildlife Trust are offering a number of free courses to people to improve wellbeing and personal resilience through learning green skills together and connecting people

with nature. Activities may include exploring local green spaces, nature-based arts and crafts, wildlife gardening and learning to look after the environment.

The free 6-week courses are being held at:-

- Woodhorn Museum, Wednesdays from **Sept 18th to October 23rd, 11am - 2pm.**
- Hirst Park, Ashington, Mondays from **Sept 23rd to October 28th, 11am - 2pm.**

To find out more call Jo Burke, Nature and Wellbeing Officer 07474 332635, or email to Joanne.burke@northwt.org.uk



Woodland Creation Event - Southwest Northumberland

Source: Hexham Courant

When: Wednesday, September 25th, 2024

Where: Tyne Valley near Haydon Bridge.

Fee: Tickets £12 and can be booked via [Eventbrite](#)

A one-day event to learn about creating woodland organised by [Living Woods CIC](#)

, a Hexham-based organisation devoted to the creation and sustainable maintenance of woodland, will be taking place in the Tyne Valley.

The WoodNet event will include visits to two newly created woodlands, both established by residents. One is a former GP and the other a former forester, who are keen to see more woodland created in the area. They will share their experiences, lessons, and challenges faced in their journeys. Attendees will get the chance to explore each site and discuss various topics such as funding, challenges such as deer, woodland design, and species selection. There will also be an opportunity to network with other participants.

Living Woods director Mark Shipperlee said: *"This event is perfect for everyone, and anyone interested in the creation of sustainable and productive woodlands regardless of whether they own a woodland or not. No experience is necessary - just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to connect with nature, other people and contribute to a greener future."*

Living Woods CIC works with land managers and communities to help them put "the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason" and create diverse and productive habitats for people and wildlife. They also manage existing woodland sustainably and operate a project called Rekindle, which produces sustainable local firewood, charcoal and coppice products.

[BOOK](#) to get further details about what to bring, and directions.



Thropton Environment Meeting

The 2nd Thropton Environment Meeting will take place on

**Wednesday 25th September at 7.30pm
in the Thropton War Memorial Hall**

At our first meeting in May a number of issues were raised, including the deteriorating state of the River Coquet and the Wreigh Burn and the effects on wildlife. Come along and hear what the local W.I. Water-testing Group have found out and have your say about your thoughts on our local environment.

- *What are our concerns?*
- *How can we find out more?*
- *What can we do?*

If you are an individual or a member of a local group concerned about our environment, please come along so that we can share thoughts and ideas.

Supported by Thropton Parish Council



Call Out to Amble NGH Members: Green Issues Meet Up

When: 26th September. At 7.00 – 8.30pm

Where: Coquet Shorebase Trust on The Braid, Amble NE65 0WU

Directions: <https://www.coquetshorebase.org.uk/how-to-find-us/>

Recently Carmel Adamson and I met with Natasha Hemsley and her colleague, Raven, from the Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) Communities Team based at Hawksley Wildlife Centre. Our goal was to discuss “green” issues in Amble.

I have thought for some time that we need a group in Amble that shares concerns for green matters and climate change. It would be good to meet up and find out who we are, share ideas and interests.

The Coquet Shorebase Trust are generously giving us use of a room free. There will be refreshments. Parking is on The Braid car park.

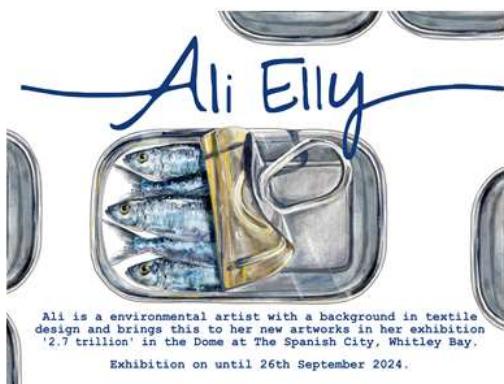
Our meeting is timely as Natasha – a Community Connector with NWT – is planning a community and stakeholders meeting in Amble which will take place soon to discuss possible projects in the area. There is budget to support this engagement and develop 12 projects before December 2025. The NWT work might be a useful trigger to identify other local people who are interested going forward. I’m hoping Natasha can come along on 26th September to update us on her progress.

Amble Town Council is also developing a Neighbourhood plan, to govern planning in the town over the next 15 years, which can be written by the local community. It can include designated areas as protected green spaces. NGH member Luke McTaggart is on the NP Steering Group and is helping to identify suitable sites. He will be coming to tell us about this and other local art projects linking with environment.

WELCOME - The meeting is open to any NGH member who lives in Amble area, has family links or works in the area (voluntarily or paid). Do also let anyone else you know from Amble area who you think might be interested but isn’t in NGH.

Please let me know ASAP if you can come (or, if you are unable to, if you would be interested in the future) via WhatsApp +44 7870 811660 or email suannar@icloud.com.

Thanks, Sue Rzepczynski (NGH Member)



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.

Everyone Welcome, with or without Apples!

Apple Pressing Day

Sunday 6th October

from 12noon to 2pm

Apple Pressing • String Making Workshops with Anna
Music • Green Man • and more...

THE BULLFIELD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Alnwick-Bullfield-Community-Orchard>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 1 Driving Change: A Zoom talk on the 2nd hand EV market 7pm
- JAN 16 Wild Intrigue's 10 year journey to inspire, educate & rewild Venue tbc
- MAR 27 Landlines: Live readings of Countryside Stories Corbridge Parish Hall 7.30pm

For more details, email Annie.CPRE@gmail.com

 The countryside charity
Northumberland

March for Clean Water

When: 26th Oct from 1.15pm – 4.30pm

Where: London

Launched last week by Feargul Sharkey, the [March for Clean Water](#) is being planned in London on the 26th Oct from 1.15pm – 4.30pm to bring together tens of organisations and charities and thousands of members of the public.

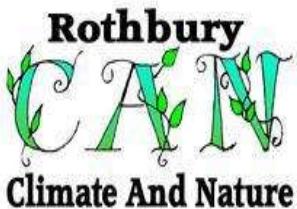
The [March for Clean Water](#) is intended as a national gathering of all those concerned and outraged about the state of our waterways.

“We are marching to reclaim our right to clean, healthy and abundant water for all people across the UK. Together, we can resolve this public health emergency by demanding the new government enforce the current law and deliver new legislation that will end all pollution, and restore our rivers, waterways, seas and reservoirs to full health by 2030.”

There are 10 brilliant reasons to march. See the flyer below.

TO REGISTER: to join the March and visit the website <https://marchforcleanwater.org>





FREE or LOW-COST Events

Rothbury Climate and Nature host a number of mostly free events throughout the year. Here is a 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>

8. Get to Know

Introducing – Climate Action Network Northumberland (CANN)

Climate Action Networks were founded by the United Nations in 2014 as a loose network of independent community-based activity groups in all countries of the world to share knowledge and experience of tackling climate crisis.

CANN was formed in 2019 with the sole aim to petition Northumberland County Council to declare a climate emergency and create a climate action plan, which the Council did very promptly. We thought our work was done but CANN was then invited to nominate a representative to join the Council's Climate Action Steering Group (along with representatives from a few other groups in the community) to develop and deliver that plan. CANN has subsequently sought to represent the views of active climate groups in the area to the Council, and conversely to spread the message of what the Council is attempting to do through the Climate Action Plan.

[CANN has a Facebook page](#) (currently with 947 followers) which acts as a hub for environmental groups to share ideas and actions within or relevant to Northumberland. It also uses email messages to share issues and consult with 82 'active supporters' on specific matters concerning the Action Plan.

For more information contact Peter Fuller at climateaction.northumberland@gmail.com



Introducing – Repurposeful CIC

Repurposeful is a **social-enterprise promoting reuse & purposeful activity**, based in Ashington, Northumberland. The social enterprise provides triple impact with its work.

Scrapstore

The social-enterprise reuses unwanted materials from business and organisations, that would otherwise go to landfill – via their [Scrapstore](#). Materials are reused by the community for play, art, and craft.

Promoting Wellbeing

The enterprise promotes mental and physical wellbeing, personal development, social participation, community involvement and/or pre-employment skills and confidence.

Supported Volunteering

The enterprise works with organisations supporting anyone who would benefit from purposeful volunteering and work placement, including adults and young people with additional needs and those unable to volunteer in person.

Find out more at info@repurposeful.org.uk / <https://www.repurposeful.org.uk>

9. Environmental Awareness Dates



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.

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.

10. Repair Cafes

1. **Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 28th September 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.

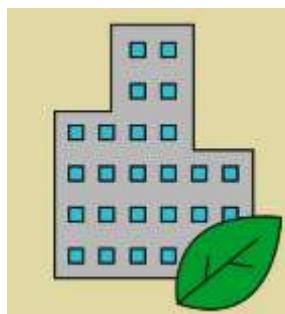
2. Coquetdale Repair Café – Sat Sept 28th, 2024, in the Jubilee Hall Rothbury 10.00-2.00pm

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!

3. Felton Repair Café – Saturday October 5th, 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.](#)

11. Green Building Design



How Buildings Can Improve Life Inside & Out

Source – TED Talk

Architect and building tech innovator Doris Sung presents a compelling vision for reimagining building facades as active contributors to urban life and public health. Showcasing innovative technologies — like buildings that filter particulates out of the air and facades that react to heat — Sung demonstrates how modern architecture can evolve beyond aesthetics to address critical issues like pollution, energy efficiency and urban heat islands, offering a

glimpse into a future where architecture improves life for inhabitants and pedestrians alike.

[Watch or Read the Transcript HERE](#)

12. Volunteers Wanted



Borderline Greenway Needs Helping Hands

The Borderline Greenway Community Interest Company is a not-for-profit community initiative, who believe that the former Disused Railway Tracks (DRTs) of north Northumberland have the potential to become accessible public trails for the benefit of locals and visitors to enjoy safe exercise, away from cars.

The [Borderline Greenway](#) is an ambitious not for profit, community led plan to renovate the former Alnwick to Cornhill disused railway line to create a multi-use traffic free trail for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and people with movement difficulties. Phase 1 - the section between Alnwick to beyond Rugley Wood is nearing completion and will open to the public in the Autumn/Spring 2024.

We are looking for a band of volunteers to help keep the Greenway tidy, safe and enjoyable.

If you have a few hours to spare and can do something very 'hands on' then do contact us. Tasks will include keeping vegetation under control, pruning trees and bushes, repairing damage to the trail, fences, gates and keeping field drains clear, planting and keeping the trail clean, events, education, wildlife and plant life conservation. Full Health & Safety Training will be given.

If you are interested in helping us: Contact: borderlinegreenway@gmail.com

13. News from Around the Region



New Offshore Wind Farm Projects Given Go Ahead

Source: The Guardian September 3rd, 2024

Nine offshore wind farm contracts have been awarded by the government, boosting the UK's renewable energy sector. The Labour government is aiming to produce 60GW of energy through offshore wind farms by 2030 - the latest projects will provide capacity of 4.9GW.

Greenpeace spokesperson, Ami McCarthy said "*5GW of offshore wind is of course welcome, but it is only about half of what is required each year to meet the government's 2030 target.*"

The auction also awarded contracts to about 90 new solar farms with a total capacity of 3.3GW and 22 new onshore windfarms with a total capacity of 1GW. The world's largest planned floating offshore windfarm was also awarded a contract. For the full Guardian article click [here](#)

The RSPB recently funded a study, published in Science Direct, which showed that sufficient onshore wind and solar can be deployed within the UK to support a net-zero energy sector - without significantly impacting how much food we produce, the extent of available habitat for breeding birds or the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

"The challenge here is not the amount of land we have available, but how local, devolved and national government manages our use of it. A strategic approach to choosing which sites renewables are built on is necessary, and nature must be embedded as a top priority in the site selection process. There are obvious ways in which to do this – through giving the new body GB Energy a nature recovery remit for instance."

The full report can be found at

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S259033222300444X>

14. Funding & Support



**Northumberland
Wildlife Trust**

Nextdoor Nature Northumberland

Thanks to funding from the UK Government and delivered through Northumberland County Council, we will support 12 local projects from Berwick to Amble, to kickstart community-led ideas to protect wildlife in Northumberland's coastal towns and villages.

We'd love to reach as many communities as possible, so if you have an idea for a project, or are up and running but would like some support, please ask!

Tash and Raven are the Nextdoor Nature project team and can support you in all sorts of ways. We have access to small pots of funding to help get the ball rolling, we can link you to advice e.g. on how to become a constituted group, how to set up insurance for your group etc., We can support community events to promote your project and more! As they say, '*shy bairns get nowt*'. Please do reach out.

We will be running training events within communities, so if there's a green skill that you'd like to have and know a few others that might be interested, let us know. We can bring in external specialist trainers to share their knowledge. So far, GIS mapping training has been requested, potentially to be run in Alnwick, as multiple NGH members suggested they'd be interested in this. We are also exploring scythe and meadow management training in Amble to complement our work with the Women's Workshop.

If you have any ideas for training where you live, or if you are/know of local trainers offering green skills, please get in touch. We'd love to use the funding to support local businesses.

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/>

Community Energy Fund Round 3 now open for applications

The Community Energy Fund (CEF) is accepting applications for urban and rural energy projects aimed at saving, managing, or generating clean energy. The fund supports the feasibility and development stages of projects, including small-scale wind, solar partnerships, battery storage, and EV charging points. Grants of up to £40,000 are available for feasibility studies, and up to £100,000 for project development. **Deadline: 13 October**

<https://www.neynetzerohub.com/projects-and-events/delivering-programmes/c/>

15. NCC Climate Change Team - September Update

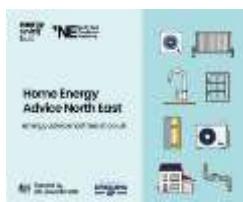


Milestones hit as Northumberland Line nears completion

Key milestones have been achieved on the Northumberland Line project, including the opening of the Newsham Roadbridge and the Palmersville underpass, and the installation of a cycle bridge in Blyth. Passenger trains are set to begin test runs for the first time in 60 years, with a full service expected by December 2024.

New tool to help charities and social enterprises navigate energy retrofits

Good Finance has launched a tool for charities, social enterprises or community organisations who are exploring energy retrofit for their building. The tool is designed to empower social enterprises and charities in making informed decisions when selecting providers for retrofitting energy efficiency measures. <https://www.goodfinance.org.uk/procurement-pathway-energy-retrofit>



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 warmerahomes@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.](#)

16. October Digest – Copy Deadline

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