



# Monthly Digest

October 14th, 2024

## News, Events, Funding



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### 1. Hub & Steering Group News

#### NGH Survey: Shaping the Future Together Thank You for Your Feedback!

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the recent NGH Survey. Your feedback on how the network has evolved during its first year is invaluable in helping us ensure that NGH meet your needs and expectations. The survey results are currently being analysed, and we're looking forward to sharing them with you soon.

#### What's Next?

The first look at the survey insights will be at the upcoming NGH Community Event on October 19th. During this event, we'll also be inviting members to get involved in discussions on some of the key issues and suggestions that were raised.

#### Stay Tuned for More Updates

After the event, we'll make the full results and feedback

available on the NGH website. A summary of the key points will also be featured in the next edition of the NGH Digest. From there, we'll outline the actions that will guide NGH's development as we move into our second year.

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### Next Community Event - October 19<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 am – 1.00pm

The next Community event is on **Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>** at our usual venue of St James Church Centre, Alnwick.

We'll be focussing on '**Funding**' with **Pete Barrett - a Senior Programme Advisor from [Community Foundation](#)**. The 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 \(communityfoundation.org.uk\)](#). Pete will talk about the work of the Foundation and how groups can engage with them to get support.

We'll also be feeding back what you told us in the recent NGH First Anniversary questionnaire and discussing your ideas and suggestions. Do join us for a welcoming and informative morning!

**BOOK YOUR PLACE and see the full programme [HERE](#)**

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### **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.

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### **NEW Website Resources this Month**

1. An updated guide on 'How to Use the WhatsApp Community & SIGS'.
2. Updated Useful Contacts for NGH Members – visit this updated [section to the Resources area of the NGH website](#) to find details of more than 140 local groups, organisations, projects and councils within the Northumberland area. If you know of groups or organisations that are missing, please let us know by email to [Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com](mailto:Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com).

3. Latest information and resources on energy advice and agencies who can help is in the [Warmer Homes section](#).
  4. The [Funding](#) Page has been updated with the latest closing dates for funding applications.
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### **Membership**

We'd like to welcome Anna, Rakesh, Monica and Linda. We now have 114 members.

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### **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.

Many thanks  
The NGH Steering Group

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## **2. The Digest Interview with...**



**Lynne Russell**

### **Quick-Fire Questions**

**Night owl or early bird?**

Night owl.

**Glass of wine or cup of tea?**

Both!

**Walk on the beach or film?**

Walk on the beach.

**TV soap or a good book?**

A good book.

**What was your first job?**

Audit assistant at Alnwick District Council in 1989. I didn't stay long before going off to study law at university, but I am still friends with many of the old ADC staff.

**What's your favourite book and why?**

I have 100's of favourite books. I read my first William Boyd book recently, 'The Romantic', and fell in love with it. It follows the life of one man across continents in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a love affair in the background. I could pick up the book and switch off from modern life for a while.

**What's your favourite place in Northumberland?**

Another difficult one! Either a walk up to Blawearie, with the views of the Cheviots, or the walk from Ford to Routlin Lynn waterfall. I love waterfalls.

**What do you do to relax?** Gardening. Whether growing veg, weeding or just sitting out in it, I love the insects, animals, frogs and birds.

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

I have always been a very keen nature lover, partly due to John Almond, a nature-writer in Northumberland who sadly passed away in 2016. John was my science teacher at school, and I was part of his Bird Club. He instilled a real passion for wildlife in children. Seeing Blue Planet II at the end of 2017 woke something in me. I had been living in ignorance of the extent of the plastic crisis, and I had to take action. Seeing dead birds and whales with stomachs filled with plastic horrifies me still.

**Tell us about a project you've been involved with**

I was a Keep Britain Tidy litter hero for several years, winning a national award in 2020, just before we went into lockdown. I attended conferences on rubbish and sat with other like-minded people to help shape policy and campaigns. I started a local litter picking group in 2018 which really took off. The Northumberland Gazette gave me a column and I took 100's of people out litter picking and beach cleaning. This included schools, cub scouts and corporate groups. We even had the BBC turn up to one beach clean.

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### 3. Active Travel

**SIG Update**

The Transport and Active Travel SIG has been sharing developments in sustainable travel. Cargo bikes, electric car-sharing schemes, and the ongoing challenge of reducing car use for festivals and events have been at the forefront of discussions this month. In one particularly interesting development, the [Derwent Valley Car Club](#) has obtained funding, which will enable it to support other communities in setting up similar initiatives.

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#### Ownership and E-Bike Use in the Lake District National Park

A report linked to the Journal of Transport Geography and published early this year on E-bike use and ownership in the Lake District National showed that

- E-bikes are being used to reduce car travel in a touristic, rural wet and hilly area and have decarbonisation potential.
- There is support for car restraint in a UK National Park and a need for secure e-bike storage.
- E-bikes are being used for errands as well as commuting in a rural National Park.
- Relatively high levels of use and support for e-bikes continue after easing of Covid restrictions in 2021.

Find the report at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2024.103813>

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## Hexham Bicycle Festival

Hexham hosted a bicycle festival 'On Yer Bike Tynedale' Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. David Dixon (Tynedale Bicycle Mayor) and Zaria Greenhill were the inspiration and driving force behind this.

It was great to see so many people, old and young, embracing the opportunity to enjoy the freedom of cycling around the closed roads, and being able to try out the e-bikes, cargo bikes and adaptive cycles. I was flying the Cycling 4 Everyone flag and had great fun riding the Hexham Community Cargo Bike around the circuit, with lots of the local kids. Apparently, well over 600 people attended the afternoon event. The event made it onto the front page of the Hexham Courant.

<https://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/news/24621453.success-tynedales-cycling-festival-yer-bike-hexham/>

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## 4. Biodiversity & Wildlife



### SIG Update

This month, the Biodiversity SIG has been sharing valuable information on a variety of nature-related topics. Discussions have ranged from rewilding projects and bird flu updates to practical advice on bulb planting. The group has also recommended inspiring podcasts and highlighted the charity *Common Ground*, which focuses on reconnecting people with nature and encouraging communities to take responsibility for their local environment.

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### Bird Flu Returns to Northumberland Beaches

Posted on by Dan Turner - keen ornithologist and North East Beached Bird Surveys (NEBBS) Group Coordinator. HPAI (bird flu) strain H5N5 has been confirmed from 5 fulmars collected at Druridge Bay on 25 Sept and from a further 3 collected at Seaton Sluice on 28 Sept. A sad picture is emerging. This is the likely cause for the whole incident with so many fulmars affected.



### Butterfly Numbers Fall Dramatically

Butterfly Conservation slammed 'an obsession with tidiness' in British gardens and green spaces that is 'just really bad for nature', after the public counted recorded the lowest ever butterfly numbers this summer.

The Big Butterfly Count, organised over three weeks in the summer, [asked members of the public to spend 15 minutes recording the butterflies](#) they saw in a nearby green space. The charity found this year's results to be the worst in the 14-year history of the citizen science project.

The charity said butterflies were hit by a wet spring and cool summer - but warned that seasonal variations come on top of serious long-term declines. The insects are under pressure from loss of habitat, pesticides, and extreme weather driven by climate change.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## 6. Warmer Homes



### New Energy Advice Service for the North East

Home energy advice is available to households across the North East to help them reduce their energy bills through installing energy saving home improvements.

The Home Energy Advice North East website offers advice and information and links to local installers, grants and funding. Plus, you can create an energy action plan tailored to your home with the online tool - [Homewise](#).

All the support is impartial, with expert advice available over the phone. You may also be eligible to have a visit from an advisor, who can create a tailored report and support you in applying for grants and funding. Specific online resources include:

**Warmworks**- a bespoke service from assessment to installation. Visit: <https://energyadvicenortheast.co.uk/installation-support-service>

**Home Support** – for households who are struggling to pay energy bills or whose homes are difficult to heats. Visit <https://energyadvicenortheast.co.uk/in-home-support>

And finally, they've got lots of useful FREE leaflets, room thermometers, foil reflective panels for behind radiators, etc. If you could share this information with your communities and networks that would be great.

All details can be found on the [Northumberland Green Hub website Resources page](#).

The service is funded by the North East Combined Authority, with in-home support delivered by Groundwork NE & Cumbria and Community Action Northumberland. *Call an advisor on **0808 175 9345** or visit [www.energyadvicenortheast.co.uk](http://www.energyadvicenortheast.co.uk) to see what's available in your area.*

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## 7. Live Well with Less



### Call for Clothes Clear Out to Raise Funds for Older People

**Source- Northumberland Gazette – 7<sup>th</sup> October**

**The Age UK shop in Morpeth** is encouraging local residents to make room for their new season wardrobes by having a clear-out and donating any unwanted, good quality items. The shop in Newgate Street urgently needs clothing donations that can be sold on to be loved again, to raise much-needed funds for older people.

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## 8. River & Sea Water Quality



### Water Quality SIG Update

Water quality has been a hot topic in the news lately, and this month was no different. The Water Quality group has been focusing on both local and national issues, with highlights including the possibility of achieving Bathing Water status for Little Shore in Amble and positive news about an increase in fish numbers recorded in the River Coquet. The group has also shared near real-time data on sewage spills following recent heavy rainfall, shedding light on the ongoing challenges of protecting our waterways.

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## Surfers Against Sewage Launches FREE Ocean School Resource

The Surfers Against Sewage Digital Ocean School is a platform that provides resources for learning about the ocean and taking action to protect it. The school's activities are designed to help young people feel connected to the ocean, understand marine issues, and learn how to make a difference.

The Digital Ocean School includes:

### Water Quality scene

A 360° virtual river location where users can learn about water quality, test their knowledge, and explore facts and videos.

### Ocean School Activities

Fun ways for students to learn about the ocean and take action to protect it.

## Resources for Teachers

Everything needed to run an Ocean School class, whether it's with students, family, or friends.

Ocean School doesn't just educate young people about critical marine issues. It gives them fun ways to see, hear and collect the evidence for themselves - showing how even the smallest activist can make a huge difference, no matter where they live.

Surfers Against Sewage is a UK charity that campaigns to protect the ocean from plastic pollution, sewage, industrial exploitation, and climate change. The charity was founded in 1990 by a group of surfers from Cornwall.

[Click HERE to Visit the Digital Ocean School](#)



## 70 Endangered Crayfish Found Dead in River Wansbeck Source – BBC 27<sup>th</sup> September

The Environment Agency (EA) is carrying out investigations around the River Wansbeck in Northumberland, where the native white clawed crayfish died. Tests have already ruled out pollution and white spot syndrome virus, as well as crayfish plague.

People are urged to help prevent the spread of any potential

infection by thoroughly cleaning boots and equipment that has been in the river.

Sarah Jennings, the EA's area environment manager urged anyone who spotted any crayfish, dead or alive, to call the **Environment Agency Incident Hotline Telephone: 0800 80 70 60.**

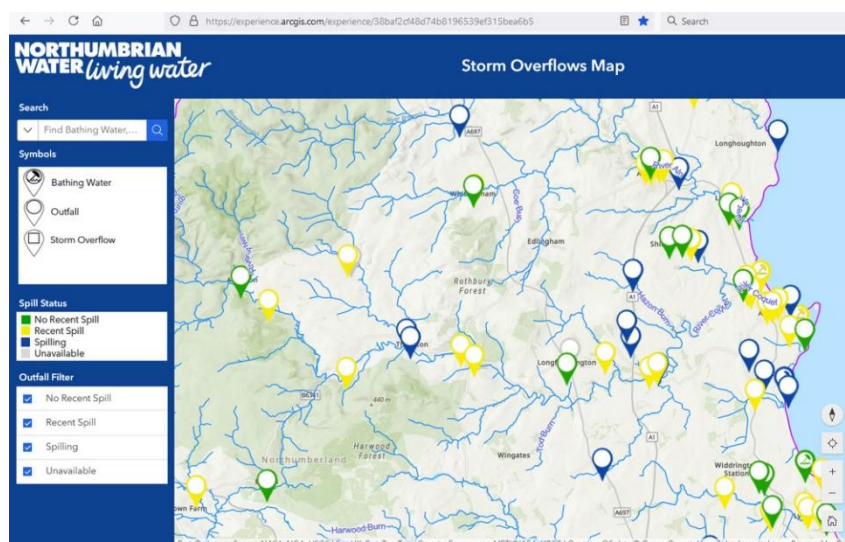
## Hundreds of water pollution incidents not visited immediately in Northumberland

**Source: Northumberland Gazette – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

A freedom of information request by RADAR shows the [Environment Agency](#) is attending fewer incidents across [England](#) than before the pandemic. The figures show there were 578 water pollution incidents in [Northumberland](#) between 2018 and 2023, just 138 of which were visited immediately by Environment Agency staff. This means they were attended within two hours of a report coming in, or within four hours outside of the normal working day – a definition set by the organisation.

It is unclear whether these incidents were checked at a later date or not at all.

## Storm Overflows Map following Heavy Rain



Persistent heavy rain on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, led to localised flooding and discharges of raw sewage into the River Coquet at Rothbury and into many other waterways across the county. Pollution alerts were posted for beaches at Warkworth, Amble and Druridge Bay. The following screenshot from the Northumbrian Water interactive map shows the number and spread of discharges on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October. [The Storm Overflows Map can be viewed here.](#)

These updates reflect just some of the conversations taking place across the range of SIGs. By sharing knowledge and resources, the groups can help members stay informed and take action toward a more sustainable future.

## 9. Farming – Smallholding Living



### Calling All Homesteaders: A Request for Connection

We've received a request for assistance from someone eager to embrace the homesteading /small holder lifestyle and connect with like-minded individuals or organisations. They are seeking guidance, community, and resources to help them on their journey.

Homesteading is a lifestyle which emphasises on self-sufficiency and living harmoniously with nature. It often involves managing a small plot of land, growing food sustainably, and utilising natural resources like rainwater. It's about creating a balance—taking from the land while giving back in ways that are unique to the environment.

If you are interested in homesteading or if you know of any groups or organisations, please let us know by emailing [Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com](mailto:Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com).

## 10. Upcoming Event Dates

### Women's Workshop Programme



#### Mondays through October with Dry Water Arts

While our Opening Doors project is underway at the Workshop, members of our 'Wonderful Women' Monday group are really pleased to be able to decamp on Mondays through October, 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!

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 October, there are 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 current activities.

### Working with Wood

We'll working 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 using a drill, saw and other tools and help us create an accessible garden for all to enjoy. These sessions are facilitated by experienced instructors and volunteers.

**For More details** about days and times or to let us know you're interested, contact our Environment Manager Angela on 07538 592912 or email [angela@womensworkshop.net](mailto:angela@womensworkshop.net)

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



**Northumberland Wildlife Trust** Contact: joanne.burke@northwt.org.uk 07474 332635

## GREEN WELLBEING OPPORTUNITIES FAIRS

TRY OUT CHAT GET INVOLVED VOLUNTEER LEARN NEW SKILLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Small information sharing events with stalls from local groups and organisations. Learn more about voluntary opportunities in nature and green based activity that can benefit our mental and physical wellbeing

- SAT 2nd NOV 11am-2pm @ HAUXLEY Wildlife Discovery Centre
- MON 4TH NOV 11am-2pm @ Hirst Park Pavilion ASHINGTON
- MON 11TH NOV 11am-2pm @ Ridley Park Pavilion BLYTH
- WED 13TH NOV 11am-2pm @ NEWBIGGIN Sports & Community Hub

Logos: Friends of Hirst Park, Northumberland County Council, North East Combined Authority, UK Government

**CLIMATE ACTION WANSBECK**

## Climate change reading group

First Tuesday of each month, 7pm upstairs in Morpeth Library

Join us to discuss

October: outrageandoptimism.org/ podcast  
November: Wilding by Isabella Tree  
December: Bewilderment by Richard Powers

No need to have done the suggested reading, we can discuss your recent nature/climate/environmental reading or listening. And do come along to browse our donated book collection

For more information email: [climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com](mailto:climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com)



### Nature North Focus Groups

**When: October 16th @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

In February 2025, [Nature North](#) will launch a plan for Nature recovery for people and places across the north of England. Nature North is a cross-sector



collaboration for large-scale nature recovery in the North of England, involving more than 35 organisations from across the North including Government Agencies, Protected Landscapes, conservation NGOs, funders, business, farming organisations, health and civil society. With its rich natural assets, strong identity and devolved leadership there is an opportunity for nature recovery to play a key role in a thriving North, and our region will be leading the way in setting out a pan-regional approach to nature recovery which will drive investment.

The aim of the online focus group sessions is to create a **shared vision** that is representative of a diverse range of people and organisations from across the North of England, and identify actions for nature, people and places in the North.

**Who should attend:** We believe that nature recovery can create a better North for people and place. Can you or your organisation help us place people at the heart of a strategy for Northern nature recovery?

**More information about the sessions:** Please only book on one session. Each session will be 2 hours, online on Teams, with multiple dates available. There will be a comfort break planned.

**With your support and input, we hope to:**

- articulate a strong, shared and ambitious vision, and actions for nature recovery in the north of England;
- encourage cross-sector working and new partnerships;
- share case studies that inspire positive action and enable more investment and funding.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions: [info@naturenorth.org.uk](mailto:info@naturenorth.org.uk).

**Book your place:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nature-for-the-north-focus-group-tickets-1014608570547>



### Wildlife Talks

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 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](#).

### March for Clean Water

**When:** 26th Oct from 1.15pm – 4.30pm

**Where:** London

Launched by Fergal Sharkey, the [March for Clean Water](#) takes place in London on the 26th Oct from 1.15pm – 4.30pm bringing 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."*

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



## Net Zero North East England Annual Summit

**When: 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Where: The Hilton Hotel – Newcastle-Gateshead Bottle Bank, Gateshead, NE8 2AR**

Following the success of the 2023 Net Zero North East England summit, we are back with even more to offer in this extended two-day event.

Join us as we celebrate our regional transition to Net Zero, highlighting the fantastic work that's happening across the region, and discussing the areas we need to focus on in the future.

With an agenda of over 65 speakers, across 17 sessions, plus an exhibition of 25 regional organisations working in this space, there is something for everyone.

Register to attend with the link below where you can also see the agenda, list of speakers and list of exhibitors. TICKETS are FREE for both days.

<https://www.netzeronortheastengland.co.uk/annual-summit-2024>

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## 11. Environmental Awareness Dates

### Unblocktober

Unblocktober is all about saving our seas by changing our habits. For many years we've been putting all sorts of unsuitable liquids in our kitchen sinks. We've been flushing undesirable items down the toilet. We've been dropping litter in the street. Sadly, our drains and sewers have suffered, and when they suffer so do our waterways and oceans. Blocked sewers and drains can cause pollution, flooding, and an increased need for road repairs. If any plastic or cigarette butts end up in a drain, they'll probably end up in the sea. You can make a difference, just by making small changes.

### International Walk to School Month

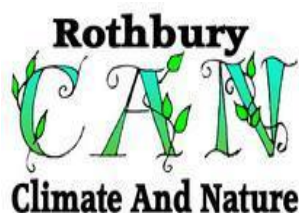
Encourage people to get out of cars and reduce air pollution by walking to school during the month of October. Not only does this keep your children fitter and healthier, but it's also a good way to be more aware of traffic and how to safely crossroads.

### International E-Waste Day – 14th October

What's e-waste? International E-Waste Day sheds light on 'invisible' **electronic** waste. This refers to those items you probably don't even realise you can recycle. It includes things like smoke detectors, electronic toys, e-cigarettes and even cables. Even that broken remote control you've got in a drawer could be recycled. Click the link above to find out more.

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## 12. Local Community Updates



### 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>

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



### Climate Action Wansbeck October Round up

#### Connecting with Newbiggin Environmental Group

Last month, some of us met with members of an environmental group in Newbiggin to look at how we could work together. We hope to welcome them to our October 17th meeting.

## September's 2024 AGM

We held our online AGM on September 5th. We had an interesting and relevant talk from Hannah Davison of the Northumberland County Council Climate Change Team, who told us about the updated strategy due to be launched in October. We also elected our committee for the 2024-25 year. To receive a copy of the annual report and minutes of the AGM, email to [climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com](mailto:climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com).

**October Face to Face Meeting:** Join us on Thursday October 17th, 6.00-8.00pm, in the back bar at the Tap and Spile, Manchester Street, Morpeth. Grab a drink and bring your ideas to help plan our goals and activities for the year ahead.



### River Studio Flooding Project

Danny McNally, a researcher at Tees-side University, is looking for Morpeth residents willing to be research participants and share their experience of flooding. The aim is to run a series of six artistic and experiential workshops in Morpeth Library, between October 2024 and March 2025, to stimulate new understandings and perspectives. For more information contact [D.mcnelly@tees.ac.uk](mailto:D.mcnelly@tees.ac.uk)

Email us at [climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com](mailto:climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com)), with your thoughts about what you would like to see develop and how you would like to be Involved

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## Warkworth Green Matters and WARivers Group

WGM has started planting the 200 plus perennial wildflower plug plants, plus hundreds of daffodils and fritillary donated by the Rotary, in verges and special areas around the village. In addition, Warkworth Parish Council have supported us with funding for biodiversity, water testing and helping sustainability. Our native daffodils have been planted around the cherry trees on Morwick Road. Bluebells are next and a sustainable water feature using water harvested from the roof is being devised for early next year. WGM members also have been scything! Lessons ongoing!

It's great to see people getting involved whatever the weather and that's certainly true for our gallant band of River Testers as well as the planters. Since April, trained volunteers go out each Monday to sample and test on 7 different sites in Amble and Warkworth as part of the [CRAG Citizen Science project](#). WARivers also have regular meetings with speakers and have recently been on a field trip to Warkworth Waterworks

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## 13. Repair Cafes

1. **Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 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.

Brought 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](mailto:info@greenerberwick.org.uk) and put FAO Repair Cafe Team in the Subject heading.

2. **Coquetdale Repair Café – Sat November 23rd, 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! Book your repair on our website [www.coquetrepair.co.uk](http://www.coquetrepair.co.uk) or pick up a form in the Rothbury RSPCA shop. Booking really helps us get the right volunteers in place! Email [info@coquet-repair.co.uk](mailto:info@coquet-repair.co.uk).

3. **Felton Repair Café – Saturday December 7th, 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.](#)
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## 14. Volunteers Wanted



### Want to do something special?

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

What a Wonderful World always welcomes new people onto our team, and we can use your skills!

*You can help us raise awareness of the effect of the climate and biodiversity emergencies through original arts, science and nature events.*

*You like planning and organising - would you like to help coordinate the efforts of our creative team?*

*You enjoy creative work and are fairly tech-savvy – could you get involved in our publicity campaigns?*

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

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

For further information please email [info@whataww.com](mailto:info@whataww.com) or call Chris on 07739 180599 or Liz on 07970 219052 We'd love to hear from you!

**What a Wonderful World Festival: June 27<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Tickets from Alnwick Playhouse [alnwickplayhouse.co.uk](http://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk)

Facebook: What a Wonderful World Instagram: [alnwick\\_waww](#)  
Website: [whataww.org](http://whataww.org)

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### Seeds2Trees Volunteers Needed to Help Create New Woodland

Nature lovers across the north are invited to take part in an enterprising project to bring more trees into our lives. [Seeds2Trees](#) aims to enable people of all ages, across local communities, to grow UK native trees from seed, for future use in community-focused tree planting schemes. Individuals, households, schools and other community groups are invited to apply for a batch of seeds which they will nurture into saplings.

For two years community growers will undertake the special task of planting the seed and nurturing the growth of the saplings, when they will be collected and onwards to their next step of their journey towards their woodland home. We offer a



special educational package for educational settings and families undertaking this wonderful tree growing adventure.

If you are interested to become a community tree grower, starting this November, please express your interest using the online form found on our website. [Seeds2Trees - Living Woods \(living-woods.org.uk\)](https://www.living-woods.org.uk)

We do need the help of the community and businesses to help fund this project. Until 30<sup>th</sup> October, we have the chance for donations double by the Aviva Community Fund. For your donation to be matched please follow this link <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/seeds2trees—progressing-the-change-we-need>.

Businesses who are interested to know more about corporate sponsorship from as little as £40, please email Lara Young – Project Director at [seeds2trees@living-woods.org.uk](mailto:seeds2trees@living-woods.org.uk)

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## 15. Funding & Support



**Northumberland**  
Wildlife Trust

### Nextdoor Nature Northumberland

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust can support 12 local projects from Berwick to Amble, kickstarting community-led ideas to protect wildlife in Northumberland's coastal towns and villages. Natasha and Raven 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 them know. They can bring in external specialist trainers to share their knowledge.

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

Find out more on **07393 571998** or email [natasha.hemsley@northwt.org.uk](mailto:natasha.hemsley@northwt.org.uk)



Funded by  
UK Government



North East  
Combined  
Authority  
Northumberland  
County Council



### 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.

The RCF will also be launching a new, differentiated UK-wide grant scheme on Friday 10th January 2025.

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



**Community  
Foundation**

### Community Foundation

Up to £500,000 is being made available to community organisations across Tyne & Wear and Northumberland for environmental and climate-related projects. Re-wilding programmes, recycling and repurposing projects, raising awareness in communities, and

improving the energy efficiency of a building are examples of activities that would be considered. The max grant Size is £10,000. **Deadline: 31 March 2025.**

[Find out more and apply.](#)



### 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.](#)

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## 16. NCC Climate Change Team - October Update



### NCC free tree scheme is back!

We're once again offering 15,000 free tree saplings to residents, schools, community groups, and businesses this year. Choose from a variety of species suitable for all garden sizes, including small spaces like balconies.

[Find Out More](#)



### Invite to Community Venues to Host a FREE Electric Vehicle Chargepoint

Community venues in the North of England are invited to host a free Vehicle to Grid (V2G) electric vehicle chargepoint through the '[Rural Energy Resilience](#)' project, part of the V2X Innovation Programme. This will allow venues to power their facilities during power cuts using EVs.

If interested, contact **Charge My Street** at [hello@chargemystreet.co.uk](mailto:hello@chargemystreet.co.uk). EV drivers, particularly those in rural areas, are also invited to join a trial exploring energy management technologies aimed at reducing bills, boosting energy resilience for community buildings, and improving rural mobility. [Complete the survey and they will get in touch](#)

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## 17. November Digest – Copy Deadline

Please send your items for the next edition by email together with any attachments to [northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com](mailto:northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com) by **November 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 18. Summary of Events

(see Digest for full details of events)

### October

- 16<sup>th</sup> Nature North Focus Group, 2 – 4pm online
- 16<sup>th</sup> Hauxley Wildlife Group – The Story of Hepple Gin and Nature Recovery. Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, 7pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Climate Action Wansbeck meeting, 6 – 8pm, Tap & Spile pub, Morpeth
- 19<sup>th</sup> NGH Community Event, 9.30 – 1pm, St James Church Centre, Alnwick
- 26<sup>th</sup> March for Cleaner Water, 1.15 – 4.30, London
- 26<sup>th</sup> Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café, 10 – 1pm, Salvation Army Hall, Berwick

### November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Wellbeing Opportunity Fair, 11 – 2, Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre
- 4<sup>th</sup> Green Wellbeing Opportunity Fair, 11 – 2, Hirst Park Pavillion, Ashington
- 11<sup>th</sup> Green Wellbeing Opportunity Fair, 11 – 2, Ridley Park Pavillion, Blyth
- 13<sup>th</sup> Green Wellbeing Opportunity Fair, 11 – 2, Newbiggin Sports and Community Hub
- 20<sup>th</sup> Hauxley Wildlife Group – An Oasis of Abundance – Middleton North Estate, Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, 7pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Coquetdale Repair Café, 10 – 2pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury

### December

- 7<sup>th</sup> NGH Community Social event, St James Church Centre, Alnwick
- 7<sup>th</sup> Felton Repair Café, 11 – 3pm, Gallery Forty5, Felton

### Regular Events

First Tuesday of the month – Climate Action Wansbeck Climate Reading Group. Morpeth Library, 7pm.

Every Monday – Women’s Workshop, Amble.

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