



Monthly Digest

November 16th, 2024

News, Events, Funding



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1. Hub & Steering Group News

NGH Survey: Shaping the Future Together Feedback and Next Steps!

Many thanks to all of you who took part in our First Year Survey and gave your views about NGH and the way forward. Since sharing the headlines at the Community Event in October, we've published a [full report on the NGH website](#), and you can read a summary of the feedback in this edition of the Digest.

We've also been working on the actions and improvements that we can take as a result of your feedback. We'll be sharing these at the next Community Event on December 7th.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Training

We're excited to be working with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust who are generously funding Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training for NGH Members. We've recently sent out details of an online introductory course on a tool called QGIS which will run at the end of January 2025. The details of the course and how to apply are on Page 13 of this Digest. Over the next few months, we're also hoping to put on another course for those who want to go further.

Steering Group Changes

We'd like to give a big 'thank you' to Carmel Adamson, who has stepped down from the Steering Group to focus on her other commitments. Carmel volunteered to get involved at our first event in September

2023 and we're grateful for the contributions she's made - and delighted that she'll still be involved in NGH as a member.



Opportunities to Get Involved and Grow Your Skills

Over the course of our first year, we've set up a number of different ways for people to connect with each other through NGH. As we move into our second year, we'd like to invite NGH members to get more involved in running the network.

In particular, we're looking for 2 or 3 people to work with the Steering Group on the following –

- managing the New Joiners process
- maintaining the Useful Contacts database
- collating information about funding opportunities
- creating content for the Monthly Digest.

You need to be comfortable using Microsoft Word and / or Excel. The time commitment for the first three are variable but not likely to be more than 1 hour / week. Developing content for the Digest could require 1 - 2 hours / week but is flexible. Full training will be provided.

If you're interested in finding out some more detail, get in touch by emailing Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com.



We're having a break - no Digest in December

It's been a very full year for all the Steering Group, as NGH has grown from an initial gathering into a fully-fledged network. The Monthly Digest editorial team are ready to take a breather, so there won't be a Digest in December. We will be back on 15th January 2025 with a new edition for a new year. Please let us have your copy for January, by Friday 10th January. A warm thank you to all our contributors.



Next Community Event – December 7th, 10.30 am – 12.30pm

Join us at St James Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick for coffee, mince pies and other treats.

This time we're focussing on time to meet new members and catch up with familiar faces. We'll also be sharing updates about what we're doing in response to your feedback, exploring the resources on the website and inviting you to get more involved in the running of NGH.

No booking required. A small donation to cover room hire appreciated.

We're looking forward to seeing you!

Donations for Room Hire & Refreshments

We now invite you to make a minimum £3 donation in cash on the Community Event days. As a fully self-funded community network we appreciate your help towards our costs going forward. We hope you will understand and be happy to contribute.



NEW Website Resources this Month

- The [Funding](#) Page has been updated with the latest closing dates for funding applications, plus details of grants from Hubbub and slides from the talk given by the Community Foundation at our October event
- The Events Page has been updated with the Programme and Notes from the community event on October 19th.

Membership

We'd like to welcome new members Becki and Faye.

Mind your Ps & Qs in WhatsApp Please

Just a gentle reminder folks. However upset you feel about the climate and biodiversity stories we see every day 'out there', could you think twice about the language you use in the SIG chat groups when expressing your views. Some members may find swear words offensive. As a network with a diverse membership, we'd like to avoid leaving NGH open to any criticism, or for the use of such language to undermine the positive and important messages you share. How you choose to communicate in your personal WhatsApp chats – is of course entirely up to you.

2025 Diary Dates for Community Events

We're pleased to announce the dates for our 2025 Community Events. All events will be at St James Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick.

- March 22nd
- June 7th
- September 20th
- December 6th



NGH Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who took part in the NGH First Year Survey. It's been great to get your feedback, your ideas for improvements and your suggestions about how NGH should develop in the future.

- Overall, respondents were positive about their membership of NGH, with 100% saying that they would recommend joining to others and the majority agreeing that NGH has met its objectives in the first year.
- 76% of respondents had been to one or more event, and 92% found that they were useful, 96% that they were enjoyable and 94% that they good for networking. In general, the amount of time for networking was felt to be 'about right'.
- 74% reported that they always read the Digest, whilst 26% said that they sometimes do. Whilst 79% reported it as useful or very useful, there were several people who said that it had become too long.
- There were more mixed views about the Special Interest Groups, which operate on WhatsApp, with 41% saying the groups were somewhat useful and 52% saying they were useful or very useful.
- Most respondents (59%) had used the website, and 86% reported that it was easy or very easy to use. A lower proportion (52%) had used the Resources section which went live in July 2024.
- Most people (88%) felt that they were better or much better informed because of their membership, with a wide range of personal and organisation benefits identified. These include improved mental health, a better appreciation of what's being done locally, making contacts, sharing of information across groups and knowing who to contact for support.

- Several suggestions were made for future training courses / workshops, with the use of mapping software and funding being raised by several respondents. There was also a request to identify the existing skills that NGH has within its membership and most respondents said they would be willing to pay £5 / year for their membership (NB we haven't yet taken a decision about whether to charge a membership fee).
- There were a wide range of views about how members would like to see NGH develop in the future. These included how NGH might support members who want to campaign on an issue, to continuing to be a space where groups and individuals can come together as part of an authoritative 'go to' organisation for guidance, information, and support. Social and online events were also suggested.

We really appreciate your help to ensure that NGH delivers what its members want. The full results can be found here [survey-results-report.pdf](#).

2. The Digest Interview with...



Jane Davis

Quick-Fire Questions

Night owl or early bird?

Early bird.

Glass of wine or cup of tea?

Both!

Walk on the beach or trip to a museum?

Walk on the beach unless it's raining.

Film or a good book?

A good book – I'm currently reading Rory Stewart - 'Politics on The Edge'.

What was your first job?

VAT officer for HM Customs & Excise in 1985. I worked for them for 8 years, so I still have a good VAT brain!

What's your favourite book and why?

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. I love this book - you can almost feel the heat on the page, with the strong sense of time and place coming from the book as you read it. The strong themes of the consequences of prejudice and racism, as well as the courage of a community are as relevant now as they were when the book was published in 1960.

What's your favourite place in Northumberland?

The Coquet valley – I feel completely blessed to be able to live here.

What do you do to relax?

I've been learning Danish for almost two years now. Doing a lesson or two online makes me switch off from everything else.

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

I joined the Greenpeace group in Hull in 1989, for the wrong reason really – the group leader was very attractive! It never came to anything romantic, but it opened my eyes to the most important issues of our times. Thirty-five years later I still believe that it's possible to turn around the decline in our climate and nature.

Tell us about a project you've been involved with

The biggest environmental project I've ever worked on has turned out to be the one I'm busy with now – the setting up and development of the Coquet River Action Group (CRAG). It's come as a complete surprise in some ways to find myself Chair of this amazing umbrella group as I have no science background at all but sometimes you just have to step up to the challenge. We have a great bunch of

people giving their time generously to try and bring together everyone with a stake in the river's future health and biodiversity. I'm really excited with the plans we have to grow the project in 2025 so watch this space!

3. Active Travel



Consultation launched on North East Local Transport Plan

The North East Mayor has officially opened consultation on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and is keen to hear from as many voices as possible from across the region.

The Mayor states:

"This consultation is about making sure we've got the big picture right: a vision for a transport network that works for everyone. We're asking whether our direction is right. Like me, do you want to see safer journeys, better connections,

and making sustainable travel the first choice? This is your chance to reflect on what you think is needed for the North East."

The consultation will run until Sunday, 26 January 2025. The draft LTP sets out plans to deliver the Mayor's manifesto commitments for transport, including a list of proposals to create a fully integrated green transport network that works for all.

You can find out all the details at the following link:
[Mayor's Local Transport Plan](#)

You can take part in a survey about the LTP at this link:
[North East Transport Plan Consultation Survey](#)



New Weekday Rail Service to Cardiff

Source – Northumberland Gazette – 13th November 2024

Train operator CrossCountry has announced a new weekday service linking Wales, England and Scotland by one train for the first time.

Although the new route – starting on Monday, December 16 as part of the rail industry's twice-yearly timetable change – is not an additional service in the timetable, it does mean that passengers at stations in Alnmouth, Berwick and Morpeth will be able to go directly to and from the Welsh capital.

There will be one direct service between Cardiff and Edinburgh in each direction on weekdays only. The new service will be formed by long-distance Voyager services departing from Cardiff and Penzance in the morning, joining together at Birmingham New Street before proceeding north to Edinburgh.

[Read More Here](#)

4. Biodiversity & Wildlife



SIG November Highlights

This month, our Biodiversity and Wildlife Special Interest Group (SIG) has been busy discussing a range of subjects. Here's a roundup of some of the topics that got people talking.

Rothbury Estate Joins the Wildlife Trust

A major highlight is the recent purchase of Rothbury Estate by the Wildlife Trusts. There is still a lot of fundraising to do, but this acquisition means more

protected habitats and new opportunities to foster biodiversity. Read more about it further down this page.

Debunking Wildlife Gardening Myths

One fascinating article shared this month tackled some common myths around wildlife gardening. It turns out, anyone—no matter the space or location—can create a garden that supports biodiversity. Even 'ordinary' gardens can be rich in invertebrate life, and surprisingly, garden size isn't directly tied to the diversity of species found within it. To find out more visit [Search the RHS website for gardening knowledge / RHS](#)

Concerns Over Hedgerow Removal

Our members are increasingly alarmed by reports of mature hedgerows being removed by landowners, seemingly to “tidy up” the landscape. Hedgerows are vital habitats, providing food, shelter, and corridors for countless species, so it's disappointing to see these essential green belts disappear. We hope to see stronger protections for hedgerows to prevent unnecessary losses to biodiversity.

Exploring Local Trails and Peat Bogs

Thanks to NGH member Katie who shared two blog posts with the group. The first introduces the new Belsay Tree Trail ([Launch of the Belsay Tree Trail! - Rothbury Trees](#)), and the second post documents a visit to Caudhole Moss, a rare peat bog near Rothbury.

The Missing Lynx Project

Finally, thanks to Anne-Marie for sharing details about a survey about the Missing Lynx Project. This effort is exploring the possibility of reintroducing lynx to their natural habitats in northern Northumberland and the Scottish borders. If you're interested in having your voice heard on this potential rewilding project, you can take the survey at [The Missing Lynx Project's website](#).

We look forward to sharing more updates and discussions in the next edition. Until then, let's keep spreading the word about biodiversity and protecting our precious habitats.



Rothbury Estate Sold to Wildlife Trusts

Source BBC News 29th October 2024

Nearly 9,500 acres of a rural ancestral estate are being sold to a group of wildlife charities.

The Wildlife Trusts and the Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) have purchased part of the Rothbury estate previously owned by Lord Max Percy and begun a £30m appeal to buy the rest. The estate was previously owned by the Duke of Northumberland's youngest son, Lord Max Percy, and had been in the family for about 700 years.

The estate is the largest block of land to come on the market in England in the last 30 years. It includes 12 farms, more than 1,800 acres of woodland, fishing and shooting opportunities, 23 residential properties, a caravan park, and a pub. The current purchase includes the Simonside Hills and a mixture of lowland, woods, riverside and farmland on the western side of the Estate.

NWT chief executive Mike Pratt said: *"We're very excited to be part of a once in a generation opportunity for securing a stunning area of countryside where people and nature can thrive side by side". He said the charities would be "talking and listening to people who live and work in the area....to evolve a long-term plan for the estate that respects its traditions and the livelihoods that depend on it."*

5. Renewable Energy



Green Light for Plans for Berwick Bank Wind Farm Power to be Carried to Blyth Substation

Source- Northumberland Gazette – 6th November

Proposals that would see clean energy from the UK's largest offshore windfarm exported into the national grid in Northumberland have been approved.

Energy provider SSE Renewables, had applied for outline planning permission to build the necessary infrastructure to transfer the power into the national grid on land between Cambois and [Blyth](#).

The system would carry power from the Berwick Bank wind farm, located in the outer Firth of Forth, to the Blyth substation where it would then be transferred into the national grid. An additional grid connection is also proposed in [East Lothian](#).

[Read More Here](#)

6. Rivers, Sea & Coast



**Northumberland
Coast
National
Landscape**

Northumberland Coast National Landscape News

Generation Green 2* project helps children discover the coast.

The Northumberland Coast National Landscape are part of Generation Green 2. This one-year £4.5m project is being delivered by 24 organisations to help more than 25,000 young people living in England's most socially disadvantaged areas to connect with nature. Thanks to the funding, daytime beach school sessions and a residential experience for nearly 800 children will be offered, while covering the cost of bus travel too.

A recent beach school session took place at Alnmouth, led by Mudlarks Outdoors founder Bridie Melkerts, who is hosting 660 children from across Northumberland. Children from Bishop's Primary School in Ashington enjoyed a sandcastle making competition and cleaned the beach.

Jane Lancaster (founder of Ranger Jane Beach School) led a fantastic residential a fortnight ago. Children enjoyed seeing the exciting Bamburgh Bones project at St Aidan's Church and visited Holy Island before a fish and chip supper at Seahouses Hostel.

The Northumberland Coast is running a third of the Generation Green landscape experiences being delivered by all National Landscapes in England. Read more in this [BBC News article](#).

**Generation Green 2 is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as part of its ongoing support of access to nature.*

New Team Members

Two new members: Robbie Simms and Elanor Johnson have joined the Northumberland Coast team.

Robbie is a Graduate GIS and Data Trainee. His role in the team is to create, manage and analyse data to develop maps and means to visualise data, while finding patterns and assisting in presenting information. He will be directly involved with the creation of the new National Landscape Management Plan.

Project Officer Elanor is responsible for delivering access and interpretation projects within the Northumberland Coast National Landscape. These will help people discover our beautiful coastline and explore more easily and sustainably, whether they live here or are visiting.

Generous Donation to Conservation Toolkit

A recent generous donation has enabled secateurs, extendable shears and pruning saws to be purchased - tools we need to carry out winter jobs such as coppicing, hedge laying, and various other vegetation and habitat management tasks.

All donations directly support the work of Northumberland Coast volunteers and specific conservation projects. This equipment will help with ongoing work at Alnmouth pond. The project involves coppicing the willow, in rotation, around the edge of the pond. The willow is then cut and foliage used to create a section of dead hedge boundary. The benefits of this include allowing light into the pond, preventing shading out the growth of native species, encouraging pollinators and increasing biodiversity. In turn, this creates a natural habitat for nesting birds, small mammals, and invertebrates.

7. Upcoming Event Dates



Opening Doors Project



Could you volunteer your woodwork and diy skills, or would you like to come along, join in and learn new skills? Beginners welcome.

Starting 6th November, we will be:

- designing & building an outdoor kitchen
- building an accessible ramp
- building raised beds for the garden.

Safety boots, gloves, hat & lunch provided.

To get involved, or find out more contact
angela@womensworkshop.net
mobile:07538592912



For 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

CAN WE KEEP THE COQUET CLEAN ?

Join us for a free talk about water quality testing on the Coquet and its tributaries. Find out about CRAG and learn how you can get involved.

Tuesday November 19th from 6 - 7pm
Swarland Club Coast View.
All Welcome!



www.snac.online
Talktosnac@gmail.com

Everyone welcome to come and hear Jamie Day from Coquet River Action Group (CRAG) and Rob Payton from Swarland and Newton Action on Climate (SNAC), talk about the CRAG citizen science project measuring water quality on the Coquet and its tributaries. Learn about the work the group has done so far and what early results are telling us.

November 19th 6 - 7pm in Swarland Club, Coast View. Swarland. NE65 9JG.
Parking available



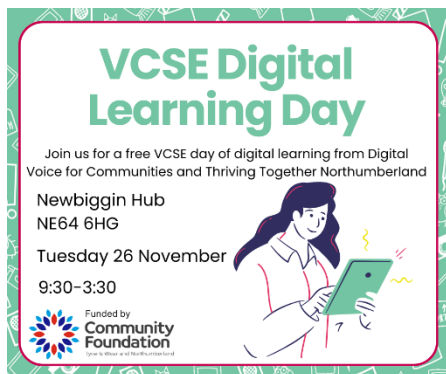
Wildlife Talks – at Hauxley - 20th November

The Hauxley Wildlife Group (run by Northumberland Wildlife Trust) talks are open to both members and non-members. This month it's:

- 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).

Visit the [NWT site for details of other groups and local events.](#)



VCSE Digital Learning – at Newbiggin – 26th November

Join us for a FREE VCSE day of digital learning from [Digital Voice](#) (funded by [Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland](#)). Digital Voice will be sharing their skills so that they can better support their user groups digitally.

Sessions include: **Simple Digital Content Creation**, **Creative Community Consultation** and **Introduction to Web and Social Media Management**. There will also be drop-ins on digital storytelling, digital inclusion and engaging reluctant digital

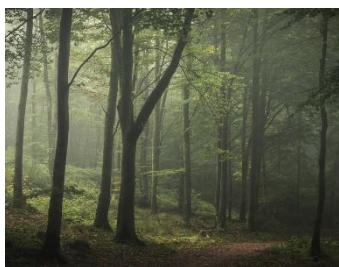
learners. All the sessions are relaxed, engaging and fun.

The aim of the day is to improve the way the VCSE organisations work and support their user groups. We know from research that the North East is still trailing behind other areas of the UK in terms of digital skills; we want to do something about that.

- Lunch and refreshments provided.
- There are three sessions for you to choose from (timings on the day will allow you to attend two of these)

VENUE: Newbiggin Sports & Community Hub. NE64 6HG

BOOK your FREE place, [Using the Booking Form](#)



Living Woods Conference – at Hexham, 28th November

Creating, caring and connecting with woodlands is at the heart of the work of [Living Woods North East CIC](#). We want to mark the achievements of our work made possible by our woodland volunteers, community tree growers, funders and friends.

Living Woods Conference 2024: Creating, Caring and Connecting will be staged at the [Hexham and Northern Mart](#) on **Thursday November 28**,

during [National Tree Week](#)

The Conference is open to all who are directly connected with Living Woods and our projects, those we work closely with, and also all who appreciate native woodlands. Our conference speakers are:-

Lee Schofield - author of [Wild Fell: Fighting for Nature on a Lake District Hill Farm](#), his account of a decade working for the [RSPB](#) at [Haweswater](#) in the [Lake District National Park](#), where he oversaw pioneering conservation work including new woodland planting. Lee Schofield has written for a range of wildlife magazines and professional and academic journals. *Wild Fell* has been described as "a soaring elegy to nature, a book infused with a deep love of place, and a stirring call to restore wildlife to our landscapes".

Dr Rachel Penn and Sian Atkinson from the **Woodland Trust** who will talk about the ancient woodlands of Northeast England – their biodiversity and cultural significance and the importance of creating new native woodland.

Enjoy a buffet lunch too! Vegetarian and Vegan options will be available, but individuals will need to check for food allergies/ intolerances.

Tickets price covers food and refreshment and include VAT

BOOK via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1040441036147?aff=oddtcreator>

Greener Amble Meetup – Drywater Arts Centre, Amble, 28th November

This is a new group that shares concerns for green matters and climate change. It is an opportunity for individuals and group representatives to share ideas and interests about what we can do to make Amble an even greener place.

Greener Amble is open to anyone who lives in the Amble area, has family links or works here (paid or voluntary). Whatever your interest you are welcome to join us. This might be nature and biodiversity, sustainability, water quality or just that feeling with all the news of climate change you would like to do something more but are not sure what.

The next meeting is on **Thursday 28th November, 7.00 to 8.30 pm** at Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood St, Amble NE65 0FG. Refreshments provided.

The Greener Amble group is a community-led group being supported by Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Next door Nature Northumberland Project.



**Funded by
UK Government**



**Northumberland
Wildlife Trust**

Greener Amble Fair - Saturday 8th February 2025, Dovecote Arts Centre, Amble NE65 0DX

The Greener Amble group would like to invite other local groups and individuals to come together and share their efforts at this community event.

For example, these might be success stories; how they address sustainability; what they are contributing to biodiversity, water quality etc. in the local area. It will be a way of inviting people to volunteer, get feedback and share awareness and education about environmental issues. We are aiming to make this an interesting and enjoyable event for all ages and interests with refreshments and activities to take part in.

If you would like to know more about the Greener Amble group or Greener Amble Fair please email Sue suannar@icloud.com or Tash natasha.hemsley@northwt.org.uk, or ring 07393 571998



Events & Updates

Saturday November 16th: Joining the Day of Action in Newcastle to mark COP 29, 10.45am at the Civic Centre (open 11am-2pm)

Thursday November 21st: Meeting at the Tap and Spile, Manchester Street, Morpeth, 6-8pm

Thursday 28th November: Stall at the Ashington Christmas Lights Switch On, 3.30-6.30pm

Flooding Research

Danny McNally, Lecturer at Tees-side University, is still looking for participants for his project. See item below for details.

For more information, or to give us thoughts and views on our activities, contact us at climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com.

**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

Our Reading Group continues to welcome new members to a wide-ranging and supportive discussion. Join us in Morpeth Library on Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm. climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com



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

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



Net Zero North East England Annual Summit

When: 26th & 27th November 2024

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

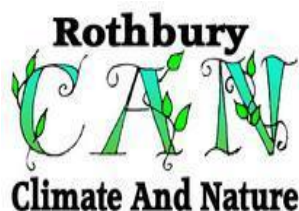
Following the success of the 2023 Net Zero North East England summit, we are back with even more to offer in this extended two-day event.

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>



Rothbury CAN - 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>



Village Halls Week – 7th to 23rd March 2025

The annual campaign returns next March on the theme of celebrating, encouraging and supporting the army of volunteers who run rural community buildings.

Village hall groups across the UK are encouraged to put **17-23 March 2025** in their diaries.

The week will spotlight the efforts of volunteers who keep these important venues open for the benefit of local residents, groups, and rural businesses. In England alone, it is estimated that over 80,000 people regularly volunteer their time with village halls, from those on management committees who oversee the day-to-day use of the building and its finances, to event organisers and group activity leaders working for the benefit of the local community.

Thanks to sponsorship from [Utility Aid](#), rural community buildings are being offered free resources including bunting, badges and posters to help them hold local events and draw attention to their work.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Village hall groups can register their interest on ACRE's website, receive news and updates as well as resources to help them get involved. Register by **Tuesday 10 December** at the latest to request the free merchandise, which is being offered on a first come, first serve basis. Use the following link: [Village Halls Week 2025](#)

8. Repair Cafes

1. **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 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.
2. **Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 30th November 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 and put FAO Repair Cafe Team in the Subject heading.

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.](#)
-

9. 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



Funded by
UK Government





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

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.](#)

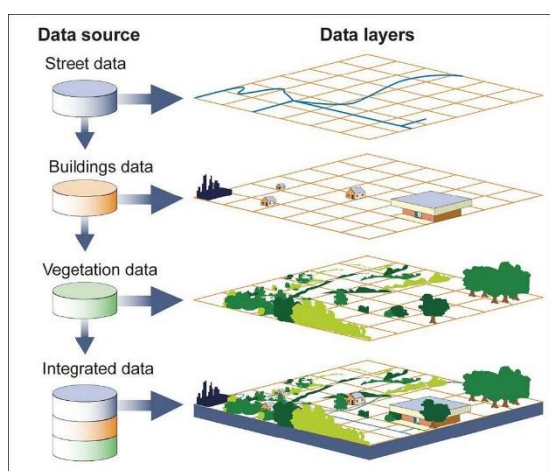


Funding for home energy upgrades

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.](#)

10. Training Opportunities



Source: GAO.

Introduction to Geographic Information System Training [GIS]

Thanks to support from Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Nextdoor Nature project, we are able to offer members free places on an online introduction to the geographic information system, QGIS. The training will be delivered by the Field Studies Council.

GIS software combines maps and data, enabling information about locations to be recorded, displayed and manipulated. It's used for a huge range of purposes where data has a location element to it.

This training is being offered in conjunction with Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Nextdoor Nature project

and will be delivered by the Field Studies Council.

This introductory course takes place over two weeks at the end of January / beginning of February 2025, during which participants will complete a variety of self-led online study content and take part in two live 45-minute zoom sessions.

The two live Zoom sessions take place on Fridays at 5.30 - 6.15pm on the following dates -

Week 1: Friday January 31st 2025

Week 2: Friday February 7th 2025.

Find out more at <https://nghonline.co.uk/resources/training/>

Places can be booked by emailing Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com with your NAME and POSTCODE. Please put GIS Training in the subject line.

Places must be booked by Sunday November 17th.

This project is funded by the UK Government partly through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with the Northeast Combined Authority Investment Fund, with the North East Combined Authority as the lead authority.



11. NCC Climate Change Team - November Update



View the **NCC Climate Change Newsletter Online**

[Click here to READ the full Newsletter](#)

November's TOPICS:

1. Don't miss out on your [free trees](#).
2. [Farming Conference](#) identifies barriers to reducing emissions.
3. Blyth's [Energy Central Learning Hub](#) Welcomes

Next Generation of Clean Energy Engineers

3. Giving space to our shorebirds
4. Rural projects across Northumberland to share £3.5m for raft of improvements
5. Listed community buildings receive planning permission for Solar Panels
6. The [Energy Learning Network](#) (ELN) powering community energy projects

FUNDING

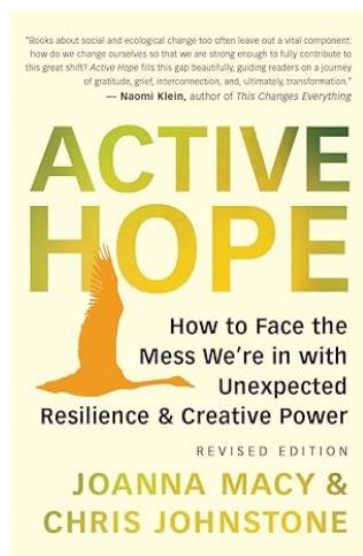
1. The Energy Project Enabling Fund 2 – [Click for more information and to apply](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

1. **The Solar Powered Buildings Project. Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre 18th November 12 – 2.00pm**
 - Meet representatives of Northumberland Community Energy Limited (NCEL) and learn more about the cooperative and its governance.
 - Meet the Longhoughton trustees and learn more about the process from their perspective.
 - View the equipment with the installer and learn how the systems operate and how they are monitored.To BOOK please email Fiona Knox at fionaknox@ca-north.org.uk or call **07482 258114**.

[Read the NCC Newsletter Here](#)

12. Book Review



Active Hope – How to Face the Mess We Are in with Unexpected Resilience & Power

Authors: Joanna Macy & Chris Johnston

Publisher: New World Library

The challenges we face can be difficult even to think about. Climate change, political polarization, economic upheaval, and mass extinction together create a planetary emergency of overwhelming proportions. Active Hope shows us how to strengthen our capacity to face this crisis so that we can respond with unexpected resilience and creative power. Drawing on decades of teaching an empowerment approach known as the Work That Reconnects, the authors guide us through a transformational process informed by mythic journeys, modern psychology, spirituality, and holistic science. This process equips us with tools to face the mess we're in and play our role in the collective transition, or Great Turning, to a life-sustaining society.

Reader's Review

"This is the book for anyone who has lain awake at night worrying about the present state of the world or felt the need to close their eyes or ears to the news from TV and newspapers. This book carries a powerful and encouraging message in an easy-to-read form. It combines the considerable wisdom, expertise, and experience of both authors in helping us cope with the recent overwhelming crises in an accessible way. It is both realistic and inspiring. It validates the distress many people feel when facing the problems of the environmental and economic crises, but also suggests ways we can play our unique part in bringing about positive change. I intend to give copies of it to all my friends!"

13. January Digest – Copy Deadline

Please send your items for the next edition by email together with any attachments to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com by **January 10th 2025 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.

14. Summary of Events

(see Digest content for full details of events)

November

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 6 th | Opening Doors Project starts at Women's Workshop- Amble |
| 16 th | Climate Action Wansbeck - Joining the Day of Action in Newcastle to mark COP 29, 10.45am at the Civic Centre (open 11am-2pm) |
| 18 th | Solar Powered Buildings Project. Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre, NE66 12 – 2.00pm |
| 19 th | Can We Keep the Coquet Clean – Join SNAC at 6 - 7pm in Swarland Club, Coast View. Swarland. NE65 9JG. |
| 20 th | Hauxley Wildlife Group – An Oasis of Abundance – Middleton North Estate, Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre ,7pm |
| 21 st | Climate Action Wansbeck Thursday November 21st: Meeting at the Tap and Spile, Manchester Street, Morpeth, 6-8pm |
| 23 rd | Coquetdale Repair Café, 10 – 2pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury |
| 26 th | VSCE Digital Skills Learning, Newbiggin Sports & Community Hub. NE64 6HG |
| 26 th & 27 th | Net Zero North East England Annual Summit – Hilton Hotel Gateshead. NE8 2AR |
| 28 th | Climate Action Wansbeck Stall at the Ashington Christmas Lights Switch On, 3.30-6.30pm |
| 28 th | Living Woods Conference, Hexham & Northern Marts Tyne Green, Hexham NE46 3SG |
| 28 th | Greener Amble Meetup, Drywater Arts Centre, Amble, 7 – 8.30pm |
| 30 th | Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café, 10 – 1pm, Salvation Army Hall, Berwick |

December

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 7 th | NGH Community Event, St James Church Centre, Alnwick, 10.30 – 12.30. |
| 7 th | Felton Repair Café, 11 – 3pm, Gallery Forty5, Felton |

2025

February

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8 th | Greener Amble Fair, Dovecote Arts Centre, Amble NE65 0DX |
|-----------------|--|

March

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 7 th to 23 rd | Village Halls Week –2025 |
| 22 nd | NGH Community Event, St James Church Centre, Alnwick |

Regular Events

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

Every Monday – Women's Workshop, Amble.