



Monthly Digest

June 15th 2025

News, Events, Funding



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1. Hub & Steering Group News

Welcome

First, we'd like to welcome new members Suzanne, Chrisy, Claire, Karen, Paul and Anna to NGH. We hope you enjoy being part of the network.

NGH Community Event

The recent NGH Community Event featured talks from Duncan Hutt (Director of Conservation) and Graham Holyoak (Nature recovery Manager) at Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

Duncan is leading the project to purchase the Rothbury Estate and talked about the opportunities and challenges this presents.

Graham, who leads the Wilder Northumberland network, continued the nature recovery theme and gave examples from a range of locations across Northumberland showing how it's hoped that these will become part of a 40-mile wildlife corridor from the coast to the border.

The morning also included the Great Big Green Book Swap as well as lots of time for networking and sharing news and forthcoming events. It was great to see so many members and we're already looking forward to the next event!

FREE Digital Design Software

We still have several FREE Canva Pro licences available to NGH members. Canva is an easy to use, powerful digital graphic design tool, making it easy to design posters, presentations and social media content and is widely used for creating publicity materials.

NGH obtained 50 Canva Pro licences which usually cost £100/year per person. We still have some of these available for community groups which are part of the network.

If your group would like to take advantage of this offer, please email Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com with the name and email address of the person who will be the user(s).



And finally...

The next **NGH Community Event is on Saturday September 13th**. We'll be holding our first Annual General Meeting at the start of the morning, and more details about this, and the Programme, will be available nearer the time. In the meantime, please put the date in your diary!

2. Podcasting Opportunity



Podcasting Project Opportunity

NGH Member, Lesley Long, is in the early stages of exploring a climate and sustainability focused podcasting project with Dr Caroline Mitchell, Professor of Radio and Participation at University of Sunderland. Caroline, who is an active member of Climate Action Newbiggin and a member of NGH, has worked with a broad range of communities for many years on community radio and Lesley is a former communications trainer and Lionheart Community Radio presenter.

Caroline's current research is focused on developing sustainable participatory media practices and frameworks relating to communities, cultural participation, wellbeing, and sustainable development. Together with two members of Climate Action Newcastle, the working group are exploring the feasibility of creating a podcast addressing, climate, ecological and sustainability issues across Northumberland, Newcastle and locations south of the Tyne.

If you are new to podcasts here's a quick overview.

What is a Podcast?

- A podcast is a programme made available in digital format for download over the Internet and listened to or watched on various devices. It's essentially a "radio show" you can listen to on demand, anytime, anywhere.

Podcasts Can...

- *Reflect Passions*: No matter the topic, people are turning to podcasts to discover their passions and find their tribe. As a result, podcasts wield significant influence, particularly in shaping audience trust and engagement.
- *Foster Trust and Engagement*: Podcast hosts' voices and personalities build trust, as listeners feel a closer connection compared to traditional media or social media personalities.
- *Build Communities*: Podcasts foster a sense of community among listeners, creating a platform for shared interests and experiences.
- *Educate & Inform*: Podcasts offer a more in-depth and engaging format compared to other media, allowing for complex discussions and detailed information.
- *Increase Accessibility*: The accessibility of podcasting empowers individuals from a host of backgrounds to share their voices and expertise, fostering a diverse range of perspectives.

Like to Get Involved?

The working title for the podcast is *The Eco Pod*. As the project progresses, the working group will be looking for contributors, interviewers, and anyone who might like to get involved in podcast production or

in creating a podcast for their own community group. Podcast experience is not necessary, as you may well have transferable skills in research, public speaking, interviewing, marketing, organising events, etc. Training will be provided.

If you are curious and would like to register your interest, please contact Lesley by email through Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com. Put **Podcast Project** in the email subject heading.

3. Biodiversity & Wildlife

Carbon and Nature Fund Launched

Source: Net Zero North East

North East Mayor Kim McGuiness recently launched the North East Carbon and Nature Marketplace. Businesses and organisations can now invest in projects aimed at enhancing biodiversity, restoring habitats and reducing emissions.

The Marketplace is an online platform where buyers can invest in projects or purchase carbon credits. Projects include the North East Community Forest, Fare Share North East and Northumberland Community Energy.

At the launch, the Marketplace has 10,000 carbon credits available for purchase and other investable projects seeking a total of £11m worth of support. For more information visit [Carbon and Nature Marketplace for the North East | Net Zero North East England](#)

4. Rivers, Sea & Coast

Little Shores Bid for Bathing Water Status



Amble Bathing water status has entered its second stage where public consultation and a survey of the needs of Little Shore users will take place. Thank you so much to all who have already filled in our questionnaire below or come to one of our meetings. Please encourage friends and neighbours to fill it in, it's simple, just two sides of A4 equivalent and will really help our application.

[Amble Little Shore Bathing Water Survey](#)

During the summer CRAG Little Shore supported by the Swimmers will be out counting Little Shore users. DEFRA want two days surveyed, and we need to count over 100 bathers. Not so easy here in the North East! The first dates for counting are Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th of July from 12 - 2pm. Fingers crossed for good weather! Please come down, shorts on if possible and have a dip paddle or play. We need people to do the counting too, in half an hour stints. Contact wariversgroup@gmail.com if you can help.

Drywater arts are also helping support the community with an event on 21st June. Come along and show what this much loved area means to you by helping to make a community creative response that will support the application. You can draw, write, sing, paint or collage. If you're a musician, poet or storyteller we have space for you to share your talents. Bring photos and memories of time spent on Little Shore!

Everyone welcome on Saturday June 21st from 11am – 3 pm at Dry Water Arts, Wellwood Street, Amble, NE65 0FG.

To find out more or to get involved, email wariversgroup@gmail.com.

River to be re-wiggled

Source: BBC News

Date: June 4th 2025

The course of a 1km section of the River Breamish on the Harehope Estate, south of Wooler in Northumberland, will be re-routed this summer to reflect its traditional course.

Following years of straightening to create farmland, work is taking place to divert the river into its historic channels, installing shallow ponds, wetlands and new woody dams.

The Breamish restoration is expected to be completed by late summer, and is part of the River Till Restoration Strategy, named after the river the Breamish flows into. It's hoped the work will be completed later this year and should give a real boost to wildlife.

5. Live Well with Less

Apps for Community Sharing and Wasting Less

There are lots of ways to reduce waste, and here we're featuring three apps which allow users to connect with local communities and businesses to do just that!



Olio is a free sharing app for local communities, with a mission to reduce waste. From food to furniture to clothing.

The app connects neighbours and local businesses to share surplus food and other household items. It works by allowing users to list items they no longer need (like food nearing its sell-by date or unwanted household items) and then allowing others to request and pick them up.



Too Good To Go

The Too Good To Go app is a platform that allows users to purchase "Surprise Bags" of surplus food from local restaurants, cafes, and stores at a discounted price, helping to reduce food waste. These bags contain perfectly good food that would otherwise be thrown away due to being unsold or approaching its best before date.

Too Good To Go offers a variety of "Surprise Bag" options, including Supermarket Bags with grocery items, Cafe Bags with hot food or pastries, and Market Kitchen Bags. The content of each bag is a surprise, but it's always food that is still fresh and perfectly edible.



Freecycle is a free, grassroots platform where people can give away unwanted items and acquire pre-owned goods from their local community. It's essentially a virtual space for a local reuse network, aiming to keep usable items out of landfills.

6. Updates from Groups

Amble Women's Workshop – Green Roof

Amble Women's workshop will be adding the green roof to their straw bale house. They're looking for help on June 17th and 18th from 11am. Refreshments provided. The work will go ahead so long as the scaffolding is up and the weather is good! For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Angela at Angela@womensworkshop.net.

Climate Action Wansbeck



Morpeth Community Cinema raised the curtain on our Big Green Week on Friday 6th June, with a showing of the beautiful film, Wilding, which was very well received, and the conversation continued in the pub afterwards. Our next Reading Group, in Morpeth Library at 7pm on Tuesday July 1st, will be a chance to discuss the film, or the book, in more detail.

On Saturday, we had the first of our Big Green Week listening stalls, at Morpeth Library, building on the success of that format for our Newbiggin members. We talked to more than 30 people during the event and 24

filled in our online survey. Three more events are planned and we will share more details in the next Digest.

For more details of any of our activities, email us at climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com.

7. Events

A dam fine evening of beavers

- 📅 **Date:** Tuesday June 17th
- ⌚ **Time:** 6.30 – 8pm
- 📍 **Venue:** Alnwick Playhouse



A viewing of the Beaver Trust film Balancing the Scales, narrated by Joanna Lumley. The film explores the delicate balance between beaver restoration and the conservation of migratory fish populations.

Join Beaver Trust CEO Sandra King, NWT's Wilder Northumberland team and staff from the National Trust's Wallington Estate for a series of short presentations and a Q&A session.

Tickets: £5 per person or book at <https://www.nwt.org.uk/events/2025-06-17-dam-fine-evening-beavers>

Film: Leaving it Better, followed by discussion and Q&A

- 📅 **Date:** Friday June 20th
- ⌚ **Time:** 7pm
- 📍 **Venue:** Shadow and Star Cinema Co-op, Warwick St, Newcastle

The Leaving it Better project brought together environmental campaigners from across north east England with a group of farmers from upper Teesdale. A documentary project commissioned by Tipping Point, DEFRA's Farming in protected Landscapes Programme and supported by the North Pennines National Landscape team.

Tickets from [Star and Shadow Programme](#). Pay as you can £7 / £5 / £3 / £0

- 📅 **Date:** Saturday June 28th^b
- ⌚ **Time:** 5pm
- 📍 **Venue:** Alnwick Playhouse

Leaving it Better will also be screened at the Alnwick Playhouse. At the event, copies of the Zine will also be available and there will be a Q&A session after the screening

Tickets: Free

Film: Demain, le Vallee (French with subtitles)

- 📅 **Date:** Saturday June 21st
- ⌚ **Time:** 7.30pm

📍 **Venue:** Shadow and Star Cinema Co-op, Warwick St, Newcastle

Confronted with the reality of climate change, the inhabitants of the Arac valley come together to devise strategies to change the way they live. Bringing together farmers, artists, elected officials, newcomers and those who have lived in the valley for years, the film makers create a space for dialogue to explore the transformation of land use on the face of climate change.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Mike Pratt hosts a post screening conversation and Q&A with the film makers, climate researchers and one of the participants in the film.

Tickets from [Star and Shadow Programme](#). Pay as you can £7 / £5 / £3 / £0

Summer Solstice Creative Wellbeing Retreat

📅 **Date:** June 21st

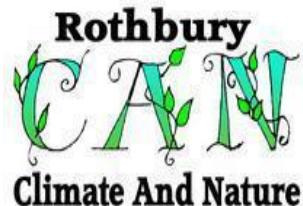
⌚ **Time:** 10.30 – 4.00pm

📍 **Venue:** Valley View Cottage, Rothbury

A day retreat dedicated to the power of creativity and its positive impact on our mental health and well-being. Cost £60 including lunch and refreshments

For more information and to book your place, contact

Creativespacene@gmail.com.



The North East Summer Gathering

📅 **Date:** Saturday June 21st, 2025

⌚ **Time:** 10.30 – 16.30pm (followed by evening celebrations)

📍 **Venue:** Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art – Gateshead Quays

We would love to welcome members of the Northumberland Green Hub at our annual come together moment for Friends of the Earth group members and the wider social justice community from across the North East.

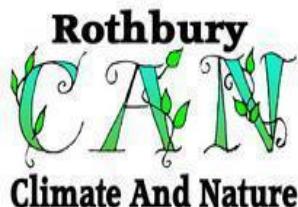
Book your free place for a day of inspiration, learning and

connection: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-east-summer-action-gathering-2025-tickets-1310357026139?aff=odddtcreator>

You can expect the latest on regional and national campaigns and actions, inspiring stories from across the network and beyond and opportunities to delve deep into new skills and opportunities. Followed by an afternoon where we will explore the Baltic's exhibitions linked to refugees, collaborate with others in the space and celebrate the solstice into the evening with food and fire – **book a later train if you can!**

Not to be missed! **It will be a powerful day – inspiration guaranteed.**

Contact: Carla.doran@foe.co.uk for more details



An evening of poetry and music

📅 **Date:** Thursday June 26th

⌚ **Time:** 7.00 for 7.30pm start

📍 **Venue:** Rothbury Golf Club

Rothbury CAN, Coquetdale Creatives and What a Wonderful World present an evening of poetry and music, including Mike Pratt, nature writer and author, Jane Burn, award winning poet, Rod Clements, musician and others.

Tickets £8, book via at <https://whataww.org> or <https://coquetdalecreatives.art>.



What A Wonderful World Festival

Thursday 26th - Sunday 29th June 2025

Pre-festival events - 21st June Hepple Wilds - take a walk in the wilds.

Celebrating Trees exhibition 25th June – 5th July

This is a taster of what's in store at this year's WaWW Festival -

Saturday 28th June **Earth Matters - Simonside and Beyond**

Can the purchase of Rothbury Estates by the Wildlife Trusts help lead the search for a balance between nature recovery,

farming, and local communities? Professor Alastair Driver, (ex-Rewilding Britain) busts some myths on rewilding. Join the discussion with him, Mike Pratt (Northumberland Wildlife Trust), and James Barber, local farmer and land manager. Chair: Tom Burston.

Saturday 28th June **Maddy Prior Concert**

Maddy Prior, lead singer of Steeleye Span, will headline the Saturday night Concert at Alnwick Playhouse. One of the most influential singers in the country and a dynamic solo performer, Maddy will be accompanied by Spud Sinclair on guitar in a special set of songs which will highlight her long-held commitment to the natural world and humanity's place in it.

Kate Fox, poet and humorist will perform 'The Soil Speaks' and extracts from her book 'On Sycamore Gap'.

25th June – 7th July **Celebrating Trees Exhibition, Alnwick Playhouse Gallery**

Local people guided by artist Anna Corbett celebrate trees in paint, fabrics, poetry, and stories.

And so much more: visit **Hepple Wilds** with artist Rose Ferraby. **Poetry and Music** at Rothbury, **Poets Go Wild** at Hauxley Discovery Centre, **Earth Summit** a new play with music for and by young people, **Working Wood** talk by Geoff Jackson, reading and play for 3 - 6 year olds at Alnwick Library and **Sing for the Planet** workshop and concert with Werca's Folk and VoiceMale.

Go to the website to see the full programme and updates.

Tickets are on sale NOW from www.whataww.org and alnwickplayhouse.co.uk.

Amble Women's Workshop – Wildflower Planting

Date: July 9th

Time: 11am

Venue: Women's Workshop, Coquet Enterprise Park, Amble, NE65 0PE

Tash and Raven from Northumberland Wildlife Trust will be coming along to add more wildflower plus plants to the wildflower area. If you'd like to join in and help, come along at 11am. Refreshments provided.

For more information and to confirm attendance, contact Angela at Angela@womensworkshop.net.

NGH Community Event

Date: September 13th

Time: 10am – 1pm (tea/coffee from 9.30am)

Venue: St. James Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick, NE66 1JW.

The theme for our next event is 'Food'. The programme will be available soon, and we'll also be holding our first AGM at the start of the morning.

Warkworth British Food Fortnight – Grow Your Own event

Date: September 4th October

Venue: Warkworth Memorial Hall

Events are planned in Warkworth to celebrate British Food Fortnight. One of these is an event on a grow

your own theme. If you have experience of growing fruit or veg – in a garden, allotment or even in pots that you'd be willing to share, please get in touch with Sue Brown suecbrownsb@gmail.com

Look out for updates and final plans in future digests.

8. Repair Cafes

Coquetdale Repair Café – Saturday June 21st, 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.coquettrepair.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.

Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday June 28th, 10-1pm at The Salvation Army Hall, 53 Church Street, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, TD15 1EE. 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. We're always looking for volunteers and you don't have to be a professional. All skills welcome. Visit <https://www.greenerberwick.org.uk/repair-cafe>.

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.

Felton Repair Café – Saturday 14th June, 11.00am – 3.00pm, Gallery Forty5, Main Street, Felton, NE65 9PP. All small repairs considered. Clothes, ceramics, small items of furniture, help with IT.

Contact feltonrepaircafe@gmail.com.

We do small electrical repairs, knife and tool sharpening, sewing, toy and ceramic mending, IT advice and digital restoration of old photos. The latest additions are jewellery cleaning and advice on repairs, advice about old phones, tablets, laptops etc, making these safe and how to recycle them. Bicycle repairs are no longer available, but basic IT instruction is - but it must be booked in advance.

Amble Repair Café - Saturday July 19th, 2 – 5pm, Dry Water Arts in Amble.

Join the repair revolution, don't throw it away, give it a second life, bring your broken items along and we will see if we can mend them! Our volunteer repairers cover: Sewing, darning, toys, small electrical appliances, sharpening, ceramics and small items of furniture.

Enjoy Tea and Cake while you wait for your repair! For further information please contact: amblerepaircafe@gmail.com

9. Training

Newcastle University Msc in Climate Change and Sustainability

This MSc programme offers a deep insight in climate change's impact on the planet and on human societies. Participants will develop the professional skills needed to influence and lead on sustainable climate action.

Aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Newcastle University's own commitment to Net Zero, the programme offers learners the opportunity to study global solutions, enhance personal growth and refine leadership skills.

Start Date: September 2026.

For more information visit [Leadership in Climate Change and Sustainability MSc | Postgraduate | Newcastle University](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/programmes/leadership-in-climate-change-and-sustainability-msc/)

10. Funding

Branch Out and Plant Trees

The Tree Council has grants between £250 and £2500 for community groups to plant native trees, fruit trees and hedging. The Council will look, among other things, for evidence of strong community involvement, local relevant experience, engagement with young people and local sourcing of trees.

Early application is advised, with the final deadline midnight on Friday 14th November 2025 (note that funds may run out before that date). Planting must be completed by 15th March 2026. Information about the scheme, guidance for applicants and case studies can be found at: [Branching Out Fund - The Tree Council](#).

11. News from Northumberland County Council

Eighteen projects have been awarded funding through NCC's Environment and Climate Fund – you can find details of the projects [here](#).

The Great Northumberland Forest project has secured an extra £1.76m from DEFRA to support the planting of trees in the next season. The funding will help to identify planting sites as well as involving local communities.

For more updates and the environment and climate change from NCC, sign up to their monthly newsletter or visit [Home | Northumberland Net Zero | Climate Action](#).

The next Climate Champions meeting is on Tuesday July 22nd from 4 – 5.30pm, via Teams.

12. July Digest – Copy Deadline

You can send items for the Digest at any time to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com. The deadline for the next edition is **July 10th 2025!**



To ALL contributors to this month's Digest and those working behind the scenes - you know who you are, and your efforts made pulling this edition together so much easier.

13. Summary of Events

(See Digest content for full details of events)

June

17th A dam fine evening of Beavers. 6.30 pm. Alnwick Playhouse.

20th Leaving it Better. 7pm Shadow and Star Cinema.

21st Friends of the Earth Summer Gathering, 10.30am – 4.30pm. Baltic Centre, Gateshead Quays

21st Rothbury CAN, Summer Solstice Creative Wellbeing Retreat, 10.30 – 4.00pm, Valley View Cottage, Rothbury

21st Coquetdale Repair Café, 10.00 – 2.00pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury

21st Demain, le vallee, 7.30pm, Shadow and Star Cinema

24th Climate Action Wansbeck meeting, 7 – 9pm in the White Swan, Newgate St, Morpeth

26th – 29th What a Wonderful World Festival, Alnwick Playhouse

26th Rothbury CAN and WaWW, An evening of music and poetry, 7 for 7.30pm Rothbury Golf Club

28th Leaving it Better. 5pm, Alnwick Playhouse.

28th Repair Café, 10am – 1pm, Salvation Army Hall, Berwick

July

9th Amble Women's Workshop, 11am, Wildflower planting

Sept

13th NGH Community Event, 10.00 – 1.00pm, refreshments from 9.30am, St James Church Centre

Oct

4th Grow Your Own – part of British Food Fortnight, Warkworth Memorial Hall

Regular Events

Women's Workshop, Amble – Garden Group at the Workshop, every Wednesday 10.30 – 3pm.

Climate Action Wansbeck Climate Reading Group. Morpeth Library - first Tuesday of the month

Greener Amble Meet Up at Drywater Arts Centre, Amble - every 4th Thursday

Swarland and Newton Action on Climate, third Tuesday of the month.

Berwick Repair Café, last Saturday of every month, 10 – 1pm

Campaign Dates in 2025

Clean Beaches Week 1st – 7th July

National Marine Week 27th July – August 11th

National Water Quality Month August

Organic September

Great British Beach Clean 19th – 28th September