

Monthly Digest

July 15th 2025

News, Events, Funding and More!



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1. Hub & Steering Group News

Welcome

First, we'd like to welcome this month's new members Ruth, Mary, Sarah, Anna, Sue, Sarah and Jacky. We hope you enjoy being part of the network and connecting with other members.

NGH Community Event

Get ready for a deliciously inspiring day at our next **NGH Community Event on Saturday September 13th**, where we'll be diving into an essential topic for all of us – **The Future of Food!** From how we grow it, who has access to it, and what the future food system could look like - there's something for everyone to sink their teeth into!

Here's a taste of what's on the menu:

-  Explore the link between **land use, nature and food production**
-  Discover a brilliant **local project** delivering hands-on food education
-  Help us map out all the amazing **food-focused initiatives** happening in our corner of the world
-  Share your ideas for **transforming our food systems** for the better.

And to end the morning there will be a **bring and share lunch**, and we hope that you'll stay for that!

We'll be kicking off the morning with our **first Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. This short but important session will include **elections for the Steering Group**. Greener Berwick member Colin Elliot will be stepping down from the Steering Group at the AGM so we really need others to join us. NGH relies entirely on volunteers, so if you want to see it continue and thrive, please do consider **getting involved**. It's a **fantastic opportunity** to be involved in a growing network and shape what comes next. If you've got energy, ideas, and want to get involved - we'd love to hear from you. Just drop us a line at northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com.

Details on how to nominate yourself (or someone else!) for the Steering Group will be available soon.

Join us - get inspired, get involved, and help grow a greener, fairer future.

FREE Digital Design Software

We still have some 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).

2. Podcasting Opportunity

Podcasting Project Opportunity & Training Workshop



NGH Member, Lesley Long, is working on 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, 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.

PODCAST

Podcast Training Workshop

Lesley and Caroline are developing a Podcast Training Workshop which will be available in the autumn of this year. The aim will be to provide knowledge and skills training for absolute beginners about the process of creating and publishing a podcast, including the skills of interviewing and creating subject content. Watch this space for more information in the next edition of the Digest.

We'd Love You to Get Involved

The Project is looking for people to be contributors and 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. Please put **Podcast Project** in the email subject heading.

3. Climate Crisis Response

Tipping Point Game Takes Off!



NGH member Terry Smith has worked in partnership with Alnwick Area FoE and the Duchess's Community High School to develop The Tipping Point Challenge. This is a cooperative game reflecting the global environmental and nature challenges we face and explores the positive actions we can make.

Buy the Game

The game has now been used by schools, community groups and families from the very far north of Scotland down to the south coast of England. The game is available to purchase for £20 – this is just £1 more than the cost to have them

made and all the money from sales goes to making more games and ensuring the powerful messages of the game go far and wide. No money from it goes to any individual.

The game consists of two sets of 48 wooden bricks, Challenge and Change, Dilemma and Threat cards. It's fun to play but the main benefit is that it encourages discussion about these very important issues. If you are interested in seeing the game and maybe purchasing one please contact Terry Smith by email either - tezzalamezz@hotmail.com or contact@alnwickfoe.org.uk .

Terry is also happy to lead workshops using the game at community events or in schools.

4. Active Travel

New Advisory Panel for Bus Travel

Two years ago, Swarland & Newton Action on Climate (SNAC) led a project which culminated in the commissioning of a one day/week bus service for the area – enabling users to travel to Alnwick and Morpeth, leaving their car at home, reducing their carbon footprint – and reducing social isolation. The group is now trying to expand the service and is meeting with officers and councillors at NCC later this month.

One aspect of the project has involved understanding developments in public transport within the wider North East Combined Authority and the following summarises the latest position.

A new Bus Network Forum/Bus Advisory Panel has recently been set up. This is an apolitical body which will engage with relevant organisations (private, public and third sector) and try to ensure that delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) is centred on the needs of the people of the North East. It will feed into an 'Enhanced Partnership Board', which will work with transport operators in the region while the region moves towards public control and franchising of public transport – likely to take at least two years.



The North East mayor and cabinet will take charge directly of big regional projects (such as the extension of the Metro), but there will also be local boards that can take decisions about individual routes/timetables etc. BSIP funding will continue for the next two years, with further funding coming from central government to the mayoral authority.

An initial Network / Panel meeting took place in June and was devoted to discussing what topics should be covered, what organisations should be represented, whether bus operators should be a part of it and what would be criteria for being a panel member. There will be a further meeting in September.

5. Biodiversity & Wildlife

Sharp Decline in Arctic Tern Numbers

Source: Northumberland Gazette, Thursday July 3rd



A vital seabird breeding site in Northumberland has seen a worrying drop in Arctic tern numbers this summer. According to the National Trust, which manages the Long Nanny site near Beadnell, the number of nesting Arctic terns has fallen by nearly a third compared to last year. Just 724 nests were recorded this year, down from 1,037 in 2024.

This decline follows a series of challenges for these rare birds. In June, a high spring tide washed away many occupied Arctic and little tern nests, despite efforts by National Trust rangers to protect

them. The news also comes just 10 months after Arctic terns were added to the UK's Birds of Conservation Concern Red List due to steep population declines.

James Porteus, lead ranger at Long Nanny, said: *“After years of storms and bird flu impacting numbers, we’re saddened by this year’s further decline. The exact cause is unclear, but climate change, reduced food availability, and disease are likely factors.”*

Arctic and little terns, which breed on the fragile dunes and beaches at Long Nanny, are increasingly threatened by rising sea levels, stronger storms, and other environmental pressures. The drop in nesting pairs is a stark reminder of the urgent need to protect our coastal wildlife in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

6. Rivers, Sea & Coast

Bathers Counted at Little Shore

Coquet River Action Group's (CRAG) Little Shore Bathing Water Status Application (BWSA) is gathering strength with a range of community groups raising awareness and expressing support in a variety of creative ways.

Community Involvement

Dovecot Arts held their monthly 'Crit on the Beach' and Julia Chambers from CRAG Little Shore was on hand to explain that BWS would lead to regular testing of Little Shore, public information on water quality and a plan in place to improve maintain water quality in the future.



Dry Water Arts, an Amble based Art and wellbeing Centre, know Little Shore as an exceptional space for meditation, reflection, exercise and fun. They got people painting, story-telling writing and using poetry to show how much the area means to them. They also hosted a Learn to Read the Water – Keep safe event with two amazing long distance swimmers - Frances Anderson and Jane Hardy, together with Tim Stuart of the Shore base Trust, to raise awareness of the bid.

Community consultation is a key part of the application, and at all the events people have been encouraged to complete a questionnaire. The first two Bathing Surveys have also taken place and despite the windy and overcast weather there were over a hundred people in the water each day – just what was needed for the application. Counting will take place again in August on either the 9th or 10th.

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

Estuary Pollution Monitoring

In April of this year members of the Greener Berwick Estuary Pollution Action Group started training with the Environment Agency on a project they are running at Fenham Burn. The objective is to monitor phosphorus and nitrogen levels in relation to the tidal changes in the salinity of the water.

The Coquet River Action Group (CRAG) are also involved and have been assisting with training for this citizen science initiative. Monitoring is monthly over the summer period and every two months over the winter. Results are forwarded to the Environment Agency and Northumbria Water.

The Greener Berwick group monitoring Tweed Estuary Pollution has also submitted evidence to the People's Commission on the Water Sector and supports the [Report's recommendations](#). The People's Commission has a wider remit than the governments' own commission on the water sector, called the Cunliffe commission, which is running simultaneously.

7. Warmer Homes

Community Energy Advice Available

Northern Powergrid's Community Energy Team is keen to offer comprehensive, practical support to community groups wishing to help people increase the energy efficiency of their houses or develop plans for renewable energy.

For more information, contact Liam Granville at Liam.Granville@northernpowergrid.com.

NCC Wins Energy Efficiency Awards

Northumberland County Council has won two awards for its work to improve the energy efficiency of homes across the county. The council won the Regional Council / Local Authority of the Year and the Regional Vulnerable Customer Support Organisation of the Year categories. They were also commended in the Regional Large Scale Project of the Year in the North East Energy Efficiency Awards.

The awards recognise the progress the council has made in delivering energy efficiency improvements to 329 homes and 40 schools and community buildings. They have also provided energy vouchers to nearly 1,400 households and given energy advice to around 900 homes.

8. Updates from Groups

Women's Workshop Gets Environmental Award



Congratulations to the **Amble Women's Workshop** who have achieved the **Investors in the Environment (IiE) Silver Accreditation**.

They have shown that they have put policies and procedures in place and completed relevant actions, which have enabled them to succeed in reducing their carbon footprint by at least 2% per year for the last 3 years.

CAW Gets People Talking

Climate Action Wansbeck spent Big Green Week out and about, running four listening stalls, talking to more than 150 people during the event and carrying out an online survey.

Overall, the level of concern about the climate and biodiversity was high, and people were mostly supportive of more action by individuals, local and national governments and big business.

The group's next Climate Reading Group will be discussing Kaliane Bradley's novel *The Ministry of Time*.



Greener Berwick Receives Earthmovers Award



Greener Berwick have been awarded an 'Earthmovers Award' by Friends of the Earth. Organised by Friends of the Earth and supported by players of the People's Postcode Lottery, Earthmovers Awards are intended to 'recognise the inspiring work of local environmental groups in their communities'.

Friends of the Earth held a Summer Action Gathering at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead on Saturday 21st June 2025, when the presentation was made by their Regional Representative Carla Doran.

The picture shows Greener Berwick Committee members Laura Hawken (left) and Colin Elliot (right), accepting the award from Carla Doran (centre).

9. The Green Table



The Green Table is a growing network of roundtable events designed to bring together organisations and community groups, working to address climate change and drive forward local sustainability. The initiative will provide a collaborative space for sharing knowledge, experiences, and practical solutions around renewable energy, carbon reduction and community-led environmental action.

Through regular meetings, workshops and networking opportunities The Green Table supports groups across rural Northumberland to explore and adopt renewable technologies. A key part of the initiative is supporting communities to understand their carbon footprint through the delivery of carbon assessments and energy audits, helping them to identify the most effective ways to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency.

In addition to energy-focused work, The Green Table will connect participants with a wider network of climate action and environmental organisations, fostering joined up approaches to local challenges and opportunities.

Dates and Venues

Rothbury Jubilee Centre, 23rd September 2025. Contact leaneeshipley@ca-north.org.uk

Humshaugh Village Hall, 27th January 2026. Contact annarevell@ca-north.org.uk

Berwick Voluntary Centre, 14th May 2026. Contact andrewberesford@ca-north.org.uk.

These meetings are for organisations only. Registration will be available shortly through Eventbrite and all attendees must register. Lunch will be provided.

For further information, contact the staff above for each event.

10. Events

Young People's Art Display

 **Date:** Until Friday July 18th

 **Venue:** Alnwick Library

The display of young people's posters with environmental and the protection of nature themes will continue to be on view at Alnwick Library until Friday 18th July. This is an Alnwick Area FoE and the Duchess's Community High School Climate Club project. The posters reflect powerful messages from the students to us adults and to the world in general.

Holystone North Wood: Guided Walk



 **Date:** Sunday July 20th

 **Time:** Morning

 **Venue:** Holystone North Wood NWT Reserve

Guided Walk to Holystone North Wood NWT reserve, to view ancient and veteran trees.

Holystone North Wood is a small (15ha), upland Sessile Oak wood and as such is relatively rare for Northumberland. Many of the oaks have previously been coppiced (the wood having last been worked about 100 years ago) with the trees in the main being between 130 to 180 years old with a few older specimens.

LIMITED PLACES 15 maximum. Email Rothbury.can@gmail.com.

Rothbury CAN Pollinator Walk

 **Date:** Tuesday July 22nd

 **Time:** 9.00 – 11.30am

 **Venue:** Rothbury

A wonderful morning observing moths, bees, and hoverflies with Mark Welfare. This is a free event, but booking is essential. Email Rothbury.can@gmail.com.

Going Green Together Phase 2 Launch

 **Date:** July 31st

 **Time:** 10.00 – 1.00pm

 **Venue:** The Growing Zone, Hirst Park, Ashington, NE63 9BA

This event is aimed at VCSE organisations to help them build practical environmental strategies and reduce their impact on the environment.

Climate Action Wansbeck Reading Group

 **Date:** August 5th

 **Time:** 7 – 9pm

 **Venue:** Upstairs Library, Morpeth Leisure Centre

The group will be discussing Kaliane Bradley's novel *The Ministry of Time*. For more details, email climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com.

Greener Berwick at Berwick Food Festival

 **Date:** Friday August 15th to Sunday August 17th

 **Venue:** The Parade Green Berwick upon Tweed

Greener Berwick will have an information and activity stall at this year's Berwick Food and Beer Festival,



NGH Community Event

 **Date:** Saturday September 13th

 **Time:** 10am – 1pm (tea/coffee from 9.30am. Soup and bread lunch at 1pm.

 **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.

The Green Table @ Rothbury

 **Date:** Tuesday 23rd September

 **Time:** 1.00 – 3.30pm

 **Venue:** Jubilee Hall, Rothbury, NE65 7SD

An opportunity for community groups and organisations across Northumberland to come together to share knowledge and experiences around renewable energy and community-led environmental action.

For further details contact leanneshiption@ca-north.org.uk.

Similar events will be held in Humshaugh on January 27th 2026 and Berwick on May 14th 2026.

Climate Action Wansbeck Meeting (including AGM)

 **Date:** Tuesday 23rd September

 **Time:** To be confirmed

 **Venue:** Venue to be confirmed

This is the next general Climate Action Wansbeck meeting, which will include our AGM.
For more details email climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com.

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.

Warkworth Green Matters – Coffee Morning

 **Date:** Saturday October 25th

 **Time:** From 10.00am

 **Venue:** Memorial Hall, Castle Street, Warkworth

Warkworth Green Matters are having a special coffee morning to explore setting up a Repair Café in Warkworth and representatives from Felton and Rothbury Repair Cafes will be there to share their experiences.

It is an opportunity to find out more about repair cafes, express an interest in using one or perhaps share your skills. And of course, enjoy a cuppa and cake with like-minded people.

Refreshments will be served from 10.00 am with time to chat informally with the representatives, followed by some short presentations and time for questions and discussion.

11. Repair Cafes

Coquetdale Repair Café – Saturday 13th September, 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.

Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 26th July, 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 August, 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. NB tool sharpening not available on this date.

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

12. Funding

National Lottery Awards for All – Environment Fund

This fund is for community-led projects that improve the environment and help people connect with and enjoy nature where they live. The funding can be used to:

- start a new activity or continue an existing one
- help your organisation adapt to new challenges
- run one-off events that have a clear environmental benefit.

The Fund is looking for projects that:

- help people connect with and care for nature in their area
- make a positive difference to the environment.

For more information, go to the [National Lottery Awards for All England page](#).

Funding - £300 to £20,000 for up to two years

Application deadline - 17 December 2025

Great British Energy Community Fund

Managed by the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub, funding of up to £140,000 is available to help parish and town councils, community organisations, faith groups, community interest companies get started on clean power projects that benefit their local areas.

The Great British Energy Community Fund is the first grant programme for community energy projects funded by [Great British Energy](#) – the new publicly-owned energy company

It's designed to help local communities across the UK transition to sustainable energy solutions and empower communities to take control of their energy needs, reduce carbon footprints, and create a greener, more sustainable future for all.

Funding Available

Stage 1 – Feasibility Grant

Up to **£40,000** to cover consultancy and professional costs of the development of a feasibility study.

Stage 2 – Development Grant

Up to **£100,000** for projects ready to move towards planning and delivery.

For more information, visit [Great British Energy Community Fund - North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub](#).

Deadline: 12 November 2025

13. August Digest – Copy Deadline

You can send items for the Digest at any time to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com. The deadline for the next edition is **August 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.

14. Summary of Events

(See Digest content for full details of events)

July

- Until 18th Young People's Art Display, Alnwick Library
- 19th Amble Repair Café, 2 – 5pm, Dry Water Arts, Amble
- 20th Holystone North Wood Guided Walk,
- 22nd Rothbury CAN Pollinator Walk. 9.00 – 11.30 am
- 26th Greener Berwick Repair Café, 10.00 – 1.00pm, Salvation Army Hall, Church St, Berwick
- 31st Going Green Together Phase 2 Launch, 10.00 – 1.00pm, The Growing Zone, Hirst Park, Ashington

August

- 5th Climate Action Wansbeck Reading Group, 7 – 9pm, Library, Morpeth Leisure Centre
- 14th Felton Repair Café, 11.00 – 3.00pm, Gallery Forty5, Main St, Felton
- 15th – 17th Greener Berwick at the Berwick Food Festival

Sept

- 13th NGH Community Event, 10.00 – 1.00pm, refreshments from 9.30am, St James Church Centre
- 13th Coquetdale Repair Café, 10.00 – 2.00pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
- 23rd The Green Table @ Rothbury, 1.00 – 3.30pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
- 23rd Climate Action Wansbeck Meeting, time and venue to be confirmed

Oct

- 4th Grow Your Own – part of British Food Fortnight, Warkworth Memorial Hall
- 25th Warkworth Green Matters Coffee Morning, 10.00am, Memorial Hall, Castle Street,

Regular Events

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