

NGH Monthly Digest

August 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 Ange, Adrian, Gary, Rob, Caron and Mark. We hope you enjoy being part of the network and connecting with other members.

NGH Community Event – The Future of Food

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** that we really hope you'll stay and enjoy.

Get More Involved with NGH

Now that NGH has been up and running for some time, we'll be holding our **first Annual General Meeting (AGM)** at the event on September 13th. This will be an opportunity to hear a short report about what's been **achieved** so far, to update the **Constitution** if necessary and, most importantly, to **elect the members of the Steering Group**.

Greener Berwick member Colin Elliot will be stepping down from the Steering Group at the AGM – and so we'd really like to thank Colin for his contributions over the last two years. NGH relies entirely on volunteers, and without wanting to be too dramatic – we need your help and support to continue. If you value NGH and want to see it continue, please do **consider getting involved**. It doesn't have to mean being part of the Steering Group – it could be helping with some of the work behind the scenes for an hour or two each month. 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 get in touch at northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com.

We'll be sending out more information about the AGM by email, but if you'd like to stand for election to the Steering Group, or find out more about ways of getting involved, email Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com and we can arrange a chat.

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).

We are exploring the possibility of providing specific training on using Canva, but this is likely to require an application for funding. We'll keep you posted.

2. Podcasting Opportunity

Podcasting Project Opportunity & Training Workshop



PODCAST

NGH Member, Lesley Long, is working on a climate and sustainability focused podcasting project with Dr Caroline Mitchell, Professor of Radio and Participation at the 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 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 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.

Other Podcast News

A new podcast called Greens Rising has just been launched by the North East Green Party. The first episode is a conversation with Dr. Sarah Peters – junior doctor, South Jesmond resident, and Green candidate for the by-election on Aug 14th.

Listen: bit.ly/GreensRisingPod

Watch: bit.ly/greensrisingvid

3. Biodiversity & Wildlife

Pine Marten Sanctuary

Source: BBC News July 20th 2025



A sanctuary has been created at the National Trust's site at Wallington to help one of the UK rarest mammals, the pine marten. According to the Vincent Trust, there have been more than 60 sightings in the area in the last decade. The Trust have installed den boxes and improved woodland connectivity to help pine martens move into the estate and travel more easily through the wider landscape.

The haven is one of three being created nationally as part of a project called Martens on the Move, with the others being established in Dumfries and Galloway and in Monmouthshire.

New nature recovery project near Hadrian's Wall

Source: Northumberland Gazette July 31st 2025

The Hadrian's Wall Wetland Landscape Recovery project will restore and reconnect rare habitats, supporting species such as curlew, otters and osprey – while helping farmers adapt to climate change.

The project forms part of the Hadrian's Wall Recovering Nature initiative and stretches from Greenlee Lough to Bell Crag Flow, linking two National Nature Reserves and covering over 1,200 hectares of peatlands.

Step forward for Lynx

Source: BBC News August 7th 2025

A year-long consultation by The Missing Lynx project has found that Northumberland is the only place in England and Wales that has enough woodland to support lynx if they were released.

More than a 1,000 people completed a questionnaire and together with consultation events, there was strong support for their reintroduction.



Now the team is working with local people to discuss how a potential reintroduction could be managed.

The project, working in partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust took a group of farmers to Europe to visit two lynx projects where livestock live alongside the animals. It's thought that lynx could provide benefits including controlling deer, managing woodland ecosystems and developing ecotourism.

4. Rivers, Sea & Coast

Success of community-led water testing project

Congratulations to Coquet River Action Group who were highlighted by the Community Foundation for their work helping to build a better picture of the health of the River Coquet.



In 2024 the group was awarded funding by Community Foundation North East through the Local Environmental Action and Lawrence Campbell Community First funds.

Subsequently testing has expanded with monitoring taking place from Barrowburn to the coast, alongside work with the Environment Agency to investigate nitrate levels in the Warkworth area.

For more details, visit [CRAG](#).

5. Updates from Groups

The Growth of the Greener Amble Network

NGH member Sue Rzepczynski tells the story behind the Greener Amble Network –

Last summer I began work on something I had been mulling over for a while. It was that, despite the initiatives starting to grow all over Northumberland supporting environmental and climate change, there seemed to be nothing in Amble. Indeed, joining NGH in the first place had been because I wanted to raise local issues. I thought that there must be people who shared my concerns.

I contacted an Amble resident from NGH who has worked on green and sustainability matters locally and NWT's new Communities' Officer Tash Hemsley. This led to a meeting last September at Coquet Shorebase Trust. The Greener Amble story had begun.

I was keen to explore what was already happening in the Amble area and how a group might help. I believed strongly that the group should develop its own direction and purpose. We were fortunate to have support from CRAG, Amble Women's Workshop and Dry Water Arts. NWT's Nextdoor Nature Project has also supported us practically and financially this year which has been a great help.

Initially developing the group was quite challenging, with an expectation that it would have a formal structure already. I found this, and the expectation from some that I should have all the answers quite daunting. But nearly a year on, Greener Amble has really started to take shape. We have made contact with over forty people and attendance at our meetings has risen steadily. We have worked on our priorities and values, had talks from members on their work and visited Amble Women's Workshop

What has become evident is that one of the group's main roles is providing opportunities to share information, raising awareness of local issues and signposting volunteer opportunities.

This is why I have suggested our name should be the *Greener Amble Network* - a place for communication, sharing and support for the Amble community working to improve its environment. As a group we will also be organising some of our own initiatives.

We are holding a Greener Amble Fair on 18th October and the next stage is to set up a steering group, establish a mailing list/newsletter and explore funding options. Lots to do but it's encouraging to see a group that's delivering benefits not only to its members but also the Amble environment and community.



Alnwick Area
Friends of the Earth

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth

At the Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth meeting on 6th August, discussions included the group's contributions to Friends of the Earth's 'Big Climate Plan' and 'Right to a Healthy Environment' campaigns as well as ongoing campaigns on divestment and the burning of biomass at Lynemouth power station.

Terry Smith was congratulated for the Earthmovers Award that he had received at the recent Friends of the Earth NE Groups Summer Gathering. This award recognised his boundless enthusiasm for climate action, and particularly for creating and distributing his Tipping Point Challenge game, which promotes discussion about environmental challenges as well as the positive actions we can take to mitigate environmental damage.



The Tipping Point game can be purchased for £20, just £1 more than the production cost, with all the sale proceeds going to making more games. If you are interested in seeing the game or purchasing one, please contact Terry Smith by email either - tezzalamezz@hotmail.com or contact@alnwickfoe.org.uk

The next committee meeting of Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth will be at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd September in Alnwick Youth Hostel.

6. The Green Table



Organised by Community Action Northumberland, 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.

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.

7. Events



Willow Weaving Workshops

Four workshops to develop willow weaving skills. Wednesdays from 10.30 – 3.30pm on August 20th and 27th, September 3rd and 10th. All projects will be created as a group for Amble Women's Workshop garden. Plenty of willow to take home and practice.

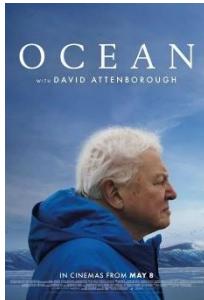
For more information contact angela@womensworkshop.net.

Greener Berwick at Berwick Food and Beer Festival

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

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

Visit the Greener Berwick information and activity stall. Have a go at solving a puzzle or answering topical questions on climate change, sustainability and the environment. There'll be opportunities to colour a banner and don't miss Joel's cooking demonstration. And you can pick up some fresh produce courtesy of local allotment holders. See you there!



Rothbury CAN

You're invited to Rothbury CAN's screening of Ocean

Date: Friday September 5th

Time: Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Venue: Jubilee Hall, Rothbury, NE65 7SD

The film will be followed by a discussion and Q&A with Georgina Fuller.

FREE EVENT, but donations welcome to help with room hire.

Wine, soft drinks for sale.

Lectures on Carbon Capture and Carbon Offsetting

Date: September 8th, 15th and 29th at 10.00am

Organised by Berwick Educational Association with Greener Berwick.

For more details visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/fighting-climate-change-4539033>.

NGH Community Event

Date: Saturday September 13th

Time: 10am – 2pm (tea/coffee from 9.30am. Bring and Share lunch at 1pm.

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

The theme for this event is one that matters to all of us – **'The Future of Food'**. We've put together a programme covering different aspects of the food system – from farming and food production to sustainability and education. We'll be inviting you to focus on the aspects that you're most passionate about and identify the actions we can take individually and collectively. We'll also be holding a short AGM and inviting you to stay for a 'Bring and Share Lunch'. For full details of the Programme and to book your place, visit [Community Events – Northumberland Green Hub](#).

Rothbury CAN – Great Big Green Event

Date: Saturday September 20th

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Venue: Jubilee Hall, Rothbury, NE65 7SD

Talk – Rothbury's Amenity Grass
Exhibitions, stalls and information
Refreshments – Teresa's cakes and bakes

Photographic Competition – Water in Northumberland

Categories -

- Colour photo of sea, lake, river or wet or snowy weather in Northumberland
- Black and white photo of the same.

£10 prize for the winner of both categories, £50 for overall winner.

No photoshopped images, max size A4, name and contact details on back of photo, all rights to Rothbury CAN, amateur photographers only.

Entries can be handed in at the Film Show on Sept 5th or to Coquetdale Art Gallery by Sept 13th.

Winners announced on September 20th.

Climate Action Wansbeck Meeting (including AGM)

 **Date:** Tuesday 23rd September

 **Time:** 7pm

 **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:** 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 editions of the NGH Digest.

Warkworth Food Conversation

 **Date:** Wednesday October 8th

 **Time:** Bar opens 7pm, Presentations and discussion from 7.30pm

 **Venue:** Warkworth Cricket Club.

Join us for the Warkworth Food Conversation – An evening of discussion, ideas, and action on how our local food system can tackle the climate, nature, and health crisis in Northumberland and beyond.

We have a Climate, Nature and Health crisis in the UK. The food system plays a big part in all three.

- Unhealthy food and food poverty impact the NHS;
- Local Farmers are suffering with the impact of climate change. They need support to produce food in a nature friendly way;
- We have a Northumberland Food Strategy and a National Food Strategy but can they make the difference we need ?

Join us to explore the issues and share ideas about what can be done locally. All welcome – whether you want to find out more or want to take action.

This event is part of Warkworth's British Food Fortnight events. British Food Fortnight runs from 26 September – 12 October.

Citizen Science Talk

 **Date:** Thursday October 9th

A talk on Citizen Science with the Environment Agency.

Location and other details to follow from Greener Berwick.

Community Action Northumberland Energy Team

 **Date:** Wednesday October 15th

 **Time:** 11.00 – 1.00pm or 1.15 – 3.30pm

 **Venue:** Cheviot Centre, Wooler

Join us at the Cheviot Centre, Wooler for a cuppa and cake while discovering how CAN and NCEL (Northumberland Community Energy Ltd) are helping communities reduce energy use and cut carbon emissions.

Hear from Fiona Knox about NCEL and gain first-hand insights from the Cheviot Centre and other

projects, with an opportunity to view their solar and battery installation.

The CAN energy team will be on hand to talk about how the CAIRN project can help improve energy efficiency in your community and home. If you are thinking about solar panels or air source heat pumps in your own house, chat to the CAIRN staff for free independent advice on retrofit and renewables.

Ask our Community Buildings Energy Adviser for personalised advice and see a demonstration of our thermal camera to see where energy savings can be made. There is the added bonus of the chance to win some energy saving measures!

Hosted by **CAN and NCEL**, with thanks to the Trustees of the Glendale Gateway Trust.

[Book the morning session 11am - 1pm](#)

[Book the afternoon session 1.15pm - 3.30pm](#)

This event is funded by VCMA.

Greener Amble Fair

 **Date:** Saturday October 18th

A community event to celebrate the environment and raise awareness of green matters and climate change. It's being run in conjunction with Dry Water Arts across three venues. It will include stalls, workshops, talks, exhibitions, family activities and refreshments.

More info from sue.greeneramble@gmail.com.

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 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.

8. 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 August 30th, 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 16th 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 September 27th, 2.30 – 4.30pm, 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. 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

10. Training



Introduction to Rewilding

Rewilding Europe has partnered with the Open University to offer a free online Rewilding course, which will give you a comprehensive grounding in rewilding. First you will learn about the rewilding movement and what sets rewilding apart from other forms of conservation. You will then learn about the ecological, economic and social aspects of rewilding, before exploring rewilding in terrestrial, freshwater and marine settings.

Details of the course and how to enrol are [here](#).

Composting Training

Steve Lowe from Cresswell Pele Tower is offering a one-off free ½ day session for up to eight people, using training from Garden Organic (formerly the Henry Doubleday Research Association). Subsequent sessions will cost of £20 to cover overheads.

To find out more, contact Steve on Steve.lowe@cresswellpeletower.org.uk.

11. NCC – Climate Champions Network

Following a meeting with Climate Champions in July, NCC have made a decision about the future of the Climate Champions Network – this is an extract from an email from the Climate Change Team -

After discussion and deliberation on feedback received over the past few months, the climate team have decided to disband the Climate Champions Network. The climate team have led the Network for over 5 years, and know that there have been multiple changes, focus has shifted and there are now a number of additional support networks for environmental groups being offered.

The team are aware that the Network hasn't been running as originally intended, and there has been confusion around the direction of the project. It has been raised that there are some uncertainties as to what the benefits of being a Climate Champion are, and there has been a drop in attendance at meetings.

There are lots of opportunities for support, to share best practices and challenges, and to network with others in the climate space, which allow champions to continue taking action and accessing support.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the Climate Champions Programme over the past years. We know that some of you have been involved since its inception back in 2019, and we want to say thank you for all of your hard work, input, dedication and time spent engaging with us.

We know you are all working on some fantastic climate and environmental projects and we hope you continue to champion environmental action across the County.

Going forwards, the team will be reviewing how to best support community action across the County, including providing Carbon Literacy Training to community leaders, helping to build capacity through the NE and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub, providing public engagement events and promoting community action through the website and comms.

September Digest – Copy Deadline

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

12. Summary of Events

(See Events section for full details)



August

15th – 17th Greener Berwick at the Berwick Food and Beer Festival, The Parade, Berwick
16th Felton Repair Café, 11 – 3pm, Gallery Forty5, Main St, Felton
30th Greener Berwick Repair Café, 10 – 1pm, Salvation Army Hall, Church St.

Sept

3rd Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth, 7pm, Alnwick Youth Hostel
5th Rothbury CAN screening of Ocean, 7 for 7.30, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
8, 15 & 29th Lectures of Carbon Capture and Carbon Offsetting. Details to follow.
13th NGH Community Event, The Future of Food, 10.00 – 1.00pm, refreshments from 9.30am, bring and share lunch from 1.00pm, St James Church Centre
13th Coquetdale Repair Café, 10.00 – 2.00pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
20th Rothbury CAN Great Big Green Event, 10.00 – 4.00pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
23rd The Green Table @ Rothbury, 1.00 – 3.30pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
23rd Climate Action Wansbeck Meeting, 7pm, venue to be confirmed
27th Amble Repair Café, 2.30 – 4.30pm, Drywater Arts Centre, Amble

Oct

4th Grow Your Own – part of British Food Fortnight, Warkworth Memorial Hall
8th Warkworth Food Conversation, 7 for 7.30pm Warkworth Cricket Club
15th CAN Energy Team, 11 – 1.00pm or 1.15 – 3.30pm, Cheviot Centre, Wooler
18th Felton Repair Café, 11 – 3pm, Gallery Forty5, Main St, Felton
18th Greener Amble Fair. Details to follow.
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 Network Meets every 4th Thursday of month at Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood St, Amble NE65 0FG. 6.30 pm for 7.00 - 8.45 pm.
Swarland and Newton Action on Climate, third Tuesday of the month, 6pm Swarland Club
Berwick Repair Café, last Saturday of every month, 10 – 1pm