

NGH Monthly Digest

February 15th 2026

News, Events, Updates and More!



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1.NGH & Steering Group News

IMPORTANT - NGH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Biodiverse verges, plastic waste reduction, pesticide free spaces, richer wildlife habitats, active travel and transport, warmer low carbon homes, improved water quality and better awareness of climate change and environmental issues.

How do we make change happen? Where do we start?
By learning from each other.

Northumberland Green Hub connects more than a dozen community groups and over 160 people with a huge range of backgrounds, experience and knowledge. People who want to create environmental change, uniquely connected throughout north Northumberland.

NGH is free to join and members have access to –

A Vibrant Network – as well as meeting like-minded people at our events, NGH has built relationships with a wide range of community groups, voluntary organisations and other bodies throughout the area. We can help to put members in touch with others who are working on similar issues or who can provide help and support.

Quarterly Events – expert speakers, local stories, inspiration and discussion. They're also a wonderful way to meet other members.

Monthly Digest – highlighting environmental, climate and sustainability news, updates and events. A great place to promote projects and activities with a one-page event summary to print and keep.

WhatsApp Community - offering a range of topic groups to share information, ask questions and get support. NGH Announcements are a great way of staying up to date.

www.nghonline.co.uk – with local news, information about funding and training opportunities, How To guides, information about local groups and other contacts and more.

Connection – opportunities to meet, connect with and be supported by like-minded people who share common interests and passions, all committed to making our environment a better place.

Training Opportunities – e.g GIS, Canva training, grant applications.

Can you help ?

We hope you think that NGH is a valuable resource in our area. It's run on a voluntary basis by Liz, Julia and Mike – the current Steering Group. Liz is going to be taking a 'sabbatical' for about 6 months from March and so continuing to deliver all the things we've listed above isn't going to be possible.....***unless other people step forward to help.***

We're not asking for a lot of your time, but we particularly need people to come forward either to join the Steering Group or to help with some of the background tasks that keep NGH doing what it does, especially over the next few months.

Perhaps you'd like the opportunity to produce the NGH Digest, or you have skills to help with the tasks needed to run NGH, look after the website or help to plan and organise events – if so, please get in touch by emailing northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com to arrange a chat.

If like us, you want to see NGH continue doing what it does, then please think about what you can offer – or we may lose what's been built so far.

Next Community Event

The next NGH Community Event is on **Saturday March 21st**. The theme for the morning is 'Growing Together' and we'll be showcasing community growing projects in Berwick, a churchyard nature project in Whittingham and learning about how climate change, rewilding and new thinking in horticulture are reshaping how we garden. As always, there will be plenty of time to network and catch up with other members and we'll also be inviting you to share *your* news. The Programme is available at [Community Events – Northumberland Green Hub](#) where you can also book your place.

June Event

The June Community Event will now take place on **Saturday June 13th**, and not as previously announced on June 20th – this is to avoid a clash with a regional Friends of the Earth event at the Baltic in Gateshead.

The theme for the event will be 'water'. Mike Powell will be working with local artist and Surfers against Sewage activist Ali Elly to organise a morning which will combine arts-based approaches to engagement with reflections and shared ideas about water related issues in our region. The definition is broad – rivers, flooding, pollution, agricultural run-off, wild swimming, fisheries, marine ecosystems – and more!

If you have something to contribute or would like to help Mike and Ali to organise the event, please get in touch at Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com and with the subject 'June Event'.

New Members

It's been a couple of months since we gave a shout out to our new members – so a big welcome to Joanne, James, Carol, Stephen, Joel, Pip, Laura H, Natalie, Paul, Catriona, Dan, Julia, Laura W and Mary – we hope you enjoy being part of NGH!

2. Biodiversity

City Nature Challenge

This year's City Nature Challenge takes place from Friday April 24th to Monday April 27th. Our 'city' is the whole of the Northeast.

This event is coordinated by ERIC Northeast, Durham University and Newcastle University and is part of an annual, global wildlife hunt. It's also a friendly competition between places worldwide to gather as many wildlife records as possible over a four-day period.

The team at Cresswell Walled Garden will be hosting a session in the walled garden on Sunday April 26th from 1pm to 4pm and will be forwarding all sightings to ERIC. There will be lots of experts on hand, as well as access to guidebooks and apps.



The records that are collected are important in recording changes in habitats and species. You can also send in your own sightings by answering the following questions – what did you see, when did you see it, who saw it and where did you see it. You can of course add more information such as number of a species, or include photos. For more information visit <https://ericnortheast.org.uk/recording-wildlife-2/>

The Cresswell team have also offered to forward your sightings if you don't want to log into ERIC. For more information, contact Steve Lowe, Volunteer Coordinator and Engagement Officer on steve.lowe@cresswellpeletower.org.uk

What can grazing do for you ?

Northumberland Wildlife Trust have released two short films which highlight the benefits of grazing on biodiversity. One film features goats grazing on the former opencast mine site at West Chevington, and the second includes how Highland cows are helping to create a wildflower meadow at the Hauxley nature reserve.

You can find both films on YouTube – just search for Northumberland Wildlife Trust and look for the Conservation Grazing – Biodiversity Boost films.

3. Rivers, Sea & Coast

LATE NEWS! Little Shore Success

Campaigners heard this week that DEFRA has formally assessed their application for Little Shore in Amble to be designated for Bathing Water status and passed on to the final part of the process – a six week public consultation.

Little Shore is one of thirteen new sites on the government's list, and the only one in the north east. The result is brilliant news and follows months of hard work by many local groups, including the Warkworth and Amble Rivers Group, which is part of CRAG. Bathing Water status gives Public Health protection through monitoring, investigation and investment, bound by legal protection.

The group now needs everyone to support the application by completing a short consultation which you can find at <https://consult/defra/gov/water/13-proposed-bathing-water-sites>.

What does the River Coquet and its catchment mean to you?

New Nature and People research project

The National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE) is working with Natural England to explore how people connect to nature in the River Coquet catchment in Northumberland. This is part of a wider plan to develop a Protected Site Strategy for the Coquet catchment.

We want to hear from people of all ages who live, work, learn and visit in the area about:

- What role the natural environment currently plays in their lives
- What they enjoy about spending time in nature, and any barriers or challenges
- What awareness they have of actions to support the health and sustainability of nature along the River Coquet and how they're involved
- How communities can be better engaged to understand, enjoy and protect nature across the catchment.



There will be a range of ways for people to get involved over the next couple of months - from an online survey to pop up activities in community spaces and schools and quick polls that can be done on- and offline. The results will help inform future planning and project development in the catchment.

The project begins with two simple calls to action:

For individuals: complete our [short poll](#), answering one question - ***What three words would you use to describe the River Coquet?***

For groups and organisations: **share the research** through your networks - and get in touch if you could **host a pop-up activity** at one of your meetings, activities or community spaces.

To find out more and keep up to date with the research, visit www.nicre.co.uk/coquetnature or contact nicre@newcastle.ac.uk.

4. News from around Northumberland

Party for the Planet – 28th June 2026

What a Wonderful World and NGH invite you/your group to -

- Organise a table-top stall - to include information about your work and other eye-catching ideas, e.g. interactive displays and games for all ages.
- Present your project on the main Playhouse stage - a short presentation of 10 minutes or under. Facilities for showing slides etc. are available if required. Each will be introduced by musician/singer/poet/comedian Tim Dalling who will create a new inspirational song referencing the wonderful work of the participating organisations.
- Encourage your members, family and friends to come for the day for information and family entertainment.

Proposed Timing for events within the Playhouse:

1.00 - stalls open

2.00 - 4.00 presentations

4.30 - 5.30 Celebratory concert with choirs, bands and spoken word.

The Playhouse Cafe will be open throughout.

Next steps

Send a brief proposal explaining your work to: Party for the Planet Steering Group, care of concertina.anderson@gmail.com by Friday February 27th.

Programme tackling climate misinformation

Friends of the Earth is developing a pilot programme to help local activists address a growing challenge: false or misleading information about climate action spreading in community Facebook groups, WhatsApp chats and other local media spaces.

The pilot runs from February to April 2026 and includes a small number of Zoom training sessions plus shared learning. Places are limited but FoE are specifically looking for 1 or 2 more people from the north east to join.

The offer is open to anyone over 18 who is actively engaged in promoting local climate action and environmental justice online. The first session is on Tuesday February 24th at 5pm.

To find out more and sign up (by February 17th) visit <https://localclimatedisinforproj.paperform.co>.

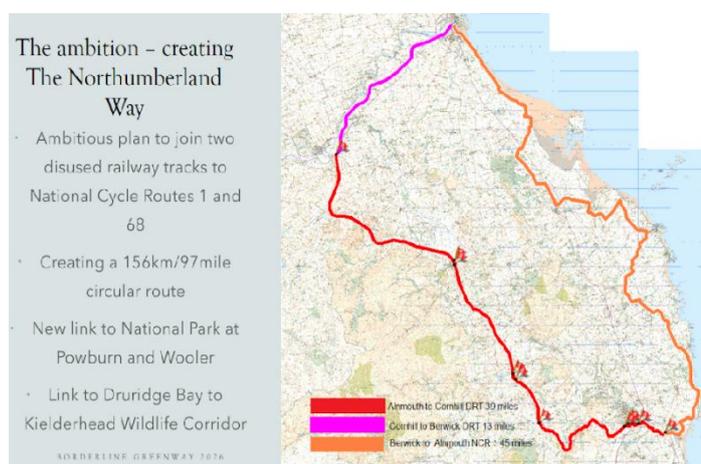
Borderline Greenway Plans its Next Step

Borderline Greenway is a project being undertaken by a Community Interest Company that aims to complete an ambitious plan to restore the disused railway tracks between Alnwick and Cornhill as a traffic free path. This will connect to the River Tweed Trail (Cornhill to Berwick – complete in 2028), NCN 1 down the coast, and the route alongside the Aln Valley Railway to create a 156km circular ‘Northumberland Way’ – linking to NCN 68, the Sandstone Way and creating ready access to the National Park at Powburn and Wooler.

A start has been made with the completion of an initial 3km section running out of Alnwick to Rugley Wood. This has been achieved with help from a variety of sponsors and has involved the building of a bridge and installing new fences and gates. Early indications show high usage by both locals and visitors.

The next step is to work closely with local landowners and farmers to extend the route by 18km by renovating the former rail track to create a traffic-free path between Rugley Wood and Powburn.

Borderline Greenway is gearing up for this next challenge: surveying the route and engaging with owners and stakeholders along the path, raising finance for planned work and helping volunteers to maintain the existing path and develop future sections.



A Green Greenway Ambition

In addition to the benefits for recreational use and providing the basis for sustainable tourism, it has always been our intention to maximise the greening potential of the project. Here, the focus is on appropriate planting and habitat creation to establish a wildlife corridor that will enhance both the ecological environment and the look of the trail. Learning from others who have taken forward greenway projects and linking with the developing greenway plans elsewhere will be an early priority – specifically connecting with the proposed Druridge Bay to Kielderhead green corridor to the south.

In progressing this element of the Borderline Greenway project, the active participation of environmental community groups will be critically important and we look forward to working with the groups associated with the Northumberland Green Hub.

If you would like to be kept informed of developments via our Newsletter, please register your interest on the main page of our website :<http://www.borderlinegreenway.com/>

If you would like to give financial backing to the project you can do that via the links on our website “Donations” page: <https://www.borderlinegreenway.com/donate>. Your donation would be very welcome and much appreciated.

In the coming months the Borderline Greenway will be posting news of developments and show where and when you could add practical weight to the project – we hope you will join us on the journey !

Community Scrapstore Opens in Ashington

Repurposeful CIC has opened a new Community Scrapstore on Station Road, Ashington, offering affordable reuse materials, reducing waste while supporting creativity and local regeneration.

Repurposeful's Scrapstore offers reusable materials — including arts and crafts supplies, paper, fabric, cardboard tubes, and other reuse items — all saved from waste and given a second life in the community. The project joins the network of Scrapstores across the country and is designed to support families, schools, community groups, artists and makers, encouraging creative reuse and play.

The Scrapstore will initially run through pop-up events before moving to regular opening hours. The first event was a great success, attracting strong community interest despite sleet and snow, with visitors highlighting the benefit of the scrapstore for Ashington and the North East.



The Scrapstore forms part of Ashington's regeneration vision and is supported by funding from Ashington Town Council. Further details of events and how to donate resources will be shared via Repurposeful CIC's Facebook page.

5. Updates from Groups

Coquet River Action Group

Nitrate measurements



CRAG testers have been measuring nitrate levels in the Coquet estuary and some tributaries around Amble and Warkworth. However, measurements have been quite variable compared with results from the Environment Agency. So, an experiment was set up to compare readings from an array of different meters and laboratory tests. It's hoped the results will give confidence in the meter readings that are being collected.

Invasive plants

Mapping of landowners has started with a view to contacting them to seek permission for CRAG volunteers to survey and remove Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed this coming summer.

Caudhole Moss

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust asked CRAG if it would like to work with them to measure water quality and hydrology improvements because of their work on peat restoration at Caudhole Moss, an area in the Simonside Hills within the Rothbury Estate. CRAG have developed a strategy and hope to start this work soon.

Hello Lamppost

The Environment Agency have run (are running) a trial of their 'Hello Lamppost' project at Amble pier/Little Shore. This gives visitors a chance to give their views on the area and to inform the EA of local conditions through an online website.

LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy)

CRAG recently responded to the consultation for Northumberland County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. These are strategies developed locally but required by the National Government.

CRAG's submission followed a meeting set up by Rothbury CAN explain what the LNRS is. The main points that CRAG made were that the document was less a strategy and more a useful information source and that they had failed to engage with communities (who are most affected by the strategy) and volunteer groups (who are making a contribution towards nature recovery).

The strategy identified the Simonside Hills and the sand dunes south of Amble as priority areas, but CRAG also suggested that the hills north of the Coquet and west of Rothbury toward Wooler, the sand dunes north of Amble and the Coquet catchment from Amble to the Scottish hills should all be considered as priority regions.

Climate Action Wansbeck



Climate Action Wansbeck meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact details: Climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com

CAW Climate Change Reading Group will continue in Morpeth Poetry library on the first Tuesday of each month 7.00 - 9.00. Join us for a coffee/tea (bring a reusable cup if you have one) and a lively discussion. Look out for the topic and date in our newsletter or on Facebook or contact climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com.

Greener Amble Network

We are a community volunteer led group that shares concerns for our Environment, Biodiversity, Nature, Sustainability and Climate Change. The Network provides a place to find out what's going on in the Amble area by sharing knowledge, information, opportunities and speaking up together on issues.

We meet monthly on a Wednesday from 6.30 for 7.00pm - 8.45 pm. This year our venue will initially be Amble Youth Project, Dilston Terrace NE65 0DT on January 14th, February 11th and March 11th.

For more information about the group and future dates, contact Sue Rzepczynski at sue@greeneramble@gmail.com.

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth



There will be no AAFoE meeting in March. The next committee meeting is at **7pm on Wed 1st April** in Alnwick Youth Hostel.

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth welcomes new members. Why not come along to this meeting to find out what we are planning for 2026?

If you would like to join Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth, just send a message expressing your interest to contact@alwickfoe.org.uk

6. Events

Exploring Class Workshop

 **Date:** February 21st and 22nd

 **Venue:** Newcastle

This 2-day workshop aims to deconstruct our classed experiences and the ways in which we reproduce the same class system we fight against, in order to create stronger, more egalitarian social justice movements.

Sign up at https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed_events/exploring-class-workshop-newcastle/ or contact the organisers at info@revoltingclass.org for more information.

Arts Lab Rural Hub Winter Gathering for Connection, Creativity and Change

-  **Date:** Saturday February 21st
-  **Time:** 10.00am – 10.00pm
-  **Venue:** Rural Peace Hub Hexham, NE47 9PA

A special day connecting leaders, artists, academics, activists, changemakers and peacebuilders for personal and professional development. This is a time to reconnect and reflect on what truly matters, rediscovering purpose and optimism as we work together to strengthen our communities and protect our shared planet.

This is an open house event from 10am to 10pm, ticket holders are invited to come and go throughout the day as they wish, exploring different spaces within the hub and sampling a range of activities.

To learn more, visit <https://arts-lab.co.uk>.

Screening of 'Power Station'

-  **Date:** Tuesday February 24th
-  **Time:** 7pm
-  **Venue:** Newbiggin Community Workshops and Garden, Elizabethan Hall, Hepple Rd, NE64 6ST. NB Limited parking right by the Hall. Please look for spaces in Spital Rd, or Hepple Road near Gills convenience Store.

Come along and join us for a FREE screening of 'Power Station' - a heartwarming film about a group of neighbours organising together to solar power their whole street - saving residents money, building a more sustainable future and bringing a community closer together in the process. We'll watch it together and then have time for discussing whether it might give us inspiration for community initiatives in Newbiggin (and beyond!)

Join us from 7pm for refreshments - the film will begin at 7.30pm. Open to Newbiggin residents and other interested people! Watch the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaoJzRiZ25s>

Organised by Newbiggin Green & Blue Network - a group of Newbiggin residents bringing our community together to care for our environment and protect the coast. Made possible thanks to the kind support of Newbiggin Town Council.

FREE entry and refreshments

St Bartholomew's Churchyard Nature Working Party

-  **Date:** Saturday February 28th and Thursday March 12th
-  **Time:** Both at 1.30pm
-  **Venue:** St. Bartholomew's Church, Whittingham.

The group hopes to begin preparing a compost / dead hedge area, put up bird boxes and look at the health of the yew trees.

Hot refreshments provided. If you can bring your own tools, please do!
For more information, contact Sonia on 07736 150225.

Stronger Shores Exhibition – Opening Event

-  **Date:** Sunday March 1st
-  **Time:** From 2 – 4pm
-  **Venue:** Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Rod, Amble, NE65 0FG

The exhibition showcases community artworks related to coastal defence. This event coincides with World Seagrass Day. See <https://www.drywaterarts.uk/room-with-a-view-1/stronger-shores>. FREE event, with refreshments.

Northumberland Organic and Local Market



- Date:** Friday March 6th
- Time:** From 4 – 8pm
- Venue:** Rennington Village Hall, NE66 3RR

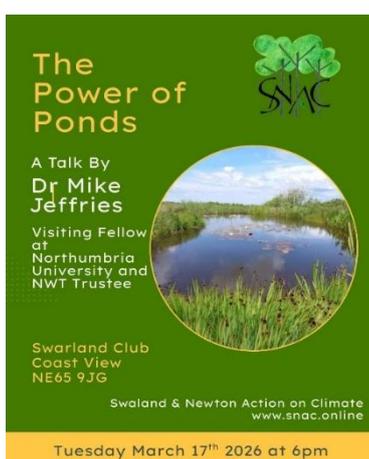
Support local producers at the Northumberland Organic and Local Market on the first Friday of the month.

Free Entry.

Green Activism – Extinction Rebellion

- Date:** Sunday March 8th
- Time:** From 1 – 3pm
- Venue:** Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Rd, Amble, NE65 0FG

Hear about Green Activism from Extinction Rebellion. FREE event with refreshments.



SNAC – The Power of Ponds

- Date:** Tuesday March 17th
- Time:** 6pm
- Venue:** Swarland Club, Coast View, NE65 9JG

Dr Mike Jeffries has spent the last forty years working on ponds and wetlands in Northumbria. He’s an expert on freshwater ecology, a Visiting Fellow at Northumbria University and a Trustee of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

In The Power of Ponds, he will talk about the importance of ponds for wildlife and also cover topics such as why they are so good for carbon capture.

7. Repair Cafes

Coquetdale Repair Café – Saturday February 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. 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. Tea and cakes available.

Felton Repair Café – Saturday March 7th, 11.00 – 3.00pm, Forty5, Main Street, Felton, NE65 9PP. Contact feltonrepaircafe@gmail.com.



Volunteers will be there to sharpen knives and garden tools, fix small electrical items, answer IT queries, fix toys and broken ceramics, mend or patch loved items of clothing, mend wooden items and clean and check gold or silver jewellery.

Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday February 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>.

Berwick Tool Library is also now operating. Visit <https://berwicktoollibrary.myturn.com> or contact info@greenerberwick.org.uk for more details.

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.

Amble Repair Café – Saturday March 28th, 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.

Morpeth Repair Café – Saturday March 7th, 9.30 – 12.30, Wellspring Church Hall, Dark Lane.

Repairs for electrical items, clothing, toys and mechanical items.

Warkworth Repair Café – Saturday April 11th, 10am – 12.00, Memorial Hall, Warkworth.

Small woodwork, electrical and sewing repairs.

8. Funding

Northumberland Environment and Climate Fund

Northumberland County Council are offering grants ranging from £250 to £5000 to projects aiming to help the environmental and tackle climate change.

Charities, community groups, CICs, social enterprises, town and parish councils and inclusive faith groups can all apply. Projects must support initiatives focused on reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency and promoting sustainability.

NCC are hosting an online drop-in session to answer questions about making an application on Wednesday February 18th between 6 and 7pm. It's on MS Teams, Meeting ID: 392 159 549 000 89, Passcode 4qP6hn7q]

The deadline for applications is Feb 27th. Visit [Climate Fund | Northumberland Net Zero](#) for information.

9. March 2026 Digest – Copy Deadline

The deadline for the next edition is **March 10th 2026** but you can send items for the Digest at any time to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com

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.

10. Summary of Events



(See Events section for full details)

Feb

- 21st & 22nd Exploring Class Workshop, Newcastle
- 21st Arts lab Rural Retreat, 10am – 10pm, Hexham
- 21st Coquetdale Repair Café, 10 – 2pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
- 24th Power Station, 7pm, Newbiggin Community Workshop
- 28th Greener Berwick Repair Café, 10 – 1pm, Salvation Army Hall
- 28th St Bartholomew's Churchyard Nature Working Party, 1.30pm, Whittingham

March

- 1st Stronger Shores Exhibition Opening, 2 – 4pm, Dry Water Arts, Amble
- 6th Northumberland Organic and Local Market, 4 – 8pm, Rennington Village Hall
- 7th Morpeth Repair Café, 9.30 – 12.30, Wellspring Church Hall, Morpeth
- 7th Felton Repair Café, 11 – 3pm, Gallery Forty5, Felton
- 8th Green Activism, 1 – 3pm, Dry Water Arts, Amble
- 12th St Bartholomew's Churchyard Nature Working Party, 1.30, Whittingham
- 17th The Power of Ponds, 6pm, Swarland Club
- 21st NGH Community Event, 10 – 1pm, St James Church Centre, Alnwick
- 28th Amble Repair Café, 2.30 – 4.30, Dry Water Arts Centre, Amble

Regular Meetings

Climate Action Wansbeck meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Contact Climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com

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

Greener Amble Network meets on January 14th, February 11th and March 11th at be Amble Youth Project, Dilston Terrace NE65 0DT from 6.30 for 7.00 – 8.45pm