

NGH Monthly Digest

March 15th 2026

News, Events, Updates and More!



Contents

1. Hub & Steering Group News – p1
2. Rivers, Seas & Coasts – p2
3. Updates from Groups – p2
4. Events – p4
5. Repair Cafes – p8
6. Funding – p8
7. Training – p9
8. Consultations – p9
9. April Copy Deadline – p10
10. Events Summary – p11

1.NGH & Steering Group News

Thank you!

In last month's edition, we put out a request for help to keep delivering all the things that NGH currently does.

We're delighted to say that two people have come forward with offers of help with the Digest and the website – very many thanks to Natalie and Ali for this, it's much appreciated.

This means that we can continue delivering the Digest and running the website while Liz is taking a break over the next

few months, with Mike and Julia taking on some more of the 'background' work too.

If anyone else would like to get involved as part of the NGH team, please get in touch by emailing Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com. The more we can share the work, the more sustainable NGH can be.

Community Event – Book Now for March 21st!

The next NGH Community Event is less than a week away on **Saturday March 21st**. The theme for the morning is '**Growing Together**' and we'll be highlighting 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.

Future Events

We've taken the decision to cancel the June event – this is partly as there are two other climate related events taking place during the month – the *What a Wonderful World Festival* and a regional Friends of the Earth event at the Baltic in Gateshead.

We'll carry forward plans for our event about taking an arts-based approach to engagement with reflections and shared ideas about water related issues in our region. More details about this over the summer.

We're also looking into arranging a talk about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy once this has been formally approved by the county council – again more details in the coming weeks.

New Members

A big welcome to new members Carol, Sandra, Brett and Jacqueline who have joined in the last month – we hope you enjoy being part of NGH!

2. Rivers, Sea & Coast

Restoring the River Breamish

The River Breamish in Northumberland is a key tributary of the River Till and forms part of the nationally and internationally designated River Tweed SSSI and SAC. Like many rivers across England, the Breamish has experienced centuries of modification through straightening, flood embankments, and floodplain drainage, which have constrained natural processes, reduced habitat diversity, and increased vulnerability to flooding and climate change.

This film documents the major landscape-scale river restoration project at Harehope Estate, where a heavily modified reach of the River Breamish has been restored to its more natural and resilient state. The project involved re-meandering straightened channels, removing flood embankments, and reconnecting the river with its floodplain, allowing water, sediment, and wildlife to move more freely across the valley floor.

Developed through long-term collaboration between Tweed Forum, the Landowners, Natural England, and the Environment Agency, the project demonstrates how large-scale, nature-based river restoration can deliver multiple benefits, including improved biodiversity, water quality, and natural flood management, while supporting the long-term viability of farm and estate businesses.

To learn more about river restoration in Northumberland and the wider River Till catchment, watch the video [here](#).

3. Updates from Groups



Coquet River Action Group

It's been a busy month for CRAG, with the Bathing Water application being passed through to the final phase – another public consultation. This is important and we encourage everyone to fill in the short questionnaire below before the end of March.

A number of feedback meetings have also been held in March, presenting data and encouraging discussions of the results in the three main areas of the Coquet – Upper, Middle and Lower. Seeing the data in graphical form and relating it to the testing sites is really helpful.

CRAG is now working with various partners including Northumberland Wildlife Trust to monitor water quality in peat restoration and the University of Northumberland on nutrient flow in the estuary. An

invasive weeds programme is also being set up throughout the Coquet and CRAG is also involved in a project looking at the creative and cultural aspect of river life.

During April, the group will be assessing new E.coli tests and developing training for a riverfly testing programme.

If you would like to get involved, email coquetriveractiongroup@outlook.com.

Climate Action Wansbeck



Climate Action Wansbeck's next regular meeting is on March 24th at 7.00pm in Morpeth's White Swan. New members always welcome. 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.

We have rescheduled this get-together, which had to be cancelled in January, for Sunday 22nd March at 10.30 am. Meet outside Charltons, Cambois, NE24 1SF, for a short walk to the Wansbeck Barrage and perhaps coffee or a drink afterwards. All welcome, but if you let us know (climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com), we'll look out for you.

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 6.45 pm for 7.00pm until 8.45 pm.

This year our venue will initially be Amble Youth Project, Dilston Terrace, NE65 0DT.

Blair Watson from the Stronger Shores project <https://strongershores.com/> will be speaking at the June meeting. Stronger Shores has been working in our area and Dovecote Arts and Dry Water Arts have done creative projects linked to their exciting work.

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

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth

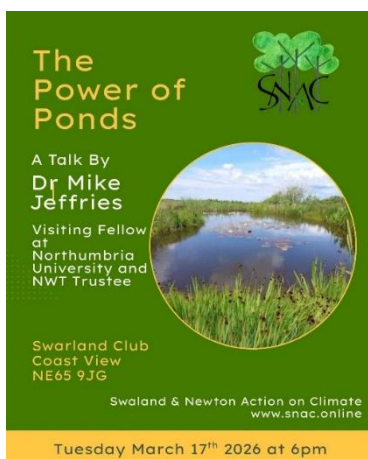


There will be no AAFoE meeting in March. The next committee meeting is at **7pm on Wed 1st April** in Alnwick Youth Hostel.


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@alnwickfoe.org.uk

4. Events



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 cover topics such as why they are so good for carbon capture.

Co-op Green Opportunities Fund

 Wednesday March 18th

 Webinar

 11am – 12pm

The Co-op Foundation Funding & Partnerships team will be sharing details on the kind of initiatives and organisations they are looking to support. The webinar is aimed at organisations that are working to influence young people to develop green skills and careers. For details visit [Green Opportunities Fund Webinar Tickets, Wednesday, Mar 18 from 11 am to 12 pm GMT | Eventbrite](#)

Hauxley Wildlife Talks – Roe, a deer!

 **Date:** Wednesday March 18th


 **Time:** 7 – 8pm, refreshments from 6.30pm


 **Venue:** Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, Low Hauxley

Join Richard Muggerridge, local wildlife expert, as he shares his knowledge and images. Free talk, but donations welcome.

Amble Women's Workshop – Green / Eco Session

 **Date:** Wednesday March 18th


 **Time:** 11am – 2pm

 **Venue:** Women's Workshop, Coquet Enterprise Park, Amble

Join in making willow panels for the outdoor kitchen. All welcome.

NGH Community Event – Growing Together

 **Date:** Saturday March 21st


 **Time:** 10am – 1.00pm (refreshments from 9.30am)

 **Venue:** St James Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick

Talks on the theme of Growing Together, plus time for networking and news from NGH members. Free but donations welcome.

CAW – A Walk by the Wansbeck Estuary

 **Date:** Sunday March 22nd

 **Time:** 10.30 am

Venue: Charltons, Cambois, NE24 1SF

Join Climate Action Wansbeck for a short walk to the Wansbeck Barrage and perhaps coffee or a drink afterwards. All welcome, but please let CAW know if you will be attending. Email Climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com.

Living Woods – Woodland Volunteer Activity

Date: Tuesday March 24th

Venue: Shilbottle Woods

If you are new to Living Woods, sign up to volunteer at <https://www.living-woods.org.uk>.

Wansbeck Natural History Group: Pine Martens on the move

Date: Wednesday March 25th

Time: 7 – 8.30pm

Venue: Middleton Village Hall, Middleton

A talk by the Vincent Wildlife Trust, a catalyst for evidence-based mammal recovery, including pine martens on Northumberland.

Non-members welcome, suggested donation £3.

Climate Action Wansbeck

Date: Thursday March 26th

Time: 7pm

Venue: Morpeth Methodist Church

HOW ALIVE IS THE RIVER WANSBECK?

WHAT
A CHANCE TO ACTION
PLAN AROUND THEMES
CHOSEN BY YOU:

1. START RIVER WATER TESTING
2. UNDERSTAND THE BARRAGE
3. GET A STEERING GROUP TOGETHER

WHEN
THURSDAY MARCH 26TH 7PM
THE SANCTUARY ROOM,
MORPETH METHODIST CHURCH
HOWARD TERRACE, NE61 1HU

ORGANISERS
CLIMATE ACTION
WANSBECK

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

ALISON DOUGLAS
CITIZEN SCIENCE
LEAD AT
ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

MADDY FOWLER
URBAN CATCH-
MENT PROJECT
OFFICER AT
Tyne Rivers Trust

Saving our Shoreline



Date: Tuesday March 31st

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Newbiggin Community Hub,
Woodhorn Road, NE64 6HG

Understand the elements that make up Newbiggin's shoreline and hear how others are trying to make a positive improvement.

Help decide what new projects could make a real impact on retaining the natural beauty of our beach and sea.

With contributions from Stronger Shores, Space for Shorebirds, Climate Action Wansbeck and information displays on sea and shore topics.

Warkworth Food Group

- 📅 Thursday March 26th
- 📍 Warkworth Memorial Hall
- 🕒 7pm

Would you like to know more about the Northumberland Food Strategy ? Come along to hear speakers Lucy Evermore and Alex Black followed by a discussion of the issues. All welcome.

Exhibition - No Time to Waste



- 📅 **Date:** From April 3rd
- 📍 **Venue:** Old Low Light Heritage Centre, North Shields

'No Time for Waste' is a thought-provoking exhibition that brings together art and environmental awareness. Featuring a variety of original artworks made from recycled and repurposed materials, the exhibition highlights the impact of plastics on our oceans and marine life.

Environmental artists, Jackie Sewell and Ali Elly dive deep into urgent issues of plastic pollution. Discover striking installations of marine life and installations created from materials collected from beaches and everyday life.

Meet the artists' session 12-3pm on the opening day.

Northumberland Organic and Local Market

- 📅 Friday April 3rd 2026
- 📍 Rennington Village Hall,
- 🕒 4 – 8 pm

Support local producers. Local vendors, food trucks and bar, free entry. Organic fruit and veg, bread, coffee, flowers and more.

Longhoughton Community Gardeners

- 📅 Sunday April 19th 2026
- 📍 Longhoughton Community Orchard
- 🕒 1 – 3pm




Join us for the **Grand Opening** of the **Longhoughton Community Orchard** and help celebrate this wonderful new space for the village. The official ribbon cutting will take place at 1:15pm.

Stalls and activities will include homemade soup and cakes, a plant stall, basketry, rugging crafts, bird boxes, a local bat conservation group, a WI craft stall, a raffle and more. It will be a great chance to meet neighbours, explore the orchard, and enjoy the afternoon together. Stone painting for children will also be taking place in the orchard.

We are currently collecting donations of plants for the plant stall and prizes for the raffle, and would be very grateful for any contributions.

To keep up to date with what we're doing, follow us on social media [@longhoughtoncg](#). If you'd like to get involved or find out more about volunteering, please email longhoughtoncg@gmail.com.

Thriving Together Networking Event




-  Tuesday, 21 April 2026
-  Felton Village Hall, Main St, Felton, Morpeth NE65 9NH.
-  10am - 12pm

The next informal Thriving Together network event is in Felton. Please confirm your attendance by completing this booking form [TT Networking Event 21 4 26 Booking Form](#).

Please note owing to the nature of the event we do not have capacity for tables at our events. However we will have a couple of tables for you to display leaflets from your organisation.

Any questions? Email admin@thrivingtogethernorthumberland.org.uk and we'll be in touch.

Community Foundation Environmental Conference

-  Tuesday, 21st April 2026
-  Wylam Brewery Palace of Arts, NE2 4PZ
-  12 – 6.30 pm




For full details and to book, visit [Register your place – Environmental Action: Funding, People and Place – Wylam Brewery Palace of Arts](#)

NICRE - Help Shape the Future of the River Coquet

NICRE and Natural England are researching how people live, work, and interact with the River Coquet to develop a new Protected Sites Strategy. They need your local expertise!

Community Organisation Focus Group

VCSE staff and are invited to share their perspectives at a dedicated focus group.




-  Tuesday, 21st April 2026
-  Felton Village Hall, NE65 9NH
-  12.30 – 2.00pm (lunch provided). This follows the Thriving Together networking event.

The project aims to understand how nature around the River Coquet fits into people's everyday lives, what people enjoy about being outdoors and how communities can be supported to understand, enjoy and care for the Coquet and the places around it.

Book: [Click here to register](#) or email nicre@newcastle.ac.uk

Please share the attached flyer with your networks to help us reach every part of the community.

Film - Our Land + Q&A

-  Wednesday April 29th
-  Tyneside Cinema
-  6pm

Our Land asks the question 'who has the right to roam in the English countryside?' Includes Q&A with Philip Le Marquand and Jo Aris of Right to Roam.

5. Repair Cafes

Coquetdale Repair Café – Saturday April 25th, 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 May 2nd, 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 March 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 April 4th, 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, computer support and a magazine swap.

6. Funding

Environmental Action: Funding, People and Place

Community Foundation are hosting an Environmental Conference on April 21st, in partnership with EFN, bringing together funders, community organisations and regional partners to explore how environmental funding can support local communities.

For full details and to book your place visit [Register your place – Environmental Action: Funding, People and Place – Wylam Brewery Palace of Arts](#)

Free Trees for Schools and Communities

The Woodland Trust is giving away free packs of native trees. The packs come in a variety of sizes and any educational establishment, all kinds of local authorities and not-for-profit community groups can apply.

For full details, visit [Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#).

Wingates Wind Farm Community Grants

Grants of £250 - £5000 are available to constituted groups, parish councils and schools based in Brinkburn, Hesleyhurst, Longhorsley, Netherwitton, Nunnykirk or Rothley and Hollinghill covering projects that benefit the community.

For more information contact Julia Plinston at 01670 517178 or email communityfunds@ca-north.org.uk.

Veolia Environmental Trust

The Habitat and Biodiversity Grant Scheme funds projects that improve habitats, creating healthy environments for native species. The projects should aim to protect biodiversity and create sustainable, carbon-neutral spaces.

The minimum grant request is £10,000. Whilst project sites can be accessible to the public, projects should not be for community use.

For more information visit [Eligibility checker - Veolia Environmental trust](#).

7. Training

Nature and Wellbeing Course

Join a supportive 10 week course aiming to improve wellbeing and personal resilience through learning green skills together, empowering and connecting with nature. Activities may include – exploring local green spaces, mindful walking and grounding exercises, nature-based arts and crafts, wildlife gardening, green skills, citizen science projects and learning to look after our local environment.

Sessions are free for any adult who lives or works in Northumberland. For more information or to get involved email nrc@everyturn.org or call 07866 053717.

Sessions will run on Wednesdays – April 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th, May 6th, 13th, 27th, June 3rd, 10th and 24th at Isabella Heap Volunteer Pavillion, West Court, Blyth, NE24 5RZ.

8. Consultation

Northumberland County Council is currently undertaking a review of its library service, and a public consultation is currently open for you to have your say on the proposals.

Libraries are one of the most eco-friendly institutions we have: They encourage *sharing* instead of buying new things, and they reduce waste by providing communal access to resources like computers etc.

Libraries are also hubs of community learning and connection, sharing of ideas and inspiration through sustainability workshops, seed-sharing programs, repair cafés and of course a supply of books on gardening, growing your own food, DIY, recipes, the environment, natural world and more.

Northumberland County Council is keen to hear what YOU think about Northumberland Libraries: How do you use them? What could be improved? How do you feel about the changes they're suggesting?

One of the ways the council is suggesting changing the libraries is by standardizing opening hours. Opening hours would be based on the size of each library and demand in the area for the things that a library offers.

The suggestion is:

- Seven 'hub' libraries staffed for 45 hours per week
- Seven 'primary' libraries staffed for 28 hours per week
- Seven 'secondary' libraries staffed for 12 hours per week
- Eight 'community access' libraries run by volunteers

Read the full proposal on changes to opening hours here:

<https://nland.cc/librariesconsultation-hub>

You don't have to be a library member to make your views known. Council representatives are also visiting Northumberland's libraries to host drop in events where you ask questions and speak to someone about the plans.

Give your views by taking part in the survey or popping along to one of the drop in events.

<https://nland.cc/libraries-survey>. The survey is open until 13 April.

9. April 2026 Digest – Copy Deadline

The deadline for the next edition is **April 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)

March

- 17th The Power of Ponds, 6pm, Swarland Club
- 18th Co-op Green Opportunities Fund webinar,
- 18th Hauxley Wildlife Talk, 7 – 8pm, Hauxley Visitor Centre
- 18th Amble Women's Workshop Green / Eco Session, 11am – 2pm
- 21st NGH Community Event, 10 – 1pm, St James Church Centre, Alnwick
- 22nd CAW – A Walk by the Wansbeck Estuary, 10.30am, Charltons, Cambois
- 24th Living Woods – Woodland Volunteering Activity, Shilbottle
- 25th Wansbeck Natural History Group. 7 – 8.30pm, Middleton Hall, Middleton
- 26th Warkworth Food Group, 7pm, Warkworth Memorial Hall
- 26th CAW – How Alive is the Wansbeck ?, 7pm, Morpeth Methodist Church
- 28th Amble Repair Café, 2.30 – 4.30, Drywater Arts Centre
- 28th Greener Berwick Repair Café, 10am – 1.00pm, Salvation Army Hall, Church Street
- 31st Saving our Shoreline, 6.30pm, Newbiggin Community Hub

April

- 3rd Exhibition - No Time to Waste, Old Low Light Heritage Centre
- 3rd Northumberland Organic and Local Market, 4 – 8pm, Rennington Village Hall
- 4th Morpeth Repair Café, 9.30 – 12.30, Wellspring Church Hall
- 11th Warkworth Repair Café, 10 – 12pm, Warkworth Memorial Hall
- 19th Longhoughton Community Orchard Opening, 1 – 3pm
- 21st Thriving Together Network Meeting, 10am – 12pm, Felton Village Hall
- 21st Community Foundation Environmental Conference, 12 – 6.30, Wylam Brewery
- 21st Help Shape the Future of the River Coquet, 12.30 – 2.00pm, Felton Village Hall
- 25th Coquetdale Repair Café, 10 – 2pm, Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
- 29th Our Land + Q&A, 6pm, Tyneside Cinema

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