

NGH Monthly Digest

June 2026



News, Events, Updates and More!

1.NGH & Steering Group News

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NGH Communities of Interest

Many of us have active projects ongoing this Summer. In our village there has been controversy regarding verges and grass cutting with accusations of undemocratic changes forced by the local environment group - which simply isn't the case, NCC has changed the mowing rotas.

- How are things in your area?
- How are things developing?
- Have you community support?
- What approaches have worked what hasn't and how has communication been achieved?

Let's talk: visit the WhatsApp NGH Biodiversity Group

There are many issues being actively discussed in our WhatsApp communities – in NGH Transport & Active Travel - Active Transport officers, fingerpost road signs, linking cycle routes, walking, rail links. Within our NGH community we have lots of people active in these fields. Innovative approaches and community initiatives are taking place.

There's lots more in NGH Arts and Culture, NGH Warmer Homes, NGH Water Quality and a new NGH Litter & Waste Group on its way. Link in and enjoy the discussion.

Don't forget you can share the Digest with others and encourage them to join in the discussions at <https://nghonline.co.uk/join-us/>

The next 'in person' NGH event will take place on **Saturday 12th September** at St James Church Centre in Alnwick. We're currently finalising the Programme and information about the morning will be shared in the next Digest along with booking information.

2. What a Wonderful World Festival 25 - 28 June 2026

Film: It'll Never Work

Set on Scotland's scenic West coast, this is the inspirational story of one fisherman's skill and determination in converting his commercial fishing boat to solar and electric power. Over the course of almost a year we see the challenges and struggles he faces, but his conviction to contribute to a carbon. free future shines throughout.

This is followed by a short film and Q&A, looking at a lobster conservation initiative on the Northumberland Coast presented by Mark Southerton from the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority.

IT'LL NEVER WORK - Alnwick Playhouse Alnwick Playhouse Studio Saturday June 27th at 11.00 am.

Cut bills, cut carbon, build better.

Dr Alan James, one of the UK's leading energy innovators, tells how he transformed a derelict Northumbrian church into one of the UK's most energy-efficient homes, as featured on Guy Martin's House without Bills on Channel 4 and Derelict Rescue (Discovery). It is the first church-to-home conversion in the world to achieve Passivhaus certification; whilst also delivering absolute zero CO2 from energy use and a negative annual electricity bill. Hear the connection to the Geordie genius who first envisaged electricity from renewables 150 years ago, and Alan's vision for building hundreds of low-energy affordable homes in the North East. Then join in the discussion about ecobuilds, retrofit, renewables and community energy with Alan and the panel:



- Claire Margetts, Director EDeable architects, passionate about retrofit.
- Liz Gray, Head of Innovation, Rural Design Centre. Liz focuses on supporting the development of community energy, emission reductions and community development.
- Chris Algar, who with husband Mac has just completed a Passivhaus Low Energy Standard bungalow in Alnwick.

Saturday 27th June 2pm – 4.30pm

www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/event/cut-bills-cut-carbon-build-better/#book-tickets

What a Wonderful World Events are happening all over Northumberland. – see what's happening in your area

SHINE A LIGHT ON NATURAL ART - MAKE YOUR OWN LANTERN - ALNWICK
FAMILY WILD ADVENTURE DAY: RIVER LIFE, NATURE & TIME TRAVEL. – COLLEGE VALLEY
PEATLANDS DISCOVERY DAY – HETHPOOL
FORAGE AND ART: WILD FOOD – KIRKNEWTON
POETRY & MUSIC – ROTHBURY
WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT! – ALNWICK
POETS GO WILD – HAUXLEY
MAKING & STORIES: HOMES FOR BUGS & BIRDS – ALNWICK
GREENER BERWICK WALKING TOUR – BERWICK
SING FOR THE PLANET WORKSHOP AND CONCERT – ALNWICK
ART & ARCHAEOLOGY IN A "WILDING" LANDSCAPE – HEPPL
TALES FROM THE STONES - ALNWICK

www.whataww.org/festival-events

3. Amble's First Climate Cafe Launches at Dry Water Arts

On Sunday, June 7th, Dry Water Arts was proud to host Amble's first-ever Climate Cafe. It was a wonderful beginning to what we hope will become a vital, growing, and deeply connected environment for people to gather and share.

Part of the core mission of the Climate Cafe is to intentionally change how we meet. It's about practicing an ecology of the meeting—rethinking the way we hold space, respect one another's time, and interact.

To achieve this, Amble's Climate Cafe will always hold strong to the principles of listening circles. If you haven't experienced one before, a listening circle is a simple, yet powerful practice designed to ensure that everyone has a voice and no one is excluded. Instead of a standard debate or a lecture, it creates a supportive structure where we listen to learn, rather than advise, insist or interject. It is about holding a respectful space for reflection, allowing us to process our thoughts on the environment without pressure.

Ultimately, our hope is that Amble's Climate Cafe will grow into its own unique thing. We believe that so many small, individual contributions can grow together to become something incredibly impactful. By shifting how we connect and listen to one another, we hope to reflect the very changes we want to see in the wider environment. We are always looking to work together to make things happen, and this is just the beginning.

Join the Conversation

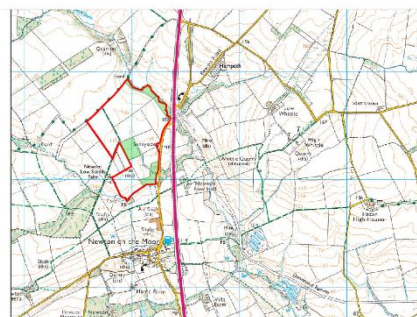
Keen to be a part of it? Our next gathering will take place on **Sunday, July 19th at 2pm at Drywater Arts Centre, Amble**. Whether you want to speak, share an idea or make something happen you are welcome



If you want to know more about the Climate Café network, see: <https://www.climate.cafe/>

4. New Woodland Planned by Forestry England

Forestry England are planning to create a new community-accessible woodland near Newton on the Moor. It's intended that the woodland will support wildlife, store carbon, produce sustainable timber and become a new green space for local people to enjoy. Several surveys have already been carried out to understand the soil and existing wildlife and to inform the mix of trees that will be planted.



A public consultation has been launched and local people will be able to view the plans and talk to the team at a drop in event on **Thursday June 18th from 4pm to 7pm in Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor**. People can also take part in an online consultation by visiting <https://bit.ly/newtonwood>. The consultation is open until midnight on Sunday June 28th.

5. Northumberland Food Strategy Action plan update

The Food Strategy Action plan had 15 minutes discussion at the Cabinet meeting on 9th June. Almost all the councillors present spoke in support of the plan.

There was quite a bit of focus on the launch of Taste of Northumberland, the role of food in supporting tourism and the need to tell the story of Northumberland food. There was also reference to the importance of public sector procurement in supporting Northumberland farmers and food producers. This includes the restaurant at County Hall.

Councillor John Robert Riddle said he is a farmer and passionate about the environment as well as food. He mentioned food security and his view that farmers are custodians of the countryside.

There is now a Food Action Plan Working Group made up of officers of the council. In the autumn, a Northumberland Food Partnership will be set up including members from public, private and community sector. Warkworth Food Group hopes this partnership will be associated with the other sustainable food partnerships in the North East.

The next meeting of the Warkworth Food Group will be on **Monday 22nd June, 7pm in the Hermitage, Warkworth**. The meeting will discuss our reaction to the Action Plan and whether there are any practical projects the group would like to do. All welcome.

Contact the group at ww.foodgroup@gmail.com

6. Updates from Groups

Greener Berwick

Our Repair Cafe which runs on the last Saturday every month. - has been short-listed for the LOVE Northumberland Awards, we will find out who wins on 24 June, so fingers crossed.

Our Tool Library is extending its range by purchasing £2,000 of new tools - watch out for the announcement on details of the new tools.

Greener Berwick held a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing on 6 June with an audience of 45. Statements from David Smith and Kim McGuinness were read out. The 50 minute film is a synopsis of what was shown to 1,200 MPs, peers, and community leaders at last November's National Emergency Briefing at Westminster Hall, where leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security, and nature, presented a clear overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting us all every day in Britain - and what the evidence says about risks and possible responses. For more information visit <https://www.nebriefing.org/expert-briefings>



Coquet River Action Group – What a year it's been!

CRAG will be holding it's AGM on **Tuesday 30th June 2026 @ 7.30 at Felton Village Hall** and we'll be looking back over an amazing year of action for the group and our super volunteers. From bathing water to lottery grants, from E.Coli tests to peat restoration, with our water quality data collecting also gathering volunteers and the start of an Invasive Weeds removal strategy we've had such a busy and exciting year.

The highlight of the year must be the award of bathing water status to Amble Little Shore beach last month after a year's hard work by CRAG- Little Shore Group, the Swimmers and the whole community coming together to mount a successful bid. Bathing water status, with its increased focus by the Environment Agency and the Council on the beach's water quality will be great for safeguarding public health, supporting marine businesses and promoting a civic pride in the area as a result. Hopefully some of you came along to the Amble Puffin Festival where we had a stall and the Big Splash Event the next day at the beach in May to celebrate the award!

The water quality testing by CRAG volunteers the length of the River Coquet to provide long term data on the river's health has been recognised this year with the support of a grant to CRAG from the National

Lottery Community Fund to cover our running costs and testing supplies for the next two years which is just fantastic!

The part of the Rothbury Estate purchased so far by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) covers an area of ancient peat bog in the Simonside Hills south of Rothbury which NWT are now engaged in the restoration of. CRAG volunteers are working with NWT on Caudhole Moss, measuring water quality and hydrology improvements to provide data to support this project.

Last summer saw CRAG volunteers doing E.Coli testing at sites along the river with the samples going to laboratory for testing. We are hoping to use a new (cheaper) method for E. coli testing this year and have had an incubator donated to help with this work. We hope to be able to do more in-depth testing of specific pollution hot-spots this summer as a result.

Invasive weeds on the River Coquet such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed have been identified at several sites. These plants crowd out our native species and increase the likelihood of river bank erosion. With a grant from the Northumberland Rivers Trust at the end of last year, we have been able to produce a strategy for the next few years to tackle their removal as well as organise training for volunteers to do this. This summer will be the first season for this strategy and we have already made a start on the Himalayan Balsam.

We have lots of information on our website about all our activities so please do take a look and get in touch if you want to be involved!
<https://coquetriveractiongroup.org/>



Climate Action Wansbeck

Climate Action Wansbeck river project is flowing onwards, with water testing kits just arrived, and WhatsApp groups developing to allow for easy communication in the sampling group. CAW have built good links with the Environment Agency and Groundworks North East. There have been some glitches in correspondence with interested members, so if you were expecting more communication about this than you have seen, drop them an email at climateactionwansbeck@gmail.com and they'll get you back in the loop.



CAW's latest big news is that the first Morpeth **Festival of Community, Nature and Environment** will take place in Morpeth Town Hall on **Saturday September 5th**. More details to come, but as well as stalls, activities and entertainment, it's hoped that there will be a film on an environmental theme from Morpeth Community Cinema on Friday 4th, and an outdoor church service on Sunday 6th. Climate Action Wansbeck would like to express thanks to NCC's Waste Management Team for making the event possible. They will need volunteers to help spread the word and to support stall holders on the day. Drop them an email if you would like to get involved.

Two of CAW's members have recent books out and have kindly donated copies to our Reading Group book box. Joshua Knight has condensed his years of experience in the energy business and his passion for sustainability into his book *Time for a Change* (published by Amazon), and well-known local author Bridget Gubbins has donated a copy of her latest book, *My Mother and the Curate: two diaries of life in Hay-on-Wye 1953 and 1870*, which looks back to a simpler, more sustainable way of life. To borrow our copies, come along to the Book Group (the next one will be the first Tuesday in September), or drop us an email and we'll get one to you.

CAW are in the process of updating our website, so if you haven't looked at it for a while take a look, www.climateactionwansbeck.org.

Our regular monthly meeting is on Tuesday 16th June at the White Swan.

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 is 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 is at Amble Youth Project(AYP), Dilston Terrace NE65 0DT.

If you would like more information, please contact Sue.greeneramble@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth have been busy!



- We've run an environmental question time, a networking event - Plant for the Planet- with other Northeast environmental groups, and several hustings for local and national elections
- We regularly lobby local and national politicians on environmental and nature issues
- We've shown several environmental films, planted thousands of tree saplings, done litter picks and beach cleans
- We supported the successful Save Druridge Campaign against a proposed open cast site in Druridge Bay
- We work with schools and young people on environmental and nature projects
- We campaign nationally and internationally as part of Friends of the Earth National

We are a small group with big ideas – we've done a lot but want to do more and need more people to be involved..

This is where you come in...

Do you have ongoing concerns about the climate emergency, the environment and nature and want to do something about it?

If so, come and join us

Contact us on contact@alnwickfoe.org.uk or see <https://www.alnwickfoe.org.uk/>

7. Events

Amble Women's Workshop – Wednesday Environment Group

We use our community garden and outside structures as a space where women can work together and relax in therapeutic surroundings. We are sowing, growing, harvesting and cooking together as well trying out practical skills like woodworking, laying foundations, using willow.

Everyone is welcome. If you need any further info contact Angela on angela@womensworkshop.net for more information or an informal chat.



Date: Wednesdays



Time: 11am – 3pm



Venue: Women s Workshop, Coquet Enterprise Park, Amble

Friends of the Earth X Baltic: The Midsummer Gathering

We'd love to invite friends and supporters of the Northumberland Green Hub to The Midsummer Gathering, brought to you by Friends of the Earth X Baltic, on Friday 20 June, 10:30–17:00, at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead.

This year's gathering is proudly part of Refugee Week, and the day will conclude with evening celebrations hosted by Baltic.

Free food will be provided throughout the day. Book your free place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-north-east-summer-gathering-tickets-1981747238337?aff=oddtcreator>

Amble Women's Workshop - Willow Sculpture

Make a simple willow basket, beginners welcome

 Date: Wednesday 24th June

 Time: 11am – 2pm

 Venue: Women s Workshop, Coquet Enterprise Park, Amble

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-a-willow-sculpture-tickets-1986983132036?aff=oddtcreator>

Acomb High House Open Garden

Fundraiser for Tyneside Hospice, entry £8

 Date: Saturday 27th June

 Time: 12-4pm

 Venue: Acomb High House. Acomb

[Acomb High House Open Garden](#)

Northumberland Organic Market

Organic fruit and veg, bread, coffee, flowers, food trucks and more

 Date: Friday 3rd July

 Time: 4-8pm

 Venue: Rennington Village Hall.



Wayfinders Pond Surveying - Hepple, Northumberland

A free hands-on day exploring pond ecology for young people aged 18-30 interested in improving your career skill set or just learning nature skills for the sheer joy of it!

 Date: Saturday 11th July

 Time: 10-4pm

 Venue: Hepple Estate, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 7LN

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wayfinders-pond-surveying-hepple-northumberland-tickets-1987684655311?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Moth mornings at Wallington

Join the Rangers to take a close look at some of the many species found at Wallington. See what the moth traps have caught overnight and be ready with your questions. Learn lots of fun facts to take home with you.

 Date: Sunday 12th July

 Time: 10-11am

 Venue: Wallington Estate, Northumberland

[Moth mornings at Wallington | National Trust](#)

Warkworth Green Gossip

Chat with members of Warkworth green matters to find out what's happening

- 📅 Date: Thursday 16th July
- 🕒 Time: 2-3.30pm
- 📍 Venue: Warkworth Cricket Club

Hauxley Wildlife Talks: The red squirrels of Northumberland

Learn more about these rare and elusive creatures plus the work of the Red Squirrel Recovery Network.

- 📅 Date: Saturday 18th July
- 🕒 Time: 15.30-17.00pm
- 📍 Venue: Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, Low Hauxley,



Talks are free but donations are welcome.

<https://www.nwt.org.uk/events/2026-07-18-hauxley-wildlife-talks-red-squirrels-northumberland>

Hauxley Wildlife Talks: The roseate terns of Coquet Island

An illustrated talk on the roseate terns of Coquet Island from Sarah Dalrymple, RSPB.



- 📅 Date: Saturday 15th August.
- 🕒 Time: 15.30-17.00pm
- 📍 Venue: Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, Low Hauxley.

Talks are free but donations are welcome.

[Hauxley Wildlife Talks: The roseate terns of Coquet Island | Northumberland Wildlife Trust](#)

8. Repair Cafe

Coquetdale Repair Café – Saturday 27th June, Jubilee Hall Rothbury 10.00-2.00pm

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.

Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 27th June , 10-1pm at The Salvation Army Hall, 53 Church Street, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, TD15 1EE. 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>.

Felton Repair Café on Saturday 4th July in Gallery45, Main Street, Felton -10.30 am to 2 pm.

Please note that we are not doing repairs to mains electrical equipment for the time being, though electronics repairs are still possible. Any queries please email feltonrepaircafe@gmail.com

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

Amble Repair Café – is bimonthly, the next session is Saturday 18th July, 2.30 – 4.30pm, Dry Water Arts in Amble.



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 see: <https://www.drywaterarts.uk/pop-up-event/repair-cafe>

Morpeth Repair Café – Saturday 4th July, 9.30 – 12.30, Wellspring Church Hall, Dark Lane.

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

Warkworth Repair Café – Warkworth Repair Cafe Saturday 15th August 10am-2pm. Memorial Hall Castle Street Warkworth. Electrical, woodwork and sewing repairs. Also computer support and magazine swap.

9. Funding Opportunities

The North East Environment Fund and The Lawrence Campbell Community First Fund



Grants for Environmental Activities that provide access to the environment, community involvement, raise awareness and tackle the issues facing the environmental and climate change.

The Fund supports grassroots projects that protect and enhance the natural environment across the region, enabling practical solutions that deliver lasting benefits for both people and place. The Fund prioritises projects that deliver practical, locally driven solutions to environment challenges, strengthen community capacity and encourage long-term stewardship of the natural environment.

<https://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/grants/grants-for-environmental-activities/>

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. Applications close in August 2026

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

The Tree Council

The Tree Council actively supports community tree, hedgerow, and orchard projects that boost agricultural productivity and create publicly accessible green spaces that promote physical and mental well-being. You can find out more about our current grant funding.

Visit: [Grant funding to support tree, hedgerow and orchard establishment](#)

Heritage Crafts

Heritage Crafts invites craft practitioners and organisations in the UK to apply for small grants to fund projects that support endangered crafts (the craft must be listed as endangered or critically endangered on the current Red List of Endangered Crafts).

Visit: https://heritagecrafts.org.uk/ecf/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=2026-06-02&utm_campaign=Thriving+Together+Newsletter+-+May+2+Edition

10. Elements Training Portal – Free stuff

The Elements Training Portal is a dedicated e-learning space for members of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Elements has been developed by [North Tyneside VODA](#), [Connected Voice](#) and [Northumberland CVA](#) who have been working together since 2019 to help VCSE organisations and groups. This partnership addresses challenges like limited capacity and geographic barriers by offering high-quality eLearning. Access is available anytime, anywhere with an internet connection.

All courses on the portal are free, available to everyone and typically take less than an hour. After completing a course, you can download a certificate to confirm your achievement.

The latest new course is about Involving Young Volunteers, which offers practical guidance on engaging young volunteers effectively, something we might all need to think about.

They also offer Safeguarding training Adults and children, Cyber security, fundraising and inclusive volunteering practice.

Visit: [Homepage](#) | [Elements Training Portal](#)

11. July 2026 Digest – Copy Deadline

The deadline for the next edition is **July 8th 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.*

12. Summary of Events

(See Events section for full details)

June	
17th	Stronger Shores update at Greener Amble, 7pm, Amble Youth project
20th	Friends of the Earth X Baltic: The Midsummer Gathering, 10.30-5pm, The Baltic, Gateshead
24th	Willow Sculpture, Women workshop Amble 11-2pm
25-28th	What a Wonderful World Festival, Alnwick
27th	Acomb High House Open Garden, 12 - 4pm £8 entry for Tyneside Hospice
27th	Coquetdale Repair Café, 10-2pm Jubilee Hall, Rothbury
27th	Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café, 10-1pm, The Salvation Army Hall
July	
3rd	Northumberland Organic market, 4-8pm Rennington Church Hall.
4th	Felton Repair Café, 10.30-2pm at Gallery 45 Felton High Street
4th	Morpeth Repair Café, 10-1pm, Wellspring Church Hall
11th	Wayfinders Pond Surveying, 10-4pm, Hepple, Northumberland
12th	Moth mornings at Wallington, 10-11am
14th	Thriving Together Northumberland Network, 10 am - 12pm. at Haydon Bridge Community Centre
15th	Time to Talk, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Philanthropy House, Newcastle
15th	Greener Amble visit to Amble Women's Workshop, 7pm Coquet Industrial Park, Amble
16th	Warkworth Green Gossip - 2-3.30pm, Warkworth Cricket Club
18th	Hauxley Wildlife Talks: The red squirrels of Northumberland, 15.30 - 17.00, Hauxley Wildlife Centre
18th	Amble Repair Café, 2.30 – 4.30pm, Drywater Arts
25th	Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café, 10-1pm, The Salvation Army Hall

13. 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 (Resumes in September)
- Greener Amble Network next meets 17th June at Amble Youth Project, Dilston Terrace NE65 0DT from 6.30 for 7.00 – 8.45pm