

NGH Monthly Digest

July 2026



News, Events, Updates and More!

1.NGH & Steering Group News

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Tell Us What You Think!

As Northumberland Green Hub approaches its third anniversary, we'd like to take the opportunity to hear from members. Your opinions are important in helping us make sure that NGH continues to provide the type of activities, information and opportunities that matter most to you.

To make it easy we've set up a simple survey which only takes a few minutes to complete. Regardless of how long you've been a member, or whether you've attended NGH events, we'd really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts. All submissions will be anonymous. Once we've gathered the responses, we'll share the results and let you know how your feedback will help shape the future of NGH.

The Survey will run from Monday July 6th until Friday July 24th.

<https://forms.gle/6TETDFtvkpGVjiaFA>

Thank you for being part of Northumberland Green Hub and for helping us continue to grow.

A Date for Your Diary

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 soon along with booking information.

New Members

A big welcome to new members Jasmine, Kate, Tracy, Jacqueline and Jane – we hope you enjoy being part of NGH.

2. The LOVE Northumberland Awards

The CRAG Little Shore Amble project has recently won the prize for the Best Coast or Countryside Project at the LOVE Northumberland Awards, following a successful campaign to get Bathing Water Designation for the stretch of coastline.



In addition, Julia Chambers – vice chair of CRAG, member of NGH and instrumental in leading the Little Shore campaign won the Outstanding Individual Award in an event at The Alnwick Garden, hosted by BBC Radio Newcastle, with awards presented by The Duchess of Northumberland.

It's fantastic to see local projects getting recognition after putting in a huge effort. Well done to Julia and everyone who worked so hard on the project to gather support and evidence necessary.

Also a big well done to Berwick Repair Café who came runner up in the category for responding to the Climate Crisis.

The LOVE Northumberland Awards are an annual celebration of community environmental work in the county. They allow the County Council to recognise the fantastic work of a great many groups and individuals who are doing their bit to make the county greener, cleaner, and more sustainable

3. Save Our Market: Northumberland Organic & Local Market Needs You



Northumberland Organic & Local Market is so much more than a place to pick up your weekly shopping. It's a place where friends & neighbours meet, where local producers & makers share their passion, & where the food on your table has a story behind it. But the market is at a crossroads. Without greater support from local people, it may not be able to continue. And that would be a real loss — not just for the stallholders who depend on it, but for all of us.

Why the market matters

When you shop at the market, you're keeping money within our local economy. You are supporting people who have chosen to farm & produce sustainably & reducing the food miles. The fruit, vegetables, & artisan produce you'll find here are grown & made with care — often organic, always honest.

How you can help

The simplest & most powerful thing you can do is come along & buy something. Even a small, regular commitment — a few veggies, a loaf of bread — makes a real difference to the stallholders who turn up each month. You can also spread the word. Tell a friend, share it on social media or mention it to a neighbour who might not know it exists. Markets thrive on footfall and every new face helps.

We want to hear from you

The organiser and stallholders are genuinely open to your ideas. Is there something you'd love to see at the market? A product you can't find, a change that would make your visit easier, or a suggestion that might bring more people through the door? Please do speak to the organiser on the day, or get in touch directly. This is your market and your voice matters in shaping its future.

The market runs on the first Friday of each month, from 4-8pm in Rennington, NE66.

contact Laura at laura@threebyone.eu and you can follow the market on Facebook at NLand Organic & Local & on Instagram at @nland_organic_local

4. River Breamish Restoration to Start



The next phase of the Till Restoration Strategy – the River Breamish and Pow Burn Restoration Project will start work in August, focusing on the removal of artificial embankments and structures, creating new channels and connecting ponds and wetlands to the river.

The river is currently classified as being in unfavourable condition due to changes over the centuries. The work will allow the river to stretch out across the floodplain, rather than being constrained to

a single channel.

The work is funded by the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water and is being carried out by the Tweed Forum. It's hoped that it will create improved habitats for Atlantic salmon and other fish, amphibians and invertebrates.

5. Northumberland County Council

NCC Free Tree Scheme Changes

Northumberland County Council is changing the way it delivers its free tree scheme. This year, the council is promoting the Woodland Trust's free tree packs for community groups, including schools and town and parish councils. Saplings will no longer be available to individual residents.

The free packs come in eight different species mixes of 15, 30, 105 or 420 saplings to accommodate every project. The Woodland Trust is currently taking applications until August for tree packs to be delivered in November 2026. Visit <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/> Woodland Trust to apply.

Council Opposes Lynx Reintroduction in Northumberland

Northumberland County Council has voted to formally oppose any proposal to reintroduce the Eurasian lynx into the county.

The decision comes as the Missing Lynx Project, a partnership led by Northumberland Wildlife Trust, continues to investigate whether a carefully managed reintroduction could be feasible in north-west Northumberland. The project has spent the past two years examining the ecological, practical and social case for bringing lynx back to Britain. Its research suggests the Kielder area is the only suitable landscape in England capable of supporting a viable lynx population, but it maintains that no reintroduction should proceed without broad local support. The partnership says it hopes to apply for a licence only if a plan can be developed collaboratively with communities, farmers and other stakeholders. It has also reported that 72% of respondents to its consultation in the project area supported a potential reintroduction.



Supporters argue that lynx could help restore natural ecosystems by controlling deer numbers, reducing pressure on woodland and boosting biodiversity. Opponents, including many farmers and rural organisations, have raised concerns about potential impacts on livestock, pets and rural livelihoods.

This week's Council motion commits Northumberland County Council to opposing any future lynx reintroduction proposals. Some members expressed concerns that the motion was pre-emptive as no formal application and evidence has yet been submitted, with concerns that this undermines public consultation. The final decision on any future application rests with DEFRA.

6. Updates from Groups

Greener Berwick

We are celebrating as the Berwick Repair Cafe came runner up in the LOVE Northumberland category for responding to the Climate Crisis. They received their award at Alnwick Castle on 24 June.

The Growing Communities group worked with 25 children from the Trinity Primary School to talk about weeds, identifying weeds, and the children helped to weed the bed at the Warm Memorial on Castlegate. This engagement is expected to be repeated a couple more times as the year progresses.

If you would like to become a Member of Greener Berwick, or have any questions about our events or objectives, we would be glad to hear from you. Please get in touch: info@greenerberwick.org.uk

Coquet River Action Group

One of CRAG's biggest achievements over recent months has been the designation of Little Shore as one of only 13 new official bathing waters in England. This means water quality will now be monitored more frequently during the bathing season, with public information provided to help visitors make informed decisions. Although implementation has been slower than expected, this is a significant milestone that reflects years of local campaigning.



The dedication of the Amble and Warkworth volunteers was also recognised at the LOVE Northumberland Awards, where both the CRAG Little Shore group and Julia received awards for their outstanding contribution to the local environment.

Volunteer conservation work has continued at pace, with teams tackling invasive Himalayan balsam at sites including Rothbury, Brinkburn, Felton and Warkworth. Plans are also underway to begin stem-injection treatment of Japanese knotweed later this year, while the first sighting of giant hogweed on the Coquet has been identified and will be dealt with promptly.

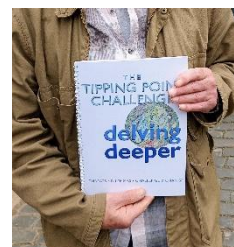
Monitoring the health of the river remains a priority. CRAG groups are expanding E. coli testing at key locations, while volunteers in Warkworth are helping to test for PFAS, or 'forever chemicals'. Encouragingly, results so far show very low levels, highlighting the Coquet's relatively unspoilt condition. Riverfly monitoring is also being introduced, with training and equipment being provided to volunteers across the catchment.

If you'd like to find out more or get involved, contact coquetriverractiongroup@outlook.com

Alnwick Friends of the Earth

Just out! Delving Deeper.

Delving Deeper is a follow on but standalone book from the Environmental Tipping Point Challenge game. In it, Terry Smith from Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth has focused on 22 threats to our environment and nature and provided information for the reader to find out more about each issue. Similarly, 29 positive things are identified. These are things that an individual, group or community can do to help address the climate and nature crisis.



Terry provides information on where the reader can find out more about each issue.

If you are interested in obtaining this 62-page book please contact Terry at tezzalamezz@icloud.com. Alnwick Area FoE are asking for a donation of £5 for each book. This is the approximate cost of the production of the book.

Terry has also informed the Digest that he still has some Environmental Tipping Point games that are available. Do contact him if interested in obtaining one of these award winning games.

7. Consultation: Public asked for views on bus services

The NE Strategic Authority has launched a public consultation on proposals to bring more than 500 routes back under public control, giving Mayor Kim McGuinness responsibility for setting routes, timetables and fares. Private bus operators would still run the services but be under contract to the authority rather than running them on a commercial basis.

Since 2010 the network has shrunk by nearly a third, with some routes disappearing completely and others being reduced, particularly at weekends and evenings. The Mayor has pledged to protect services from cuts and to expand the network.

This is an important opportunity for residents and local groups to have their say. In many rural areas public transport is severely limited – increasing reliance on cars and increasing isolation.

Swarland and Newton Action on Climate has successfully campaigned for a one day per week service connecting the villages with Morpeth and Alnwick. Carolyn Letts who led the campaign said *'It's taken us a long time to get even a very limited service. We would welcome the move to public ownership – together with a rethink about the way in which rural services are structured which takes into consideration people's wishes and needs'*.



The consultation runs until September 28th and more than 30 public events are planned across the region. The survey can be found at <https://www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/consultations/haveyoursay>. For a paper copy, phone 0191 2774223 or email haveyoursay@northeast-ca.gov.uk.

8. Events

Thriving Together Northumberland Network

Our networking events are all about keeping things relaxed – no speeches, no formal presentations, just good conversations with great people from Northumberland's voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.



 Date: Tuesday 14th July

 Time: 10-12

 Venue: Haydon Bridge Community Centre, Haydon Bridge, Hexham NE47 6ET

Time to Talk

Time to Talk sessions are open to anyone connected with a charitable organisation or support agency. We welcome volunteers, staff members, consultants, fundraisers and trustees.

 Date: Wednesday 15th July

 Time: 10-12

 Venue: Philanthropy House, Woodbine Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1DD

[Book now – Time to Talk – Philanthropy House, Woodbine Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne](#)

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>

Tracks and signs: searching for signs of red squirrels

Help the RSRN team and Cramlington and District Red Squirrel Group look for evidence of local red squirrels in the woods!

-  Date: Monday 20th July
-  Time: 13.00 -15.30
-  Venue: East Cramlington Nature Reserve



Talks are free but donations are welcome.

<https://www.nwt.org.uk/events/2026-07-20-tracks-and-signs-searching-signs-red-squirrels>

The Northumberland Dark Honey Bee (or stories from a Bee Loser)

Talk by Craig Ellis, Climate Action Manager, The Alnwick Garden

-  Date: Tuesday 21st July
 -  Time: 6-7pm
 -  Venue: Swarland Club, Coast View, Swarland, NE65 9JG
-

Coastal Ecology Talk - Online 21st July

The Newbiggin Environment Network will be joined by Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership for an online talk to explore the coastal habitats of Newbiggin. We will learn about the ecology of species dependent on these places in order to target community action and monitoring to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea. Key areas of focus will be rocky shore wildlife and coastal wildflowers, seabirds and cetaceans.

-  Date: Tuesday 21st July
-  Time: 6-7pm

Online sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/newbiggin-environment-network-coastal-biodiversity-online-talk-tickets-1992639312825?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Coastal Biodiversity Walk – 22nd July

An afternoon of exploring the coastal habitats of Newbiggin. We will learn to identify the species dependent on these places in order to target community action and monitoring to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea. Key areas of focus will be rocky shore wildlife and coastal wildflowers, but we will also look out for seabirds and cetaceans (whales and dolphins) during our walk.



 Date: Wednesday 22nd July

 Time: 2-4pm

 Venue: Newbiggin Maritime Centre

No experience necessary – just sturdy footwear and an interest in the wildlife of the coast!”

Marine Conservation Society Beach Clean – Togston Links.

Join this beach clean to help us stop harmful litter from reaching the ocean and collect vital data that we can use to bring about positive change for our seas.

 Date: Wednesday 22nd July

 Time: 11.30 – 1.30

 Venue: Hadston Scaurs Car Park

<https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/beach-clean/find-beach-clean/togston-links-beach-clean/>

Hauxley Moth mornings

Every wondered what comes out at night? Come and discover the vast array of night flying moths that visit Hauxley after dark.

 Date: Friday 24th July & Friday 7th August

 Time: 9-11am

 Venue: Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, Low Hauxley



<https://www.nwt.org.uk/events/2026-07-24-hauxley-moth-morning>

National Marine Week Shorewatch

A series of opportunities for you to join the North East Cetacean Project team for shore watches, also at Snab Point Cresswell and Rocky Island Seaton Sluice.

 Date: Sunday 26th July

 Time: 3pm

 Venue: Church Point, Newbiggin.

<https://www.nwt.org.uk/events/2026-07-26-national-marine-week-shorewatch> for further details.

Northumberland Organic Market

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

-  **Date:** Friday 7th August
-  **Time:** 4-8pm
-  **Venue:** Rennington Village Hall.



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](#)

Marine Conservation Society: Warkworth Beach Clean

Join this beach clean to help us stop harmful litter from reaching the ocean and collect vital data that we can use to bring about positive change for our seas.

-  **Date:** Wednesday 19th August.
-  **Time:** 10.30 – 12.30
-  **Venue:** Warkworth Beach

<https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/beach-clean/find-beach-clean/warkworth-beach-clean/>

9. Repair Cafe

Coquetdale Repair Café – Saturday 19th September, 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 25th July , 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>.

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

Felton Repair Café on Saturday 5th September in Gallery45, Main Street, Felton -10.30 am to 2 pm. we are now able to accept small electrical items e.g. toasters, kettles, irons for repair. This together with sewing repairs, toys, trains and ceramics repairs, gardening tools and knife and scissor sharpening, as well as computer and IT queries and recycling old mobiles and laptops. Small wooden items can also be



fixed. Our wonderful volunteers will have a go at anything, or say if its beyond help! Any queries please email feltonrepaircafe@gmail.com

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 5th September, 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.

10. August 2026 Digest – Copy Deadline

The deadline for the next edition is **August 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.*

11. Summary of Events

(See Events section for full details)

July	
14 th	Thriving Together Northumberland Network, 10 am - 12pm. at Haydon Bridge Community Centre
15 th	Time to Talk, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Philanthropy House, Newcastle
16 th	Warkworth Green Gossip - 2-3.30pm, Warkworth Cricket Club
18 th	Hauxley Wildlife Talks: The red squirrels of Northumberland, 15.30 - 17.00, Hauxley Wildlife Centre
18 th	Amble Repair Café, 2.30 – 4.30pm, Drywater Arts
20 th	Tracks and signs: searching for signs of red squirrels, 1-14.30. East Cramlington Nature Reserve NE23 6XG
21 st	The Northumberland Dark Honey Bee, 6-7pm, Swarland Club, Coast View, NE65 9JG
21 st	Newbiggin Environment Network Coastal Biodiversity Online Talk
22 nd	Coastal Biodiversity Walk, 14 – 16.00, Newbiggin Maritime Centre
22 nd	Marine Conservation Society litter pick, 11.30am meet Hadston Scaurs Car Park
24 th	Hauxley Moth Morning, 9-11am, Hauxley Wildlife Centre
25 th	Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café, 10-1pm, The Salvation Army Hall
26 th	National marine Week Shore watches start, 3pm Church Point Newbiggin
August	
15 th	Warkworth Repair Café, 10-2pm,
15 th	Hauxley Wildlife Talks: The roseate terns of Coquet Island, 15.30 - 17.00, Hauxley Wildlife Centre
19 th	Marine Conservation Society litter pick, 10.30am Warkworth beach

12. 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 15th July, a visit to Amble Women's Workshop, Coquet Enterprise Park, NE65 0PE