



NGH Monthly Digest

October 2026

1. NGH NEWS

2027 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We now have the dates for NGH Community Events in 2027:

March 6th

June 5th

September 4th

Dec 4th

More details coming soon!

Canva licences

NGH still has several FREE Canva Pro licences that are available to community groups. These are normally £100/year, so it's big saving.

If you're interested, contact us at Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com

New Members

Welcome to new members
Ashleigh, Jennifer and Gerard

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Come and join us in December!

The next NGH Community Event is on **Saturday December 5th**. We'll have a variety of short talks – including an update on plans for a wildlife corridor from Druridge to Kielder and a seasonal reading, plus a taster of the events coming up in 2027.

And of course, there'll be some seasonal goodies and plenty of time to socialise and meet other members.

Booking opens in November.

Dates for 2027

We're pleased to announce that the dates for next years' events have now been agreed (see box top left). All the events will be held at St James Church Centre in Alnwick.

They are a great way to meet other members, find out what's going on around Northumberland and learn about inspiring projects and initiatives.

We're currently working on a number of suggestions, with the first event in March focussing on Transport and Active Travel.

Steering Group Update

We'd like to pass on our thanks to Mike Powell, who has recently stepped down from the Steering Group. Mike was part of the original group that came together three years ago to propose forming a network for groups and individuals interested in climate and the environment. We'd like to wish Mike all the best for the future and look forward to seeing him at future events.

Natalie Goodman has taken over the role of Treasurer in addition to her other contributions to the Steering Group – thanks Nat!

Community Food Map

A big 'Thank You' to NGH member Sarah Bredin-Kemp who has taken over the running of the Community Food map.

The map was developed following an NGH event about Food, and shows more than 70 food initiatives, including farm shops, community orchards and food banks.

You can see the map at [Community Food – Northumberland Green Hub](#) where you can report new projects or update details by completing an online form.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Rothbury Deadline Extended

The deadline for donations to raise the necessary £30m to buy the Rothbury estate has been extended.

The campaign which has been backed by major figures including Sir David Attenborough, had been due to close on 30 September but has now been extended until the end of October.

The Wildlife Trusts and Northumberland Wildlife Trust said they were close to raising the full amount to acquire the estate in its entirety and would take out a loan for anything they fell short by.



Growing Together Through Environmental Action

Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, Growing Together Northumberland supports projects that use horticulture, environmental action and community space development as a platform for community participation, learning and inclusion.

Growing Together welcomes enquiries from charities, community organisations and resident-led groups that share their commitment to creating lasting benefits for people, communities and the environment. They are particularly interested in initiatives that engage people facing barriers to employment, volunteering or social participation, including NEET young people, economically inactive adults and those experiencing social isolation.



The group prioritises projects that provide meaningful hands-on involvement, help people develop skills and confidence, strengthen community connections and deliver lasting benefits for local communities and the environment.

For further information, contact:
Martin Conway, Community Partnerships Coordinator,
Martin.conway@alnwickgarden.com
Gerard Bell, Horticulture Officer,
Gerard.bell@alnwickgarden.com.

Fix Nature. Fix Health.



The Wildlife Trusts want to hear from you about how nature has helped your health and well-being. How does nature make your life better? And what might stop you or your community from being able to do that?

Your submission will be completely anonymous and it will help the Trust speak to MPs and Ministers about policies to make real improvements to people's lives.

Successive governments have been saying they want to update public health policy for years – but plans keep being pushed down the priority list. Nature is still considered to be something that's 'nice to have', instead of something that is necessary for everyone.

Over 1,000 people have already shared what nature means to them. You can read these inspiring stories using the link below.

Find out more at <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/get-involved/campaign-us/fix-nature-fix-health> and **share your views** at [How nature helps your health and wellbeing \(Page 1 of 3\)](#)

3. REPAIR CAFES

Coquetdale Repair Café – Saturday November 21st, 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. Email info@coquet-repair.co.uk.

Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday October 31st, 10-1pm at The Salvation Army Hall, 53 Church Street, TD15 1EE. Repairs are free but donations very 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.

Warkworth Repair Café - Saturday October 10th 10am-12, Memorial Hall, Castle Street. Clothing, soft toys, small household and electrical items.

Amble Repair Café – Saturday November 28th, 2.30 – 4.30pm, Dry Water Arts. Volunteer repairers cover sewing, darning, toys, small electrical appliances, sharpening, ceramics and small items of furniture. <https://www.drywaterarts.uk/pop-up-event/repair-cafe>

Felton Repair Café - Saturday November 7th, 10.30 am to 2 pm, Long Room at Gallery45, Main Street If unsure about any potential repair, please email feltonrepaircafe@gmail.com and we'll let you know if we can help.

Morpeth Repair Café – Saturday November 7th, 10.00 – 1.00pm, Wellspring Church Hall, Dark Lane. Repairs for electrical items, clothing, toys and mechanical items.

4. UPDATES FROM GROUPS

Warkworth Food Group

There is a lot going on in food at the moment.

Locally there is the Northumberland Food Strategy Action Plan. It requires action by many different organisations, so the Council can co-ordinate it but can't deliver on its own.

An initiative from Newcastle University included a workshop in Alnwick in July - *Connecting Communities Through Food*. Sixty people attended and in discussions, participants identified several priorities for building a more connected, inclusive and resilient local food system.

Nationally there are increasing numbers of reports highlighting the critical importance of our food system. The cost to our health, our economy, the environment, and increasingly concerns about the impact on national security. The amount of our food that is imported make us very vulnerable if that trade were to be disrupted in any way.

At its meeting last week, the group decided on a letter writing campaign to MPs and will produce a short briefing with a few facts to include to help you write a letter that expresses your concerns and makes it clear that we want the Government to pay more attention to food policy.

If you would like a copy of the letter writing briefing or the report of the Connecting Communities Through Food workshop, email www.foodgroup@gmail.com.

Tell us about what your group is doing. We'd love to hear about your projects, events and activities.

The more we share, the more we connect and the stronger we are.

Warkworth Litter Picks

The Warkworth litter picks last approximately one and a half hours. If you don't have your own kit, litter pick sticks, hi-viz vests, gloves and bin bags can be provided. Children and vulnerable adults must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Please pre-register at litterfree@icloud.com to help us know what we need to bring and to send out the necessary health and safety advice in advance. It also makes sure we have a contact number in case of cancellation.

Dates for the next couple of months are -

Oct 17th, Warkworth Village Centre, 10.00, meet at Stanners Car park

Oct 30th, Hadston, 10.00, meet at Hadston House Community Centre

Nov 7th, Amble Town Centre, 10.00, meet at Turner Street East Car park, Town Square

Nov 17th, Hadston, 10.00, meet at Hadston House Community Centre.

Climate Action Wansbeck

The group has had a busy summer and are starting to develop its plans for the year ahead.

The River Project is progressing well, as the pilot project funded by the County Council reaches its half-way point. Pairs of water samplers, in their new hi-vis jackets, are testing for nitrates and phosphates at multiple sites. Plans are developing to add biodiversity sampling in the Spring and funding is being sought for a second year from April.

The Greener Morpeth Weekend was a resounding success: the showing of *Ocean*, beautiful and sobering, was well-attended (a big thank you to Morpeth Community Cinema for the showing), and over 300 people came through the doors of the Town Hall Fair (we hit the front pages of the Herald and Inside Morpeth and had excellent coverage from MorpethTV.). The Creation Day service in the Park brought things to a thoughtful conclusion and overall, almost 500 people engaged with one of our events.

Newbiggin Environmental Network

Despite an inspection of the beach by volunteers in September that declared the beach 'nurdle free', autumn winds and tides on the first weekend of October brought more nurdles than previously to the tideline. NEN will continue to work with North Tyneside and Northumberland Nurdle Clean to co-ordinate more clean ups.

The Save our Shoreline Biodiversity Group has been monitoring the shoreline and doing a 'painting for wellbeing' workshop to support members.

Plastic Free Newbiggin is currently affiliated to Surfers against Sewage and their Plastics Free Communities campaign. They are continuing to work with the Town Council to get support for systematic actions for limiting single use plastic in the town's public buildings and elsewhere.

There has been excellent response to setting up a Repair Cafe at the Elizabethan Hall, Hepple RD. The next planning meeting is 8th October.

Green Table Northumberland

The Green Table is a chance to bring people together locally, share ideas, make connections and continue conversations around community-led climate action and local environmental projects. It's an opportunity to explore what's happening across Northumberland, share experiences and look at what we can achieve by working together.

The next event is being held in **Haydon Bridge on November 24th**, where there will be talks from Haydon Bridge Nurture Community Garden Project, Haydon Bridge Net Zero and the Environment Agency's Flood Resilience Team.

It's being held at Haydon Bridge Community Centre, NE47 6ET from 11.00am to 2.00pm. You can book your place at [The Green Table @ Haydon Bridge – Eventbrite](#). A light lunch will be included.

The event is for **community groups and organisations**, with a maximum of **2 representatives per group**.

The following Green Table Northumberland events will take place in 2027 -

Thursday 28 January 2027 – Seahouses Hostel, North Sunderland, Seahouses. Featuring contributions from the Northumberland Coast National Landscape.

Wednesday 12 May 2027 – Cambo Village Hall, Cambo. Featuring contributions from Wallington Estates on their nature projects.

Further details and booking information for these future events will be available in due course. If you would like to register your interest, please email energy@ca-north.org.uk.

5. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – WHAT’S NEW ?

WhatsApp Special Interest Groups

One of the things you told us in the NGH Survey was that the Special Interest WhatsApp groups are useful for information sharing, local news and networking. But - the groups vary in terms of the level of engagement, sometimes conversations can become dominated by a small number of people and requests for information don't always get a response.

To try and improve how useful and effective the groups are, we've made sure that in each group there are two active 'Admins'. Their role is to welcome new members, ensure that members who ask for advice or support receive an appropriate response, co-ordinate discussions where that's needed and make sure that conversations are in line with the WhatsApp Guide that was sent to all members last month (you can find it at [How To Guides – Northumberland Green Hub](#)).

We're grateful to a number of members who have volunteered to be an Admin. We hope that our Admins can help to ensure that you can get the most from taking part in the groups.

NGH Special Interest Group Admins

- Biodiversity & Wildlife – Liz Clark & Julia Chambers
- Water Quality – Julia Chambers & Dan Avery
- Transport & Active Travel – Carolyn Letts & Colin Duquem
- Climate Crisis Response – Terry Smith & Liz Clark
- Warmer Homes – Chris Algar & tba
- Arts & Culture – Ali Elly & Sonia Ritter
- Community Food – Jo Hart & Liz Clark
- Litter, Recycling & Waste – Nat Goodman & Julia Grierson.

6. FUNDING

Funding Fair

Thriving Together are holding a Funding Fair in November. It will be a chance to meet grant funders face-to-face. There will also be private 1-to-1 sessions with key funding officers (pre-booking required).

- **Date:** Tuesday 3rd November 2026
- **Event Time:** 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- **Location:** Top Floor (Zones 2 & 3 and Conference Room), Cramlington Community Hub

Attendance is free, but places are limited. Funders include National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Greggs Foundation Community Action Fund, National Lottery Community Fund, the Northern Powergrid Foundation, Community Foundation North East, NCC Environmental and Climate Fund and many others.

Northumberland County Council Community Chest

The closing date for Round 2 of the Northumberland County Council Community Chest scheme is **Friday October 16th**.

The aim of the scheme is to support community groups and organisations to deliver activities which contribute to the council's ambitions for Northumberland.

There are one-off grants of up to £3000 available, though these must not exceed 90% of the actual costs.

To apply or for more information visit [Community Chest | Northumberland County Council](#). NB online forms are not available.

7. EVENTS



Friends of the Greenway Gathering

A walk along the Greenway, sharing ideas and discussing the future volunteering plans. Afterwards everyone is invited to the Bullfield Community Orchard for locally pressed apple juice.

 **Date:** Saturday October 10th

 **Time:** Meet at 10.30am for an 11.00am start

 **Venue:** Meet at the car park outside Alnwick Juniors Football Club.

Please book by emailing volunteersborderline@gmail.com. Please dress for the weather!

North East Biodiversity and Regenerative Food Festival

The festival brings together and celebrates the growers, producers and organisations that contribute to a regenerative local food system and a wilder, more biodiverse region, including growers, bakers, makers, street food vendors, crafters, charities, community groups and more! Free entry.

 **Date:** Saturday October 10th

 **Time:** 10.30am – 6.00pm

 **Venue:** Grainger Street, Newcastle

Powering Our Communities

Regional Energy Summit, bringing together communities, village halls, energy organisations, decision-makers and off-electricity-grid households. Expect practical ideas, inspiring projects, interactive labs, a marketplace and plenty of opportunities to connect. Please register at:

[Powering Our Communities Summit Tickets, Wednesday, October 14 • 9:30 AM - 3 PM | Eventbrite](#)

 **Date:** Wednesday October 14th
 **Time:** 9.30 am – 3.00pm (lunch provided)
 **Venue:** Hexham Abbey

The People's Emergency Briefing

Hosted by Climate Action Wansbeck, this is another chance to hear directly from the scientists who briefed MPs on climate and nature last year. The film will be followed by a discussion.

 **Date:** Friday October 16th
 **Time:** 7.00pm
 **Venue:** St James Community Centre, Morpeth

Book your free ticket at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-peoples-emergency-briefing-on-the-climate-and-nature-crisis-tickets-2002517130644?aff=oddtcreator>. Donations welcome.



Derek v Derek

Coquetdale Creatives, National Trust Wallington, and Northumberland Wildlife Trust are hosting a screening of Derek v Derek, followed by a discussion.

Derek vs Derek offers a funny, thought-provoking look at two very different visions for the countryside. Its exploration of farming, nature recovery and our relationship with the land have particular resonance in Coquetdale, where similar questions are already shaping the landscape's future.

FREE ENTRY FOR FARMERS. BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS.

 **Date:** Saturday October 17th
 **Time:** 7pm followed by discussion led by local farmers
 **Venue:** Jubilee Hall, Rothbury

Power to the Borders

A talk by Nick Edgar, discussing the UK Net Zero and Clean Power 2030 Framework, Westminster v Holyrood's targets, north Northumberland and its strategic positioning. Plus the real costs of solar, onshore wind and battery storage.

 **Date:** Monday October 19th
 **Time:** 10.00am – 12.00 noon
 **Venue:** William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick.
Tickets £6. Booking at <https://www.berwickea.org>.

Haydon Bridge Nature Club

 **Date:** October 29th – A Welcome to Nature at Wall town, November 12th – Planting for Climate Change and Biodiversity
 **Time:** 7.15pm
 **Venue:** The Methodist Church, Church St, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6JG.

Hostage Nation

Jamie Driscoll's new report, *Hostage Nation: Britain's Escape Plan*, sets out his argument that many of the financial constraints we treat as immovable are actually choices — and, importantly, proposes practical ways the UK could do things differently. The report covers investment, housing, energy, transport, jobs and rebuilding the country's productive capacity. Thursday 29 October, 6.30pm

Free entry. Everyone is welcome.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hostage-nation-britains-escape-plan-by-alnwick-green-party-tickets-2002109027998?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=wsa&aff=ebdsshwebmobile>

 **Date:** Thursday October 29th

 **Time:** 6.30pm

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



Coquet Conversations – a CRAG Autumn Update

An invitation to CRAG volunteers and supporters to join us for a cream tea and to hear from natural England on the Protected Site Strategy for the Coquet, from Northumberland Wildlife Trust on the Caudhall Moss project and from the Rivers Trust on a Coquet fishy topic!

There will be plenty of opportunity for questions, discussions and an update on CRAG's activities.

Free to attend, but donations are always welcome. If you plan to attend, please let us know as this helps with quantities of scones!

Email at coquetriveractiongroup@outlook.com.

 **Date:** Saturday October 31st

 **Time:** 1.30pm

 **Venue:** Swarland Village Hall, Coastview, Swarland

The Northumberland Shore

A talk by Amy Hopley and Richard Willis. The coastal waters of Northumberland and Berwickshire are home to a remarkable and unique mix of wildlife not found anywhere else in the UK.

 **Date:** Monday November 2nd

 **Time:** 10.00am – 12 noon

 **Venue:** William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick

Tickets £6, To book visit <https://www.berwickea.org>

Climate Action Wansbeck Reading Group

First Tuesday of the month.

 **Date:** Tuesday November 3rd

 **Time:** 7.00pm

 **Venue:** Upstairs, Morpeth Library

People's Emergency Briefing

Join members of Newbiggin Environment Network and local MP Ian Lavery for a screening of 'People's Emergency Briefing' presented by Chris Packham, where scientists who recently briefed MPs give up-to-date information on the climate and nature crisis and how to tackle it.

 **Date:** Saturday November 7th
 **Time:** 1.00 – 3.00pm
 **Venue:** Newbiggin Community and Sports Hub

This will be followed up with a workshop and expert speakers to continue local discussion and actions on Tuesday 17th November 18.30- 20.00 at Newbiggin Community and Sports Hub. Further details go to our Facebook page <https://m.facebook.com/groups/264936659475714/?ref=share> or contact us by email below

Creating Presence

Led by Sonia Ritter, *Creating Presence* is an interactive and animated workshop for all to those who want their expertise, passion and purpose to carry in any presentation, lecture or information that they may give or share. It offers an excellent opportunity to unlock, build and strengthen your public speaking skills and techniques - using a bit of Shakespeare into the bargain!

 **Date:** Saturday November 14th
 **Time:** 10.00am – 12.45pm
 **Venue:** Alnwick Playhouse
More details at <https://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/event/shakespeare-in-action/>

Re-wilding West Chevington

A talk by Lee Rankin, NWT and arranged by Amble & District Education Society. £5 entry fee, refreshments included.

 **Date:** November 18th
 **Time:** 10.00am – 12.00
 **Venue:** Amble Masonic Hall, Gloster Hill

Friends of the Earth NE Winter Group Cosy

 **Date:** Saturday November 21st
 **Time:** 12.00 noon – 5.00pm: Core workshops, ideas sharing, networking
 **Time:** 5.00pm – 8.00pm: Optional meal and drinks to unwind together

The programme will be designed by groups and for groups - please share your ideas by emailing Carla.doran@foe.co.uk. Book your place at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-winter-cosy-groups-gathering-and-meal-tickets-2000006542407?aff=oddtcreator>

November 2026 Digest – Copy Deadline

If you'd like to share what your group has been doing, why not send us a short article for a future edition of the Digest ? It's great to include a photo too if you can.

The deadline for items for the November edition of the Digest will be **Tuesday November 10th** – but you can send items at any time to Northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition – you know who you are and you made pulling this edition together so much easier.