

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

## LOVE Northumberland Awards

### 2017



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## Introduction

We are pleased to share with you this brochure which captures the success of the LOVE Northumberland Awards 2017, celebrating the very best in community and voluntary environmental work across the county.

This year was the seventh time we have held this event, in the beautiful setting of The Alnwick Garden, and we were privileged to have Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland there to present the awards.

Representatives of a number of first class entries attended the uplifting event which was supported by main sponsor the Banks Group and hosted by Local Historian and TV presenter John Grundy. The awards were developed by Northumberland County Council through its LOVE Northumberland campaign, with the aim of promoting the work of the council and its many partner organisations, community groups and volunteers who all work towards preserving and enhancing the environment in the county.

Groups, organisations or individuals were honoured with winner, runner-up or highly commended awards at the event, across six categories, one school received an award and trophy in the Best School Recycling Project and there was a winner and runner-up in the Schools Sustainable Travel Project.

Main sponsor of the awards again this year was The Banks Group, Jeannie Kielty, development relations co-ordinator said: “When judging the awards, myself and the other judges were inspired by the quality and range of great work that you are all doing across Northumberland – we found it quite difficult to choose winners given the outstanding quality of voluntary work across Northumberland, especially when you give up your own time for the benefit of everyone else. As a major local employer, the Banks Group has maintained strong relationships with communities across Northumberland for more than three decades; and we have witnessed first-hand the remarkable difference that the energy, creativity and dedication of people across the county can make to the places that they live, work and learn”.

Councillor Anthony Murray, this years Civic Head of Northumberland County Council, welcomed everyone to the awards evening and said " Each year we continue to be extremely impressed by the quality and range of applications we receive - showing just how much fantastic work is being done right across Northumberland to keep our wonderful county 'clean and green'. Not only have you all done great work, but the vast majority of it has been voluntary - where you have given up your own time to improve your local areas. I would like to thank each and every one of you".

Our winning entries received a £250 prize, and runners-up £100, with the money going towards their project or other work within the local community.

Each highly commended finalist also received a small cash prize of £50 as did the Outstanding Individuals who also received a trophy.

Marmax Products Ltd once again supported the school recycling project presenting a buddy bench to the winning school made from recycled plastic milk bottles and this year they kindly donated playground benches to two schools in the Best Children's Project.

In conjunction with the Go Smarter to School Scheme, the Winner and Runner-Up of the Schools Sustainable Travel Award were given a selection of Scamp and Sprinta bikes and helmets.

This year we were thrilled that local company Origin Designs kindly donated bespoke carved LOVE hearts for all of our winners.

The evening ended with an award to a special young boy, an aspiring Environmental Champion of the future, who received a litter-picker kindly donated by Jewson, Cramlington and a toy waste truck and customised hi-viz waistcoat from NCC.

We hope you enjoy reading about our marvellous winning projects, and that the photographs give you the opportunity to reflect on the success of the awards evening .

# The LOVE Northumberland Best School Recycling Project

Rewarding achievements in school recycling and waste minimisation Nominations were invited from Northumberland schools for projects that reinforce the Northumberland County Council recycling and waste reduction messages and that benefit the wider environment and local community.



# Winner - Best School Recycling Project

## Grace Darling Campus—Northumberland Church of England Academy



Children from Grace Darling Campus have been very busy working on a range of waste minimisation and recycling initiatives for their entry to the Best Recycling project.

Here's a taster of some of the things Grace Darling Campus have taken part in:

- \* Nursery read the story Big Bear, Little Bear by David Bedford and Jane Chapman and the children made icebergs and bear caves for bears from recycled materials.
- \* Recycling stations have been created in the classrooms
- \* Posters were displayed to encourage less food waste in the school canteen area.
- \* Children have learnt about Earth Day and its meaning and completed personal pledges
- \* A new area called 'be whatever you want to be' has been created which is completely made of recycled materials.
- \* The school now use old and unused exercise books at break times in the yard, allowing children the opportunity to draw and colour and minimising the waste caused by old books.
- \* Following a clear out of the school archives and loft space, unwanted books and resources were donated to the Sri Lankan schools projects.
- \* Children have completed litter picks within the school grounds and on the paths which lead into school. Some of the children also assisted in the Great British Spring Clean with St. Bartholomew's Church.



The school are also looking at the logistics of applying for Eco-Schools Bronze award.



# School Sustainable Travel Award

The School Sustainable Travel Award is being awarded by Go Smarter Northumberland to a school that has gone the extra mile to promote sustainable transport for the journey to school.

Every day during the school term, across the UK millions of journeys to school are made by car, this has a huge impact on the amount of traffic on our roads. Go Smarter Northumberland works with schools in Northumberland to support sustainable travel and encourage more parents and pupils to leave the car at home.

By encouraging and supporting schools to take ownership of their transport issues, we aim to reduce car use and increase the number of children walking, cycling, scooting and taking public transport to school, this has many benefits: for the environment, road safety and our children's health.



# Winner

## Shanklea Primary School



Head Teacher, Helen Brown and her staff have embraced the sustainable travel message, ensuring that they take every opportunity to incorporate active travel into everyday school life at Shanklea. Their school council have become Junior Travel Ambassadors and they pro-actively use their expertise and student voice to initiate community change.

Here are just some of the fantastic projects which the school has delivered this year:

- \* A group of pupils- 'The Bike Crew' led on a project to landscape some wasteland beside their cycle shed, decorating the bike shed and installing more cycle storage and a seating area, the pupils involved have a great sense of pride in their achievements.
- \* The school has an annual residential cycling trip to Kielder Forest, with pupils taking part in various cycling activities during their stay.
- \* Two members of staff have been trained in bike maintenance in order to support the many cycling initiatives which the school take part in.
- \* Each year the school holds a Road Safety enrichment week, where activities such as assemblies, competitions, Be Seen, Be Bright activities, visits by the local School Crossing Patrol staff and the Police take part.
- \* Shanklea Primary also takes part in Northumberland's Child Pedestrian Training scheme which teaches pupils how to cross the road safely, a vital life skill.
- \* The school has successfully lobbied for installation of new path and traffic calming measures near their school to improve safety for those walking and cycling.



This year the school also achieved gold in the National Modeshift STARS accreditation scheme, after working through bronze and silver levels in only one year delivering in excess of 50 sustainable travel initiatives.



# Runner-Up

## Mickley First School



The whole school community led by Travel Champion Lynsey Briddock and Head Teacher Andrew Hudson have been working continuously to encourage sustainable travel at their school and some of the initiatives they have taken part in this year include:

- \* Successfully campaigning for a reduction in the speed limit to 20 MPH outside their school: Mickley pupils wrote to local councillors following concerns raised by parents about the speed of traffic and safety outside the school and together worked to get the speed limit introduced.
- \* Year 3 pupils worked with neighbouring schools to develop maps of their local area, to encourage more walking and cycling in the community.
- \* The school have worked with a music specialist to compose a song about sustainable transport.
- \* They have purchased scooters for pupils to use at break times and borrow at weekends if they don't have their own.



Unfortunately Mickley School were unable to attend the evening ceremony so Sarah-Alexandra Rowell, NCC Senior Project Officer/Public Transport accepted the award on their behalf.



# Best Children's Project



# Winner

## Josephine Butler Primary Campus, Northumberland Church of England Academy — Let Your Light Shine!



By focussing on the mental and emotional well-being of the children the school have created a number of areas in the school grounds.

The children have built and planted a raised bed in the yard. The bed is planted with herbs and vegetables that parents can help themselves to as they pass. The area also has a lighthouse and deckchair linked to their ethos of 'Let Your Light Shine'.

The children and parents have worked together to design and make a giant stone representation of the NCEA emblem. Using local stone and learning new skills the area has been cut, and the stone placed and cemented and the school are planting plants and flowers around it in the Academy colours.



As a community they have also built a new rabbit hutch and pen using recycled materials donated by local families. This houses two rescue rabbits, Luna and Honeycomb. They are used as "reading rabbits" in school and are petted by the children while reading, to alleviate any stress or anxiety related to reading aloud.



The children have raised money to fund these projects by selling artefacts and plants that they have made using recycled materials. They set up a mini enterprise at The Grainger Market in Newcastle and sold items in the school's Christmas Fayre and the Easter Fayre.

By looking at ways to enhance the environment and benefit the community the children are truly letting their Lights Shine in an innovative and creative way.



# Runner-Up

## Newsham Primary School - Newsham Love Northumberland



In the build up to the County's first Northumberland Day, the school decided to spend the term celebrating all of the things that make our part of the country so special. Some of the children were involved in workshops on the Northumbria Pipes, others have listened to a talk from a local historian and members of the Blyth Rotary Club have given talks to the children about their heritage in mining, shipbuilding and trading.

They have had many parents volunteers we have helped with painting school outbuildings in Northumbria colours, and helped build a nature trail at the bottom of the school field. One of the parents also made bat boxes for the children to place along the trail in an effort to encourage new animals to live in the school grounds.



On Northumberland Day itself the children celebrated by dressing in red and yellow clothing and they formed themselves into the Northumberland Flag in the school yard. Many children were given the opportunity to plant a Northumberland Flag bed of flowers on a patch of green land near the yard.

Other activities the children were involved in were:



- \* The history and geography of the county and the flag, making pinwheels, hearing the story of Grace Darling and learning about local dialect.
- \* A study on Capability Brown, learning how Northumberland has changed over time, making traditional Northumbrian cakes.
- \* A local study of evacuees coming to Northumberland, sketching and painting local iconic landmarks, Northumberland themed magnets, community litter pick with "Pride in Northumberland" posters, and interviewing a local resident about life in WW2.



# Highly-Commended

## Morpeth All Saints First School - Outdoor Learning



After entering LOVE Northumberland in 2014 with their butterfly garden and also Morpeth in Bloom the school realised they needed to embed actual “teaching and learning” about the Outdoors in the school curriculum.

The school leadership teams introduced permanent weekly (fortnightly for each Key Stage) lessons outdoors but also let the children participate in the maintenance of the butterfly garden and the raised vegetable beds.

As part of this learning they school have built a new pond, and invested in den building kits and KS2 pupils have been developing a wildlife corner. To be able to buy the den building kits each class held a cake stall raising money for outdoor resources.

These outdoor lessons have included:

- \* Art projects linked to artist Andy Goldsworthy on 3D sculpture.
- \* Sensory trails – looking at texture and smells in the herb beds
- \* Maths – building twig towers, measuring tree heights.
- \* Literacy – winter scavenger hunts, listening games, rhyming hunts
- \* Science – hibernation, blindfolded tree exploration.

The school encourages donations of materials and time from parents and governors – one governor recently donated fern crowns which the children have already planted around the pond.



# Best Young People's Project



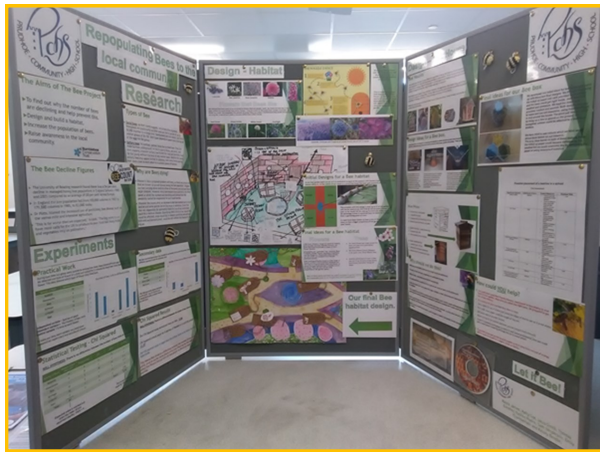
# Winner

## Prudhoe Community High School



For the past two years the pupils of the school have been meeting twice a week working on the problem of the decline in bee populations due to pesticides, habitat destruction and the various mite parasites.

They have been researching into what ways they could help. Firstly they collected data scientifically by watching the number of bee visits to each type of flower in the area. They then calculated if there was a statistical difference in the number of bee visits to each flower to determine which flowers the bees preferred.



They designed a garden habitat which incorporated these flowers and designed bee houses for solitary bees and made models of them. They researched the cost of hives and equipment for a colony of social bees and are looking at ways of raising the money to buy this equipment.

They have raised awareness within the local community and given advice as to what flowers are best for the bees in their gardens and producing advisory leaflets and spread this word by hosting coffee mornings, producing a bee song and music video, and even appeared on BBC News representing the North East.



They have travelled to Northumbria University for the Big Bang Science Fair regional competition and travelled to Birmingham for the National event, spreading the word even further and promoting the County.



# Best Urban Project



# Winner

## Transition Tynedale - Edible Hexham



This group have been together for 4 years and they were inspired by the 'Incredible Edible Todmorden Project' in Yorkshire which has been credited with inspiring to live more sustainably and to foster a feeling of community cohesion and pride in their town.

In Hexham they do the same, but on a smaller scale. In small neglected areas of land a growing number of planters have been planted with fruit and vegetables and are kept maintained. All the produce is available for the public to harvest and eat.



To date they have 16 planters and 5 planted areas and most of the planters are maintained by local businesses or the community groups.

Their aims are many – to demonstrate to the public how easy it is to grow your own at home and encourage gardening, to work with as many local groups as possible and connect people through gardening, and to enhance the Hexham Environment with beautiful and interesting displays.



By replacing modern bedding plants and council plantings with fruit, vegetables and particularly herbs and edible flowers, they are replacing sterile, non-nectar producing plants with a source of food for many more insects, in so doing this is increasing biodiversity within Hexham. Plants of any kind are proven to enhance local environmental quality and this group aim to have as many areas as green as possible.

In the past Hexham was a famous local fruit growing area and they hope to replicate that heritage too!





# Runner-Up

## Seaton Sluice & Old Hartley Community Association - Seaton Sluice in Bloom Group



This group has been together for the past 10 years and meet on a weekly basis.

The largest part of their project has been in beautifying Seaton Sluice and Old Hartley by planting up all entrances and exits to the village.

Planting up to 33 barrels situated at every bus shelter, both roundabouts and at key shops, planting 1,000 spring bulbs for the last 3 years around the village, creating a long flower bed along Beresford Road from the school to the zebra crossing. The planting is designed to encourage wildlife and biodiversity.

They arrange weekly litter picks around the Village and are also working on the Bowling Park and the Memorial Park and developing a communal herb garden.

In all of these projects they liaise closely with Northumberland County Council, Seaton Valley Parish Council and Friends of Holywell Dene and Friends of Seaton Sluice Dunes.



Their work in beautifying Seaton Sluice has given a sense of pride to residents and their business partners. They have also started to place memorial benches in key areas for elderly and disabled to rest.

They receive lots of comments from visitors about how clean the environment is at all times.



# Highly Commended

## Friends of Berwick Castle Parks—Berwick Parks Project



Castle Vale & Coronation Parks, Berwick were restored in 2013 thanks to funding from HLF/Big Lottery Fund. Since then, volunteers have worked with the Parks Development Officer to maintain them to a high standard and to promote them through events such as Easter Egg Hunts, Big Beastie Hunts and Halloween Events. In 2016 they held their first Open Gardens event which attracted approx. 400 visitors.



Both parks originate from the early 1900's and their heritage features are highlighted on interpretation boards, plaques and leaflets. They have introduced a self-guided heritage quiz installed at Castle Vale.

They have also put up nest boxes and bat boxes and converted the lily pond into a wildlife pond.

Castle Vale and Coronation Parks are open to the public at all times, most of their events are free with the exception of the Open Gardens where there is a small fee which contributes to funds for ongoing planting and maintenance.



There is a cross section of the community visiting the parks at all times, They are used regularly in the summer by school and nursery groups.

Volunteers meet regularly and organise fundraising, promotion and events as well as carrying out ongoing maintenance. In 2016 they clocked up 1419 volunteers hours and 1086 event hours.



# Best Coast & Countryside Project



# Winner

## Allenheads Trust Ltd—Isaac's Tea Trail



Isaac's Tea Trail is a community based long distance footpath running through South West Northumberland created and maintained by volunteers. It runs over the moors and rivers around Allendale Common in an area of exceptional beauty and follows in the footsteps of the legendary itinerant tea seller Isaac Holden.



From a rudimentary trail created partly to support local youth hostels, it has become recognised nationally and featured on the radio 4 "Ramblings" programme with Clare Balding. The trail is free of charge with the way marks and logos maintained by volunteers and the income raised from the sale of the trail guide is reinvested in signage and leaflets which makes the trail sustainable.



Hexham Ramblers provide a stewardship role, renewing signs and clearing summer vegetation with the help of other individuals and groups. The Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership project has refurbished Isaac Holden's hearse house into a roadside shelter and information point and a ramp for disabled access has also been installed. It is also used by Duke of Edinburgh groups and local school groups have integrated Isaac Holden's life story into their teaching lessons.

The trail falls within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and passes in Monks Wood and Hags Bank which are designated Sites of Special Scientific interest. It gives walkers the chance to see at close quarters, especially in Spring time, the flower rich hay meadows and ensures they leave only the gentlest of footprints with the minimum of disturbance to the wildlife and moorland birds. Whether full trail walks or those doing short walks they make a significant economic contribution to support local services and accommodation providers.



# Runner-Up

## Longhorsley Parish Council - Longhorsley Community Woodland



The Parish Council purchased this historic field on the edge of the village at the end of 2016. The 16 acre field is on the south edge of the village and a causeway path crosses the field to the old Parish Church. Records suggest that this path may date as far back as far as the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, with church documents revealing repairs to the path being carried out since 1742.

The previous owner of the land had begun to establish a woodland and the Parish Council's intentions are to continue this work and open up the field as a Community Woodland for all to share and enjoy.



A co-ordination group has so far arranged tree planting and maintenance sessions for volunteers, a base line survey of nesting birds and the establishment of new mown paths around the site to create circular routes. An 'Adopt a Tree' scheme has been launched in the village and it is hoped the village school will be able to become engaged with the project in the future. There are regular updates within the local parish newsletter to keep people informed of progress and the tree planting was covered by Morpeth News TV and an item published on their Facebook and U-Tube channel.



The field and woodland will be managed to protect and enhance the wildlife and flora already present on the site. Planting native broadleaf trees to encourage a diverse woodland habitat with glades and pathways and the historic causeway link to the old church will be enhanced and restored.

The project benefits the whole community and is accessible at any time free of charge and there is also disabled access. This Community Woodland will provide an opportunity to provide historical and environmental interpretation about the site.



# Highly Commended

## Longhoughton Parish Council - Boulmer Meadowland Project



The objective of this exciting project is to create a natural grass and wildflower meadow on an area of approx. 43,000 square metres of the sea front and dunes at Boulmer and to involve local people with a view to them taking ownership of the development of the meadow and to generate a sense of community pride in the scheme.



The area selected for the meadow consisted of rank grassland, for many years the grass has been cut two or three times each year and the offcut grass allowed to mulch into the soil. It was essential to cut the grass as low as possible and to scarify the entire areas in preparation for the seeds. 26kg of meadow seed mixture was used, mixed with sand and sown by six volunteers in November 2016.



This project aims to introduce wild flowers and grasses to the dunes to turn them into a natural meadow. Some of the flower species that have been introduced are: Cowslips, Common Rest Harrow, Birds Foot Trefoil, Betony, Buttercup, Red Clover, Ox-Eye Daisy, Cornflower and Poppies. During the flowering season these will be beautiful to see but will also benefit a source of nectar for bees and butterflies and food for butterflies and caterpillars.

Over 95% of our native flowering meadows in the UK have disappeared over the years due to intensification in agricultural practice, it's this Parish Council's aim to return a coastal meadowland to the Boulmer Dunes for locals and visitors to enjoy its beauty, to learn more about wildflowers and grasses and to improve biodiversity within their little patch of Northumberland's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



# Best New Project



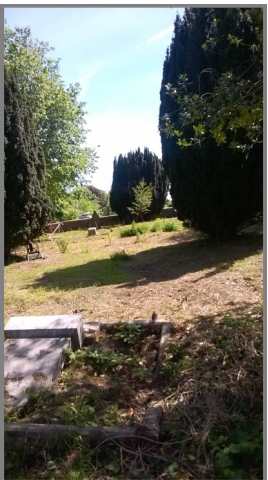
# Winner

## Prudhoe Local History Society - St. Mary Magdalene Cemetery Restoration

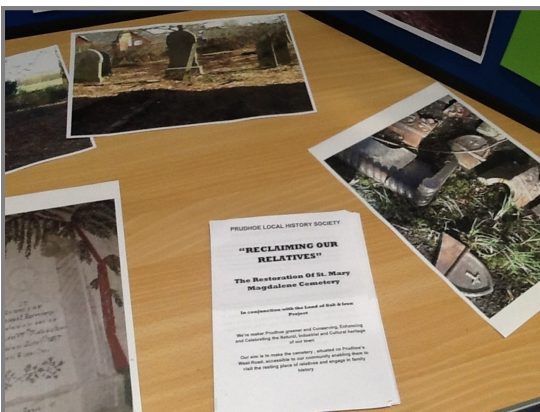


The start of this project could be titled 'the lollipop lady, the lime tree and Local Services'. Overhanging branches from the old churchyard in Prudhoe were causing a problem with the school crossing patrol, and when Local Services removed them, a contact was made between Eddie (the lollipop lady's husband) and the council officer. He then worked with the Local History Society and the council to set up an ambitious project to tame the wilderness in the site which had been closed in 1909 and overgrown since the early 1980's.

The Prudhoe and District local history society had been keen to transcribe the headstones within the churchyard for years, but unfortunately the extreme vegetation cover meant they had never been able to get in and see them, it was like something out of Indiana Jones!



With help from the council, support from the church, and grants from the Town Council and Land of Oak and Iron Project, volunteers started work on site in January this year, removing tonnes of fly-tipping and a vast amount of undergrowth, 6-12 regular volunteers have met at least twice a week on site to clear it by hand. Now that the site is open and accessible, people from the town are now coming in to see graves of relatives. Some fascinating stories of previous residents and heroes are being discovered and family trees are being completed.



The site is showing evidence of a wide diversity of bird life, small mammals, bats and deer have all been spotted in the cemetery. The restored site will provide an environment for all of this wildlife to flourish, a local conservation group has already shown interest in using the cemetery to study the wildlife and plants situated there. There is still an amount of work to do, research into history, some very uneven areas of ground to make good and some fallen monuments to raise and read, but this is a dramatic improvement in the town, a truly 'monumental' achievement in just 6 months.





# Runner-Up

## Friends of Lyne Dene/Groundwork NE - Discover the Dene



The Lyne Dene project has grown from strength to strength. Working with various partnership organisations including Northumberland County Council they have been very busy securing funding, planning events and working with volunteers to carry out environmental improvements and most importantly challenging people's perceptions of the site and making it a place to be proud of.

The site was an eyesore that was avoided by local people and had a terrible reputation for being unsafe to visit, it was full of fly-tipping and antisocial users were destroying the understory of shrubs and plants with quad bikes.

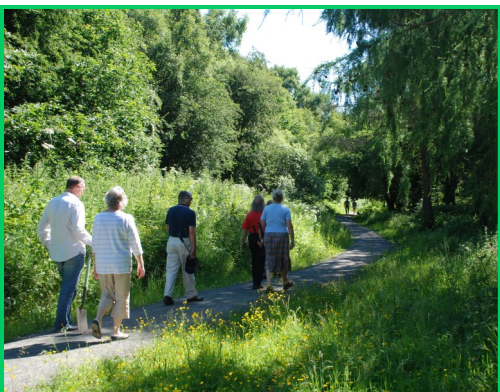


Under the care of this newly formed Friends of Lyne Dene the space is starting to blossom. Volunteers worked hard at monthly task days to remove tonnes of fly tipping, along with blockages in the river to reduce flooding as well as other environmental management activities.



Huge infrastructure improvements have been carried out including footbridge repairs, gates and 3km of path improvements, they have also installed benches and picnic tables and are in the throes of designing interpretation panels.

The partners have achieved events such as an Easter Egg Hunt to encourage recreational use of the Dene and have worked closely with Lynemouth school to educate children about the value of the Dene to the people and wildlife. Following a school assembly, activities such as bird box building, wild flower growing and outings were carried out at after-school club. The children have adopted 151 acorns that they are growing into trees to plant in the Dene.



Now the site boasts a diverse range of wildflowers (a number of which are ancient woodland indicator species) and freshwater mussels, kingfishers, otters and other flora are being protected and valued.



# Highly Commended

## Ponteland Community Partnership - Old Railway Line Bridle Project



The aim of this project is to improve the environment of the bridleway which is the old railway track of the 1990's from Ponteland Fire Station to the airport.

It is now a treasured route for recreation, dog walkers, cyclists and joggers, whilst still retaining its rural surroundings.

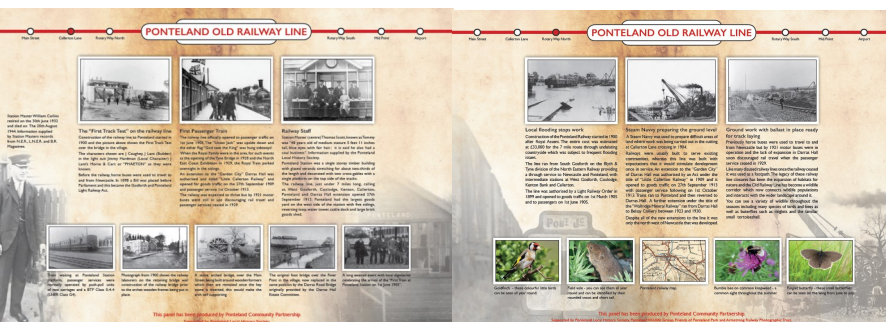
The first phase of the project has concentrated on the bridleway between the Fire Station and Rotary Way, as over the years it has become pot holed, waterlogged in places and overgrown at the edges by vegetation which has reduced its accessibility to the local community.

The volunteers have litter picked and manually pruned the overgrown vegetation, skimmed the sides of the bridleway and re-instated hardcore as needed and planted trees to fill any gaps in the vegetation.

The trees planted will improve the environment by moderating climate, improving air quality, reducing storm water run-off and harbouring wildlife. The wildflower plantings will support pollinators which are reducing in number. They will also provide a habitat for insects and birds.

They have also designed an interpretation panel to include heritage information on the railway line, a simple map and wildlife illustration and placed this in two Douglas Fir frames.

Publicity for the improvements to the bridleway appear in the Pont News and Views, which is a free monthly community magazine for Ponteland and District.



INTERPRETATION PANEL

# Outstanding Individual Awards



# Lindsay Thompson

**Nominated by Leanne Shipley, Groundwork NE**



Lindsay became a volunteer with Groundwork North East six years ago and from being a person who hardly knew which end of the spade to dig with has grown from strength to strength, overcoming her own nerves and anxiety. Her knowledge of tools and environmental management has evolved so much that she now leads tasks for groups of volunteers and keeps everyone else right.

From an environmental improvement Lindsay has spent over 2,000 hours improving green spaces across Northumberland for both people and wildlife. Working on a huge array of projects to help manage a wildflower nursery, developing gardens at care homes, schools and hospitals, hand raking acres and acres of wildflower meadows, footpath work, building picnic tables, planting trees, installing interpretation and signage. Removing literally thousands of redundant tree guards. She has set up a Forest Schools project, and also been involved in the Growing Well Garden at Wansbeck General Hospital

So many fantastic environmental projects have been able to take place because of the hard work Lindsay has put in helping with the initial set up and infrastructure. If this wasn't enough in 2015 Lindsay cycled, with support from a Groundwork member of staff coast to coast along the John Muir Way to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our natural spaces and to raise funds for a Dementia Gardening Project based in Bedlington. She has also just completed a walk coast to coast across the Highlands to raise funds for an Older Persons Active Green Living Allotment Project.

She is incredibly brave and committed to improving the environment and enriching the lives of residents in Northumberland.



# Mr Derek Martin

## Nominated by Claire Heaviside, Hexham Community Partnership



Derek has steadfastly and faithfully carried out a volunteering role for 14 years in Haltwhistle.

He picks up litter around the town almost every morning, throughout the year, in all weathers. He is out for at least 4 hours every day with his litter picker and barrow and clears the streets before some people have even woken up.

He reports any large items to the Town Council, and sometimes gets an earful off residents thinking he works for the Council, as he is such a familiar sight not realising that he does this as a volunteer. He was nominated for his dedication and the pride he has in the work that he does.



Apparently there have only been two occasions when Derek was unable to do his litter picking due to an injury and illness but after each illness he has returned to his duties.

Haltwhistle Town Council is very grateful for Derek's volunteer work and recognises the enormous difference he makes to the cleanliness of the town, making it a far nicer, cleaner place for residents and visitors alike. It helps to make a good impression and encourages visitors to enjoy their stay and return.



They are delighted he will receive the recognition that they feel he deserves.

Derek was unable to attend the ceremony due to a recent illness but Councillor Ian Hutchinson kindly offered to deliver Derek his award and trophy at home and the Hexham Courant did a feature on Derek's work which appeared in the local news that week.



# Oliver Jackson - Special Recognition



The final award of the evening was in recognition of a very special young boy who we hope will become an aspiring Environmental Champion.

Oliver's mum contacted us to tell us about his outstanding efforts at the end of the Northumberland LIVE Event in Blyth. Oliver was appalled at the amount of rubbish left behind by the public and decided to set about picking up the litter.

Such a display of community spirit is something that we would love to encourage and reward, so as a way of saying thank you Oliver was presented with a litter picker kindly donated by Jewsons, Cramlington and a toy waste truck and customised Hi-Viz waistcoat from Northumberland County Council - our very own "little litter picking champion".

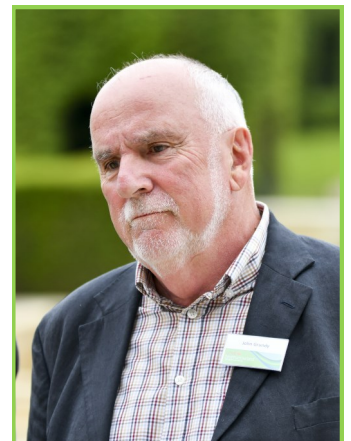


# Event Highlights









# Feedback from the Event

*I would just like to say a very big thank you to you all for the various parts you played to help make this year's awards and last night's event such a success - it really is a tremendous team effort and its thanks to the way we all do our own little bit to help that the event goes so well.*

*I received lots of positive feedback last night, and then today from people there who had a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding evening. There was a real positive feel to the night and the photos that I've seen so far reflect that.*

*Paul Jones, Head of Local Services*

*I'm not sure of the contact details of everyone involved in the Love Northumberland Awards last night so may I please ask you to forward on my thanks for a beautifully organised and great evening.*

*You all did us proud. Thank you.*

*Councillor Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services.*

*I just wanted to say how impressed I was by the LOVE Northumberland Awards evening that was held at Alnwick Gardens. It was a real privilege to attend and I thought that the whole idea of the Awards ceremony was fantastic. The very nature of the categories and those candidates who were either highly recommended, or took the top spot only goes to showcase the range of the brilliant organisations, and commendable individuals that we have based in the county. All of whom are willing to go that one step further to make Northumberland a better place for everyone.*

*The event of course does take some organising, and what I really wanted to say to you all was well done, I thought it was a really good and enjoyable event, so thank you.*

*As a 'new' councillor, I look forward to having more interaction with you all over the next few years.*

*With many thanks again once again.*

*Robbie Moore, County Councillor for Alnwick, Alnmouth and Lesbury*

*Many thanks for another fabulous event yesterday. We were delighted to win for our project and the staff and children who attended had a fabulous evening. I am sorry I didn't get to be there with them*

*Congratulations on another very successful year. Now....what shall we start planning for next year....!*

*Clare Marriott, Head of Josephine Butler Primary Campus, NCEA*

# Feedback from the Event ct'd

*Just to say a big thanks for a great night at Alnwick Gardens and the chance to meet folk from Northumberland C.C.*

*Everyone a winner and a lovely atmosphere. Well done.*

*Roger Morris, Isaac's Tea Trail*

*Thank you on behalf of Caroline Elton and David Gregory for such a lovely evening last night. We were thrilled to come 2nd and be awarded a prize in runner up best children's project.*

*Mrs Cathryn Watson, School Business Manager, Newsham Primary School*

I was one of the Allenheads Trust team who were delighted to win the Best Coast or Countryside Project for our work on Isaac's Tea Trail. Hexham Ramblers (of which I'm a member) did much of the work on path clearing and replacement of signs and we would love to publicise the winning of this award (and Love Northumberland) on both local, and hopefully national, Ramblers websites.

Jill Bungay

Thanks again Lorna, a lovely night last night and the children are thrilled with the prize (and their sweets in wheelie bins)

Heather Fawcus, Deputy Head of Grace Darling Campus

*I would like to express our sincere thanks on behalf of the Seaton Sluice In Bloom Group for last Wednesday's presentation evening.*

*Not only were we delighted with the award and the accompanying rewards, we also enjoyed an absolutely delightful evening, well organized and amongst extremely pleasant company.*

*Thank you for all of your hard work arranging this.*

*Yours sincerely, Chris Wood*

We would like to thank our Sponsors for contributing towards the LOVE Northumberland Awards, as this event would not happen without their continued support.

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