

# Northumberland news

Heritage Open Days 2013

Autumn county shows

Children's book festival





## Northumberland News

Now available online, by email or in print.

Northumberland News is a quarterly magazine packed with features and news articles written specifically for county residents.

Published in September, December, March and June it is distributed free of charge by Northumberland County Council. Every effort is made to ensure that all information is accurate at the time of publication.

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**Front cover:** Brother and sister Oscar and Lily Warr at Cherryburn, the birthplace of artist Thomas Bewick. The National Trust owned property in Mickley is just one of the locations taking part in this year's Heritage Open Days event. Full story page 4.



# Welcome to Northumberland News

This summer has been full of special events in Northumberland and there are still plenty of activities planned to keep residents and visitors entertained.

Popular events include the late summer country shows (page 22) and a string of autumn festivals taking place across Northumberland.

In Berwick a triple bill is planned beginning with the Food and Beer Festivals in early September, the Film and Media Festival at the end of the month and the Frontier Music Festival in October.

The Alnwick Food Festival is also being held in September. This year will see the return of chef Jean-Christophe Novelli who will be making a special appearance as part of the programme.

Music is on the agenda in the west of the county with the

Hexham Abbey Festival featuring jazz, classical and world music for nine days at the end of September. Looking ahead, the Northumberland Music Festival will run concerts at venues throughout the county during November.

Details of all of these events, as well as many more, are listed in the What's on section pages 28 to 30.

The 500th anniversary of the battle of Flodden is fast approaching. A guided walk will be led on 9 September, the date of the famous battle, and details about this, as well as other commemorative events taking place, are listed on page 16.

Final preparations are also being made for the ninth annual Heritage Open Days' event, which will run from 12 September. The council is coordinating this national event within the county and is hoping to match the success of 2012. Venues taking part are listed on page 4.

Heritage Open Days highlight the impressive venues and open air spaces we have in Northumberland and this is also done as part of the council's LOVE Northumberland campaign. This year's third annual awards once again show the dedication that local people take to preserve and improve their environment (page 6).

In other awards, seven Northumberland parks were given Green Flag status last month recognising the high standards they have reached and maintained (page 23). Improving the environment is also linked to the council's work to keep the streets of Northumberland pristine.

A campaign to encourage dog owners, who fail to pick up after their pets, to take pride in their surroundings, was launched last month (page 19).

Wherever you are in the county this autumn, please enjoy all that the countryside and towns have to offer and help us to keep Northumberland beautiful.

## Find us on:



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## Heritage Open Days 2013

Heritage Open Days return this month giving us all an opportunity to explore Northumberland's historic treasures free of charge.

From Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 September people can take advantage of the annual event that gives free access to buildings that are usually closed, have restricted access, or charge admission.

As well as heritage attractions there will be a wide range of tours, events and activities running to bring local history and culture to life.

Now in its ninth year, Heritage Open Days is England's biggest and most popular voluntary cultural event. The aim is to encourage people of all ages to develop a healthy curiosity for all things cultural. Last year, visitor numbers nationally reached around 1.7 million and this year is set to be just as successful. Northumberland's 2013

programme is packed with more than 90 attractions opening their doors across the county. Ever-popular venues, such as Cragside, Wallington Hall, Seaton Delaval Hall, Lindisfarne Castle and Hexham's Forum Cinema are all taking part once again. There are also new additions to the list of locations ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Highlights this year include, the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club, a range of exhibitions celebrating Emily Wilding Davison, several new guided walks and the special 'Illuminating the Lindisfarne Gospels Festival' at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Blyth.

The event is coordinated locally by Northumberland County Council. The national scheme is supported by English Heritage and a partnership comprising The National Trust, The Civic Voice and The Heritage Alliance.

**To view a full list of this year's attractions visit [www.northumberland.gov.uk/open](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/open)**

**You can also join in online and become part of a huge national network of people who share a passion for local places, heritage and culture. Try posting your stories, thoughts, comments, photos and videos on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/northumberlandevents](http://www.facebook.com/northumberlandevents) or on Twitter @EventsNE.**





# County features in prime-time series



Pictured: Robson Green filming for his new series on The Farne Islands.

Actor Robson Green has been filming on home turf for a new, eight-part, ITV prime-time series about Northumberland.

Robson, who was born in Northumberland and knows the area well, has been meeting some of the people who make this part of Britain so special.

For Robson it has also been a nostalgic journey as he reconnects with his Northumberland roots and digs

deeper into its history to discover stories that he did not even know himself.

From counting puffins on the Farne Islands, camping on Hadrian's Wall, smoking kippers in Craster, dining on the roof of Bamburgh Castle to joining an impromptu gig at Low Newton his adventures take him around a part of the country that means so much to him.

Councillor Val Tyler, policy board member for community infrastructure and culture at

Northumberland County Council, said: "Robson really immerses himself with local people and places for this series and it's fantastic that Northumberland is to be showcased in this unique and interesting way.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing our magnificent county explored on national television."

Robson Green's Northumberland is expected to be aired on ITV later in the year. The series has been produced by Shiver.

# Rewarded for LOVEing

The Duchess of Northumberland helped to celebrate the best in community and voluntary environmental work at a special LOVE Northumberland awards event last month.

Eleven groups were honoured with winner or runner-up awards in seven categories, along with two schools who received their awards in the Northumberland Schools' Recycling Green Points Challenge.

A number of highly commended entrants also attended the event at The Alnwick Garden, which was again supported by main sponsor the Banks Group and hosted by BBC Look North's Carol Malia.

Best new project went to Wylam Community Orchard Biodiversity Group; best urban project to the Old Bakehouse Millennium Green Trust in Morpeth; and best coast or countryside project to the Friends of Holywell Dene.



The best young people's project category was won by the Cowpen Quay Community Association's Buffalo Junior Wardens for their Ridley Park project in Blyth and the best children's project by Belsay First School for their biodiversity project (pictured above).

There was a new category this year for the best business related project – which was won by the Whistle Art Stop Smartz Club in Haltwhistle.

A second new category for the individual whose efforts or commitment help to enrich the environment of Northumberland was presented to the Friends of Bedlington's Gallagher Park (pictured below) in memory of George Webster. George worked tirelessly to make significant improvements to the park and sadly died earlier this year following a lengthy illness.



Pictured: Councillor Kath Nesbit, civic head of Northumberland County Council, with the Duchess of Northumberland, BBC's Carol Malia and the winners and sponsors of the LOVE Northumberland Awards.



# Northumberland

Grange View Church of England First School at Widdrington was the winner of the first Northumberland Schools' Recycling Green Points Challenge after pupils got involved in a wide range of 'green' activities.

The awards have been developed by Northumberland County Council through its LOVE Northumberland campaign.

The aim of the campaign, and the awards, is to promote the work of the council, its many partner organisations, community groups and volunteers who all work towards preserving and enhancing the environment in the county.

Barry Grimes, development relations co-ordinator for, main sponsor, the Banks Group, said:

"The spirit of the LOVE Northumberland Awards matches our own commitment to improving the communities in which we operate.

"We're extremely pleased to be supporting Northumberland County Council in recognising the contributions made by local people in enhancing their county's environment in the last 12 months."

Councillor Kath Nisbet, civic head of Northumberland County Council, said: "I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to get involved in the awards, and to let us know about the work that they are doing in their communities."

Also sponsoring the awards, for the third year, were the Co-operative Community Fund in the North East, and one of the categories was sponsored by the team at Blyth McDonalds as part of their Planet Champions programme.

Winning entries received a £250 prize and runners-up £100, with the money going towards their project or other work within the local community. Highly commended finalists also received a small cash prize.

**To find out more about  
LOVE Northumberland go  
to [www.northumberland.gov.uk/love](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/love)**



## University partnership signals commitment to county

A new partnership will help Northumberland's communities, schools and businesses access support from Newcastle University and further important research in the county.

The agreement was signed by Northumberland County Council and Newcastle University to explore areas of collaboration and align the two organisations in addressing issues specific to Northumberland.

Under the agreement, Northumberland firms will be helped with their current and future skills needs by collaborating with the university's academics and also benefit from graduate talent through paid placements and internships.

It will also see the university and council working together to build links with local schools and raise awareness of the opportunities available at a research-intensive university.

A particular focus of the agreement is based on Newcastle University's world-leading research into ageing. It details how the council will work with academics to maximise the benefits of the county's growing, ageing population by encouraging older people to start businesses and to attract investment from firms who are providing goods and services to support healthy ageing.



**Pictured (from left): Robin Casson, head of enterprise, lifelong learning and quality assurance at Northumberland County Council, Professor Chris Brink, Grant Davey, leader of Northumberland County Council and Steve Stewart, chief executive of Northumberland County Council.**

The agreement was signed by Newcastle University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Brink and Northumberland County Council's Chief Executive Steve Stewart.

Professor Brink said: "Newcastle University has a long history of collaboration in Northumberland and has made significant investment into developing a number of research and teaching facilities in the county over many years.

"One such venture is Cockle Park Farm in Morpeth, which is set to become the major centre for our agricultural research and teaching. It is also home to a number of innovative projects including an Anaerobic Digestion Plant which generates power from the farm's livestock waste. We also have Nafferton Farm in Stocksfield which is undergoing a major redevelopment to convert it to 50% organic production. As a civic university, our mission is to put our research and teaching to a purpose in society and that

is what we want to achieve in Northumberland."

Newcastle University and the county council have also recently announced a major investment in Blyth. Working with the Port of Blyth, and securing funding from the European Fisheries Fund, the council and university are developing the harbour area to support skills training and tourism facilities and to provide a permanent home for the University's research vessel, the Princess Royal.

Steve Stewart, chief executive of Northumberland County Council, said: "The partnership agreement with Newcastle University is a welcome step in helping the council to drive forward its goals of achieving economic, social and environmental regeneration across the county. The partnership will enable us to focus on joint activity which will reap benefits in terms of better outcomes for residents and businesses in Northumberland."



# Multi-million pound project is heating up

British Gas will deliver a £200m energy efficiency scheme in the North East, which will reduce bills, tackle fuel poverty and transform up to 50,000 homes.

The Warm Up North project is a five-year scheme that will create hundreds of high quality jobs in the north east providing apprenticeships, training and skills opportunities and help lower the energy bills for thousands of homes and businesses in the region.

The north east is the first region in the country to have entered into such a partnership and Warm Up North is the largest and most advanced regional response to Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) in the country.

The Warm Up North partnership covers eight local authorities: Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside and Sunderland and is also supported by the Association of North East Councils (ANEC).

British Gas was appointed following a competitive tendering process funded by the partnership and by European funding from Intelligent Energy Europe.



Pictured (from left): Graeme Smith and Steve Wilkinson, GB Energy, with Councillor Allan Hepple and Terry Smith a resident of Wallridge Drive, Holywell Village, where a Warm Up North pilot project has been taking place.

Residents will benefit from a wide range of energy efficiency measures following an assessment of their energy needs. Many will be part or fully funded by British Gas's Energy Company Obligations and those requiring a 'Green Deal' will benefit from a reduction in their energy bills and gradually cover the cost of the improvements through the savings on their bills.

Warm Up North will cover all types of residential property and also extends to publicly owned buildings such as town halls, offices, health and education properties.

A wide range of energy solutions are possible including:

- Solid wall insulation (houses with no cavity walls); potentially saving up to £490 on annual energy bills, and reducing 1.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from a home\*
- Replacement of an inefficient boiler with an 'A' rated boiler; potentially saving up to £300 on annual energy bills and reducing 1,200kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a home\*

- Replacement double-glazed (A-rated) windows and composite doors; potentially saving on average £165 on annual energy bills and reducing 680kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a home\*
- Loft insulation; installing 270mm of insulation could save up to £180 and reduce 730kg emissions annually.\*  
\* Average savings and reductions as detailed by the Energy Saving Trust.

Martin Walker, project director for the Warm Up North partnership, said: "This scheme will help tens of thousands of households with their energy bills, help thousands of people struggling with fuel poverty, and create hundreds of jobs in the region. We are very impressed by the commitment shown by British Gas, and now we can't wait to get started."

**More information about how people can qualify will be released in the coming months. Details are also available at [www.warmupnorth.com](http://www.warmupnorth.com) or [www.britishgas.co.uk](http://www.britishgas.co.uk)**

## Allowance unaffected by recent reforms

Good news - despite recent reforms to the benefits system Attendance Allowance for those aged 65 or older remains unaffected.

You can claim Attendance Allowance if you are older than 65 and need help with personal care or supervision. The allowance is a non-means tested and non-taxable benefit. No details of income or savings are needed in order to apply and Attendance Allowance never has a negative effect on other benefits or pensions.

Attendance Allowance is currently paid at a higher rate of £79.15 and lower rate of £53 per week.

Entitlement to Attendance Allowance is assessed by looking at the help an older person needs in connection with activities related to their personal care.

Councillor Susan Dungworth, policy board member for adult services, said: "Attendance Allowance is a tax free benefit, which will not affect other benefits. It will not reduce benefits like Pension Credit or Council Tax Benefit, and in some cases can actually lead to a substantial increase in those benefits for single people or couples who are disabled. We are working with Age UK to ensure that people who are entitled to claim have all of the information they need."

Age UK Northumberland has recruited 113 Attendance Allowance Promoters around the county to provide advice to people who may not realise that they are eligible or who require further information.

An information and advice line, ran by Age UK, is open Monday to Thursday between 10am and 1pm. Telephone 08450 950 150. They also have a Welfare Rights Service, which can arrange home visits to help with any benefits claims.

Citizens Advice Bureau may also be able to help you claim. You can find their number in the telephone directory or find contact details for your nearest CAB online at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

**Information about Attendance Allowance and other help for disabled people and their carers is available at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)**





# First-class maternity care across Northumberland

Expectant women in Northumberland have a wide range of choices when deciding where to have their baby locally.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's maternity services are recognised nationally as some of the safest in England and offer women the highest quality of care.

Midwifery-led units are available at Alnwick (Hillcrest), Berwick and Hexham hospitals, as well as a consultant-led unit at Wansbeck General Hospital with more than 3,000 women choosing Northumbria for their maternity care every single year.

Many low risk women opt for Northumbria's midwifery-led care where teams of highly qualified local midwives provide the utmost in personalised care in very relaxed and friendly environments.

A state-of-the-art consultant-led unit at Wansbeck General Hospital is also popular with many local women whose pregnancies are classed as high risk.

All of Northumbria Healthcare's maternity units across Northumberland have recently benefited from an investment of more than £150,000 with new birthing pools for Alnwick and Berwick.



**Pictured: Berwick midwives with Robert Brown - the first baby born in July under new on-call arrangements for Berwick Maternity Unit.**

At Hexham and Wansbeck, where birthing pools are already in operation, specialist equipment has been installed to help give women more freedom to move around and change position while in labour, helping to encourage a natural birth.

Janice McNichol, head of midwifery at Northumbria Healthcare, said: "We've got fantastic maternity units across Northumberland and our teams of highly-experienced and skilled midwives offer the very best care and support for pregnant women.

"I would encourage any expectant mums to get in touch with our local teams across Northumberland or just call in to any of the units to meet our midwives, have a look around and find out more about having your baby with us."

**Call or pop into the units to find out more about having your baby there:**

- **Alnwick midwifery-led unit (Hillcrest)**  
**01665 626732**
- **Berwick midwifery-led unit**  
**01289 356622**
- **Hexham midwifery-led unit**  
**01434 655352**
- **Wansbeck consultant-led unit**  
**01670 564194**

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## Water safety advice

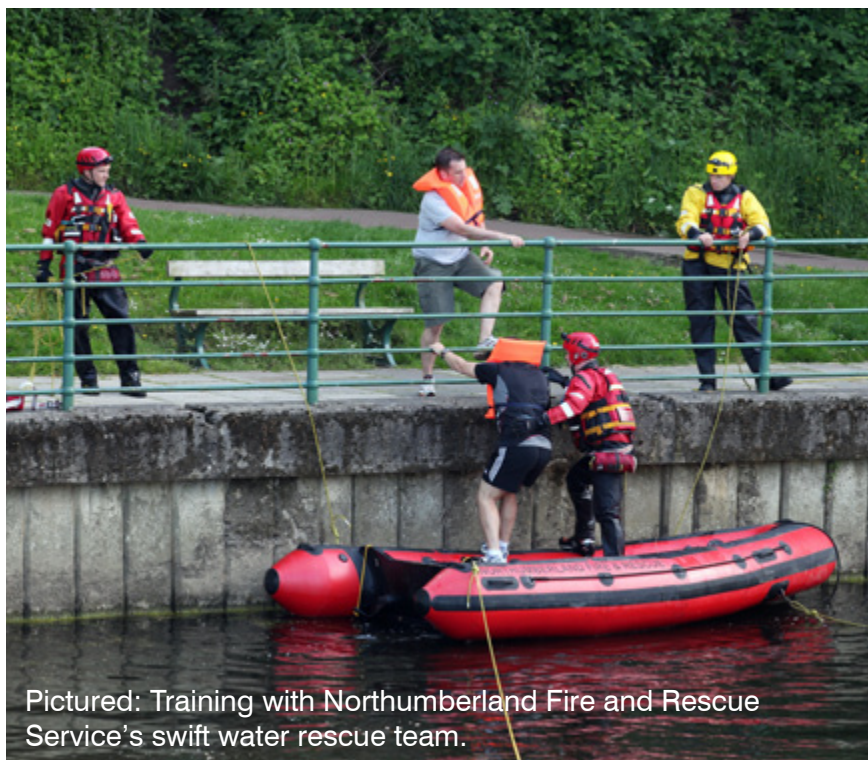
As many of us head out to enjoy the last days of summer Northumberland's fire and rescue service and Safeguarding Children Board have joined forces to remind people about the dangers of open water.

Alex Bennett, chief fire officer for Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, said: "There are three main dangers when people enter open water: the cold, which can stop people in their tracks; currents, which are often invisible from the water's edge and can sweep even the most competent swimmers away; and objects on the bed of the channel that can harm swimmers."

Here are some pointers about how to stay safe:

### Swimming in rivers

- Never swim alone; choose your landing point before you go in as it may be impossible to get out.
- Don't swim after a heavy meal or drinking alcohol.
- Always keep within your depth.
- Don't dive in, it could be shallower than you think or there maybe hidden underwater dangers.
- Don't swim near weirs, once caught in the undertow you have little chance of escape.



Pictured: Training with Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service's swift water rescue team.

- Beware of weeds, deep holes and rubbish on the channel bed. Always wear shoes.
- Beware of flash floods; some rivers can rise by three metres in just 20 minutes.

### Bridge jumping

Often referred to as 'tomb stoning', this dangerous craze leads to injuries ranging from twisted ankles to very severe spinal fracture. The outcome of these injuries can be paralysis or even death.

### Swimming at the beach

When at the beach swimmers should beware of which flag is flying. Here is what to look for:

- Red and yellow flags - lifeguards on patrol.
- Red flags – it is dangerous to bathe or swim so don't go

into the water.

- Quartered black and white flags - the area has been zoned for surf crafts and Malibu boards. It's not safe for swimmers and bathers.

Children should always go to the beach with an adult and should be supervised at all times.

If you see someone in difficulty in the water, tell somebody, preferably a lifeguard if there is one nearby. Alternatively, use your mobile or go to the nearest telephone and dial 999, ask for the fire and rescue service at inland water sites and the Coastguard at the beach.

**For more information about water safety visit The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents website at [www.rosopa.com](http://www.rosopa.com)**



# Flood exercise success



Pictured: Firefighter Amy Hately demonstrated the use of flood defences in the exercise this summer.

An exercise to test the capabilities of the council, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and other organisations to respond to a flooding incident took place earlier this summer.

The event was held to work through the council's revised flood action plan ahead of the development of a community agreement, which the Morpeth Flood Action Group, the council, the fire service and others are collaborating on.

A scenario was developed for the exercise, which took into account the effects of a period of heavy rainfall on all areas of Northumberland. The plan was to familiarise volunteers with the arrangements and communication processes that are deployed in the event of a flood.

The exercise was split into two sections: during the day, from 9am, a timetable of events and

updates tested the internal response of the council and fire service and the operations room was opened.

In the evening officers from the council, the fire service, the police and the Environment Agency met at Morpeth Town Hall to begin the demonstration of the operational capability in the event of a flood. Flood wardens, members of the Morpeth Flood Action Group as well as other organisations and charities were also invited.

Morpeth was chosen as the location for the summer evening exercise as it has suffered from several flooding incidents in recent years, the latest in September 2012. During the exercise, however, the effects of heavy rainfall across the whole county were also considered and factored into the response.

Barry Rowland, corporate director of local services, said: "The exercise went very well and the council and the fire service learned a lot from the

interaction with all of those who attended. We were pleased that the Morpeth Flood Action Group, volunteers and representatives from partner organisations including the police, the Environment Agency, the health service and town council, as well as people from the local area, were able to take part.

"The event was designed to give everyone an update about the arrangements that we have in place following improvements made to the county council's flood action plan earlier this year. The council and our partners are now working on the development of the community agreement and we will be looking to test the plans again in the coming months building on what we have learned."

The exercise followed a visit by Richard Benyon MP, Defra's Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, who visited Morpeth in June to view progress on the flood defence scheme, which is due to be completed in autumn 2014.



# Photography competition



1<sup>st</sup>

## **Puffin feeding**

“Captures a stunning image of this fantastic creature and really shows something defining about Northumberland.”

By Carol Macleod, Berwick.

A competition to find the best summer photos of Northumberland ran throughout July and we can now reveal the winners.

More than 200 photographs were submitted during four weeks and a selection of the best images can be viewed in a special gallery on the county council’s Pinterest page at <http://bit.ly/Summerphoto>

Councillor Susan Davey chose the winning picture and this is shown here along with the

second and third place images.

Congratulations to Carol Macleod for her photo of a photogenic puffin. The judges said: “This captures a stunning image of this fantastic creature and really shows something defining about Northumberland.”

Carol will receive a special Northumberland hamper from the tourist information service, which includes goods and produce from the county. The winning photograph will also be displayed in, Carol’s local library in Berwick.

Councillor Grant Davey, leader of Northumberland County Council, said: “The competition was open to all ages and abilities and the range of photographs we received has been very impressive. The variety of pictures submitted, showing all aspects of summer across the county, proves that Northumberland is a photographer’s paradise. I hope that everyone who took part enjoyed getting out and about in Northumberland and capturing such memorable shots. I know that I’ve certainly enjoyed looking through them.”



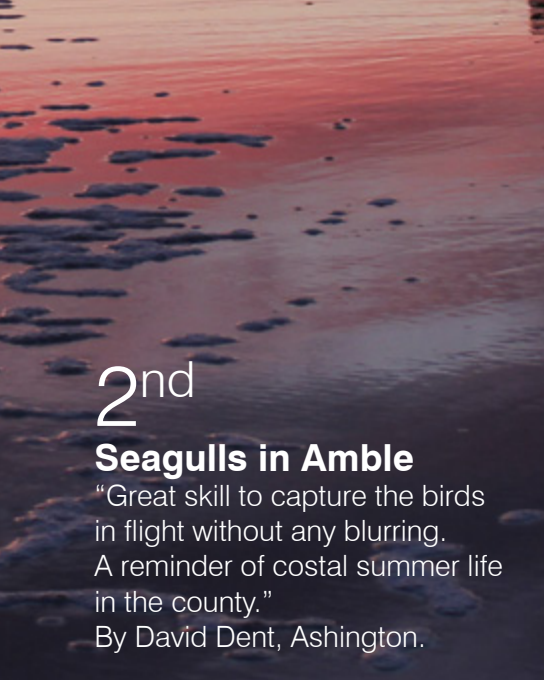


3<sup>rd</sup>

**Bamburgh Castle**

“A snapshot of something unique that says Northumberland. Fantastic contrast and reflection on the sand.”

By Dave Sanderson, Berwick.



2<sup>nd</sup>

**Seagulls in Amble**

“Great skill to capture the birds in flight without any blurring. A reminder of coastal summer life in the county.”

By David Dent, Ashington.

## Flodden's 500 year message

The quincentenary of the Battle of Flodden is being marked by a series of special commemorative events.

Monday 9 September is the actual anniversary day and a guided walk, led by local historian Clive Hallam-Baker from 3.30pm, will take place 500 years to the very hour of the battle.

The main commemoration will be held on Tuesday 10 September at 2.30pm in Branxton, near the battlefield. Both events are open to all and for those unable to attend during the week the commemorative weekend building up to the anniversary is also full of activities.

Other commemorative events include:

- The Borderers' Return from Flodden Ride - a three day horseback ride around the area covered by the Scottish Army. Organised by the Flodden 1513 Club in Coldstream (5 to 8 September).
- Selkirk: Concert and official opening of the Selkirk Peace Garden by the Duke of Buccleuch (7 September).
- The Scottish Rock and English Folk Music Concert at Norham (7 September).
- A Costumed Actor at Etal Castle (English Heritage) (7 and 8 September).
- Tug of War at Berwick Food Festival (7 and 8 September).



Pictured: The memorial stone, which stands on the site of the Battle of Flodden, above Branxton near Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland.

The stone was put up in 1910 to commemorate the battle fought in 1513 between King Henry VIII's English soldiers and King James IV's Scottish troops.

- Service of Solemn Commemoration at St. Giles' Cathedral arranged by The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (9 September).
- The Flodden 1513 Club's annual commemoration at Flodden Monument (9 September).
- 'Flyting' a new opera by Matthew Rooke will be performed at The Maltings, Berwick-upon-Tweed (9 September).

In the lead up to 9 September the team behind the 500th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Flodden will be taking to Twitter to give 21st Century followers a taste of preparations for battle

medieval-style. Using historical sources for their Tweets the @JamesIV\_Surrey account will keep followers up to date with the key milestones in the story of the battle, as they would have happened.

Another important element of the Flodden 1513 Project is the education programme. Free site visits and outreach workshops are available to primary and secondary schools for the next two years. The aim is to give children a better understanding of what life was like during Tudor times.

**Details of all the events taking place and the education programme can be found at [www.flodden1513.com](http://www.flodden1513.com)**



# Pupils dig deep into the past

Three pupils from a Northumberland school helped to document a major archaeological excavation in Druridge Bay this summer.

Year seven pupils, Caitlin Picking, Kaly Douglas and Jade Waddle, from Hirst Park Middle School in Ashington, tracked the progress of the 'Rescued from the Sea' Community Archaeology Project with a series of videos.

The excavation project investigated the eroding prehistoric remains beneath the sand dunes on land owned and managed for wildlife by Northumberland County Council, at the northern end of Druridge Bay. The project was led by Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Archaeological Research Services Ltd and made possible by a grant of £285,900 from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and additional funding from UK Coal and the Coast and Lowlands LEADER programme.

Sea levels along the north-east coast are rising and coastal erosion is threatening sites to the point where many archaeological remains have been lost forever.



Pictured (from left): Caitlin Picking, Kaly Douglas and Jade Waddle from Hirst Park Middle School.

The eight-week excavation project, which began on 2 July, investigated the fragile and endangered archaeological gems at Low Hauxley. This included the remains of a hunter-gatherer settlement dating back at least 8,000 years and a 4,000 year old prehistoric cemetery.

Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) remains, from when Low Hauxley was home to many families who lived off the natural resources from the seashore and land, have also been unearthed below the cemetery.

An ancient Mesolithic peat has also been discovered on the foreshore near to the site which contains hundreds of animal and human footprints together with wooden tools, deer antlers, hazelnuts and tree remains.

The findings from the dig will be analysed, interpreted and eventually published as both a scientific paper and a book about the site.

During the project, the pupils from Hirst Park Middle School, collectively known as 'Fab-u-lous Productions' not only learned the technical skills involved in recording video and sound but also carried out research, produced scripts and questions and were involved in the final edit of each video.

Newcastle and Durham universities and the Great North Museum: Hancock were also significant investors in the project and a small army of volunteers helped to uncover, record and preserve the nationally important archaeological finds.

All finds and recordings will eventually be archived at the Great North Museum.

**To find out more about the project, as well as view the videos made by Fab-u-lous Productions, visit: [www.nwt.org.uk/rescued-from-the-sea](http://www.nwt.org.uk/rescued-from-the-sea)**

# Crackdown on street drinking

A successful scheme, designed to reduce the anti-social behaviour associated with drinking alcohol in public places, has been extended in the Berwick area.

The newly extended Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) covers not only Berwick Town Centre, as it has done for the past nine years, but also surrounding areas.

Eye-catching signs have been placed in these areas to inform people about the rules; the signs have been paid for by the county council as well as Berwick Town Council.

The DPPO gives the police powers to demand a person drinking alcohol in a public place stops doing so and if they refuse they can be arrested.

The power is discretionary and does not affect people behaving in a civilised manner, for example at a family picnic or drinking at licensed premises.

Councillor Dave Ledger, deputy leader of Northumberland County Council, said: "This order has given the police another power to address anti-social behaviour; we are pleased to have extended this successful scheme."

Berwick Town Mayor, Isabel Hunter, said: "Introducing an Order in 2004 across part of the town helped to reduce drink-related incidents, but led to



**Pictured: Councillor Dave Ledger, deputy leader of Northumberland County Council (front), Berwick Town Mayor Isabel Hunter, Ian Bilham, strategic community safety manager and Sergeant Steve Crane.**

increased problems outside the designated zone. This extension to cover a wider area, including all of Spittal and Tweedmouth is a logical step and the Town Council is pleased to be working with the county council and the police to support the initiative, and to help fund new signs."

Berwick Neighbourhood Inspector, Dave Garrick, said: "Berwick has a well-deserved reputation as a popular and welcoming tourist town. This extended order will help us tackle the small minority who get involved in drunkenness, disorder and nuisance behaviour.

"The areas already covered by DPPOs have seen a significant reduction in problems caused by alcohol.

"Feedback from local residents shows these DPPOs are popular and the community wants us to take positive action against the few individuals whose behaviour can affect other people's quality of life."

A similar scheme introduced in Ashington eighteen months ago has also been very successful. So far this year police have used their powers to seize alcohol from adults on 40 occasions in Ashington and anti-social behaviour has fallen by 31 per cent.



# Campaign makes a stand

Our 'Don't stand for it' campaign has seen a big increase in the number of fines handed out to irresponsible dog walkers.

This year the council has adopted a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling, which spoils the environment and can cause serious health risks. Officers from the council's public protection service have been carrying out early morning and weekend visits to known dog fouling hotspots including parks and beaches.

Fines have been handed out in several locations including Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Blyth and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea. In one week alone this summer, 11 fines were issued by public protection officers for dog control offences. This brings the total from only 11 in a previous year, to 41 by the beginning of August 2013, an increase of more than 300 per cent with nearly half of the year to go.

Anyone found not cleaning up after their dog will be issued with a £75 on-the-spot fine that they must pay within 14 days. If they do not then they will be prosecuted and could face a fine of up to £1000.

Currently 21 civil enforcement officers are being trained to carry out dog fouling and littering enforcement as well as their regular duties. The rise in officers from 10 to 31 will increase enforcement activity to

support a range of community-based work that the council already undertakes with the help of community volunteers.

Last month pupils from Mowbray First School, Choppington, helped to launch the campaign after taking part in an assembly where they learned about health risks associated with dog fouling.

Councillor Dave Ledger said: "We are going to take on the people who ignore the law. We will come down hard on people who commit environmental crimes, and we will ensure offenders are fined."

Residents can now report incidents of dog fouling online as part of the council's 'Save time, do it online' campaign or in the usual ways by phone to 0845 6006400, or email to [ask@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ask@northumberland.gov.uk).

Pictured (from left): Mowbray First School pupils Ava Woodman, Ava Moralee, Ethan Allenby and Joshua Gilchrist launched the Don't stand for it campaign with Councillor Dave Ledger, deputy leader of Northumberland County Council (centre), Malcolm Barras, animal welfare officer, Christine Ramm, head teacher and Oscar the dog.



## Private fostering – helping children and their families

It is a legal requirement that the details of children living with someone other than a parent, grandparent, biological aunt, uncle, or sibling should be passed on to the council.

If a child under the age of 16, or 18 if disabled, lives with someone outside their close family for 28 days or more, it is considered a private fostering arrangement. This is very different from traditional fostering, and is a privately arranged care situation between two parties.

Councillor Robert Arkless, policy board member for children and young people, said: “There are lots of children and young people who are unable to live with their birth parents for one reason or another. Private fostering can be a positive solution for families and avoid the child or young person coming into the care of the local authority. Often people simply do not realise that they are legally required to inform the council for everyone’s benefit.”

If you are aware of, a child who is being privately fostered or in a private fostering arrangement, please ask them to inform their local Northumberland County Council office immediately so we can ensure the child is being kept safe and so that support can be offered to the families.



This support can take the form of:

- Regular care team meetings to ensure children are happy with their living arrangements and they continue to feel safe.
- Help given to private foster carers to buy items such as a bed or a new school uniform.
- Support to build positive relationships with family members, schools and social workers.



Everybody has a role in keeping children safe – whether you are a teacher, youth worker, neighbour, a person involved with school transport or a member of the public.

Private fostering information is being sent to a wide variety of public venues throughout September, including schools, children’s centres, libraries and community groups so they can join in the awareness-raising campaign.

**Visit our web pages [www.northumberland.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/privatefostering) to read further about private fostering and to get details of your local Northumberland office.**



## Shortage of families for children awaiting adoption

Families are needed for a rise in the number of children seeking adoption.

The Northumberland Family Placement Service is usually seeking families for 10 to 15 children at any one time. This has risen in recent months to 23 children aged 0 to eight-years-old, which includes four babies under 18 months old.

Since the tragic case of Baby Peter in 2008, there has been a 70 per cent rise nationally in children being taken into care with some local authorities seeing a 500 per cent increase. Compared to 2008/09, Northumberland experienced an 80 per cent increase in children entering care in 2012/13.

Paul Moffat, corporate director of children's services, said: "We have seen more children needing adoptive families; this reflects the national picture.

"We found families for 23 children in 2012-13, and have continued to match more pre-school age children with their new families. However, we still need more people who can give children the futures they deserve through adoption."

Councillor Robert Arckless, policy board member for children's services, said: "We take our responsibilities very seriously and want the best for our children. We are keen to hear from anyone who can offer a loving stable environment."

Adopters are supported every step of the way by the adoption team. The team constantly works to speed up the process. To find out more, phone the adoption team for an informal chat on 01670 62 62 62, email [familyplacement@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacement@northumberland.gov.uk) or visit <http://family.northumberland.gov.uk>

A number of information evenings and drop in sessions are also running in the coming months.

### Countywide information evening programme

- 16 October - Alnwick Fostering Information Evening.
- 20 November - Cramlington Adoption Information Evening.

Please phone or email for more details.

### Adoption and fostering drop-in sessions

In addition to the information evening programme, the team is on hand each month to answer questions about adoption or fostering in an informal setting between 4pm and 6pm on: 11 September; 23 October; 6 November; and 11 December.

The sessions are held in: The Family Placement Service, 3 Esther Court, Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington, NE63 8AP.

# adoption or fostering?

## Count Yourself In! Change Lives



Find out more on line  
[family.northumberland.gov.uk](http://family.northumberland.gov.uk)

01670 62 62 62

**Northumberland**  
Northumberland County Council

## Autumn country shows

Country shows continue to thrive in Northumberland bringing communities together and supporting the rural economy.

The demonstrations of traditional crafts and mixture of activities and stalls are also proving increasingly popular with visitors from outside the county.

The County Show, held in May every year, is one of the largest events in Northumberland, regularly attracting more than 20,000 people.

Shows run throughout the summer into September and October. There is still time to catch one of these fantastic rural events:

- **Saturday 14 September - Ingram Show**  
Traditional village show set in the beautiful Breamish Valley in the foothills of the Cheviots.
- **Saturday 21 September - Whalton Village Show**  
Events include a Northumberland sheep dog trial, book fair, gardening competitions and home baking.
- **Saturday 28 September - Upper Redesdale Show**  
Savour the open beauty of Wild Redesdale and enjoy this popular agricultural show held at the Rochester showground.
- **Saturday 12 October - Alwinton Border Shepherds' Show**  
The last show of the year. Enjoy splendid views of the Coquet valley and a mixture of traditional events and activities.

**To find out about other events near you**  
**Visit:** [events.northumberland.gov.uk](http://events.northumberland.gov.uk)  
**Email:** [touristinformationcentre@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:touristinformationcentre@northumberland.gov.uk)  
**Follow us on:** [twitter.com/EventsNE](https://twitter.com/EventsNE) or [Facebook.com/northumberlandevents](https://Facebook.com/northumberlandevents)





# Parks win Green Flag awards

Six Northumberland parks have been awarded Green Flags by a national scheme recognising top quality outdoor spaces.

The winners are Hexham Parks, (Hexham), Doctor Pit Park (Bedlington), Plessey Woods Country Park, (Bedlington), Astley Park (Seaton Deleval), Hirst Park (Ashington) and Carlisle Park (Morpeth).

These parks received their prestigious Green Flag Award last month, along with a record breaking 1,447 parks and green spaces across the country.

The Green Flag Award scheme has been recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country since 1996. It continues to provide a national benchmark against which parks and green spaces are measured, encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards.

Five of the six Northumberland winners were also awarded Green Flag status last year with the new addition for 2013 being Plessey Woods, the first country park in the county to receive the award.

Green Flag Award Scheme Manager Paul Todd said: "A Green Flag Award provides national recognition for the hard work and dedication of all the parks' managers, staff and volunteers who have helped to create these fantastic places for all to enjoy.



**Pictured (from left): Mike Jeffrey, Frances Povey, Sam Talbot, councillor Val Tyler and Steve Johnson celebrating the Green Flag awarded to Plessey Woods.**

"Quality green spaces are absolutely essential to happy, healthy communities. They are fundamental to our quality of life, whether in cities, towns or villages. That is why it is so significant that we have given out more awards than ever before."

Entries for the Green Flag Award are open to parks and green spaces located in the UK. Applications are judged against a set of eight criteria including conservation and heritage, community involvement and sustainability.

Councillor Deirdre Campbell, policy board member for street care and environment at

Northumberland County Council, said: "Maintaining our parks and green spaces to a high standard is vital to ensuring that they continue to be enjoyed by local people and tourists alike. Having six Green Flag's awarded to our parks is a great credit to our county and to the hard work of the park staff and local volunteers involved in their management."

Judging for this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition is currently taking place, with a number of Northumberland's towns and villages in the running. The winners will be announced later this year.

## Thanks for the memories



Pictured: Shirley Cross, team librarian for Northumberland County Council (right), with Muriel Bacon and some of the memory box items.

The library service is looking for donations of memorabilia for memory boxes to help bring the past to life.

Memory boxes are used with residents of care homes and day centres to help them remember the old days and also with schoolchildren to explore times past.

Items from the 1930s to 1960s are needed to refresh and extend the range of existing boxes and a call has gone out to members of the public who may have unwanted items, which could be donated.

The boxes are often themed and items falling into the following

categories are needed: fashion and clothing, Second World War, entertainment, childhood, school days, shopping, rural life, holidays and travel.

Val Tyler, Northumberland County Council's policy board member for community infrastructure and culture, said: "These boxes are extremely popular with elderly residents and informative for our younger generations. If you have any items that you could offer to such a good home and good cause, please do get in touch."

Memory boxes are loaned free of charge to individuals, charities, residential care homes, schools, health workers and community groups. The boxes are based at Morpeth Library but can be delivered free of charge to any Northumberland public library

The council recently loaned a box of Second World War memorabilia to the Morpeth branch of the Royal Air Force Association, which held a 1940s' event for Armed Forces Day. Members were transported back in time with cakes baked from Second World War recipes and wartime songs. The memory boxes proved a massive hit with the elderly residents who still remembered their identity card numbers and recounted their experiences.

If you would like to borrow a memory box or have something you can donate, please contact Shirley Cross at Morpeth Library, phone: 01670 620391. Donated items must be safe, clean and not too heavy to handle.



# Registration service receives top industry award

The registration service at Northumberland County Council has received a national award for exemplary partnership work.

This summer the authority was awarded first place in the Local Registration Services Association's (LRSA) Quality Service Awards, which recognise staff who are making a real difference to the lives of their customers and their local communities.

The award was made in recognition of the partnership work involved in the *Marriage made in Northumberland* campaign and also with Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service to ensure service continuity during adverse weather conditions.

Although nationally weddings are on the decline, Northumberland's innovative campaign to encourage more people to come to the county to get married has helped to boost weddings by 13 per cent during



Pictured (from left): Northumberland County Council registration officer Colleen Anderson, Vicki Smith, councillor Val Tyler and deputy chief fire officer Paul Hedley marking the national award.

the last year – the equivalent to an extra 190 ceremonies. Each wedding brings significant revenue to the local economy and this helps to support many local and rural businesses.

The registrars' service also works closely with Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) to ensure registrars are able to operate a "business as usual policy" during times of extreme weather.

Councillor Val Tyler, policy board member for infrastructure and culture, said: "The registration service is delivering an excellent level of service and making significant improvements despite facing challenging circumstances. The Marriage Made in Northumberland campaign has been really well received by local businesses and the public and has already started bringing much needed

money into the local economy and raising awareness of what this great county has to offer."

Chief fire officer for Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, Alex Bennett said: "During the winter of 2011 fire crews assisted registrars on a number of occasions.

"One notable occasion was a wedding on Holy Island to meet a couple and bridal party who had arrived days earlier from across the world. Due to the severe weather conditions on the day of the wedding only larger 4 x 4 vehicles driven by experts were able to drive across the causeway safely. This was the beginning of a partnership that has been working well since, with procedures in place that can be implemented at very short notice."

# Council's new website launched

Finding out about Northumberland County Council, its services and local events should be quicker and easier with the launch of its new website.

The council's website has been updated with a fresh design, new facilities and a more user-friendly format.

The site uses the latest design technology so pages automatically work for every device including tablets, smartphones and PCs.

The new web pages allow the public to complete simple transactions, report a problem, pay, apply for or book services online. A new 'find it fast' directory also means that information on council services is now much quicker to find.

Leader of Northumberland County Council, Grant Davey said: "There were more than two million hits on the council's website last year and the number of transactions taking place online has doubled. Almost one third of our website visitors connect from their smart-phones or tablets and the new website has been re-designed to make it easier for them to find the information they need."





# New ebook borrowing proves popular



A new electronic e-book lending service that was introduced by Northumberland County Council earlier in the year is proving to be a big hit.

Since its launch in April almost 2,300 book titles have been downloaded to mobile devices and an additional three hundred people have joined the Northumberland Library service in order to use the ebook service.

Its popularity has been such that plans are in place to add further titles to the current catalogue of 1,200 ebooks.

The ebook service was introduced to meet the needs of readers as an increasing number

of people are now reading books from electronic devices.

Councillor Val Tyler, policy board member for community infrastructure and culture said: "I'm delighted that more and more people are using our library services and the improvements we're making are popular. From my point of view, the e-book lending service is a great new development. People who find it hard to use our libraries for reasons such as illness, work commitments, or because they live in remote areas can now access this service at any time of the day or the night."

E-books are also helpful for people with visual impairments as eReaders enable the size of the print and the contrast to be changed.

E-books are available through a link on Northumberland County Council's website and are free to borrow for all Northumberland library members. They are compatible with PCs, Macs and many eBook readers, (except the Kindle as there is a restriction placed on Kindle by Amazon). They can also be downloaded directly to iPhones, iPads and Android devices.

To use the council's ebook lending service, visit [www.mylibrary.co.uk](http://www.mylibrary.co.uk) and enter your library membership card and PIN.

If you are not currently a member and would like to join you can download a membership form from the website and hand it in at any local library in the county. There is no charge to sign up or use the service.

## What's on September

### **Flodden 500: I'll Chain My Heart Forever More**

Throughout September  
[www.insightandgear.com](http://www.insightandgear.com)

### **Brass Bands at Belsay**

Every Sunday in September  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

### **Newbiggin Sprint Triathlon**

Sunday 1 September  
Newbiggin Promenade  
[www.vo2maxracingevents.co.uk](http://www.vo2maxracingevents.co.uk)  
[www.trinorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.trinorthumberland.co.uk)

Flodden 500 2013 Flodden Memorial Lecture  
Wednesday 4 September  
[www.flodden.net](http://www.flodden.net)

### **Berwick Food and Beer Festival**

Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September  
5pm Friday, 4pm Sunday  
Beer only on Friday  
The Barracks,  
Berwick upon Tweed  
Phone 01289 388541  
[www.slowfoodberwick.co.uk](http://www.slowfoodberwick.co.uk)

### **Harbottle Show**

Saturday 7 September  
Oak Tree Field, Harbottle  
[www.harbottleshows.com](http://www.harbottleshows.com)

### **Kielder Challenge Walk**

Saturday 7 September  
Prior booking required  
Phone 01830 540453  
[www.kielderwalking.co.uk](http://www.kielderwalking.co.uk)

### **'Row to the Farnes'**

Saturday 7 September  
Seahouses Harbour  
Phone 01668 214910  
[www.rnli.org.uk/gracedarling](http://www.rnli.org.uk/gracedarling)

### **Vintage Car Show & Bands at Belsay**

Sunday 8 September  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

### **Run Northumberland Matfen 5k/10k**

Sunday 8 September, 9.30am  
Matfen  
[www.runnorthumberland.org](http://www.runnorthumberland.org)

### **Heritage Open Days**

Thursday 12 – Sunday 15 September  
Various locations  
Phone 0844 3351884  
[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

### **Aquatics Weekend**

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September, 10am – 4pm  
Kirkley Hall  
[www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk)  
[zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk)

### **Blyth Battery Open Weekend**

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September, 11am – 4pm  
[www.blythbattery.org.uk](http://www.blythbattery.org.uk)

### **Hexham Abbey Festival**

Friday 20 - Saturday 28 September  
Hexham Abbey and the Queen's Hall Art Centre  
[www.hexhamabbey.org.uk](http://www.hexhamabbey.org.uk)

### **Alnwick Food Festival**

Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 September  
Alnwick  
[www.alnwickfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.alnwickfoodfestival.co.uk)

### **BioBlitz Weekend**

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September, 10am – 4pm  
Kirkley Hall  
[www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk)  
[zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk)

### **4x4 Safari through Kielder Forest**

Sunday 22 September  
Phone 0844 5863484

### **Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival**

Wednesday 25 – Sunday 29 September  
Phone 01289 330999  
[www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com](http://www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com)

## October

### **Haltwhistle Autumn Walking Festival**

Saturday 5 – Sunday 13 October  
Booking is essential  
Phone 01434 322025  
[www.haltwhistlewalkingfestival.org](http://www.haltwhistlewalkingfestival.org)

### **Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever 90th Anniversary Dog Show**

Saturday 5 October  
8.30am – 5.30pm  
Kirkley Hall  
[www.nldabclub.co.uk](http://www.nldabclub.co.uk)

### **Frontier Music Festival**

Thursday 10 – Sunday 13 October  
Berwick  
Phone 01289 331656  
[info@frontierfest.co.uk](mailto:info@frontierfest.co.uk)



**Roland Bibby  
Memorial Dialect  
Lecture presented by  
Northumbrian Language  
Society**

Saturday 12 October, 2pm  
Morpeth Town Hall

**National welly Weekend**

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13  
October, 10am – 4pm  
Kirkley Hall  
www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk  
zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk

**Spittal Autumn Fair**

Saturday 19 October  
10am – 3pm  
Phone 07752403409

**Stained Glass Workshop**

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20  
October  
Longframlington Memorial Hall  
D & J Watson  
Booking essential  
Phone 01669 650215  
www.theglassbarnstudio.co.uk

**Oktoberfest**

Saturday 19 October  
Kielder  
www.kieldertrailreavers.co.uk

**Spook Night**

Saturday 26 October  
10am to after 8pm  
Hexham Town Centre  
Phone 01434 603022  
tasmin@hexhamcommunity.net

**Dream Flags**

Saturday 26 October – Sunday 3  
November  
Cragside  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/  
cragside

**Hallowe'en Magic**

Saturday 26 – Wednesday 30  
October  
Alnwick Castle  
Phone 01665 510777  
www.alnwickcastle.com

**Victorian Spooky Fun  
Week**

Saturday 26 October – Sunday 3  
November  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay

**Children's Roman Soldier  
School**

Saturday 26 October – Sunday 3  
November  
Chesters Roman Fort  
Phone 01434 681379  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Chesters

**Run Northumberland  
castles marathon**

Sunday 27 October, 9.15am  
Alnwick  
Booking essential  
www.runnorthumberland.org

**Halloween Spookfest at  
the Zoo**

Sunday 27 October  
10am – 4pm  
Kirkley Hall  
www.kirkleyhall.co.uk  
enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk

**Decorate a Spooky Tile**

Sunday 27 October  
Bamburgh castle  
Phone 01668 214515  
www.bamburghcastle.com

**Meet and greet Fireman  
Sam**

Tuesday 29 October, 10am-4pm  
Kirkley Hall  
www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk  
zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk

**Rusty Bodkins Medieval  
Archer**

Tuesday 29 September  
Bamburgh Castle  
Phone 01668 214515  
www.bamburghcastle.com

**Rusty Bodkins, 15th  
Century Bowman**

Wednesday 30 October  
Heatherslaw Mill  
Phone 01890 820338  
www.ford-and-et-al.co.uk

**Herbal Walk**

Thursday 31 October  
Plessey Woods County Park  
Booking essential  
Phone 01670 824793  
www.northumberlandlife.org  
plesseywoods@  
northumberland.gov.uk

**Hallowe-en Activites**

Thursday 31 October  
Ford & Etal Estates  
Phone 01890 820338  
www.ford-and-et-al.co.uk

## November

**Victorian Spooky Fun  
Week**

Until Sunday 3 November  
Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay

**Children's Roman Soldier  
Week**

Until 3 November  
Chesters Roman Fort  
Phone 01434 681379  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Chesters

**4x4 Safari through  
Kielder Forest**

Saturday 2 November  
Phone 0844 5863484

**Kirkley Hall Bonfire Night**

Tuesday 5 November, 6pm  
Tickets are £2 per person  
www.kirkleyhall.co.uk  
enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk

## **Christmas Festive Gift Fair**

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10  
November  
Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

## **Northumberland Music Festival**

Dates throughout November  
Booking essential  
Phone 01668 283100  
[www.nmfestival.com](http://www.nmfestival.com)  
[info@nmfestival.com](mailto:info@nmfestival.com)

## **Kirkley Hall's Countryside Christmas Fair**

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17  
November, 10am-4pm  
Tickets £3 per person, including  
entry to Kirkley Hall Zoological  
Gardens  
[www.kirkleyhall.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhall.co.uk)  
[enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk)

## **Victorian Christmas with Father Christmas**

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24  
November  
Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

## **Run Northumberland 10K Series at Kirkley Hall**

Sunday 24 November, 9.30am  
Phone 01670 330009  
[www.runnorthumberland.org](http://www.runnorthumberland.org)

## **Stained Glass Workshop**

Saturday 30 November and  
Sunday 1 December  
Coquetdale Arts Centre,  
Rothbury  
D & J Watson  
Booking essential  
Phone 01669 650215

[www.theglassbarnstudio.co.uk](http://www.theglassbarnstudio.co.uk)

## **A Christmas Carol**

Saturday 30 November and  
Sunday 1 December  
Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

## **Winter Wonderland**

Dates throughout November and  
December  
Kielder Water and Forest Park  
Booking may be required  
Phone 0845 1551553  
[www.nel.co.uk/winterwonderland](http://www.nel.co.uk/winterwonderland)

# **December**

## **Christmas Market**

Sunday 1 December  
11am-3pm  
Ford Village  
Phone 01890 820338  
[www.ford-and-et-al.co.uk](http://www.ford-and-et-al.co.uk)

## **Christmas Fayre at Woodhorn**

Monday 2 December  
Woodhorn  
Phone 01670 624455  
[www.experiencewoodhorn.com](http://www.experiencewoodhorn.com)

## **Spittal Christmas Parade and Fair**

Friday 13 December  
Fair from 5.30pm, parade from  
6.30pm  
Phone 07752403409  
[www.spittalisgreat.co.uk](http://www.spittalisgreat.co.uk)

## **Ghost Stories for Christmas**

Friday 13 and Saturday 14  
December  
Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

## **Hexham Christmas Market**

Saturday 14 December  
Hexham  
Phone 01434 603022  
[www.visithexham.net](http://www.visithexham.net)

## **The Victorian Christmas Cook**

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15  
December  
Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

## **4x4 Safari through Kielder Forest**

Sunday 15 December  
Phone 0844 3484

## **Christmas Concert**

Saturday 21 December  
Bamburgh Castle  
Phone 01668 214515  
[www.bamburghcastle.com](http://www.bamburghcastle.com)

## **Make a Christmas Decoration**

Sunday 22 December  
Bamburgh Castle  
Phone 01668 214515  
[www.bamburghcastle.com](http://www.bamburghcastle.com)

## **Boxing Day Dip**

Thursday 26 December, 11am  
Spittal Beach, Berwick-upon-  
Tweed  
Phone 01670 622155

**To find out about events happening in Northumberland visit [events.northumberland.gov.uk](http://events.northumberland.gov.uk) or follow us on:**



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# Thirtieth anniversary of children's book festival

The finale to Europe's longest running children's book festival will take place at Woodhorn Museum this year.

Now in its thirtieth year, the annual Northern Children's Book Festival Gala Day will be held on Saturday 23 November, 9.30am to 4.30pm, at the museum near Ashington.

During the event, 10 of the country's leading children's authors and illustrators, including David Almond, Korky Paul and Berwick-based partners Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom, will be entertaining children with

their exciting workshops and shows, which will be full of jokes and audience participation.

Books will be for sale and children will be able to meet the authors and take home signed copies. In addition there will be storytelling sessions, craft activities and facepainting as part of the event. The Woodhorn Narrow Gauge Railway will also be running services from the Queen Elizabeth II Country Park, weather permitting.

As well as all the book-related activities, Woodhorn Museum, which is located off the A189, will be open as normal, so visitors can also view the exhibits and

learn about Northumberland's coal mining history.

The event, which will be co-hosted by Northumberland and North Tyneside Libraries, will be a fitting finale to a fortnight of author talks and workshops for children in schools and libraries across Northumberland and the north east.

**Entrance to the Gala Day is free but places at the author and storytelling sessions must be booked. Tickets will be available from September. For more information about the day and details of how to book, visit: [www.mylibrary.co.uk](http://www.mylibrary.co.uk)**



# free childcare for 2 year olds!

In order to apply your family **MUST** be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- ★ Child Tax Credit ONLY – Income below £16,190 (Families receiving Working Tax Credit are not eligible)
- ★ Income Support
- ★ Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- ★ Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- ★ Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- ★ The Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

If you are in receipt of any of these benefits call the *free childcare* **phone line 01670 623592** to confirm your eligibility

or apply on line

**[www.northumberland.gov.uk/freechildcare](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/freechildcare)**

NOTE: Some areas of Northumberland have a limited number of childcare places available, therefore establishing eligibility does not automatically guarantee a place.