

# Northumberland news



## **Vote**

for Northumberland

## **Apprentices**

are good for business

## **26 fab things**

to do in Northumberland

## **Superfast**

broadband transforming  
lives

## **What's on**

Events and activities



# In case you missed...



Photo: The upstream storage area at Mitford.

## Funding agreed to complete Morpeth Flood Scheme

The County Council and the Environment Agency have agreed the funding for the completion of the Morpeth Flood Alleviation Scheme by the end of this year.

The council and the Environment Agency have been working closely to identify how to resolve the funding gap that emerged in March this year.

The council will now contribute £12m to the flood scheme. The Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee will contribute £500,000 from its local levy budget and a government grant will provide the balance of £4.9m to allow the scheme to be completed.

## More homes to benefit from solar energy

Up to 1,600 council owned homes in Northumberland are set to benefit from solar power. The work is targeted at homes in the Cramlington, Blyth, Alnwick and Boulmer areas and will help residents to lower their electricity bills, as well as reducing fuel poverty.



## Robson returns

Tales from Northumberland, starring Robson Green, is to return to our TV screens for a second series. Last autumn, the ITV programme drew audiences of almost 4 million per episode and research showed it provided a great boost to the county's profile.

## New hospital for Berwick

A new state-of-the-art hospital for Berwick moved a step closer when the County Council approved a £25 million loan to Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The new hospital, due to be ready in late 2018, will bring health and social care together providing better overall care to patients.



## Illegal horse grazing

A further five illegally grazing horses have been removed from the Ashington and Choppington areas in the third successful operation run by the council and partner agencies.

Horses were removed from several council and housing company - owned locations in an operation involving our Environmental Enforcement Team in partnership with Northumbria Police and the local social housing company Bernicia.

## Clamping down

Council enforcement officers have been busy this summer clamping down on litter louts, fly tippers and irresponsible dog owners whose behaviour spoils towns, villages and the natural beauty of Northumberland – as well as costing the taxpayer over £2m each year in clean-up bills.

## Engine starts new life in Moldova

A county fire engine has started a new life helping improve road safety in one of Europe's poorest countries. The Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service appliance, which had come to the end of its life here, was transferred by sea to Moldova. It was donated to the 'Operation Florian' charity which provides fire engines, equipment and training to the world's poorest regions.

## Improving county's roads

A scheme to improve the county's road surfaces has proved so productive, work is already starting on projects planned for next year. Around 34 miles of Northumberland's roads were originally targeted for improvement. This work has been completed ahead of schedule and we are using the remaining time and money to bring forward 11 more schemes originally earmarked for next year.

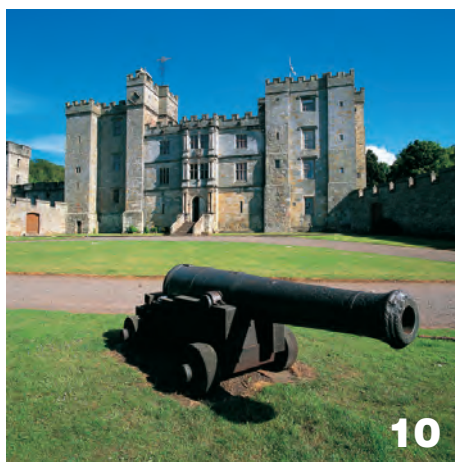
## A1 dualling



Alnwick, Berwick and Morpeth could benefit directly from dualling the A1 north of Newcastle according to a report by the council.

The report, estimates that dualling could result in 2,000 new jobs and 12,000 new homes as well as generating £376 million for the local economy.

# In this issue



- 4** People who really love Northumberland
- 6** Apprentices are good for business
- 8** Bravehearts
- 10** Fab things to do in Northumberland
- 12** Superfast is super good
- 16** Walking your way to health
- 22** What's On

## 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 December, March, June and September 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.

If you would like to receive Northumberland News in large print, Braille, audio, or in another format or language please contact us.

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### Front cover:

Paul Stevenson was the winner of our summer photography competition with this snap of his son Harvey having fun at Seahouses.



# Rewarded for **LOVEing**

**The Duchess of Northumberland has helped to celebrate the very best in community and voluntary environmental work across the county at the fourth annual LOVE Northumberland awards.**

Eleven groups, organisations or individuals were honoured with winner or runner-up awards at the event at The Alnwick Garden, which was sponsored by the Banks Group and hosted by freelance TV presenter and journalist Kim Inglis.

## **The winners were:**

- **Best new project - Friends of Pegswood Community Woods:**  
The group aims to raise awareness and improve green space. Volunteers feed and monitor red squirrels as well as monitoring rare and declining woodland birds and rare wildflowers. They organise and run a number of free community events.
- **Best urban project - Wellbank Green Improvement Scheme, Corbridge:**  
This group improved the village green so locals and visitors can enjoy the area. The community now has a mud free and scenic path beside the River Tyne which is suitable for buggies and wheelchairs as well as grassed areas.
- **Best coast or countryside project - Spittal Improvement Trust - beach cleans:**  
The group carries out a range of beach cleaning activities – and also involves local groups such as the Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides, as well as staff from the local Jus-Rol plant. They are currently working on a project where artistic pieces will be made from items washed up on the beach.
- **Best young people's project - Whistle Art Stop, Haltwhistle - 'Klarty Klub':**  
The Klarty Klub formed nine months ago and has helped to turn part of the Whistle Stop yard into a great garden area, including vegetables, flowers and a bug hotel.



Photo: The Broomley Bee project which enthuses children with the wonders of beekeeping.

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



# Northumberland

- **Best children's project - The Broomley Bee Project at Stocksfield:**

Developed in conjunction with Broomley First School the project focuses on enthusing and engaging children with the wonders of beekeeping and understanding the problems facing the honeybee population. Pupils, staff and families have also worked hard to create a beautiful bee garden in a neglected corner of the school grounds.

- **Best individual - Eleanor Phillips:**

Eleanor works tirelessly to keep her local beaches clean. She provides reports to the Marine Conservation Society and Marine Life Rescue, and also inspires other members of her local community and young people to get involved in caring for Boulmer beach.

- **Northumberland Schools Recycling Green Points Challenge - Josephine Butler Primary at the Northumberland Church of England Academy at Ashington:**

For the challenge students completed a litter pick in the school grounds and local area. They also designed posters to raise awareness about litter, recycling and food waste – including learning new recipes to use up leftovers.

The council developed the 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.

Councillor Kathy Graham, civic head of Northumberland County Council, welcomed everyone to the awards evening. She said: "These awards are about celebrating the amazing work that individuals and groups do in a voluntary capacity to improve our environment right across Northumberland."

## Please cast your vote for Northumberland

Northumberland has been shortlisted for the 'Best UK Holiday Destination' at this year's prestigious British Travel Awards.

We'd love you to cast your vote and help to put Northumberland on the map and become the No.1 Holiday Destination in the UK.

You can vote by visiting [www.vote4northumberland.com](http://www.vote4northumberland.com). You can also encourage friends and family to vote too by using the #sharenland on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Voting is open until the end of September.

Northumberland County Councillor Val Tyler, policy board member for infrastructure and culture said: "Over this past year, the international spotlight has been focused on our terrific county. To win Best UK holiday destination 2014 would be the icing on the cake and I'd urge everyone who lives in or loves Northumberland to get voting. Cornwall have won this prestigious award for the last few years but we hope the passion of our people could help knock them off the top spot."

### Did you know?

Last year almost 9 million people visited Northumberland spending £706m in the local economy



# Apprentices are good for business

**Businesses across Northumberland are reaping the benefits of employing apprentices. Taking on an apprentice can be a great way of filling a skills gap, expanding your business or bringing a fresh outlook to your industry.**

The Blyth Boatmen, who have looked after port and marine logistics for over 30 years in the ever-busier port of Blyth have recently employed an apprentice with help and continued support from Northumberland County Council. Mark Dennis, marine logistics manager at Blyth Boatmen, who mentors apprentice Adam Woodhouse, told us: "The age profile of the company was getting quite high.

"We had an option of recruiting established guys, but we went down the route of apprenticeships, which has been a great success."

The council has funding available to support small and medium sized employers recruit and progress apprentices in Northumberland, and help organise candidates for interview.



Pictured (left-right): New horizons - Apprentice Adam Woodhouse with Mark Dennis, marine logistics manager at Blyth Boatmen.



"We couldn't have got a better guy to start the apprenticeship with. Because you have reservations about whether a young lad can adapt to a very tough and demanding, complex working environment. He has a number of skills he has to pick up over the next four years and over the first year it seems the best decision we've made in a long time."

Adam, although living in Bedlington at the time, was put in contact with the Boatmen through the council and he has never looked back since. He explained: "After losing my first job I had nothing for 6 months, when I heard about this I got a CV ready on the day and luckily I got through."

"I hadn't done anything like this before; I had to start from scratch. I'm just starting to do an NVQ in Port Logistics but it's mostly learning on the job."

As the port grows to meet the demands of the budding off-shore renewable energy industry Mark has no reservations about taking on more apprentices to help the Boatmen expand, despite initial doubts about

taking on a young person. He said: "At first, before speaking to Debra (employability & skills manager at the council), I was very reluctant about going down this route because it's a big financial commitment for us, but I think after this first year with Adam, and the support we're getting from the council it's something we'll definitely do again, and that will be where we get our next staff from."

"I put a pro forma together with the council, so now we can roll it out again. I will get someone in on eight weeks work experience initially. We've had some others in since Adam so it doesn't always work out, not everyone is suited to this."

In addition to the help and support from the council, there is a £1,500 grant available for employers who employ an apprentice aged 16 to 24, as well as financial support from the council.

The council currently employs 138 apprentices, including six new apprentices who will be based at town and parish councils. The new pilot scheme involving Ashington, Cramlington and Seaton Valley councils is designed to give town and parishes more control and freedom to deliver services in a way which is tailored towards their communities.

A £1,500 Apprenticeship grant (AGE 16-24) is available for employers of 16 to 24 year olds from the National Apprenticeship Service AGE grant

Apprentices gain such a lot from the experiences too, and it can set them up for an excellent career, as David Sanderson, level 3 in business administration apprentice at the council explains:

"The apprenticeship has helped to improve my communication and organisational skills to a very high level. It has helped me develop the confidence and transferable skills needed to be successful in a busy workplace and I have thoroughly enjoyed the entire journey."

**There are more young people in the county waiting for opportunities. If you think you may benefit from taking on an apprentice or to find out more about apprenticeships or if you are eligible for a grant, contact [Debra.Lowes@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Debra.Lowes@northumberland.gov.uk) on 01670 622791 and discover more about how apprenticeships in Northumberland makes good business sense.**



# Above and beyond the call of duty

**Some of Northumberland's bravest and most dedicated emergency service workers have been honoured at a special awards ceremony.**

Organised by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), unsung heroes were recognised for work above and beyond the call of duty, from rescuing pensioners from burning buildings to stopping distressed people jumping from bridges.

Firefighters and staff were also presented with awards for long service, volunteering, charity work and young achievements.

Chief Fire Officer Alex Bennett said: "Our biggest asset is our people and I am very privileged to lead such a fantastic team. I'm very proud of everyone, not only firefighters and all fire service staff, but also young firefighters, the boxing club, volunteers and apprentices past and present.

"It was a real pleasure to see so many of our dedicated firefighters receive their long service and good conduct awards."

Councillor Dave Ledger, deputy leader of Northumberland County Council and policy board member responsible for the fire and rescue service, added: "I felt honoured to be able to be part of this event which recognises and celebrates the hard work and dedication of our firefighters, fire service staff, partners and important volunteers who all make sure a huge contribution to the excellent service provided."



Left to right are bravery award recipient Lindsay Bowling-Mowatt; the High Sheriff of Northumberland, John Carr-Ellison, Chief Fire Officer Alex Bennett; Northumbria Police award recipient Bruce Black; long service and good conduct medal recipients Richard Leighton and George Gordon and Group Manager Les Embleton.



Standing, left to right, are: long service and good conduct medal recipients Keith Carmichael, Craig Mole and Elizabeth Wright; Station Manager, Ian Long; the High Sheriff of Northumberland, John Carr Ellison; Chief Fire Officer Alex Bennett; and Ashley Sinton, Huw Lacey, Kevin Stone, Jack Cook and Robbie Moving from Green Watch at West Hartford who received a bravery award.





Left to right are: The High Sheriff of Northumberland, John Carr-Ellison; chief fire officer's certificate of achievement recipients Conor Reed and Bethany Cross; Chief Fire Officer, Alex Bennett and NFRS Boxing Academy coach Eric Fail.

Chief fire officer's certificates of achievement were awarded to young employees Bethany Cross and Conor Reed who both started work with the service as apprentices. Beth and Conor work in the community safety department, where they have made significant contributions to the work there. Beth won the regional Prince's Trust 'flying start' category and was a national finalist in its celebrate success awards while Conor won a regional award as advanced apprentice of the year, and is also training as a retained firefighter.

Seven firefighters received long service and good conduct medals for their combined 158 years' service while two members of corporate personnel were awarded chief fire officer's service awards for their combined 68 years' service.

The chief fire officer's certificate of commendation was awarded to David Dixon, a retained firefighter from Haltwhistle who spotted a house fire while out walking his dogs, crawled into the smoke-filled home and pulled the elderly resident to safety.

The chief fire officer's partnership award marked the tie-in NFRS has with Marks and Spencer in Morpeth. The store and staff have supported the Firefighters' Charity by nominating it as their Charity of the Year and raising more than £9,000 for the fund.

A chief fire officer's certificate of recognition was also awarded to Eric Fail, who is a coach at NFRS's boxing academy at West Hartford. Eric is one of the coaches at the club but also goes the extra mile, raising invaluable funds and volunteering whenever there is a shortage of support.

The Northumbria Police award was made to Bruce Black from Berwick Blue Watch who helped bring a distressed man to safety from the Royal Border Bridge. The man was threatening to jump when Bruce helped pull him back to safety.

Chief fire officer's bravery awards went to firefighter Lindsay Bowling-Mowatt and to Green Watch from West Hartford. Lindsay was off-duty when she tackled a fire in sand dunes at Druridge Bay, bringing the fire under control and making the area safe. Had it not been for her quick thinking the fire would have spread quickly. Green Watch demonstrated exceptional bravery, skills and outstanding team work when dealing with a serious house fire in Bedlington where a young boy had to be rescued.



The High Sheriff of Northumberland, John Carr-Ellison and Chief Fire Officer Alex Bennett (second and third from left) with long service and good conduct medal recipients Keith Carmichael, John Wilkinson and Guy Tiffin; and David Dixon, recipient of the chief fire officer's certificate of commendation.



**1** Take a cruise aboard the Osprey ferry on Kielder Water

**2** Take a walk up to Hareshaw Lynn, a 30ft waterfall, near Bellingham – look out for squirrels and deer

**3** Visit Harry Potter's school at Alnwick Castle

**4** Enjoy fish and chips from award winning Coastline restaurant and take away, finishing with an Italian ice cream from Ciccarelli's, Blyth

**5** Walk from Warkworth to Craster on the Northumberland Coastal Path

**6** Enjoy a picnic on the beach at Bamburgh

**7** Take a boat trip from Seahouses to the Farne Island to see puffins and guillemots

**8** Discover the life of Grace Darling at the Grace Darling Museum in Bamburgh

**9** Ramble in the woods at Plessey Woods

**10** Look at the dark skies, can you see Mars?

**11** Take a hike up Cheviot, stand at the top and look towards Scotland

**12** Watch the salmon leap at Hexham, try your hand at fishing on Tyne Green

**13** Visit The Lowry exhibition in Berwick



# 26 FAB things to do in Northumberland



Enjoy kippers from Craster

**14**

Take part in a ghost tour at Chillingham Castle

**15**

Take a rowing boat out on the river at Morpeth

**16**

Enjoy a walk around the Turner Garden in Morpeth, look at the physic beds containing medicinal plants that were used to treat illnesses and ailments

**17**

Visit Howick Hall the home of Earl Grey tea

**18**

Visit Cragside the first house in the world to lit by hydroelectricity

**19**

Imagine how life was for the Romans as you visit Hadrian's Wall

**20**

Take a walk at Allen Banks and the Staward Gorge and look out for the remains of a medieval pele tower

**21**

Test your mountain bike skills at the skills loop at Kielder Castle

**22**

Learn about bees and honey at Chain Bridge Honey Farm

**23**

Interested in how to make beer? Visit one of Northumberland's microbreweries

**24**

Enjoy a game of golf in one of Northumberland's scenic courses

**25**

Bird watching at Bolam Lake, can you spot a nuthatch or jay?

**26**



# Berwick parks improvements unveiled



**Photo: Four year old Hannah Mosley presented a bouquet of roses to Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland.**

## **Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland has officially launched almost £1 million worth of lottery funded improvements at Castle Vale and Coronation Parks in Berwick upon Tweed.**

The Berwick Parks Project was set up to revitalise the two parks which sit on either side of Berwick's train station and contain a wealth of heritage and natural history.

As part of the scheme, students from Berwick Academy have designed a community sensory garden behind Meg's Mount, while Berwick Youth Project has made a film about the restoration.

A grant of £943,900 was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund. Funding from Northumberland County Council, Berwick Town Council and Castlegate Residents Association has taken the total project value to £999,051.

Work is set to continue in the parks as a development officer has been appointed as part of the project and

will be responsible for organising and leading events, volunteer activities and school and group visits to the parks.

**If you would like to get involved contact Kate Morison by phone on 07876398026 or email [Kate.Morison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Morison@northumberland.gov.uk)**

### **Did you know?**

**We cut 8.5 million m<sup>2</sup> of grass each year; that's equivalent to cutting over 1000 Wembley pitches.**





# Superfast fibre broadband is transforming

## More businesses and homes are now reaping the rewards of fibre-enabled superfast broadband being rolled out across Northumberland.

Almost 3000 homes and businesses in Widdrington Station, Ulgham, Hadston, Broomhill and Red Row, are the latest communities to benefit through the iNorthumberland programme. It's transforming the lives of people working from home.

Business analyst Andy Dennis, a local resident from Lesbury, signed up for fibre broadband at the first opportunity. Andy said: "Working remotely as a business analyst for a multinational organisation, all the work I do is via a computer. "Before fibre-enabled superfast broadband I was considering commuting to an office in Edinburgh

instead of working from home as the old broadband capacity just wasn't good enough. I simply wasn't able to do my job.

"As soon as I knew my local cabinet had gone live, I signed up immediately and was recently able to deliver training to 36 people across the globe simultaneously, which I couldn't do before.

"Superfast fibre broadband has allowed me to continue in my current role, spend more time with my family and has saved me the time and expense of commuting to Edinburgh. I can honestly say it's changed my life."

The newly-launched iNorthumberland Business Support programme helps eligible small and medium sized businesses access the benefits of online technologies through superfast broadband. Visit [www.inorthumberlandbusiness.com](http://www.inorthumberlandbusiness.com) to meet your dedicated Business Adviser.

The iNorthumberland programme is delivered by Arch on behalf of Northumberland County Council. The programme is funded by Broadband Delivery UK programme, Northumberland County Council, European Regional Development Fund and BT.

**Please note to benefit from fibre broadband you need to upgrade your existing package, it doesn't happen automatically. For more information visit [www.inorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk)**





# Superfast is super good

**Fibre is transforming internet use within the home, from communicating with family and friends to entertainment, shopping and online gaming.**

Fibre broadband means everyone in the family can do their own thing online, all at the same time, whether it's downloading music in minutes or watching catch-up TV; streaming HD or 3D movies in a few minutes; or posting photos and videos to social networking sites in seconds.

It will also improve access to new job opportunities, and make it easier to shop around for cheaper services.

The benefits are also considerable for businesses, which can do much more in far less time.

Firms can speed up file and data transfers, collaborate with colleagues and customers on conference or video calls or swap their hardware and expensive software licenses for files, processing power and software from cloud computing. Staff can work as effectively from home as they would in the office.

# ng lives

For up to date information visit [www.inorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk) follow @my\_broadband on Twitter or find 'iNorthumberland' on Facebook or email [enquiries@archdigital.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@archdigital.co.uk)

Parts of the following areas are expected to go live in the next three months:

- Blyth
- Corbridge
- Haltwhistle
- Cramlington
- Felton
- Bedlington
- Ashington
- Belford
- Berwick
- Hexham
- Morpeth
- Stocksfield



# The Best of Northumberland

**This year our annual summer photography competition focused firmly on fun!**

The winning snap is sitting proudly on the front cover of this magazine. However, we received so many fantastic entries from across the county that we thought we'd share just a few of them with you!









# Walk your way to health and happiness

**Most of us know that we should be walking 10,000 steps a day. But when the walk to the kettle feels like a trek across the Himalayas the idea of putting our boots on and heading into the hills can feel very far away.**

The fact is that walking is good for us. Regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, stroke and some cancers.

Now, it's easier than ever to get out and walk our way to better health. Free weekly walks take place all over Northumberland and last for between 30 and 90 minutes. They happen all over the county.

Rachel Slade, walking coordinator for Active Northumberland said: "You just need to turn up a few minutes before the start of a walk. You'll have great company, trained walk leaders and safe walking routes to get you on your way to healthier lifestyle."

"It's really easy to get going, all you need is a good pair of shoes - something comfortable, with good grip and support for your feet."

Day	Location, Meeting Point	Time
Monday	<b>Belford</b> , Bell View Centre (starters)	1.30pm
	<b>Belford</b> , Market Place (intermediate)	3.00pm
	<b>Cramlington</b> , Concordia Leisure Centre	10.00am
	<b>Hexham</b> , Wentworth Leisure Centre	10.00am
	<b>Seahouses</b> , Seahouses Resource Centre	2.00pm
	<b>Stocksfield</b> , Train station car park	10.00am
Tuesday	<b>Amble</b> , Tourist Information Centre	1.30pm
	<b>Haltwhistle</b> , Sainsburys	11.30am
	<b>Morpeth</b> , Riverside Leisure Centre	10.30am
	<b>Wark</b> , Post Office	10.00am
Wednesday	<b>Alnwick</b> , Tourist Information Centre	10.00am
	<b>Ashington</b> , Age UK Building (Roundhouse)	10.00am
	<b>Bellingham</b> , The Rose and Crown	10.30am
	<b>Berwick</b> , The Maltings Theatre	1.30pm
	<b>Corbridge</b> , Coigns Corner	10.00am
	<b>Morpeth</b> McMillan Walk and Talk, Riverside Leisure Centre	10.00am
	<b>Widdrington</b> , ATAC, Widdrington Station	12.45pm
Thursday	<b>Allendale</b> , The Co-op	10.00am
	<b>Blyth</b> , Blyth Sports Centre	10.00am
	<b>Newbiggin</b> , Newbiggin Sports Centre	10.00am
	<b>Prudhoe</b> , Tyne Riverside Country Park	10.30am
	<b>Widdrington</b> , ATAC, Widdrington Station	12.45pm
	<b>Wooler</b> , Cheviot Centre	1.30pm
Friday	<b>Ashington</b> , Hirst Welfare Centre	11.00am
	<b>Pegswood</b> , Union Depot	10.00am
	<b>Rothbury</b> , Tourist Information Centre	10.30am
	<b>Seaton Sluice</b> , Community Centre/Library	10.00am
	<b>Seghill</b> , Blake Arms Car Park	10.00am

**If you would like more information about health walks in Northumberland please contact Rachel Slade, walking coordinator on 01670 623543 or visit [www.walkingforhealth.org.uk](http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk)**





# Mothers asked to give their views on Wansbeck maternity services

If you have had a baby in the last few years or you are planning to, the local NHS is keen to hear about what is important to you about your maternity care.

Women living in Northumberland are being asked to give their views to help shape how maternity services in Wansbeck will work in the future.

In June 2015, maternity services currently provided at Wansbeck General Hospital will be relocated to the new Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital in Cramlington.

The research is being carried out by the NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the organisation responsible for the planning and buying of local health services.

Dr Alistair Blair is the chief clinical officer of the CCG which has been working closely with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that women receive the best and safest possible maternity services.

“When the new Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital opens in June 2015, there will be a medical-led unit and a midwifery-led unit on the same site which means that both low and high risk women living in Northumberland will be able to have their babies there.

“It was always the intention that local women would have the option of antenatal and postnatal appointments at Wansbeck General Hospital once the new hospital is open and we want to know what is important to them so we can ensure we are commissioning the most appropriate services.

Dr Blair continued: “We are also working closely with Northumbria Healthcare to ensure the views of midwives and other clinical staff are included as part of this engagement.”

Birju Bartoli, Executive Director of Performance and Governance at the trust, said: “The community engagement will ensure post natal and ante natal care at Wansbeck Hospital is built around the needs of local women. This, coupled with the opening of Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, where there will be a co-located obstetric led unit and a midwifery led unit, will ensure women continue to access excellent maternity services across North Tyneside and Northumberland.”



To complete the survey and for further information on maternity services available in Northumberland please visit: <http://www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk/?p=2134>

Paper copies of the survey are available by phoning 0191 2172670 or via email to [norccg.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:norccg.enquiries@nhs.net)



# Robson's Buffet Stop

**TV presenter Robson Green dropped in to the Buffet Stop cafe at Aln Valley Railway in Alnwick in August.**

Robson, who was filming in the area, chatted to adults with learning difficulties who run the café selling cakes and biscuits that they make.

Northumberland County Council runs eight learning day centres across the county where staff help over 170 adults with learning disabilities acquire new skills.

At other centres clients learn how to grow plants and vegetables, make jewellery, scented soaps, ceramics, reclaim furniture or bake artisan breads.

We have some fantastic fresh vegetables for sale at our Horticultural Training Unit at Sleekburn.

The Sleekburn HTU Kitchen Garden is open 10 am – 4pm Monday – Friday and accepts cash or cheques. The centre is situated on the former Earth Balance Site on the A1147 near Bomersund and is signposted kitchen garden from the roadside.

**To find out what produce is in season email: [sleekburnhtu@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:sleekburnhtu@northumberland.gov.uk) or call Venita on 01670 530111.**



Pictured: Jane Davidson, Christopher McDonnell, Robson Green, Stephen King.

## New laws come into effect for families

**From 1st September, the Government is making changes to the law for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).**

Known as SEND reforms, the new legislation will result in changes to the way that these youngsters receive support from their local council, health and social care services and the child's nursery, school or college.

The current assessments will be replaced with a single education, health and care (EHC) plan which will place much more emphasis on the young person's goals and will describe the support they will receive while they are in education or training.

Personal budgets will also be made available as an option to provide choice and flexibility for families and young people.

The county council has also published its 'Local Offer' which lists the support and services that are available in Northumberland and more details can be found at: <http://bit.ly/NCCSend>

Anyone wanting more information about the new arrangements can also contact Jane Harrison via email at [Jane.harrison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.harrison@northumberland.gov.uk)



# Stoptober Challenge

## Can you quit for 28 days?

**Could you be smoke-free for 28 days during October?**

The national Stoptober campaign is encouraging smokers to quit for that long - and we're here to help.

**Did you know...** you're four times more likely to succeed if you get our help than trying to go it alone. We can prescribe the medication to help manage the cravings and help you to think differently so you can change your behaviour.

**And...** you're five times more likely to quit for good if you manage to stop for 28 days.

It is never too late to quit and you will start to see real health benefits very quickly.

**For more information on stopping smoking and Northumberland NHS Stop Smoking Service, call 01670 813135 or visit [www.northumbria.nhs.uk/stopsmoking](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/stopsmoking)**



## Fight the flu

**People at most risk from flu are being urged to make sure they are vaccinated against the virus this winter.**

Pregnant women, people aged 65 or over and adults and children with long-term health conditions are at risk.

These conditions include a weakened immune system, neurological disorders, liver, lung or renal disease, heart problems and diabetes.

Carers and healthcare professionals should also be vaccinated to protect their families and patients. This winter a nasal spray vaccine will be offered to healthy two-, three- and four-year-olds in a bid to slow down the spread of the virus.

Flu can be a nasty illness and it spreads easily. Extending the vaccination programme to four-year-olds will not only protect the youngsters themselves but those they come into contact with as well.

About 800 people in England are admitted to intensive care with complications of flu every winter – and tens of thousands need hospital treatment.

We urge everyone in Northumberland who is eligible to get the vaccine and help protect themselves and their families this winter.

GPs will usually contact these patients – but they can get in touch with their surgery if they wish to book an appointment.



# Sharing lives with adults in need



Photo: Danny with Caren who is Christine Hope's daughter.

People of Northumberland are being asked if they would like to share their lives with adults with specific needs in a carer role.

Shared Lives Northumberland provides support in a family home for adults who are unable to live alone because of their age or disability.

The project is particularly interested in hearing from adults who would like to care for people with specific care needs around mobility, mental health and young adults who have turned 18 and are coming out of foster care.

Mother-of-four Christine Hope lives in Blanchland with her daughter Caren, 18, and 41-year-old Danny through Shared Lives. She also has three sons who live away from home.

“ Danny has lived with us for four and a half years and he fitted in really well. He has become one of the family and he's part of everything we do. My daughter is now training to become Danny's second carer which is lovely; she would like to be a foster parent or carer of children in the future.”

**For further information call 01670 536 400 or visit the Shared Lives Northumberland website at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/sharedlives)**

# Feed-Finder app rates places to breastfeed

**A free Feed-Finder app is available to help new mums to find and share reviews on good places for breastfeeding.**

The app works like Trip Advisor to create an online directory of reviews linked to maps that help mums find the best places for breast feeding when out and about.

There are already dozens of reviews for venues across Northumberland including cafes, restaurants and other public places like supermarkets, department stores and children's centres that can help mums locate the most breast feeding friendly places.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the benefits of breast feeding, rates within the UK and particularly in the North East are among some of the lowest in the world.

In Northumberland around 60% of mothers breast feed their babies at birth but this drops to just 33% after six weeks. The prevalence of breastfeeding among teenagers is particularly low.

Councillor Susan Dungworth, policy board member for public health said: “We want Northumberland to become a leading baby friendly county that actively supports a mother's right to breastfeed wherever she is in the county.”

**For information about breast feeding support groups and services in Northumberland log on to [www.breastfeedingnorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.breastfeedingnorthumberland.co.uk)**

**Information on the Feed-Finder app can be found at [feed-finder.co.uk](http://feed-finder.co.uk)**



**The following locations are a selection of breastfeeding friendly premises in Northumberland:**

- Café Nero (Hexham)
- Tea & Tipple (Hexham)
- Costa Coffee (Morpeth)
- Central Bean (Morpeth)
- Boots (Morpeth, Berwick)
- Alphabet Soup (Blyth)
- Bon Marche (Blyth, Ashington, Cramlington)
- Tino's Deli (Bedlington)



# Can you help Northumberland children?



**Over 300 local children need people like you to offer them a short or long term loving home.**

## **Aged 0 to 18 and beyond**

Whatever the age our foster carers look after, they have an important role to play in caring for children through extraordinary times in their lives.

It could be supporting:

- A young child's development and helping them to settle into daily routines
- A child with disabilities to attain new skills at home and school
- A young person to develop confidence; prepare for independent living and to make future plans

Our children ask us to forget about stereotypes of children in care - every child is unique and you can help them to reach their fullest potential.

## **Keep families together**

Staying together is very important to siblings who have had changes in their lives. They need the security and comfort of each other, as much as they need you. If it is best for siblings to live separately; foster carers help them meet up as a family. Carers even support mum and baby to stay together too.

Carolyn Stubbs, from South East Northumberland who has fostered more than 12 children and young people since 2007 said:



“ I want to give children and young people a home and help them out when they need it.

“ Whatever they need while they can't live with their family; each child is unique. I'm not their parent; I am an

extra person to help them through issues that they are coping with. I care about them and I'm there to talk to; help them with school and with daily things that go on in life.

“It's not for everyone, but we do a good job of putting ourselves off making that first call. I took a while to contact the team, but they answered all my concerns. If you enjoy being around kids, fostering is a brilliant way of helping local children and families. We all have different skills and attributes - a sense of humour is a must. Like our team says – Count Yourself In – Change Lives!”

Often people don't realise they have the capabilities to help children every day in different ways. Find out how our support and training can help you and our young people succeed.

**To find out more go to  
<http://fostering.northumberland.gov.uk>  
Call us on 01670 62 62 62 or email us at  
[familyplacement@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacement@northumberland.gov.uk)**



## September



### Explore Northumberland's hidden heritage – for FREE

Residents and visitors to Northumberland will be given a rare opportunity to see some of the county's hidden architectural treasures when the doors to many of its most historic buildings open to the public, free of charge.

This year's Heritage Open Days event, will take place from [Thursday 11 – Saturday 14th September](#) with more than 100 venues across the county running events, tours and talks.

The event is a national initiative aimed at celebrating the country's heritage, history and culture.

Listings of all the events taking place across Northumberland are available from [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

### Goldwing Light Parade and Static Event

[Saturday 6 September, 10am-9pm](#)  
Berwick Town, Berwick-upon-Tweed  
Free  
Email [ron@goldwingmisfits.co.uk](mailto:ron@goldwingmisfits.co.uk)

### Visit to the Ratanaghiri Buddhist Monastery

[Sunday 7 September, 2pm-5pm](#)  
Bolam Lake Country Park  
Donations welcome  
Phone 01661 881234

### BAA FEST

A weekend of live music  
[Friday 12, 7.30pm](#), [Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September, 12pm-11pm](#)  
Brownrigg Lodges, Bellingham  
£50 weekend ticket adult, £25 children 10+, free for children under 10  
Phone 01434 221235 or visit [www.baafest.co.uk](http://www.baafest.co.uk)

### History walk around Plessey Woods

Explore Plessey Woods through the Dark Ages up to the present day  
[Saturday 13 September](#)  
Shields Road, Hartford Bridge, Bedlington  
£3.50  
Booking required  
Phone 01670 824793 or email [plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk)

### Writing our lives

Creative writing workshop in autobiography and memoir  
[Saturday 13 September, 9:30am- 12:30pm](#)  
Alnwick Library, Green Batt, Alnwick  
£6.00  
To enrol email [admin@whac.uk.com](mailto:admin@whac.uk.com) or ring 01670 853977

### Northumbrian Crafts and Flower Festival

[Saturday 13 September, 10:30am-4pm](#)  
St Mary's Parish Church, Belford  
Free  
Email [LHumble@btinternet.com](mailto:LHumble@btinternet.com)



### Berwick Film Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary

[17 – 21 September 2014](#)

The seaside town of Berwick will be transformed when it plays host to its 10th Film and Media Arts Festival!

During the week of 17-21 of September the town will host film premieres, live events, installations, outdoor projections and workshops – all in various locations around the town's medieval walls.

The Festival is now the largest of its kind in the region and attracts visitors from across the UK and filmmakers and artists from around the world.

To buy tickets and find out more about the exciting festival programme visit [www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com](http://www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com)



### Thank Folk it's Friday

Free folk music event with John Campbell  
Friday 26 September, 2pm  
Woodhorn Café, Ashington  
Free  
Phone 01670 624455

### Autumn plant sale

Saturday 27 September, 10am-4pm  
Hepscott Park Garden Café, Morpeth  
Phone 01670 514255, visit  
[www.hepscottparkgardencafe.co.uk](http://www.hepscottparkgardencafe.co.uk)

## October

### Stargazing with Richard Darn

Sunday 5 October, 7:30pm  
Jubilee Hall, Rothbury  
£2.00  
Phone 01669 621972

### Fungi for all

An introduction into fungi  
Sunday 12 October, 11am-1pm  
Bolam Lake Country Park  
Adults £2.50, children £1.00  
Phone 01661 881234

### Endurance Horse Riding along the bay

Sunday 12 October, 9:30am-1pm  
Druridge Bay Country Park, Red Row, Morpeth  
Free  
Email  
[druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk)

### Victorian Illusion Week

Exposing the trickery behind Victorian magicians with hands on activities  
Saturday 25 October- Sunday 2 November, 11am-4pm  
Belsay Hall, Belsay  
£8 adults, £1 children  
Visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

### Children's Roman Soldier Week

Saturday 25 October- Sunday 2 November, 11am-4:30pm  
Chesters Roman Fort, Chollerford, Hexham  
£5.60 adults, £1 children  
Visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

### Halloween lantern making

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October, 10:30am-4pm  
Druridge Bay Country Park, Hadston  
£3.50  
Phone 01670 760968 email  
[druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk)

### Hexham Spook Night

Saturday 25 October, 3pm-9pm  
Hexham Town Centre, Hexham  
Phone 01434 603022  
Visit [www.visithexham.net](http://www.visithexham.net)

### WW1 History Fair

Sunday 26 October, 11am-4pm  
Woodhorn QEII Country Park, Ashington  
Phone 01670 624455



### Create your own Halloween Lantern

Friday 31 October, 3pm-4:30pm  
Shields Road, Hartford Bridge, Bedlington  
£5.00 booking required  
Phone 01670 824793 email  
[plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk)

### Victorian Lantern Night

Brave the Belsay Hall Gardens to discover performers who will regale you with spooky tales.  
Friday 31 October, 6pm-8pm  
Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens, Belsay  
£6  
Visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## November

### Bonkers for conkers

Chestnut challenges and conker competitions  
Saturday 1 November, 10:30am-12pm  
Shields Road, Hartford Bridge, Bedlington  
£2.50  
Phone 01670 824793 email  
[plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk)

### Geology in Ponteland

Talk on geology in Ponteland given by Derek Teasdale  
Tuesday 4 November, 7:30pm  
St Mary's Church Hall, Ponteland  
£2.00  
Phone 01661 822781

### Northumberland Music Festival

Friday 14 to Sunday 30 November  
Doxford Hall, Chathill  
£30.00  
Phone 01668 283044

### Craft Fair

Saturday 22 November, 10am-3pm  
Haydon Bridge Community Centre, Haydon Bridge  
Phone 01434 688886

### Netherton Folk Club present Rod Clements

Saturday 22 November, 7:30pm-11pm  
Netherton Memorial Hall, Netherton  
£2.00  
Phone 01669 630258

### Joy of Christmas Fair

Sunday 23 November  
Linden Hall, Longhorsley  
Phone 01665 606515

### Victorian Christmas with Father Christmas

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November, 11am-4pm  
Belsay Hall, Belsay  
£8.00  
Visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

### Christmas Fair

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November, 11am-4pm  
Woodhorn QEII Country Park, Ashington  
Phone 01670 624455





# THE MYTHBUSTERS ADOPTION AND FOSTERING TOUR 2014

All sessions run from 6.30pm to 8pm

## Adoption

10th September **Wooler, Cheviot Centre**

18th November **Ponteland,  
Harpers Leisure Centre**

## Fostering

1st October **Hexham, Hexham Mart**

3rd December **Blyth, Enterprise Centre**

See the website for future dates and more information.

*The sessions are not part of the assessment process. They are for people who wish to find out more, and those who wish to meet some of our families. Please call or email to book your place. If you cannot make one of these sessions, you can always call for an informal chat or book an appointment with us at our Ashington office.*

Count Yourself In! Change Lives