

# Northumberland news

Festival of the North East begins

LOVE Northumberland Awards

Win an English Heritage family pass





## 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:** BBC Look North's Carol Malia with Nicola Wardle (left) from Northumberland County Council, launching the LOVE Northumberland Awards. Full story page seven.



# Welcome



As this magazine went to press Northumberland's new team of councillors was busy putting arrangements in place to lead the county council for the next four years.

A full list of your local councillors and the policy board members appointed to take responsibility

for the huge range of services in Northumberland is included on pages 14 and 15.

These are exciting times in Northumberland but as we all know, delivering services on ever tighter budgets will be a great challenge; in the next few months the council and its new representatives will be setting out detailed plans to ensure that we can continue to provide good quality, value for money services for residents across all areas of the county.

This magazine is our way of providing you with important information about the county and the work of the council. In a recent survey of readers, you told us that you found information about events and activities useful, so in this issue we've expanded the 'what's on' section.

We hope you find something of interest in the summer programme of events covered on pages four and five. This includes the Festival of the North East, the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition and events as well as commemorations of the Battle of Flodden and Emily Wilding Davidson's heroic actions.

We're also looking forward to this year's LOVE Northumberland Awards and I'm pleased that BBC Look North's Carol Malia has agreed to host this year's event at the Alnwick Garden in July. Details of the categories and the aims of the event are covered on page seven.

I hope you enjoy the summer and all that Northumberland has to offer, it's your place.

**Steve Stewart**  
Chief executive

## Park in sheep shape

Stephen Lambert (left), Mark Nisbet (centre) and John Richardson from the county council's neighbourhood services team, with some of the Shetland sheep grazing in Carlisle Park, Morpeth. The flock of 12 sheep arrived at the end of April to graze on Ha' Hill, the 11th century motte and bailey built by the Normans.

The sheep are part of the growing wild project funded by the SITA Trust. They are helping Carlisle Park's gardeners to keep the area trim and manage the hill back to a more species rich grassland.

There is still public access to the top of Ha' Hill. If you would like to visit Carlisle Park to see the sheep, park maps and information can be found at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/carlislepark](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/carlislepark)



# Packed programme

This summer Northumberland is running an exciting activity programme linked to three major regional events ensuring there will be something for everyone to explore.

Residents and visitors to the county can look forward to the events of the Festival of the North East, the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels to the region and the Battle of Flodden commemorations.

## Festival of the North East

Throughout June, the 2013 Festival of the North East celebrates the region's innovation and creativity with a programme of events spanning arts, heritage, creative industries, museums and engineering. This ground-breaking festival brings together a number of organisations as well as individual artists and practitioners from across the region. There will be lots of opportunities to experience the festival across Northumberland including:

- Amble Puffin Festival - 18 May to 1 June  
[www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk](http://www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk)
- Building Dreams: Artworks Cragside - 11 June to 3 November  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside)
- Emily Wilding Davison commemoration events - 10 to 16 June  
[www.emilyinspires.net](http://www.emilyinspires.net)
- Puffing Billy - 21 June onwards  
[www.wylamparishcouncil.org/railway.htm](http://www.wylamparishcouncil.org/railway.htm)



FESTIVALNE.COM

JUNE 2013

## Suffragette, Emily Wilding Davison

2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of suffragette, Emily



Wilding Davison, who is buried in St Mary's Church, Morpeth. Emily was fatally injured when she stepped onto the track during the 1913 Epsom Derby and fell under the King's horse. Emily was deeply rooted in Northumberland, living here with her mother after her father's death and returning to the village of Longhorsely to recover from her time in prison and bouts of suffragette action.

A programme of workshops, writing competitions and exhibitions peaks with the centennial weekend, featuring a major concert by award-winning women's choir Werca's Folk, the premiere of a new play about Emily, entitled 'To Freedom's Cause' and a procession following the route of Emily's last journey from the railway station to St Mary's Church. Details are available at [www.emilyinspires.co.uk](http://www.emilyinspires.co.uk)

Full information on the regional festival can be found at

[www.festivalne.com](http://www.festivalne.com)

Twitter: @festivalNE (#FestNE)

# of summer events

## The Lindisfarne Gospels

One of the world's greatest books will return to the North East from July 1 until 30 September. The Lindisfarne Gospels will be on display in an exhibition in Durham's Palace Green along with preserved artifacts including Saint Cuthbert's jewelled cross, sapphire ring and travelling altar.



The Lindisfarne Gospels have a uniquely important place in the heritage and culture of Northumberland and the North East. Written around 1300 years ago in honour of 'God and St Cuthbert' on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, the spectacular Gospels are famous around the world.

Northumberland proudly provides the living history to this significant exhibition. The majestic ruins of Holy Island Priory and the iconic Lindisfarne castle, which are visible for miles along

Northumberland's coast, are the embodiment of the Gospels' story.

Northumberland echoes with the history of St Cuthbert and the journey of the monks who fled Holy Island carrying his body and the sacred Gospels. If you would like to explore the story of the Gospels in Northumberland there is a special programme of activity taking place to celebrate this special year. Why not visit St Cuthbert's Cave near Belford where the saint is rumoured to have lived, or one of the fascinating St Cuthbert's Churches, dotted across the county. Perhaps you'll be inspired to join the Holy Island Pilgrimage on the 13 July across the sands to Holy Island, or to walk a section of the 100 mile St Cuthbert's Way, through beautiful Northumbrian countryside.

Web: [www.lindisfarnegospels.com](http://www.lindisfarnegospels.com)  
Twitter: @gospelsdurham (#Gospels)



## Battle of Flodden commemorations

The 9 September 2013 marks the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden. The battle was a national tragedy that led to the death of 15,000 Scots and English soldiers, 100 noblemen and the Scottish King, James IV.

The catastrophic events of the battle shaped British and European politics for the next 100 years and culminated in the union of the English and Scottish crowns in 1603. During 2013 there will be many commemoration events throughout the area including plays, living history, exhibitions, music, archaeology and genealogy.

Further information about Flodden events can be found at:  
Web: [www.flodden1513.com](http://www.flodden1513.com) Twitter: @Flodden1513Eco



## Love your local market

Markets across the county have been taking part in a national campaign designed to highlight the important role they play in local communities.

Market days in Northumberland:

Market	Location	Market days
Alnwick	Market Place	Thursday and Saturday
Amble	Amble harbour	Wednesday and Sunday
Ashington*	Station Road	Tuesday
Bedlington*	Market Place	Thursday
Berwick*	Marygate Charter Market	Wednesday and Saturday
Blyth*	Market Place	Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
Haltwhistle*	Market Square	Thursday
Hexham*	Market Place	Tuesday
Hexham*	The Shambles	Monday to Saturday
Morpeth*	Market Place	Wednesday
Ponteland*	Merton Way	Friday

The county council, which runs nine of the 12 open markets in Northumberland (\*see below), was keen to support the campaign, as it recognises that markets are not only an important asset for shoppers but also the focal point of many of our town centres.

The Love Your Local Market campaign, now in its second year, is led by the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) and backed by central government. From 15 to 29 May markets ran special events to attract new traders and shoppers.

Andy Rutherford, head of neighbourhood services at the county council, said: "We are always keen to welcome new traders and this campaign, which we supported last year too, is a great experience for them.

"But it isn't just about giving a start to a new generation of retail entrepreneurs. It's about celebrating the role of markets in sustaining our town centres and communities and showing people living in Northumberland, as well as visitors, what's on offer when they shop locally."

Full information about markets in Northumberland, including details for any would-be traders is available on the council's recently updated web pages at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/markets](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/markets)



# LOVE Northumberland Awards 2013

BBC Look North's Carol Malia has been announced as the host of the LOVE Northumberland Awards 2013.

Carol will be the presenter for the event at the Alwick Garden when community groups, environmental projects and individuals will be recognised for outstanding work to improve their local environment.

In their third year, the awards will once again be presented by the Duchess of Northumberland along with main sponsor the Banks Group and other supporting organisations.

This year's event will take place on July 10. Carol's involvement in the presentations was announced in May when she paid a visit to one of last year's winning projects – The Corbridge Youth Initiative Allotment.

A group of volunteers aged between 11 and 18 has created it's own vegetable plot, fruit orchard, greenhouse and lawned 'chill out' area. A shed is used for meetings and as an educational base for the young people.

The project has been developed to encourage young people to get involved in the creation of their own allotment, to promote healthy eating, outdoor activity and education.

Carol Malia said: "I am really looking forward to being the compere at the LOVE Northumberland awards this year – and seeing more great work like this which is being done by the Corbridge Youth Initiative. I am a huge lover of Northumberland myself but I know that it takes hard work and dedication to make and keep the county green and clean."

With the support of main sponsors the Banks Group, the award categories have been extended to include one for the individual whose efforts towards their local environment make them stand out from the crowd, and also for the best environmental project by a business based in Northumberland.

Other categories are best new project, best urban project, best

coast or countryside project, best young people's and best children's project.

Nominations, which closed on 31 May, have been received by schools as well as community and voluntary groups.

The awards are also being supported for the third year by the Co-operative's Northumberland Area Committee as well as by a number of other Northumberland based companies and organisations.

Winning entries will receive a £250 prize and runner-up projects a £100 prize; the money must be spent on something that will benefit the project or work in the community.

Further information about the LOVE Northumberland campaign is available at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/love](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/love)

**Pictured (from left): (Front) Sean Soulsby, chair of the Corbridge Youth Initiative, Carol Malia and Sammy Garcia from the youth initiative. (Back) Victoria Proud, Connagh Scott and Lawrence Urwin from the youth initiative and Nicola Wardle from the council's neighbourhood services team.**





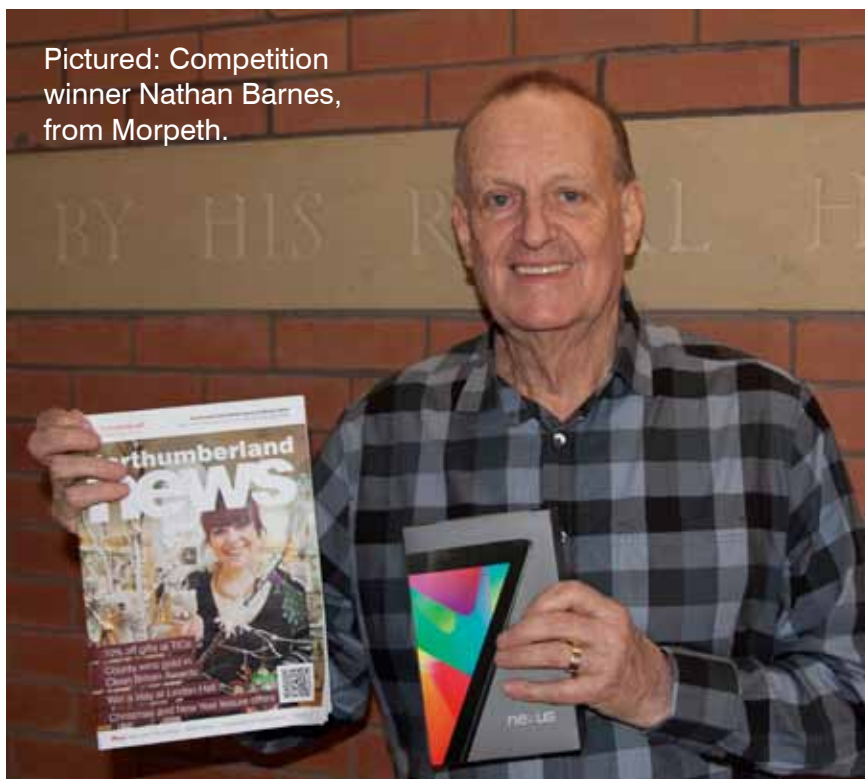
# Readers' survey success

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Northumberland News reader survey earlier this year.

Following the launch of the digital version of the magazine in 2011, we felt it was important to find out your views to help us to ensure future editions are relevant and interesting for everyone in the county.

The responses showed that readers are keen to see more information about forthcoming events, so in this edition we have expanded the 'What's on' section of the magazine and there are features about three major summer events.

As part of the survey, we ran a competition to win an overnight stay at Macdonald Linden Hall, which was won by Clare Mills from Alnwick. Nathan Barnes from Morpeth (pictured) won a Google Nexus Tablet in a separate competition to encourage readers to sign up to receive Northumberland News direct via email.



Pictured: Competition winner Nathan Barnes, from Morpeth.

Here is a summary of the results from the survey:

- 35.5% respondents were men with 64.5% woman.
- 53% of readers who responded to the survey were aged between 45 and 65.
- 74% of readers read every issue (four per year).
- 76% of readers read "all" or "most" of the magazine.
- Of those people who responded, the most popular ways of receiving the magazine are via email and picking up a copy from a local library at 24% each. Viewing the magazine online via the council's website and picking up a copy from a leisure centre were close behind at 20% each.
- Everyone who responded said they found the articles "very" or "quite" easy to understand.
- 45% of the respondents said the magazine was good, 40% said it was excellent, 13% said it was satisfactory.
- When asked - 'What would you like to see more of in the magazine?' – responses were:
  - What's on – 29%
  - Events – 20%
  - Local news – 11%
  - Information about what the council has been doing – 10%



# Council services transformed

Transformation of the way council services are provided in Northumberland took another step forward with the opening of Cramlington's state-of-the-art library and customer information centre on 28 May.

Located next to Concordia, the centre offers customers a new, modern and more convenient approach to accessing council services.

Council, library and community services have been joined together under one roof. Now residents will be able to borrow books, use computers, pay council bills, enquire about any council service, get information about health, register births and deaths and hire community rooms from this one location.

Staff have been fully trained to deal with all enquiries and walk the floor to meet, greet and help anyone who wants to use the new service.

The building also houses the very latest self-service technology (the first of its kind in the country), which combines a payment-point with a simple self-service library check-in facility. There is also public access to computers and free Wi Fi so customers can browse the web from anywhere in the building.

Light and spacious, there is also a special study area, as well as dedicated charging points for lap tops and mobile phones, ample seating and quiet areas. A complete new stock of books and DVDs is also available.

The council felt it was important that children and families had their own library space, so the building has been extended to house a new young people's and children's library – the first of its kind in the county. The corridor leading to this library is lit with interactive graphics and the layout of the room is eye-catching and fun.

For partner and community services, four new private meeting rooms and a training room have been built, which can be reserved for a modest booking fee.

The newly renovated building is fresh and modern with some ground-breaking features but the whole focus remains on the customer.

Last December the council asked residents in Cramlington what they wanted from their new library and customer information centre; their views were taken on board and many of their requests and suggestions have been incorporated.

For example, residents asked for increased opening hours and these have been extended by 20 per cent.

The building will be open 9am to 7pm, Monday to Friday and 9.30am to 2pm on Saturdays. An official launch will take place later in the year.



**Pictured: Beverley Johnson customer services team leader with library user Ann Cranson (left) in Cramlington.**

# Outdoor fire safety

A fire in sand dunes on the North Northumberland coast has prompted firefighters to issue a warning ahead of the county's main tourist season.

Earlier this year Northumberland Fire and Rescue service (NFRS) was called to a fire in Beadnell Bay after a small campfire spread and became dangerous.

Following this incident NFRS is keen to remind residents and visitors to the county about the dangers of setting outdoor fires. The following points are designed to help people spend a safe day at the beach or in the countryside leaving these areas intact for others to enjoy.

- Avoid open fires in the countryside and at the beach. Always have them in safe, designated areas.
- Put out cigarettes properly.
- Don't leave bottles or glass in woodlands or dunes; sunlight shining through glass can start a fire.
- If you see a fire in the countryside or at the beach report it immediately.
- Never throw cigarette ends out of car windows – they could start a fire and ruin surrounding countryside.
- Follow the safety instructions provided with disposable barbecues.
- Never leave a barbecue unattended.
- Make sure barbecues are placed well away from fences, trees and shrubs.

Paul Hedley, deputy chief fire officer at Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, said: "As the weather improves more people will be spending time outdoors enjoying Northumberland's beaches

and countryside. Campfires, barbecues and bonfires can be dangerous and have the potential to cause injury and damage the environment if they get out of control. We advise people to think fire safety first so that they can enjoy their free time and leave the beaches and countryside unscathed for future visits."

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is the lead authority nationally with regard to wildfire and during the past two years has been taking part in the European Forest Fire Networks Project (EUFOFINET). Following the recent completion of the EUFOFINET Project, NFRS has developed an action plan which outlines how the service will implement some of the good practices exchanged during the project. This action plan will help NFRS to further improve the way that it protects the people and the environment of Northumberland from the devastation and destruction caused by wildfire incidents. For more information about the project visit [www.eufofinet.eu](http://www.eufofinet.eu)





# Apprenticeships

## The challenge is on...

Northumberland County Council supports the North East 100 day challenge.

Between 22 April and 30 July, Northumberland County Council is working in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service to recruit apprentices across Northumberland.

- Apprenticeships are the 'gold' standard for work-based training with more than 100,000 employers offering apprenticeships in England.
- More than 250 different types of apprenticeships are available offering more than 1,400 job roles within a variety of industry sectors across the country.
- There are three levels of the apprenticeship programme:
  - Intermediate Apprenticeship Level 2
  - Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3
  - Higher Apprenticeship Level 4/5
- Employers can advertise vacancies and recruit apprentices using the free apprenticeship online service.
- The government fully funds the training for 16 to 18-year-olds.
- Employers may be entitled to receive a financial incentive of £1,500 to support the recruitment of an apprentice.
- Employers who employ apprentices rely on their apprenticeship programme to provide the skilled workers they need for the future.

## Could you employ an apprentice?

Help us to take on this 100 day challenge and unlock talent within our local community to ensure we have the skills we need to grow within Northumberland.

To find out more about apprenticeships contact:  
Debra.Lowes@northumberland.gov.uk  
01670 622791  
Julia.McCormack@northumberland.gov.uk  
01670 622795



To find out more about apprenticeships go to:  
[www.northumberland.gov.uk/skills](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/skills)

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

# healthwatch Northumberland

## New consumer champion for health and social care

### Healthwatch

Northumberland has been set up to help people have a greater say in both the NHS and social care across the county.

A team of seven workers has begun to help people who have concerns, comments and compliments about local health and social care services. They can tell people what services exist and where to find them.

Fiona Swindell, team leader, said: "Northumberland County Council has commissioned Adapt to establish Healthwatch Northumberland.

"We have three main areas of work. We provide information and advice about health and social care. We can also visit and review health and social care services, then share what we find. We will help people raise concerns and complaints about the NHS through the independent advocacy service ICAN.

"We will also be out and about in local communities asking people their views and wishes."

Contact Healthwatch Northumberland on 03332 408 468 if you require information, wish to make a comment or raise a concern.

### Representing the public and patients

Healthwatch Northumberland has a seat on the Northumberland Health and Wellbeing Board, alongside other key partners including council elected members, Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group and others. The board's main role is to ensure that local organisations work together to provide the quality services needed to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Northumberland.

### Involving the public and volunteers

Healthwatch Northumberland is also looking for people to volunteer to work with it. People are needed to represent Healthwatch Northumberland at a variety of meetings and groups. Volunteers will have access to training and support. Healthwatch Northumberland is also recruiting board members to set the direction and work to be undertaken. Anyone interested in becoming a board member should call Fiona Swindell on 03332 408 468.

Cynthia Atkin, chair for Healthwatch Northumberland, said: "This is an opportunity for the people of Northumberland to have a say on local health and social care services, with a view to influencing changes. Healthwatch Northumberland is committed to ensuring that it reaches and includes as many people as possible in its valuable work as a consumer champion and influencer."

If you want to become a volunteer, or become a supporter who is kept up to date with regular newsletters, go to:

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

Watch out for events in your local area.



# Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group by Dr Alistair Blair



Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are made up of doctors,

nurses and other health professionals – with support from experienced health service managers. CCGs are responsible for planning and buying local NHS healthcare and health services.

NHS Northumberland CCG is clinically led. All GP practices in Northumberland are members of the CCG and take an active part in designing health services. I lead the organisation and I am also a practicing GP. A lot of our team are doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

Northumberland is a large county with many different communities and health needs. As well as working together across the county, we keep a local perspective by grouping into four geographical localities:

- **North locality** – from the Scottish borders to Widdrington, from Cumbria to the coast  
Led by Hilary Brown and Dr Graham Syers  
Locality contact: alanbell@nhs.net / 0191 217 2765



- **Central locality** – from south of Widdrington to the Wansbeck river  
Led by Dr Eileen Higgins  
Locality contact: diane.gonzalez@nhs.net / 0191 217 2765
- **Blyth Valley locality** – from the Wansbeck to the North Tyneside border  
Led by Dr Frances Naylor  
Locality contact: Barbara.edmundson@nhs.net / 0191 217 2765
- **West locality** – from Ponteland to the border with Cumbria, from Kielder to Prudhoe  
Led by Dr David Shovlin  
Locality contact: tara.twigg@nhs.net

## Working with you

We are committed to listening to the views and experiences of patients, carers and the public. This will help us to make decisions to improve NHS healthcare and health services for you. Our plans focus on three areas:

- Improving health services for everyone – including the most vulnerable in our population
- Making best use of community services
- Making best use of community beds

These plans (the CCG prospectus) are available on our website [www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk](http://www.northumberlandccg.nhs.uk) or by contacting NORCCG. enquiries@nhs.net / 0191 217 2765.

# Know your councillors

On 2 May 2013 Northumberland went to the polls to elect county council representatives for the next four years.

There are now 67 unitary county councillors in place across 66 wards (Alnwick electoral division has two members). These elected members are entitled to vote on important decisions that impact on local life.

Labour councillor Grant Davey was voted in as the new leader of the council and councillor Dave Ledger as the new deputy leader.

Policy Board Members have also been put into post replacing the former executive positions. They are:

- Policy Board Member for Adult Care and Public Health – Councillor Susan Dungworth
- Policy Board Member for Children's Services – Councillor Robert Arkless
- Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration – Councillor Alan Hepple
- Policy Board Member for Street care and Environment – Councillor Deirdre Campbell
- Policy Board Member for Infrastructure and Culture – Councillor Val Tyler

There are also changes to the role of council chair. There will now be a civic chair and a deputy chair as well as a business chair who will look after the meetings and agenda.

Councillor Kath Nisbet is the new civic chair of the council with councillor Kathy Graham as deputy civic head. Councillor Scott Dickinson is the new business chairman.

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**LAB** **Cramlington South East**  
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**LAB** **Croft**  
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**LAB** **Hartley**  
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**LAB** **Haydon**  
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**LIB DEM** **Haydon and Hadrian**  
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**CONS** **Hexham Central with Acomb**  
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For more details of how the council works and when meetings take place visit the council's website at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/76](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/76)

## Success in local government awards

Three teams at Northumberland County Council celebrated success in the 2013 Local Government Chronicle Awards.

Children's services were shortlisted for two entries in the annual, national awards and won in the category of Management Team of the Year.

This award closely follows the 'Outstanding' Ofsted report the team received in 2012. In choosing the winner, the judges said they were impressed by evidence of improvements made by the team at a time when all council departments are looking to make savings.

The Targeted Adolescent Service was shortlisted in the Children's Services category for its work coordinating and developing services for vulnerable young people. The model used by the service has been recognised by the Youth Justice Board and other local authorities as providing an example of best practice in this area of work.

Paul Moffat, corporate director of children's services at Northumberland County Council, said: "As the winning team covers the whole of children's



Pictured: Members of the county council's children's services and adult services teams who were successful in this year's Local Government Chronicle awards.

services this award really is a team effort and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment. The work behind these awards involves a number of partners especially in the police and health and I would also like to acknowledge their expertise in helping us to provide an efficient over-arching service for all of the young people we work with."

Adult services was also shortlisted for its Ageing Well in Northumberland programme. The team was highly commended for its work with people across the county to ensure that Northumberland is a good place to grow older.

The programme promotes the health and well-being of older people within their communities and brings together older people and local organisations. Funded by Northumberland County Council, the programme offers information and support to

ensure older people stay active, connected and well.

Daljit Lally, corporate director of adult services at Northumberland County Council, said: "The Ageing Well programme is run by a small team that makes a big impact in the lives of older people across the county.

"We see older people as a great asset to our community and we want to help make the most of their skills, experience and energy.

"Our partners in this project include Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust, local community and voluntary organisations, housing associations and leisure services and I would like to thank and congratulate all of those involved."

For more information about the Ageing Well programme see page 17.

## Project helps people to age well

Over 50s are invited to try a new programme of free activities at Hirst Welfare Centre in Ashington to help them stay active and well.

The centre has teamed up with the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's Ageing Well programme to run a series of activities for older people.

The Active Age Project involves regular social and leisure activities aimed at encouraging people to socialise, develop new skills and engage in fun physical activities to help older people lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

Connie Hovsepian, 76 a retired nurse from Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, attends the older people's forum in Ashington, hosted by Northumbria Healthcare, and was involved in sharing ideas about what activities older people might like to see at the centre. She said: "It's lovely to be able to do something positive for your community and help shape what services are delivered where you live.

"I got involved in doing activities at Hirst Welfare, where older people and teenagers come together to pass on our experience and swap skills. We've made calendars, willow weaving, played computer games and now we are doing cooking.



**Pictured: One of the Ageing Well programmes in Ashington.**

"With the cookery classes we teach the kids the basics of how to cook meals. It's wonderful to see the kids grow in confidence. After classes we all eat together and sample everyone's cooking so it's a great opportunity to meet people living in your neighbourhood too."

Hirst Welfare Centre received funding from the Big Lottery Fund to expand on existing provision for older people to promote healthy lifestyles.

With eight new weekly activities to choose from, including luncheon clubs, Pilates, circuits, gentle Zumba, craft, and cooking there is something to suit a range of tastes and abilities. The centre also offers personalised fitness programmes for over 50s at their gym, which includes regular fitness and health checks.

Clare Orange, health improvement specialist for the Ageing Well in Northumberland programme at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust added: "We are delighted with the range of activities, the centre is putting on. It's great to see them involving older people in decisions about what they offer to promote healthy lifestyles for the over 50s.

"Making staying active and exercise a regular part of your life can greatly improve your health and helps you to maintain independence as you age. It's really important people know what's out there and we are working with our partners across the county to raise awareness through the Ageing Well in Northumberland programme."

For more information about activities at Hirst Welfare Centre call 01670 857810.



# Morpeth flood defence works begin

Work is now well underway on constructing new flood defences for Morpeth.

Over the next 12 months, the Environment Agency, in partnership with Northumberland County Council, will be working in different locations around the town.

When complete, Morpeth flood scheme will protect more than a thousand homes and businesses from high river levels like that seen in 2008, which caused widespread flooding in the town. The council is providing up to £12m towards the £21m scheme.

Work will go on over the summer on new flood defences for the High Stanners area of the town, as well as at Mitford Road. At the same time, the new flood water storage area will begin to be built upstream of Morpeth. Storing water upstream of the town during high river levels will benefit everyone at risk of flooding in Morpeth.

The whole flood scheme, including the flood water storage area upstream, is expected to be complete in autumn 2014, depending on the weather.

Collingwood oak trees were removed from High Stanners earlier this year to allow the building of the new flood bank and defence walls.



Pictured: The High Stanners area of Morpeth where work on flood defences has begun.

A total of nine of the 11 existing trees were replanted in five local schools to preserve them in the town. The Collingwood Oaks were planted in 2005 to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, in which Morpeth's Lord Collingwood led a fleet alongside Nelson.

School children helped to replant the trees at Abbey Fields First School. The other trees were replanted at All Saints First, Chantry Middle, Newminster Middle and Collingwood School.

Other in-town work will include work at St Robert's Churchyard and Oldgate Bridge, Pretoria Avenue and the Chantry. The Environment Agency is reviewing the Low Stanners area of the town to establish what

improvements are required to existing defences.

They are also assessing what work is needed to reduce the risk of flooding from the Cotting Burn and the Church Burn.

At High Stanners traditional-style bricks will be used for the majority of the flood wall. These will be broken up by natural stone at the entrances to the flood gates. There will be three flood gates, which will be closed by the Environment Agency if flooding is likely.

If you have any queries or concerns, call into the Flood Scheme Information Centre on Newgate Street Morpeth and talk to the staff. Current opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 10am til 2pm.

You can also find out more by:

Email: [morpeth@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:morpeth@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Twitter: Morpeth Flood Scheme @morpethscheme

Web: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/morpeth](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/morpeth)

## Top engineering award for county bridge

One of Northumberland's most historic bridges has won a prestigious Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) award.

Work to strengthen Rothbury Bridge and restore it to its former glory was recognised in April with the presentation of a Robert Stephenson award to the county council's engineering team.

Northumberland County Council invested £3.7m in the bridge works and a team including engineers and stone masons carried out a highly complex series of works to strengthen the bridge, which was built in 1460.

The Duchess of Northumberland officially opened the bridge on 14 December, cutting a ribbon and unveiling a plaque, before cars were allowed to cross for the first time in three years.

Local schoolchildren and residents lined the bridge to celebrate the re-opening and were thanked by the council for their support during a long and complex project.

The bridge across the River Coquet is within the heart of the community in Rothbury; closing the bridge for any length of time was not feasible, so engineers met the challenge by building a temporary Bailey bridge to carry traffic across the river while the work on the original bridge was completed.



**Pictured: Children from Rothbury First School at the official opening of Rothbury Bridge.**

The work on the bridge was subject to several constraints as the structure is a Scheduled Ancient Monument; and also spans a river which is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, with protected species of bats and birds.

When local residents were consulted before work began they said they were unhappy with 20th Century alterations to the bridge. With the consent of English Heritage the design team constructed features last seen more than 100 years ago, such as parapets and refuges.

The council's stonemasons Dennis Atkinson and Stewart Foggon, a Rothbury resident, and father and son stonemasons David and Malcolm Sutton, who also live in Rothbury, worked together to replace the stonework using traditional skills. Six Victorian-style lampposts will also be added to help restore the bridge

to its former glory. Four of them have been paid for by local residents and organisations and the county council will meet the cost of the remaining two.

The ICE judges were very impressed with the project and said: "This scheme provided a sensitively undertaken refurbishment of a medieval structure and scheduled ancient monument. The design and build scheme sympathetically incorporated traditional and modern techniques ensuring continuity of an important local transport link. Extensive community involvement resulted in a successful and popular project with careful reinstatement of the site allowing the works to blend seamlessly into its rural surroundings."

A commendation in this category also went to Northumberland County Council, alongside Royal HaskoningDHV and BAM Nuttall Ltd, for the Berwick Breakwater Refurbishment.

## Summer activities at Hepscott Park Garden Café

Hepscott Park Garden Café is inviting families to join in some green-fingered fun this summer as part of its first-ever activity programme.

Suitable for children of all ages, the café is teaming up with Hepscott Park Horticultural Skills Unit to hold a series of 'grow your own' events where families can look forward to a hands-on learning experience and find out more about greener gardening, the Hepscott way.

Located just a few miles outside Morpeth, with free car parking available, the café is also hosting a series of special cooking activities to get involved in where Hepscott's head chef will pass on some of his trade secrets for you to take away and cook with your family at home.

And if you're feeling a little peckish, then why not pop into the café, which is open seven days a week. You can enjoy the best in locally sourced produce with lots of tasty dishes to choose from.

Hepscott Park Garden Café is managed by Blyth Star Enterprises, and works in partnership with Northumberland County Council to provide employment and training opportunities for people with a disability.

The Horticultural Skills Unit provides work experience in horticulture for adults with learning disabilities and grows a wide range of plants on-site for sale to the public.



### Events listings

Plant Your Own Summer Hanging Basket  
Saturday 25 May at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm  
Cost per hanging basket: £8 for a family of four or £6 for an individual, with free refreshments included.

Cupcake Decorating Workshop  
Saturday 1 June at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm  
Cost: £6.95.

Flavoured Oil Making Workshop  
Saturday 8 June at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm  
Cost: £6.95.

Father's Day Herb Planters  
Saturday 15 June at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm  
Cost per herb planter: £6.50 for a family of four or £4.50 for an individual with a free herb scone for everyone taking part.

Take Your Own Cuttings Day  
Saturday 6 and 27 July at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm  
Cost: £6.50 for a family of four or £4.50 for an individual, with free refreshments included.

Cheese and Chutney Fair  
Saturday 10 August with a chutney making demonstration at 12pm  
Cost: Free.

For more information on any of the events call 01670 514 255 or visit our website on [www.hepscottparkgardencafe.co.uk](http://www.hepscottparkgardencafe.co.uk). You can also follow us on Facebook or join us on Twitter. Just search for Hepscott Park Garden Café



# ‘Sele’ of approval for new improved skate park

Young people who love skate-boarding, roller-blading and BMX biking can now enjoy a new and improved site in Hexham’s Sele Park.

Work has been carried out by the county council and officers are confident that the improvements will get the seal of approval as park users played a key role in decision making.

A group was formed and a team from the Hexham Youth Initiative worked with the council to develop designs for the new facilities.

Skate park specialists Bendcrete were commissioned to do the work through a tender process; coincidentally one of their designers also grew up in Hexham and had skated at the park regularly for a number of years.

Adam Wright, 23, said: “I feel very lucky that the company I work for won the tender for this work. Hexham is my local park, so making sure we get good equipment means a lot to me and my friends. Working alongside the skaters from the Sele we developed our design and we have created an exciting new skate spot for Hexham.”

Park users Elliot Mann, James Sinclair and Roland Buchannan got the wheels turning when Elliot wrote to Northumberland County Council in 2011.

Elliot, 17, said: “We’re all very pleased and grateful to have been part of the project and

that our views have been taken on board. The new skate park will support the Tyne Valley skateboard community for years to come.”

Funding for the £30,000 project came from housing developers’ contributions for play in the area. The scheme added new equipment and modified some of the existing ramps at the park. Hexham Town Council is due to take over management of the skate park site, once the improvement project is completed.

The Green Flag award-winning Hexham Parks provide a place of enjoyment for people of all ages and with diverse interests; from the very young, who use the play area next to the skate park, to the retired, who enjoy green bowls in nearby Hexham House Grounds.



Pictured: Sam Talbot (centre in yellow) from Northumberland County Council and Elliot Mann (third from right wearing blue) watch John-Luke Roe (on bike) along with other park users in Hexham.

# Heading to post 16 education? Get your transport sorted now!

Students are urged to apply early and apply online for their post-16 travel pass to guarantee it will be ready for the start of the school term in September.

Subject to eligibility the county council provides free student travel to full-time students attending high school sixth forms, further education and specialist colleges on weekdays during term time.

For students to qualify for the pass they must be attending a full-time course for at least 12 hours per week at the nearest establishment offering their course of study (or one deemed similar to it by the county council). This establishment must also be at least three miles away from the student's home.

Applying for the travel pass online makes the process much more efficient. Students can fill in the form quickly and will be given an e-receipt to let them know their form has been received and how long it will take to process their application.



**Pictured: Sixth formers at King Edward VI High School, Morpeth with their post-16 travel passes.**

Those who know where they will be studying in September can apply for their pass now and if they do so before 26 July, they are guaranteed to have it by the start of the school term. For those who apply after that date, we will process the application as quickly as possible but advise it may take up to 15 working days from receipt of an application.

Mark Cusack, passenger transport operations manager, said: "Every year we receive thousands of applications for passes; many of these come in at the end of August, putting a great pressure on our school transport team and causing students to be disappointed if passes can't be ready in time for the start of the school term.

"For this reason we are urging students to apply as soon as they can if they know where they are intending to study. We will of course endeavour to process all the applications as quickly as possible and applying online will make this easier and more efficient for everyone involved."

For more information and to apply for the student pass online go to [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

For those students who do not have internet access, paper forms are available by writing to The School Transport Team, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF or by calling 0845 600 6400.

# Fostering: get in the frame

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\*Many agencies only pay a fee when you are caring for a child.



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## Northumberland Ranters make a noise in America

A group of musicians from 10 schools across the county travelled to the USA recently to promote traditional music and Northumberland.

The Northumberland Ranters, an ensemble of Music Partnership North, of which Northumberland County Council is part, flew to New York on 28 March to play in the Big Apple as well as in Vermont.

The Ranters, a group of 37, 11 to 18-year-olds, has a varied repertoire of Northumbrian, Scottish and Irish music played on fiddles, cellos, Northumbrian pipes, flutes, keyboards, guitars and a concertina.

On arrival in New York, the Ranters met their hosts, a group called The Strawberry Hill Fiddlers, who visited Northumberland in June last year. The Northumberland musicians then travelled to Vermont, where they joined a group called the Fiddle Heads, and took part in a number of concerts, workshops and educational trips around the Burlington area of the state.

The trip, which lasted just over a week during the Easter holidays, was paid for through parental contributions as well as the fundraising efforts of the students themselves who ran coffee mornings and arranged sponsored haircuts. The following organisations also supported the trip with donations: Ponteland Town



**Pictured: Members of the Northumberland Ranters music group.**

Council, Morpeth Rotary Club; Northumbrian Pipers' Society; Alnwick Lions; pharmaceutical group Covance and the Sir James Knot Foundation.

Richard Johnstone, musical director of the Northumberland Ranters, said: "The students worked extremely hard in the run-up to this exciting trip; not only practicing for the concerts but also fundraising to pay for the trip. The trip was a great success; it was good to meet up with the American musicians once again and performing overseas was a fantastic experience for our young group."

Craig Martin, lead cello player and a member of the Ranters since 2007, said: "This American tour was fantastic in so many ways. We travelled to the town

of Poughkeepsie in New York State to meet the Strawberry Hill Fiddlers, who we have formed a close relationship with since they visited us in 2007. I think every member of the band was inspired by the excellence of the musicians we met; they play a phenomenal collection of bluegrass and old time fiddle tunes and it was amazing to hear them playing traditional music from their culture that was so different to ours. Yet it was also amazing to find that we had a large number of tunes in common."

On their return to the UK, the Northumberland Ranters performed their full American programme as part of a special Tradfest concert at Alnwick Playhouse on April 20. For more information about the group email [richard.johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:richard.johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk)

# Residents' Festival success

This year's Northumberland Residents' Festival drew more than 5,400 people to 26 attractions during a busy March weekend.

Organised by the county council, the popular festival is now in its fourth year. The aim of the event is to celebrate the fact that the county is a fantastic place to live and to give something back to local residents.

English Heritage, the National Trust and other local attractions worked closely with the council to make the event a huge success. Many of the venues

that took part on 17 and 18 March, including castles, gardens, stately homes and museums, experienced unprecedented visitor numbers despite poor weather.

As a first for the event, this year the council ran a photography competition and received more than 200 eye-catching photos capturing images from the festival.

The winner, Alison Ellerbrook from Prudhoe, was presented with a Cannon IXUS digital camera at Kirkley Hall, the venue where she captured her prize-winning picture of two friendly donkeys (pictured right).

Jenny Cairns, events manager at Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens, said: "We had a fantastic turn out over the weekend. This was our second year participating in the Residents' Festival and we can really see the difference the weekend makes to welcoming new faces to Kirkley Hall."



Pictured: (left to right) Jenny Cairns, operations and events manager at Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens, James Fell, Northumberland County Council, Alison Ellerbrook, and Kristina Owen, Northumberland County Council.



All the photos from the 2013 Residents' Festival can be found on the county council's Pinterest page at [www.pinterest.com/northumberlandc/northumberland-residents-festival](http://www.pinterest.com/northumberlandc/northumberland-residents-festival)



## Bin collection timetables online

Have you just moved house? Are you unsure when your bins will be collected? Don't worry – because checking your collection days online has just got a whole lot easier!

Northumberland County Council has just made improvements to website pages that help people to find out more about bin collections as well as lots of other useful information about recycling, composting and where to take household waste.

As part of its drive to help people carry out more transactions via the internet, the council has been promoting how to 'Save time, do it online' – allowing people to take care of their council business 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

On the bin collection day checker all you need to do is enter your house name or number and postcode. You can find out when your general

household waste and recycling waste bins will be collected, as well as about garden waste collections – if you have signed up to the scheme.

One month, three month and 12 month calendars can be viewed and printed, and they take into account changes in collection days for bank holidays.

Finding your local household waste centre, applying for a garden waste bin, ordering a home compost bin, reporting a missed bin and booking a bulky waste collection are just some of the other things you can do now

on the dedicated waste pages at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste)

The 'Save Time Do It Online' campaign encourages customers who usually call in at the council or phone customer services to visit [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk) instead, making a whole range of tasks simpler.

Going online ensures you never have to queue in an office or wait on the telephone again. Just log on and complete your task from the comfort of your own home, or even on the move from your smart phone.



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



# Big broadband improvements

People living and working in Northumberland are set to benefit from huge improvements to the county's broadband coverage thanks to three recently approved projects.

The main, iNorthumberland, project, an £18.9m partnership between the county council and BT, will allow the county's premises to access fibre broadband by early 2016.

A total of 660 km of fibre will be laid so that 91 per cent of Northumberland homes and businesses will have access to broadband speeds of up to 80Mbps by January 2016.

BT was awarded the contract following a procurement exercise through the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) framework. The company is contributing £2.9 million towards fibre deployment in "non-commercial" areas with Northumberland County Council investing £7 million plus its £7 million share of BDUK. The remaining £2 million is coming from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). ERDF funding will be used to enable fibre connections for more than 2,600 small and medium sized businesses in Northumberland.



**Pictured: Kate Roe, Northumberland County Council's deputy chief executive, and Bill Murphy, BT's managing director for Next Generation Access, after signing a contract to roll-out high-speed fibre broadband across the county.**

Kate Roe, Northumberland County Council's deputy chief executive, said: "This is an important step in the campaign to bring faster broadband speeds to every home, business and school in Northumberland. Working with BT we will be announcing the installation schedule in the coming months and communities across the county can look forward to improved connectivity from 2014 onwards."

This contract was signed just weeks after the council's announcement on 26 March that Rothbury was set to be the first community in the UK to roll-out superfast fibre broadband using £460,000 from the Government's Rural Community Broadband

Fund. Further bids have been submitted to the fund in an attempt to ensure areas within the remaining nine per cent can also benefit from access to high speed broadband.

The council also approved a £1.3m iNorthumberland loan scheme on 25 April. This inward investment scheme, the first of its kind in the country, will allow three broadband operators to take out agreed loans from Northumberland County Council to help them operate within the county. This will make it easier for residents and businesses to benefit from satellite and wireless broadband solutions, many of which are available now. For further information about these projects and roll-out visit [www.inorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk)

## What's on June

### **Blyth Bombings and 'The Beach in Peace Time' exhibitions**

Throughout June Blyth Battery  
[www.blythbattery.co.uk](http://www.blythbattery.co.uk)

### **Tom Fleming, A Life in Letters**

Saturday 1 - Sunday 30 June  
Bamburgh Castle  
Phone 01668 214515  
[www.bamburghcastle.com](http://www.bamburghcastle.com)

### **Herbal Walk**

Friday 7 June and 9 August  
Plessey Woods Country Park.  
Booking essential.  
Phone 01670 824793  
[plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk)  
[www.northumberlandlife.org](http://www.northumberlandlife.org)

### **Northumberland Miners' Picnic**

Saturday 8 June  
Woodhorn Museum and Archives  
[www.experiencewoodhorn.com](http://www.experiencewoodhorn.com)

### **The Unfolding Sky - Turner in the North East**

Saturday 8 June. Gates at 7pm  
performance at 7.30pm  
Lindisfarne Priory  
Phone 01289 389200  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/)  
Lindisfarne

### **St Marys Cathedral Choir**

Saturday 8 June  
Bamburgh Castle  
Phone 01668 214208  
[www.bamburghcastle.com](http://www.bamburghcastle.com)

### **Red Squirrel conservation weekend**

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June  
10am - 4pm  
Kirkley Hall  
[zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk)  
[www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk)

### **Morpeth Fair**

Sunday 9 June  
01670 510290 (Business Hours)  
[info@morpethfair.org.uk](mailto:info@morpethfair.org.uk)

### **Kirkley Hall one day event affiliated to British Eventing**

Sunday 9 June 8am - 6pm  
Kirkley Hall  
Free entrance.  
[enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk)  
[www.kirkleyhall.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhall.co.uk)

### **Home Brew and Local Food Fair**

Sunday 9 June 10am - 4pm  
Etal Village Hall  
[www.ford-and-etal.co.uk](http://www.ford-and-etal.co.uk)

### **Contemporary Art Installations: Building Dreams**

Tuesday 11 June - Sunday 3  
November  
Cragside  
Normal admission charges  
apply.  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside)

### **Tynedale Beer Festival**

Thursday 13 - Saturday 15 June  
Tynedale Park, Corbridge,  
NE45 5AY  
Phone 01434 652220  
[www.tynedalebeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.tynedalebeerfestival.org.uk)  
Pre booking is advised.

### **Spittal Gala**

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16  
June  
Main Street, Spittal, Berwick-  
upon-Tweed  
Phone 07752403409  
[www.spittalisgreat.co.uk](http://www.spittalisgreat.co.uk)

### **Mighty Dub Fest - VW Family Beach Festival**

Friday 14 - Sunday 16 June  
Druridge Bay Country Park  
Phone 01325 339107  
[www.mightydubfest.co.uk](http://www.mightydubfest.co.uk)

### **The Unfolding Sky - Turner in the North East**

Saturday 15 June. Gates open  
7pm, performance at 7.30pm.  
Warkworth Castle  
Phone 01665 711423  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/)  
Warkworth

### **Fabulous Father's Day**

Sunday 16 June 10am - 5pm  
Kirkley Hall  
Free entry on the day for fathers  
to Kirkley Hall Zoological  
Gardens.  
[zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk)  
[www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk)

### **Midsummer Evening Picnic**

Friday 21 June, 7pm - 9.30pm  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/)  
Belsay

### **Dan Snow's 'Battle Castles'**

Friday 21 June, 7.30pm  
Alwnick Playhouse  
Tickets £10 (£8 conc.)  
Phone 01665 510 785  
Booking essential.

### **National Insect Weekend**

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23,  
10am - 4pm  
[enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk)  
[www.kirkleyhall.co.uk](http://www.kirkleyhall.co.uk)

### **Regency Garden Picnic**

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23  
June, 11am - 4.30pm  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/)  
Belsay

### **Rothbury walking festival**

Saturday 22 - Sunday 30 June  
Rothbury  
Phone 01830 540453  
www.rothburywalking.co.uk  
Booking essential.

### **Drawn together**

Saturday 22 June – Sunday 30  
June, 9.30am – 5pm  
Hexham Abbey  
www.festivalne.com/events

### **Catherine Yass, High Wire exhibition**

Saturday 22 June – Sunday 15  
September  
Berwick Gymnasium  
www.festivalne.com/events

### **Have-a-go Archery**

Sunday 23 June  
12pm – 4.30pm  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay

### **Seaton Sluice Festival of Music**

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June  
Various locations around Seaton  
Sluice and New Hartley  
Phone 01670 2371136/2375163

### **Gospels on the Grass**

Friday 28 June – Sunday 7 July  
10am – 6pm  
Lindisfarne Priory  
Phone 01289 389200  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Lindisfarne

### **Cragside challenge walk**

Saturday 29 June  
Rothbury  
Phone 01830 540453  
info@shepherdswalks.co.uk

### **Hexham busking bonanza**

Saturday 29 June, 10am  
www.festivalne.com

### **Virgin Money Cyclone cycling event**

Thursday 27 - Sunday 30 June  
Newcastle  
Phone 07710635514  
www.virginmoneycyclone.co.uk  
Booking essential.

### **A Lindisfarne Gospel, the Alistair Anderson band**

Saturday 29 June  
2pm and 4 pm  
St Mary's, Holy Island  
Tickets are £10 / £8  
concessions.  
Booking essential.  
Phone 01289 330 999  
www.festivalne.com

### **Alnmouth Arts Festival**

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30  
June, Alnmouth  
www.alnmouthartsfestival.com

### **A Monk's Tale**

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30  
June, 11am – 5pm  
Lindisfarne Priory  
Phone 01289 389200  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Lindisfarne

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

Sunday 30 June  
Phone 0844 586 3484.

## **July**

### **Kirkley Hall Celebrates Northumberland**

Thursday 4 July, 4pm - 9pm  
£4pp entry and admission  
includes Kirkley Hall Zoological  
Gardens.  
enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk  
www.kirkleyhall.co.uk

### **Brinkburn Music's 20th Anniversary**

Friday 5 - Sunday 7 July  
Brinkburn  
Phone 01665 833751  
contact@brinkburnmusic.org

### **The Northumbrian Ranters and Friends**

Saturday 6 July  
Bamburgh Castle  
Phone 01668 214515  
www.bamburghcastle.com

### **Sense and Sensibility**

Saturday 6 July. Gates open  
6.45pm, performance at 7.30pm.  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay

### **The Chevy Chase**

Saturday 6 July  
Phone 01668 281 640  
chevychaserace@hotmail.co.uk  
www.woolerrunningclub.co.uk  
Booking essential.

### **North East Chilli Festival 2013**

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July  
Seaton Delaval Hall  
Telephone: 07904 187 644  
www.chillifest-ne.co.uk  
info@chillifest-ne.co.uk

### **A Romp through the Regency**

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July,  
11am – 5pm  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay

### **Northumberland Triathlon**

Sunday 7 July  
Druridge Bay Country Park  
www.vo2maxracingevents.co.uk  
www.trinorthumberland.co.uk

### **The Curfew Run**

Wednesday 10 July  
Starts at the Barracks, Berwick-  
upon-Tweed  
Registration 6.30pm  
Event starts 8pm  
Phone Berwick TIC  
01670 622155

### **Dragon Puppet Theatre**

Saturday 13 – Monday 15 July  
Alnwick Castle  
Phone 01665 510777  
www.alnwickcastle.com



## **Burgham Horse Trials**

Saturday 13 – Tuesday 16 July  
Phone 0191 432 8870 Ext.1  
david@burghamhorsetrials.  
co.uk

## **Primate Weekend**

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14,  
10am - 4pm  
Kirkley Hall  
zoo@kirkleyhall.co.uk  
www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk

## **Northumberland Coastal Run**

Sunday 14 July  
www.alnwickharriers.co.uk

## **Mad Hatter's Tea Party**

Sunday 14 July 2pm - 5pm  
£6 adults, £4 children  
enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk  
www.kirkleyhall.co.uk  
Booking essential.

## **Tweedmouth Feast**

Thursday 18 – Sunday 21 July  
Phone 07753 749755  
info@tweedmouthfeast.org.uk

## **Rothbury Traditional Music Festival**

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 July  
Rothbury  
Phone 01669 620849  
info@rothburymusicfestival.  
co.uk  
www.rothburymusicfestival.co.uk

## **Exhibition 'Inspired by Grace'**

Saturday 20 July - Sunday 1  
September  
RNLI Grace Darling Museum,  
Bamburgh  
Phone 01668 214910  
www.rnli.org.uk/gracedarling

## **Otterburn Festival**

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 July,  
Otterburn  
Phone 07800853475  
enquiries@  
otterburnvillagefestival.co.uk

## **Hands on History**

Saturday 20 July – Monday 26  
August, 11am – 5pm  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Belsay

## **Archaeology Detectives**

Saturday 20 – Friday 26 July,  
Monday 29 July – Friday 16  
August  
Monday 19 August – Monday 26  
August. 11am – 5pm  
Chesters Roman Fort  
Phone 01434 681379  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Chesters

## **Dream Flags**

Saturday 20 July - Sunday 1  
September  
Cragside  
Take part in the 150th  
anniversary of Cragside and  
mark the occasion by making  
your own dream flag.  
Normal admission charges  
apply  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/  
cragside

## **Glass Mosaic Workshop**

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 July  
Longframlington Memorial Hall,  
D & J Watson  
Phone 01669 650215  
www.theglassbarnstudio.co.uk  
Booking essential.

## **Clash of Kingdoms**

Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25  
July,  
Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15  
August,  
Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22  
August.  
11am- 5pm.  
Warkworth Castle  
www.englishheritage.org.uk/  
warkworth

## **Gladiators!**

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July  
11am – 5pm  
Chesters Roman Fort  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Chesters

## **Love Parks Week**

Saturday 27 July - Saturday 3  
August  
Berwick upon Tweed  
Phone 01670 623509.  
emma.evans@northumberland.  
gov.uk

## **Picnic in the Park**

Sunday 28 July 12pm - 4pm  
Carlisle Park, Morpeth  
Phone 01670 503866  
info@gmdt.org

# August

## **Potter-inspired characters**

Monday 29 - Wednesday 31 July  
Monday 5 - Wednesday 7  
August  
Tuesday 13 – Thursday 15  
August  
Monday 19 – Wednesday 21  
August  
Alnwick Castle  
Phone 01665 510777  
www.alnwickcastle.com

## **The Road to Flodden**

Wednesday 31 July – Thursday  
1 August  
Warkworth Castle  
Phone 01289 389200  
www.english-heritage.org.uk/  
Lindisfarne

## **King's Own Scottish Borderers**

Thursday 1 August  
Battle of Minden, Parade and  
Commemoration, Berwick.  
secretary@kosb.co.uk

### **Flodden 500: The Road to Flodden**

Thursday 1 August  
Warkworth Castle  
Phone 01665 711423  
[www.englishheritage.org.uk/warkworth](http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/warkworth)  
[www.englishheritage.org.uk/Lindisfarne](http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/Lindisfarne)

### **Flodden 500: Clash of Kingdoms**

Thursday 1, Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 August  
Etal Castle  
Phone 01890 820332  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/Etal](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Etal)

### **Raphael Falconry**

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 August  
Alnwick Castle  
Phone 01665 510777  
[www.alnwickcastle.com](http://www.alnwickcastle.com)

### **The Powburn Show**

Saturday 3 August  
Phone 01665 578300  
[www.powburnshow.com](http://www.powburnshow.com)

### **Pride and Prejudice**

Saturday 3 August  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

### **Flodden 500: The Flodden and 16th Century**

Discovery Weekend  
Saturday 3 and Sunday 4,  
August 11am – 4pm  
Phone 07921101856  
[www.ford-and-etal.co.uk](http://www.ford-and-etal.co.uk)

### **A Soldier's Life**

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 July  
Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August  
Saturday 10 and  
Sunday 11 August  
Saturday 24 – Monday 26  
August - 11.30am – 4.30pm  
Housesteads Roman Fort  
Phone 01434 344363  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/housesteads](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/housesteads)

### **Music in the Green**

Sunday, 4 August 2pm  
The Old Bakehouse Millennium  
Green, Morpeth  
Phone 01670 788599  
[rvstevens@btinternet.com](mailto:rvstevens@btinternet.com)

### **Regency Revels**

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August  
Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens  
Phone 01661 881636  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Belsay)

### **Alnwick International Music Festival**

Saturday 3 - Saturday 10 August  
[www.alnwickmusicfestival.com](http://www.alnwickmusicfestival.com)

### **Wallington Pipers**

Sunday 4 August 2pm  
Wallington  
Phone 01670 773600  
[wallington@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:wallington@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington)

### **Berwick-upon-Tweed Lifeboat Festival**

Sunday 4 August  
Berwick  
[www.berwick-lifeboats.org.uk](http://www.berwick-lifeboats.org.uk)

### **Wiggle Northern Angel - UK Cycling Events at Kirkley Hall**

Sunday 4 August  
7.45am - 9.30am  
[www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk](http://www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk)

### **Medieval Courtly Combat**

Monday 5 – Wednesday 7  
August  
Warkworth Castle  
Phone 01665 711423  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/Warkworth](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/Warkworth)

### **Glanton's 90th Show**

Saturday 10 August  
Glanton  
Phone 01665 578594  
[www.glantononline.net/glanton-show](http://www.glantononline.net/glanton-show)

### **St Cuthbert's Way Challenge Walk**

Saturday 10 August  
Wooler  
Phone 01830 540453  
[info@shepherdswalks.co.uk](mailto:info@shepherdswalks.co.uk)  
Bookings essential.

## **Competition - free family ticket!**

Win a free family ticket to any English Heritage venue by answering the following question:

### **When did the battle of Flodden take place?**

**A: 1713**

**B: 1613**

**C: 1513**

Send your answer marked 'family ticket' by email to [communications@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northumberland.gov.uk) or by post to Communications, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF.

Entries must arrive by Monday 1 July 2013 and the winner will be chosen at random from all the correct answers. Please provide a daytime telephone number.

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



[Twitter.com/EventsNE](https://twitter.com/EventsNE)



[Facebook.com/northumberlandevents](https://facebook.com/northumberlandevents)

# 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.