

Northumberland NEWS



Queen's Baton Relay

Street lighting upgrade

Free car parking proving popular



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.

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In this issue:

- 4** Amble seafood town
- 6** 150 years of Miners' Picnic
- 8** Street light upgrade
- 13** Loneliness - our great challenge
- 16** Partnership keeps towns green
- 19** Photography competition
- 20** Families changing lives
- 26** What's on



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Front cover: Martin Charlton from The Old Boat House restaurant on Amble's Quayside.

Enjoy shopping at Northumberland's markets

Summer is a great time to explore what outdoor markets have to offer.

In Northumberland you can find a market somewhere almost every day of the week.

So if it's clothes, jewellery or flowers you're looking for, or you like the thought of cooking with fresh local ingredients, there's a market to suit you.

You can also make it a day out and enjoy what else each area has to offer. All market towns have their own unique mix of shopping opportunities, leisure facilities, local historic sites, coast or countryside and interesting visitor attractions.

A new monthly market was launched at Easter in Prudhoe and was an instant success. Car parking areas were full, town centre shops were busy and some market traders had sold out of their products by lunchtime!

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, policy board member responsible for Northumberland County Council's markets, said: "We know that markets are a great addition to what's on offer in our towns, and we want them to be at the heart of local communities.

"We also want to encourage entrepreneurs and small businesses to try out market trading, and welcome enquiries at any time of the year."



Photo: The new Prudhoe market.

Market days in Northumberland:

Town	Location	Market day(s)
Alnwick	Market Place	Thursday & Saturday
Amble	The Harbour	Wednesday & Sunday
Ashington	Station Road	Tuesday
Bedlington	Market Place, Front Street	Thursday
Berwick-upon-Tweed	Marygate	Wednesday & Saturday
Blyth	Market Place	Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
Haltwhistle	Market Square	Thursday
Hexham	Market Place	Tuesday
Hexham	The Shambles	Monday to Saturday
Morpeth	Market Place	Wednesday
Morpeth farmers' market	Market Place	First Saturday each month
Ponteland	Merton Way	Friday
Prudhoe	The Glade, Front Street	Third Saturday each month

To find out more visit markets.northumberland.gov.uk

Amble the seafood town



Exciting developments are underway in a quest to secure Amble's position in the list of great seafood towns.

Plans are progressing to develop a new small business village on the harbour-side, centred on the town's seafood industry. It aims to transform Amble into a visitor destination excelling in seafood; attract new visitors, create jobs and help to sustain the wider economy of the area.

The proposals include opening up and improving the harbour and waterfront and working with local businesses, including the fishing community, food retail outlets and other waterfront and town centre businesses, to create a distinctive local seafood offer.

Photo: Partnership representatives celebrating recent funding news for the project.

Other key aspects of the project include a new waterside promenade linking the harbour, marina area and Braid, and connecting through to a Sustrans cycle route. A 'seafood broker' post, will also add value to the catch landed by the fishing fleet at Amble.

Councillor Allan Hepple, Northumberland County Council's policy board member for planning, housing and regeneration said: "This is very good news for Amble and is testament to the hard work of all the partners who have been involved in developing this unique project."

Julia Aston from Amble Development Trust said: "This represents the next exciting stage in the town's regeneration, building on our previous work. It proves the positive effectiveness

of true partnership working and we thank everyone for their continued belief in what the town can accomplish."

The project was drawn up by Northumberland County Council in partnership with Amble Development Trust, Amble Town Council, business representatives and the wider community of Amble and has secured £1.8million funding from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund.

The plans and proposals for the project can be seen at Amble Development Trust's offices at The Fourways 2 Building, Dilston Terrace, Amble, or on the website www.theambler.co.uk



Alnwick to host Queen's Baton Relay



The spotlight is set to be on Northumberland once again as the Queen's Baton Relay reaches the final leg of its international journey across the Commonwealth.

On Friday 13 June, Alnwick Castle will host a celebration of the journey of the baton, marking its passing through Northumberland to Scotland. Alnwick is one of less than 20 places within England to have the honour of receiving the Queen's Baton Relay and the occasion will be marked with two special events.

During the day, schoolchildren from across the county will descend on the castle to participate in a variety of sporting activities some of which will be represented at the Glasgow 2014 games. There is also a special nod to the more recent heritage of the castle as

participants try their hand at quidditch, the wizardly game so expertly played by Harry Potter.

The four sporting champions chosen to be baton bearers for the region will be on hand to offer encouragement and inspiration to the participants.

The evening ceremony will be an outdoor staged event in the Outer Bailey of the castle. A programme of live music, video footage and interviews will be weaved together in a special ceremony marking the presentation of the baton from Commonwealth Games England to the Commonwealth Games Federation, who will then take the baton forward on to its final journey through Scotland.

Prior to the start of the event there will be an opportunity for the audience of over 2,000 ticket holders to view the baton which contains a special message from The Queen to the Commonwealth, held in place by a commemorative gemstone

and kept hidden inside the baton until it is read out at the opening ceremony of the Glasgow 2014 Games.

Photos of the baton and the events will be posted throughout the day via the Northumberland County Council's Twitter account: @EventsNE using #QBR

By the time the baton reaches Alnwick, it will have:

- taken a 248 day journey
- travelled over 190,000km
- journeyed across 6 continents
- visited 70 nations and territories
- travelled by horse, boat, train and carriage.



Lowry exhibition to open in Berwick

A number of original paintings by L.S. Lowry, one of the UK's best loved artists, are going on display in Berwick this summer.

Lowry is famous for his industrial scenes and 'stick men' but it is less well known that he had a great love for the North-East and was a regular visitor to the area, including Northumberland, from the 1930's onwards.

He particularly liked Berwick-upon-Tweed, painting the narrow streets and lanes many times, and included works of the town in his first one-man exhibition in London.

The exhibition is free to enter and will run from 21 June - 21 Sept (Wednesday-Sunday) in the Granary Gallery (top floor of Berwick YHA building in Berwick).

The exhibition includes loans from Sunderland Museum & Art Gallery, The Lowry Estate, and the Lowry Centre in Salford, alongside works held in a number of private collections.

Accompanying the development of the exhibition has been the Lowry Project, which aims to attract visitors to Berwick by publicising the exhibition, the Lowry Trail, and Berwick's excellent arts and cultural offer. The project and the exhibition

have been supported by Northumberland County Council, Berwick Portas Project, Berwick Visual Arts, Berwick Town Council, Arts Council England, and Berwick YHA.

For further information about the exhibition visit:

www.visitberwick.com/lowry

Facebook: visitberwick

Twitter: @visitberwick



L.S Lowry, Dewars Lane 1936 C the estate of LS Lowry. All rights reserved DACS 2014.

Miners' Picnic celebrates 150th anniversary

On Saturday 14th June, the 150th anniversary Northumberland Miners' Picnic will take place at Woodhorn Museum in Ashington.

The event is set to remember and celebrate the industry and the unique sense of community shared by those whose lives revolved around the mining of coal.

The Picnic will begin with the Miners' Memorial Service at 10.15am followed by a fun filled day of activities. Organisers are delighted to have Glenn Tilbrook (of Squeeze) as headline act as well as the Big Sing with The Unthanks and much more. There will be plenty of entertainment laid on and lots of special activities for children too.

Admission to the Picnic is free but the normal £3.50 parking charge applies. A free shuttle bus will operate from Ashington Bus Station and there will also be a special Park & Ride available. For full details of this and the whole programme, please log on to www.experiencewoodhorn.org.uk



Work starts on Ashington leisure centre

Work has now started on Ashington's new £21m community and leisure centre which is being built on the site of the former Asda retail store and car park on Lintonville Terrace.

The centre is to feature two new swimming pools, advanced gym facilities, a spa and a multifunction sports hall and studio space to host classes and activities.

The facility will also include a high quality library with the latest interactive technology, a soft play area and a café, all together in one convenient and modern location.

Councillor Grant Davey, leader of Northumberland County Council, said: "It is fantastic that Ashington is well on its way to getting the high quality, modern leisure services it deserves.



We have worked closely with the local community when planning and developing the centre and I am sure it will be well used and an enormous asset to the town."

The Leisure Centre is funded by Northumberland County Council, with support from Sport England through a contribution of £1m of National Lottery funding. It is expected to open to the public in Autumn 2015.

Photo: Sport England Relationship Manager James Buller, MP for Wansbeck, Ian Lavery, Deputy Leader of Northumberland County Council, Councillor Dave Ledger and Leader of Northumberland County Council, Councillor Grant Davey.



Street light upgrade starts in summer

Work begins this summer on an ambitious £25 million scheme to modernise all the street lights in Northumberland.

The council has appointed Galliford Try Infrastructure Limited, part of the national house building and construction group, to deliver the design contract for the project.

Up to 16,000 street lighting columns will be replaced and all street lighting lamps will be fitted with new eco-friendly and fully controlled LED lantern units with the capability to vary the lighting levels, while maintaining public safety. This will significantly reduce light pollution, slash energy and maintenance costs and cut carbon emissions.

We have also made a commitment that all council buildings and signs will be down lighted with LEDs instead of floodlighting with tungsten lights.

This follows on the recent Dark Skies Award granted to Northumberland National Park and Kielder Water and Forest Park in December 2013.

As with many similar authorities, Northumberland has seen a big increase in street lighting energy costs over recent years, along with the introduction of the Carbon Tax. A significant proportion of the lighting stock in the county is relatively old and inefficient.

The council has secured funding on an 'Invest to Save' basis. This funding will be repaid over 25 years from the anticipated budget savings.

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, policy board member for

streetcare and environment, said: "Later this summer we will see the start of a huge project to completely modernise our street lighting in the county.

"We expect to make savings in excess of 50% in both the energy and maintenance budgets through the investment in new technology, which should achieve savings of around £200,000 per year."

Photo: Gary Young, Managing Director, Galliford Try Civil Engineering, Matthew Burke, Director, Galliford Try Infrastructure Highway Maintenance Services and Barry Rowland, Executive Director, Place, Northumberland County Council.





Blyth to host FREE outdoor music festival

Chart-topping band The Christians will headline a free music festival in Blyth this summer.

The legendary soul band, famed for hits such as 'Forgotten Town', 'Harvest for the World', 'Born Again', 'Ideal World' and

'Hooverville,' will be joined by a host of local musicians from Northumberland and the north east on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The Festival will be held at the Blyth Beach Mermaid car park on Saturday, 23 August, with the backdrop of the stunning Northumberland coastline and Blyth's iconic beach huts.

The Christians are currently enjoying a surge of publicity following the release of their new album and lead singer Garry Christian, the distinctive face

and voice of the band, will also be presenting an award to the winners of the Northumberland Live best band contest – a search to find the best musicians in the county.

Organisers hope the mix of music throughout the day will appeal to a range of different audiences and make this a fantastic family day out.

Northumberland Live will run from noon until around 8pm and will also feature street theatre, fairground rides and local food stalls.

For more information on the event go to www.northumberlandlive.org

Superfast fibre broadband comes to Northumberland!

Launched in January this year the iNorthumberland programme is bringing superfast fibre broadband to 91% of homes and businesses across Northumberland by September 2015. A massive 660km of fibre will be laid – seven times the length of the A1 stretch running through the county.

With more phones, TVs, mobile devices and games consoles in our possession; and file sharing and video conferencing an everyday part of our lives, a good internet connection is vital. As we share, stream, download and upload files and communicate through the internet traditional broadband connections are struggling to cope.

Around 150,000 premises in Northumberland will be getting access to some of the best broadband speeds through the iNorthumberland roll-out. The superfast service will boost the competitiveness of local businesses and offer a whole range of flexible working, entertainment and learning opportunities for local residents.

iNorthumberland is currently working to bring superfast broadband to as many of the



remaining 9% of properties as possible.

The iNorthumberland programme is being delivered by Arch Digital on behalf of Northumberland County Council. The programme is funded by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), Northumberland County Council, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Defra's Rural Community Broadband Fund and BT.

To find out if fibre broadband is available in your area log on to www.inorthumberland.org.uk/myarea and enter your postcode into the 'postcode checker'.

Please note, in order to benefit from fibre broadband you need to upgrade your existing package, it doesn't happen automatically. An engineer needs to visit your home and switch you onto the new fibre technology.

Free cycling skills courses

ADULTS keen to get out and enjoy the summer sun can take advantage of a series of free cycling courses being held over the next few months in South East Northumberland.

With training sessions ideal for complete beginners through to experienced cyclists tackling rush-hour rides, there is something for everyone.

There are even courses designed for families wishing to enjoy cycling together.

The sessions are open to anyone who lives, works or studies in South East Northumberland and take place at the Sporting Club in Cramlington.

Classes last approximately two hours and take place on Saturday mornings and occasionally weekday evenings.

There are more than 30 different sessions to choose from taking place between now and mid-July.

But anyone interested in taking advantage of these confidence-boosting cycle sessions needs to act quickly - the sessions are filling up fast!



For more information and to book your session visit www.bit.ly/CycleSkillsNorthumberland

New sexual health clinic in Morpeth



Photo: Staff from Northumberland Sexual Health Service in new premises at Morpeth Clinic.

Residents in Morpeth now have increased access to free confidential help and advice on all aspects of sexual health.

The Northumberland sexual health headquarters, called Morpeth Clinic, which is run by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust recently moved and is now open on Gas House Lane Monday to Friday (with late opening on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays).

Previously located in Carlton Street in Blyth, Morpeth Clinic brings back into use a former GP surgery building which was damaged following the floods in 2008.

The trust has refurbished the building which provides office space for healthcare

professionals who run sexual health services across Northumberland and is a training venue for GPs and community nursing staff to improve access to sexual health services county-wide.

Some clinical sessions are available at Morpeth Clinic providing contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections including Chlamydia, and sex therapy. The new public telephone number for the Northumberland Sexual Health Service appointment and advice line is now **01670 51 51 51**.

Joanne Coyne, lead sexual health specialist nurse at Northumbria Healthcare, said:

“We are delighted to improve access to a wider range of sexual health services under one roof for Northumberland

residents at Morpeth Clinic. You can see us if you’re worried about any symptoms you’ve got, or if you need advice, contraception or just a sexual health check-up.”

The move to Morpeth Clinic is a direct result of patients’ feedback and better transport links to the county-wide service.

Northumberland Sexual Health Service continues to provide clinics in Blyth at Blyth Community Hospital six days a week and throughout Northumberland in over 30 venues including health centres, GP surgeries, schools and colleges. The trust also provides sexual health services in North Tyneside. For more information visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/sexualhealth

Loneliness - one of our great challenges

Loneliness is one of the biggest challenges facing Northumberland people.

According to national research, around 1 million older people in the UK regularly go an entire month without speaking to anyone.

This is something that concerns Councillor Scott Dickinson, chair of the Northumberland Health and Wellbeing Board.

“With our growing elderly population, loneliness is fast becoming a major issue for us, particularly in rural Northumberland. The fact is that loneliness is bad for us. I believe that we need to work with and support projects and services that aim to tackle this issue.”

Research shows that loneliness contributes to high blood pressure and heart disease. It may also accelerate cognitive decline and clinical dementia.

“With one of the highest growing elderly populations in the country – many of whom live in isolated areas - Northumberland has a problem, larger than most.



Photo: Councillor Dickinson talks with staff and visitors at Bell View in Belford.

“Long term loneliness is twice as bad for your health as obesity”, he added.

Across Northumberland there are many volunteers and organisations working hard to provide support services for the elderly. Councillor Dickinson recently visited a flagship partnership project, Bell View in Belford, that provides day care for the elderly, and for those who need it, help within the home.

“Long term loneliness is twice as bad for your health as obesity”

The charity provides lunch clubs, shopping trips, community transport, exercise classes and craft sessions, alongside numerous other activities and services. All of which help residents in Rural North

Northumberland to socialise and all made possible by the tremendous efforts of the trustees, staff and volunteers

who work there.

“The evidence is clear that loneliness leads to avoidable ill health. It is not just a sad situation. More can and should be done to make sure people don’t face older life alone. But this is not just a matter for public organisations.

“Social isolation is something we must all deal with. We will all become older. It may be more challenging in a rural county but even calling someone on the phone can make their day. Feeling connected to other people matters to us all”, said Councillor Dickinson.



Photo: Councillor Dickinson with Cameron Taylder who works for Bell View as a Care Worker. Cameron originally started on a work placement and is very popular with the older people.

Is your septic tank properly maintained?

The Environment Agency is working with Northumbrian Water and Catchment Sensitive Farming to identify and reduce sources of pollution to waterways and is keen to eliminate any impact caused by septic tanks.

They are working together to distribute a leaflet called The Septic Tank Guide, produced by the Dee Catchment Partnership in Scotland. A copy of this leaflet can be found on the website: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3516>

It is thought that septic tanks may be a key cause of rising nitrate levels in the groundwater, and bacteria in the bathing water along the coast.

Septic tanks retain sewage solids and discharge liquid effluent to a soakaway. If the soil is not suitable for a soakaway, then this discharge may be to a river or groundwater. Septic

tanks need to be maintained on a regular basis to keep them working properly.

To arrange to have your septic tank emptied or maintained, check your Yellow Pages for a certified septic tank specialist by looking under septic tanks, sewage consultants, waste disposal services, plumbers or drain and pipe cleaning.



THE SEPTIC TANK GUIDE

Septic Tank DOs and DON'Ts

- **Find your septic tank, the soakaway and/or the discharge point.**
- **Check all parts of your septic system regularly.**
- **Ensure all lids are secure and in good working order.** Never lift any lid - the gases and bacteria are extremely dangerous.
- **Have your tank emptied regularly** - keep a record of all emptying and maintenance.
- **Protect your soakaway** - do not drive over it, build a structure on top of it, or cover it with concrete or Tarmac. Gravel is OK for foot traffic. Sow grass over the soakaway area if possible.
- **Only use household products labelled 'suitable for septic tanks' to avoid upsetting the bacterial balance of your tank.**
- **Only use household products labelled 'environmentally friendly', 'low phosphate', or 'suitable for septic tanks'.**
- **Use household cleaning products in moderate amounts** - try using less detergent in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- **Try to use less water** - space out laundry/dishwasher loads to avoid lots of water washing through the system at once.
- **Use sink strainer as food scraps cause sludge to build up more quickly** - put them in your compost bin.
- **Never flush anything other than bodily waste and toilet paper down the toilet** - put everything else in the rubbish bin.
- **Never dispose of grease or cooking oil down any drain** - wipe out pans, pour fat into a container and put it in the bin.
- **Never put paints, solvents or any chemicals down any drain** - dispose of them at a civic amenity site.
- **Don't use caustic soda or drain cleaners to clear blockages** - try boiling water instead.
- **Never connect rainwater drainage pipes into your septic tank.**

Your questions answered

Why should I look after my septic system?

- You have a legal and social responsibility to maintain your septic tank in good working order.
- A neglected septic tank is a serious health risk and causes harm to the environment.
- Your tank will have to be emptied (de-sludged) less often, saving you money.
- If the system fails it will be expensive to repair.

Where do I find my septic tank?

- Look for a metal or concrete lid - this may be overgrown or have become covered with soil.
- Your tank will normally be downhill from your property.
- Your title deeds or local knowledge may help.
- Your tank may not be on your land and may be shared with neighbouring properties.

What checks should I make?

- **Household drainage**
Are the drains slow to clear or toilets backing up? This indicates blocked pipes, a full tank or a blocked soakaway.
- **Tank**
Maintain an accessible, well-fitting cover. This is essential for your safety. There should be no smell from the tank. If your tank never needs to be emptied it may be leaking.
- **Soakaway**
If the soakaway is swampy, smelly or has prolific grass growth it has become clogged.
- **Discharge**
If possible, check the end of the discharge pipe. A pale liquid with little or no smell is normal. If the discharge is dark, smelly or contains solids there is a problem.

- **Vegetation**

Deep-rooting trees and shrubs can damage your system. Keep them at least 30m from the tank, soakaway and drains. Keep nearby vegetation mown short.

If you suspect a problem, act quickly and call a plumber or drainage specialist if necessary.

How often should I have my tank emptied?

If your septic tank has not been emptied in the last year you should make the recommendation checks immediately.

If in doubt, have your tank emptied. If you delay emptying your tank you risk running your soakaway and polluting the environment.

A build up of sludge is the most likely cause of problems.

What should I check if I'm buying a property with a septic tank?

- Have there been any problems with the system?
- Is there evidence that the tank has been maintained and emptied regularly?
- Is the septic tank in good structural order?
- Is the soakaway functioning properly?
- Is there any evidence of flooding or pollution?
- Has the discharge been approved / registered?

If in any doubt, arrange an inspection of the drains, septic tank and soakaway by a qualified surveyor.

Do I need to register my tank?

Different countries have different regulations and procedures. England is currently under review (no charge).

Information and advice:
Environment Agency (England)
03708 506 506
enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

New partnerships keep towns green and clean

Five new town based teams are out and about tackling local environmental issues and keeping areas green and clean on the streets of Ashington, Blyth, Cramlington, Newbiggin by the Sea and Seaton Valley.

Established through innovative new partnership agreements between Northumberland County Council and local town councils, the teams aim to improve the appearance of areas and focus on priorities for each town or parish.

The new arrangements will deliver top quality services including grass cutting, litter picking, street sweeping and



Photo: Members of the Cramlington team.

shrub bed maintenance, in addition to what the county council already provides.

The scheme has already been running in Choppington, which was used as a pilot for the initiative.

As well as creating over 30 new full time jobs, the councils hope to use the partnership model to provide training for local people through apprenticeships and

work experience opportunities.

Members of the teams can be identified by a new logo for each town, which is displayed on their uniforms and machinery

The council is talking to other parishes and towns across the county about the possibility of similar partnership agreements in the future.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults - it's everyone's business

Preventing the neglect and abuse of vulnerable adults will be top of the agenda in June during Safeguarding Adults For Everyone (SAFE) Week.

Councils across the North of Tyne area are laying on a range of events to make people aware of the huge impact adult abuse can have on individuals and the support

that is available to help them take action.

Everyone can play their part in ensuring vulnerable adults are protected from risks which range from physical, sexual and psychological abuse to discrimination, neglect and financial exploitation.

Northumberland County Council's policy board member for adult care and public health, Councillor

Susan Dungworth said: "No one would wish to ignore suffering or to have a missed opportunity on their conscience. If it concerns you, please don't ignore it. If it troubles you, please contact us. Your call really can make a difference."

If you wish to raise a safeguarding concern please call 01670 536400. If someone is at immediate risk, call 999.

Firefighter honoured for saving woman's life



Photo: David Dixon receiving his Flame Award. Photo courtesy of Hexham Courant.

A brave off-duty firefighter who saved a pensioner from a burning building has received national recognition for his heroic efforts.

David Dixon, a retained firefighter with Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, was walking his dogs in Haltwhistle in May last year when he saw smoke coming from a house near The Mart.

David crawled into the smoke filled property and saved the life of the elderly female occupant by dragging her to safety.

His brave act has now been recognised with a Flame Award from the International Fire and Rescue Service, a national honour given to members of the emergency services across the country who have shown outstanding courage.

Speaking after receiving his trophy, David said: "Although it was great to win the award, the most important thing was being able to rescue a member of the public that day.

"I remember it well, it was a split second decision to go in. I crawled into the house on my stomach and found the occupant semi-conscious on the

kitchen floor.

"I managed to pull her out and get a blanket round her before the ambulance arrived.

"Thankfully I've had the training and experience in dealing with these types of situations and I wouldn't advise other members of the public to go into burning buildings – they should always call the fire service."

Councillor Dave Ledger, Deputy Leader of Northumberland County Council added: "The professionalism he shows in his day-to-day work is clearly evident off-duty too and we are proud to have him as one of our team."

Britain's most beautiful marathon is back

Kielder Water is once again set to stage Britain's most beautiful marathon.

The event will take place on Sunday 5 October 2014 and will follow an off-road route around northern Europe's largest man-made lake, Kielder Water.

The 26 mile challenge, now in its fifth year, is hugely popular with outdoor enthusiasts and has become a firm favourite in the racing calendar.

Active Northumberland and Northumberland County Council are new partners and sponsors of this event which is expected to draw in competitors from across the UK and beyond.

Event organisers are expecting up to 3,000 runners to take part in the gruelling run. There will be a whole weekend of activities including the Kielder 10K on Saturday 4 October, the Kielder Run Bike Run relay and the Kielder junior races for children.

Councillor Val Tyler, policy board member for community infrastructure and culture, said: "I can't think of a more beautiful or inspiring place than Kielder to walk, run or cycle as part of a day out or holiday with the family. Kielder Marathon is going from strength to strength and I am very proud that Northumberland County Council is supporting this year's event."

Marathon places will be offered on a first come first served basis. The cost for entry is £37. Runners who deferred their place last year will be contacted separately.

To book a place log on to www.kielder-marathon.com For enquiries telephone 0845 155 0236 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

Photo: Northumberland County Councillor Val Tyler, Marathon Event Director Steve Cram and Bruce Ledger, head of leisure at Northumberland County Council with cyclist Kate Charlton and runner Richard Parker.



Checking into Tweedmouth Clinic

Northumberland County Councillor Scott Dickinson recently checked into Tweedmouth Clinic in Berwick on a fact finding mission as part of his work to improve the health care of residents in the county.

At the clinic he found out first hand how staff are working to support patients and to discuss their work and the issues and challenges they face.

Being situated next to the Scottish border, the busy clinic often works with two different organisations – NHS England and NHS Scotland – which present challenges for both teams.

Councillor Dickinson is chair of Northumberland's Health and Wellbeing Board. He said:



Pictured left to right: Stephen Holmes, Senior Manager Northumbria Healthcare Foundation, Councillor Scott Dickinson and Doreen Davidson, Clinical Operations Manager, with members of staff at Tweedmouth Clinic.

"I wanted to meet the staff and patients at Berwick to see the good work that is being carried out at the clinic. We talked at length about a whole range of issues and had some productive discussions around

the challenges of cross border working. Ultimately we all want to give the best possible patient care and the bureaucracy and paperwork involved with working between two organisations must never get in the way of this."

#NlandFUN photo competition

We are holding our annual summer photography competition again this summer. This year the focus is firmly on fun!

The winning snap will feature on the front of our quarterly residents' magazine, which is read by almost 100,000 people.

The competition is open to all ages and abilities and there is no limit to the number of entries received per person. The winning entry will be picked by a professional photographer, and the winner will be announced at the end of July.

How to enter

Simply send your image to nlandfun@gmail.com, or post a hard copy to Communications, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF.

All entries must be received by 3pm on Sunday 13 July 2014. All submissions must include a daytime telephone number.



Families like ours changed lives

Local families have been working with Northumberland County Council to help encourage more people to start or extend their families through adoption.

The parents have produced online videos, in which they discuss the adoption process, their experience of creating a family through adoption and how they felt supported by the Northumberland Family Placement team.

You can view family videos on our new mobile friendly adoption website <http://adoption.northumberland.gov.uk>



Trish, is a mum to two children with disabilities, who adopted in 1996. She talks about:

- Becoming a single parent
- Parenting children with disabilities



Julian and Richard became approved parents in February 2013 and were matched with a son and daughter in July 2013. They talk about:

- How they found the application process
- Their experience of being matched with their children



Julie and Mac adopted two sisters back in 2003. They talk about:

- Adopting siblings
- Adopting when you have older children in the family

The council's family placement Service would love to hear from you if you are over 21 years old; whether you are a couple or single; whether you have no children or have older children at home.

The support from the team starts with your initial enquiry and is a lifelong offering which families can access when they feel they need any advice and guidance.

Councillor Robert Arckless, policy board member for children's services, said: "With the help of our families, we want to spread the word that adoption is a wonderful way to create or complete a family, for both the children and the parents. Children and sibling groups of all ages are waiting to be adopted now, so please get in touch."

Start your adoption journey today.

For further information, to find the dates of information evenings or book an appointment for an informal chat: ring 01670 62 62 62 email familyplacement@northumberland.gov.uk log on to <http://adoption.northumberland.gov.uk>



adoption ?

Count Yourself In! Change Lives



New fraud busting team created

A new corporate fraud team has been set up by the council – to tackle a crime which is potentially costing the authority over £500,000 a year.

In 2012-13 fraud against Northumberland County Council totalled £565,000 and 1,158 cases were investigated. Over the same period the council's benefit investigation team identified £127,000 of fraudulently claimed council tax benefit, prosecuting 18 claimants, accepting 68 formal cautions and 27 administration penalties.

Councillor Dave Ledger, deputy leader of the Council with responsibility for corporate resources, said: "As a council we are committed to a zero tolerance of fraud, corruption, bribery and money laundering.



Pictured: Councillors Anne Dale and Dave Ledger

The economic downturn means the temptation by some people to commit fraud has increased so we need to ensure extra counter fraud measures are taken to combat this."

Councillor Anne Dale, chair of the council's audit committee, said: "By merging two teams into one at a single location we can better target those who

flout the law and ultimately save the county's taxpayers and the council money."

If you suspect anyone of committing benefit fraud, you can contact the council anonymously on: 01670 624359 or by email at fraudline@northumberland.gov.uk

Residents' first look at Haltwhistle health and social care scheme

The community saw inside Haltwhistle's new £4.6 million integrated health and social care facility for the first time at an open event in May.

Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust gave people the opportunity to look around Greenholme Court and Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital. More than 400 members of the public attended and their response was overwhelmingly positive.

The pioneering purpose-built scheme will be one of the first facilities of its kind in the country to provide hospital and social care support under one roof.





Music to tweet to

A leading UK beatboxer has vocally recreated the nation's best-known songbirds to encourage people to get outdoors and experience nature first hand.

The album of tweet music was commissioned by the National

Trust after academic research found that listening to birdsong, one of the Trust's 50 things to do before you're 11 $\frac{3}{4}$, not only makes people calmer but boosts positivity.

Beatboxer and vocal sculptor Jason Singh visited National Trust places for inspiration before creating the album, which features birds and wildlife including blackbirds, robins, woodpeckers, crows, skylarks, owls, warblers, buzzards, frogs and crickets.

Matthew Oates, National Trust wildlife and nature expert added:

"We wanted to produce a unique piece of music that would bring the wonderful sounds of nature to everyone. By developing this in a quirky, creative way, we hope our album of tweet music inspires families and kids to have fun in the outdoors this summer and enjoy all the benefits that the sounds of nature can bring."

You can listen to Tweet Music, find the best places to hear the sounds of nature first hand and discover great ways to get outdoors this summer at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/NEnature

Kids will be amazed by reading challenge

You'll be amazed at what's going down at your library this summer. It's Mythical Maze, the Summer Reading Challenge 2014!

If you are looking for a fun, free way to keep your children occupied during the holidays then why not sign them up to the challenge.

Children can sign up at their local library where they will receive a colourful starter pack to keep track of their reading. They will be encouraged to read six or more books of their choice during the holidays, collecting incentives and rewards along

the way. Those taking part are rewarded with a certificate, medal and entry into a prize draw to win a mini ipad.

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

"The Summer Reading Challenge is always an immensely popular and successful reading initiative and last year thousands of local children signed up to take part. I know that most parents, grandparents and carers appreciate the importance of reading and I hope they will once again bring their children along to their local library to sign up to this summer's scheme."



For further details and information about the many exciting events that will be taking place in local libraries to support the challenge, log on to www.mylibrary.co.uk

Northumberland Post 16 Student Travel Scheme



Post-16 transport has been subject to a recent consultation exercise and it is important that you understand how any changes agreed affect you. Please check the school transport webpage at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/STpolicy>

Or telephone 0845 600 6400 for further details.

NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council

Free car parking is proving popular

Residents and businesses have reacted positively to the introduction of free parking in the county.

There are no parking charges in council-run car parks and on street parking places in these Northumberland towns:

Alwick, Bamburgh, Beadnell, Berwick (except Berwick Railway Station car park), Hexham, Morpeth, Rothbury and Wooler.

Motorists must still pay for parking in Corbridge, Craster, Holy Island, Newton by the Sea, Seahouses and in some countryside parks.

Mark Dransfield, managing director at Dransfield Properties, which owns and manages Morpeth's Sanderson Arcade, said: "We have been strong supporters of free parking from the outset, along with other stakeholders and businesses in Morpeth. Footfall has increased and the comments we have had from the businesses at the Arcade are also extremely positive in terms of the impact on trade."

Around 178,800 free parking discs have now been distributed around the county. Drivers must display a disc in short stay parking places in Alwick, Berwick, Hexham and Morpeth. There are signs in the car parks telling drivers where they can get a parking disc.



Photo: left to right: John Haswell, chair of Berwick Chamber of Trade, Councillor Ian Swithenbank, policy board member for streetcare and environment and a civil enforcement officer.

The reaction in Berwick has also been very positive. John Haswell, chair of Berwick Chamber of Trade said: "The effect of free parking on trade in Berwick has been fantastic. The streets are full and the shops are busy. Local people are also using the town more for shopping which is a great boost."

Morpeth Town Councillor Ken Brown added: "Since the removal of parking charges I'm finding that residents and traders are very pleased with parking in Morpeth. Footfall in the town has significantly increased, which will certainly help the local economy."

Parking discs from other local authorities can be used and, if you can't get a disc, you should park in a long stay car park where no disc is required. Time limits are being strictly enforced as well as other restrictions, such as parking outside of marked bays, and

parking in a disabled bay without clearly displaying a valid Blue Badge.

The council had asked town and parish councils and local communities whether they wished to remove the charges which were in place, and to come up with parking solutions that suit local needs.

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, policy board member for streetcare and environment said: "We believe free parking has real benefits for residents, businesses and visitors but we left the decision to local communities. We understand and appreciate that for traffic management reasons some communities are unable to take up the offer."

Our website gives full details of where you need to use a parking disc and the local businesses that have them, see: parking.northumberland.gov.uk

free childcare for 2 year olds!

In order to apply your family **MUST meet one of the following criteria.**

- ★ Receive Working Tax credits and have annual gross earnings of no more than £16,190 per year
- ★ Child Tax Credit ONLY - Income below £16,190
- ★ Receive Income Support
- ★ Receive Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- ★ Receive Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- ★ Receive Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- ★ If the child has a current Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan
- ★ If the child attracts Disability Living Allowance
- ★ If the child is looked after by their local authority
- ★ If the child has left care through a Special Guardianship Order or through an Adoption or Residence order
- ★ Receive support through Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999



If you meet any of the criteria listed call:

***free childcare phone line 01670 623592 to confirm your eligibility
or apply on line: www.northumberland.gov.uk/freechildcare***

Further information can be obtained from your Health Visitor, local Children's Centre or Northumberland Families Information Service on **0800 023 4440** or **01670 623563**

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

What's on



June

Seghill Gala

Saturday 7 June, 12.30pm – 6pm
Welfare Park, Front Street, Cramlington
Phone 0191 2373168

Alnwinton Round Challenge Walks

Saturday 7 June, 10am
Alnwinton
Price : £7 - £15
www.northoftyneseachandrescue.org.uk

Lindisfarne Castle garden wildlife watch

Sunday 8 June, 2pm - 4pm
Lindisfarne Castle
£2.50
Phone 01289 388867

Chillingham Castle photography visit

Sunday 8 June, 1pm
Chillingham Castle
Castle entry fee
richardanstey1@talktalk.net

Druridge Triathlon

Sunday 8 June, 8am - 12pm
Druridge Bay Country Park,
Phone 01670 760968
druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk

Mighty Dub Fest

VW Family festival
Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 June, 10.30am
Duridge Bay Country Park, £10
www.mightydubfest.co.uk

Miners' Picnic

Saturday 14 June 10am - 5pm
Woodhorn Museum
Phone 01670 624455

Netherton Folk Club

Saturday 14 June
7.30pm - 11pm
Netherton Memorial Hall
£2, BYOB
Phone 01669 630258

Haydon Local Artists' Summer Exhibition

Sunday 22 - Saturday 28 June,
10am - 6pm
Haydon Bridge Community Centre
Phone 01434 684486

Kite workshop & flying weekend

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 June,
10.30am - 3.30pm
Druridge Bay Country Park
£1.50
Phone 01670 760968
druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk

Famous Grouse Open Pairs Bowling

Sunday 22 June,
9.30am - 6.30 am
Dispensary Street, Alnwick
£6
Booking is required
Phone 01665 575433

July

The Queen's Six

A range of vocal music from medieval to modern
Friday 4 July, 7:30pm - 9pm
Brinkburn Priory,
Longframlington
£10 jez@culturecreative.co.uk

Open Gardens Village Craft weekend

Saturday 5 July, 1pm - 6pm
Throughout Beadnell
£3
Phone 07550014085

Sung Eucharist

With Dean of Durham. Music from Durham Cathedral Choir
Sunday 6 July, 11am - 12.30pm
Brinkburn Priory,
Longframlington
jez@culturecreative.co.uk

Teddy Bears' Picnic with music and movement

Thursday 10 July, 11.30am
Sele Park, Hexham
Musicmove09@yahoo.co.uk

Felton and Thirston Fair

Saturday 12 July, 11am - 5pm
Recreation Field, Recreation Lane, Felton
£2.50
Phone 01670 787206,
hmcfelton@btinternet.com

Walk to Shaftoe Crags

Sunday 13 July, 10am - 1.30pm
Bolam Lake Country Park, £3
Phone 01661 881234

Northumbrian and Pipers Concert

Thursday 17 July,
12.30pm - 1.15pm
Druridge Bay Country Park
www.northumbriansandpipers.com

Ratanaghiri Buddhist Monastery

3 mile walk from Bolam Lake to look around the Monastery at Harnham.
Saturday 19 July, 2pm - 5pm
Bolam Lake Country Park
Phone 01661 881234

Kite Over Druridge

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 July,
10.30am - 12pm
Druridge Bay Country Park
Phone 01670 760968

Pirates of Plessey

Thursday 24 July,
1.30pm - 3pm
Plessey Woods Country Park
£4
Phone 01670 824793
plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk

August

Bat Night

Saturday 2 August,
8pm - 11.30pm
Plessey Woods Country Park
£3.50
01670 824793,
plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk

Wiggle Hell of Hexham

Non-competitive family cycling event
Saturday 9 August,
7.30am – 5pm
Hexham Racecourse, High Yarridge Road, Hexham
Phone 07792781846
phil@ukcyclingevents.co.uk

Bats around the Bay

August 9, 7.30- 9pm. £3.50
A walk around Druridge Bay County Park to find some night flyers
Druridgebay@northumberland.gov.uk

Bird Boxes

Tuesday August 19
1.30-3pm. Free
Build a natural bird box to decorate your garden.
Age 8+
01670 824793 plesseywoods@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland Live music festival

Saturday 23 August,
12pm - 8pm
Blyth Links, Blyth Beach
Visit northumberlandlive.org

Glendale Show 2014

Monday 25 August, 9am - 5pm
The Show Field, North Middleton, Wooler
Phone 01668 283044

September

10th Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival

Wednesday 17 - Sunday 21 September, 11am
Maltings Theatre, Berwick upon Tweed
www.berwickfilm-artfest.com

Coventina's Eagle

150 years ago, thousands of Roman coins were found in a shrine on Hadrian's Wall.

The majority of the coins went on display in the British Museum, but 2000 were unidentified and melted down to form a cast of an eagle. This eagle adorned John Collingwood-Bruce's bookshelf for years, and it's now on display at Chesters Roman Fort. You can read the full story at: www.english-heritage.org.uk



Wildman of Belsay

For 600 years this hairy, naked beast and his hairy, naked wife have watched over and protected Belsay's famous Middleton family. Now he has stepped out of his shadowy, mythical world so our visitors can get a chance to meet him in a new display located in Belsay's beautiful Pillar Hall. For more information visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk





Clinics and free confidential advice on all aspects of sexual health for everyone

Call Northumberland Sexual Health Service

01670 51 51 51

