

Northumberland news

WINTER 2017



**Stay well
this winter**

What's on?

Events and Activities

**COMMUNITY GRANTS
AVAILABLE**

NEED AN MOT? WE CAN HELP!



Northumberland County Council has modern DVSA approved testing facilities in Hexham, Alnwick and Stakeford and a team of experienced, professional mechanics.

As we don't carry out vehicle repairs, we offer a completely objective service.

HOW IT WORKS:

- ✎ Our mechanics carry out the test.
- ✎ We will advise you of any work needed to bring your vehicle to the legal standard.
- ✎ You get the repairs carried out by your preferred mechanic.
- ✎ We'll do a free re-test if the vehicle is returned to us within 10 working days.

NEW AUTHORISED TESTING FACILITY (ATF) ALNICK SERVICING, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE CENTRE

In January we will be opening a DVSA approved testing facility in Alnwick for a full range of vehicles including public service vehicles, trucks and trailers with no height restrictions.



Lionheart Workshop MOTs

Alnwick, NE66 2ER
Tel: 01670 624392
8am to 3pm
Monday to Friday



Stakeford Workshops, East View MOTs

Stakeford, NE62 5TR
Tel: 01670 622937
8am to 3pm
Monday to Friday



Tyne Mills Workshops MOTs

Hexham, NE46 1XL
Tel: 01670 623746
8am to 3pm
Monday to Friday



Lionheart Workshop ATF testing

Alnwick, NE66 2ER
ATF booking line
01670 620419
Workshop
01670 624392 or email
alnwickatfbookings@
northumberland.gov.uk

Christmas Tip

Never overload electrical sockets.

Christmas Tip

Don't share your holiday plans on social media – you're advertising that your home will be unattended.

Inside this issue



Available online, by email or in print.

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

Published quarterly, 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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www.northumberland.gov.uk/youtube

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Front cover:

Charlotte Beattie enjoying the festive fun in The Abbey Grounds, Hexham





Making grittin' great again

As the county heads into winter, the council's cutting-edge fleet of salt spreaders are back on the region's roads.

Last year the authority bought seven new state-of-the-art gritters to increase its fleet which cover thousands of miles each year. Costing more than £100,000 each, the hi-tech machines help ensure the county stays open for business, whatever the weather.

This year the process has become even more streamlined, thanks to technology developments over the past 12 months.

During last winter the council thermally mapped and updated all the current primary gritting routes within Northumberland.

This was carried out using differing extremes of conditions. Over the summer months the highly detailed information has been extracted and a completely new thermal map of the primary gritting routes has been produced.

This will help staff determine which routes will need to be treated and when, taking into account detailed weather forecast and actual weather station data to further strengthen the accuracy of the decision making process.

Michael Carle (pictured), the council's operational lead on delivery of winter services, said: "With thousands of miles of roads in the county, our workforce is always well prepared to meet the challenges of winter weather.

"The geography of the county presents unique challenges where it can be snowing over the tops but bright sunshine at the coast.

"Thankfully we have access to some state-of-the-art equipment which is developing every year so we can establish exactly where needs gritting and at what level.

"And these days all the gritters are fitted with tracking devices to ensure their location is known at all times – providing an extra level of safety especially for those working in more rural areas."

The winter in numbers:

- * **100+** staff including managers, supervisors and drivers
- * **37,000 tonnes** of salt in place ready to be used
- * **28** multi-purpose gritting vehicles
- * **Two** purpose-built snow blowers and **five** gully tankers
- * **1,600** grit bins and **200** grit heaps
- * **Over 3,000 miles** of county road

@ **FIND OUT MORE** Watch Michael explain how the gritters keep our roads safe by going to northumberland.gov.uk/grit

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for live updates on:

- School closures
- Severe weather warnings
- Winter service information
- Service disruptions and closures

Twitter: @northumberlands

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nccalerts

When will my bins and recycling be collected this Christmas?



For opening times of your local household waste recovery centre over the festive period log on to www.northumberland.gov.uk/tip



Christmas bin collections

Collections week commencing **18 December** will be as usual.

Collections week commencing **25 December** will be 2 days late:

- * **Monday 25 December** bins will be collected on **Wednesday 27 December**
- * **Tuesday 26 December** bins will be collected **Thursday 28 December**
- * **Wednesday 27 December** bins will be collected **Friday 29 December**
- * **Thursday 28 December** bins will be collected **Saturday 30 December**

New Year bin collections

Over the New Year bin collections will be 1 day late:

- * **Monday 1 January** bins will be collected **Tuesday 2 January**
- * **Tuesday 2 January** bins will be collected **Wednesday 3 January**
- * **Wednesday 3 January** bins will be collected **Thursday 4 January**
- * **Thursday 4 January** bins will be collected **Friday 5 January**

Christmas TREE Recycling

Real Christmas trees can be recycled into good quality compost or soil conditioner, or into chippings. You can take them to your local household waste recovery centre during normal site opening times, where they are collected and recycled along with other items of garden waste.

After Christmas, to make it easier to recycle your tree, we have arranged over 30 additional collection points across the county where you can take your tree to be collected and recycled.



To find your nearest collection point and the date the tree needs to be deposited by, log on to www.northumberland.gov.uk/tree18

The cons of Christmas

Christmas is, unfortunately, an ideal time for rogue traders to fleece the public. They not only cheat those who can ill afford it, they also sometimes put people in danger from faulty or badly-designed products.

Northumberland County Council's Trading Standards Team gives advice for a safe and scam free Christmas.

DANGEROUS TOYS - Always buy toys from trustworthy shops and online outlets - rogue traders may deal in cheap, counterfeit or unsafe toys that do not meet the required safety standards.

DOORSTEP CRIME - Rogue traders will try to convince residents that unnecessary, and often sub-standard, home improvement work is needed and often at extortionate prices. Always

use reputable and trustworthy local traders, or those recommended by family and friends.

FACEBOOK ADVERTS - Be wary of buying goods from sites such as Facebook when branded clothes, bags, makeup and perfumes are on offer at low prices. The goods are often counterfeit and some may not meet safety standards.

FAKE TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL - The sale of counterfeit and often dangerous alcohol and tobacco become more prevalent in the run up to Christmas.

SHADY CHARITIES - While Christmas is the time for giving, always double-check who you are giving money to and what you're signing if asked to make donations by direct debit. Official collectors will have ID badges and be registered with the council's licensing section.

BANK SCAMS - Beware of emails, phone calls or texts purporting to be from your bank or HMRC asking you to disclose personal or financial details for a rebate. Any reputable source will never ask for your bank details over the phone or online.

LOAN SHARKS - Christmas can put a strain on any budget. Always steer clear of illegal money lenders who charge interest at 100% or even 1,000%.

ONLINE FREE TRIALS - New Year resolutions often involve losing weight. Scammers know this and have created on-line pop-ups offering free trials on items like weight loss supplements while disguising contracts in amongst the fine print. After entering your card details scammers use these hidden contracts to regularly take sums of money from the victim's account.

SALES BUT NO BARGAINS - Winter sales may seem to offer a bargain but in fact are no cheaper than ordinary prices. Make sure that you want the item at that price and are not being rushed into making a purchase you might regret later.



COUNTERFEIT

Leader welcomes historic deal

Council leader Peter Jackson has expressed his delight at the devolution deal secured for the North of Tyne - Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside.



Photo from left: Jake Berry, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, Cllr Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council, Cllr Peter Jackson, Leader of Northumberland County Council, Andrew Hodgson, chair of the North East Local Economic Partnership, Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor for North Tyneside, Andrew Jones, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

The £600m deal will generate huge rewards for the area – boosting the local economy by £1.1 billion, creating 10,000 new jobs and attracting £2.1 billion in private investment.

Cllr Jackson said: “This is a once in a lifetime chance to take local decisions about our future to provide more and better opportunities for everyone.

“We have been working with Government since the beginning of the year to agree a deal that builds on our strong track record of creating jobs and nurturing world-leading businesses.

“We have also negotiated for powers that will allow us to help our people develop new skills, improve their job prospects, access more and better homes, and live in an area that is well-connected, vibrant and thriving.

“This deal will streamline decision making on important issues that affect our growth and prosperity, and give us the power locally to decide how we drive economic growth and create confident and skilled communities.

“There are aspects of this deal which are particularly important to the future of our county.

“Not only will we benefit directly from very significant investment funds, we will be the first area outside London to benefit from an education challenge fund, giving us extra tools to tackle the need for improvement of our educational standards.

“We’ve also been asked to be a pilot area for rural economic growth and rural housing and again this gives us a once in a generation opportunity to make a real difference to the future of many communities across Northumberland.”

Christmas Tip

Toys should have the CE safety mark. If it doesn't the toy may be dangerous with unfixed and small pieces.

Be a savvy online shopper

If you don't want your hard-earned cash to end up in the pocket of some scamster, follow these online safety tips.

- 🛒 Make sure the website is genuine. Some scammers are very good at designing websites to look like well-known brands and can fool the unwary. The best way to make sure you are shopping on the genuine website is to type in the address yourself rather than clicking on a link.
- 🛒 Look for a contact number and office address on the site.
- 🛒 The latest versions of web browsers help block spoof websites. Install the latest antivirus and firewall software on all your computers and switch on the 'automatic updates' setting so your protection is kept up-to-date.
- 🛒 At the online check-out, before you type in your credit card details make sure the web address bar has switched from 'http:' to 'https:' to indicate a secure, encrypted connection. Any legitimate online site processing payments always switches to a secure connection at this stage.



More information on the deal is available by going to www.northoftyndeolution.com



Join your NEW local area Facebook page



You can keep up-to-date with council activities in your area by joining new Local Area Council Facebook pages. Send us questions electronically and take part in online surveys to ensure that you still have your say on important local issues.

To join your local area facebook page go to: www.northumberland.gov.uk/LAC

We would love you to play a part in this new form of local democracy.

Work progresses on key sites

With the council's decision to remain in the current County Hall rather than relocate to Ashington, development work is continuing in both towns - with residents at the centre of the plans.

At the Portland Park site in Ashington, there were two public consultation sessions and an online survey for the public to have their say on what facilities they would like in the town centre.

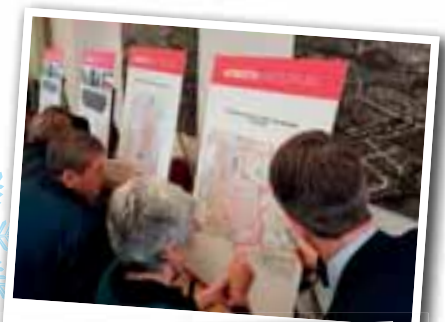
The ideas and views will inform a new masterplan for the town, and will be shared again with the public in the near future.

Meanwhile changes are being made to the road layout as part of the infrastructure to create new development sites, alleviate congestion in the town centre and help pedestrian movement.

In Morpeth residents have also been given the opportunity to share their views on how the town develops over the next few years.

People were asked for their ideas for future redevelopment - including key sites like County Hall, the former library site and the leisure centre.

The ideas will go towards the creation of a supplementary planning document which will sit alongside the town's Neighbourhood Plan and help developers understand how we want the Morpeth of the future to look.



Residents were given the opportunity to share their views at a public consultation event in Morpeth

Tour of Britain boosted Northumberland's economy by almost £4m

The Tour of Britain cycle race which blazed through Northumberland in September has boosted the county's economy by almost £4 million, an independent report has revealed.

The world class cycling event saw an estimated 100,000 people lining the county's roadsides with many flocking in from around the region to cheer on the top sporting stars, including UK favourite Mark Cavendish.

Stage two of the Tour, set off from Kielder and finished in Blyth passing through 28 communities and covering over 200 kms. Many shops, cafes, bars, hotels and restaurants along the route reported brisk business on the day.

Leader of Northumberland County Council, Peter Jackson said: "The financial boost to local businesses from the Tour was quite remarkable. For every pound invested, we saw over 10 times the return in the local economy and it was great to see the event so well supported within the county."

"Not only did our County Council provide the main financial support to hold this stage of the race in Northumberland but our staff throughout the county did a brilliant job to make sure that the arrangements went so well."

The race featured 20 teams, with 120 riders from 24 different countries taking part.

The event provided a huge opportunity to shine the international spotlight on the beauty of the county. International broadcasts of the race reached more than 150 countries including North America, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa and reached 12 million viewers across Europe including the cycling powerhouse countries of France, Italy and Belgium.



Young cyclists in Morpeth

Councillor Cath Homer cabinet member with responsibility for tourism said:

“ The route showcased some of the most iconic and stunning scenery and landmarks in the county to an international audience. It put the county well and truly in the spotlight and I am sure this will inspire more people to visit the county in the future. ”

Of the visitors who came to Northumberland 31 per cent stayed overnight with an average spend in the county of nearly £135 per group

Day visitors spent an average of £52 per group

The Tour boosted the Northumberland economy by £3.891 million



DRY JANUARY®

SIGN UP NOW AND GET READY TO GO DRY

Go on - sign up, join us and get ready to go dry

After the excess of Christmas why not start the New Year with a clear head by signing up to the Dry January challenge, either on your own or as a group, to give up drinking for a month.

Last year people told us they enjoyed the challenge; some people lost weight, some slept better, almost everyone saved cash and many said they naturally reduced their drinking for the rest of the year.

Alcohol is linked to more than 60 medical conditions and diseases including liver disease, various cancers, stomach ulcers, raised blood pressure, stroke and dementia.

It is also important to remember that most people who suffer alcohol-related health problems are not alcoholics or binge drinkers. They are people who have been drinking at or above the recommended daily limits for a number of years.

@ For further information visit: www.dryjanuary.org.uk

Don't put off the flu vaccination - it's free because you need it

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

Pregnant women, people aged 65 years or over and children and adults with long term health conditions are known to be at risk. Flu also affects those with weakened immune systems such as neurological disorders, liver, lung or renal disease, heart problems or diabetes.

A nasal spray vaccine is being offered to children aged 2-8 years old in a bid to slow down the spread of the virus. Young children's close contact with each other

means they are more likely to transmit the virus to other more vulnerable groups, including older people.

If you are eligible for the flu vaccine get it now - it's free because you need it



@ Contact your GP, pharmacist or midwife to get the flu jab or visit nhs.uk/staywell for more information.

in Northumberland

Stay Well This Winter

Winter can be challenging on our health, especially for older people and those with long-term conditions.

But there a number of things we can all do to help prepare for the cold weather and ward off common winter illnesses:

- ♥ Catch coughs or sneezes in a tissue and then bin the used tissues as soon as possible. Wash your hands regularly to prevent the spread of infection.
- ♥ Get the flu vaccination. Those over 65, pregnant women, children aged 2-4 and in school years 1 and 2 and people with long-term health conditions can receive this free from their GP or pharmacist. Carers can also get the vaccine free.
- ♥ At the first sign of illness, seek immediate advice and help from your pharmacist.
- ♥ Keep warm, both indoors and outdoors. This will help prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems.
- ♥ Pick up any prescription medicines before your GP or pharmacy closes for Christmas and keep stocked up with medication such as paracetamol or ibuprofen so you can deal with common winter illnesses.
- ♥ Stock up well on winter food supplies.
- ♥ Keep an eye on elderly or frail friends, neighbours and relatives.

Christmas Tip

Be aware the morning after. You could be over the legal limit many hours after your last drink.

Christmas Tip

Going to a party? Arrange a taxi or designated driver in advance.

Christmas Tip

Check on elderly relatives and neighbours.

**STAYWELL
THISWINTER**



If you do need help over the holiday period when your GP surgery or pharmacy is closed, call NHS 111 or visit www.nhs.uk. The Stay Well This Winter campaign can help you and your family prepare for winter. Visit <http://www.nhs.uk/staywell> for more information

NEW Stay Active Membership

SO MANY
WAYS TO
STAY ACTIVE

ONLY £26
PER MONTH



GYM



SWIM



CLASSES



CAFES



LIBRARIES



SUPPORT & MOTIVATION

NEW Stay Active membership for those aged 65+.
Our great value membership includes:

- Access to 15 gyms, 10 pools and over 450 fitness classes
- Classes to suit all fitness levels
- Highly qualified and friendly instructors
- Cafes and libraries in many of our centres
- The option to pay monthly or as an annual fee

Sign up is easy and straightforward! For more details ask at reception or visit our website at www.activenorthumberland.org.uk

Residents encouraged to take plunge for a fitter life

Residents in Northumberland are being encouraged to jump in and test the water at their local swimming pool following a major investment of £230,000 by Sport England.

Active Northumberland has been awarded the funding to encourage people to swim more often and help address the drop off in adult swimming.

Four Active Northumberland centres - Ashington, Blyth, Hexham and Ponteland - have been selected to pilot the new Take The Plunge scheme.

A survey has been carried out to give a better understanding of customers needs and expectations at their local pool. The investment

will now be used to further improve the customer experience for swimmers including improved changing rooms and poolside areas, the introduction of new and innovative classes, additional swimming support as well as new marketing initiatives and incentive campaigns to encourage people to give their local pool a try.

Active Northumberland has also appointed Mark Seymour as the new Head of Swimming to help deliver the project.



ACTIVE
NORTHUMBERLAND

@ For more information on the new Take The Plunge pilot scheme please use the Active Northumberland app or visit www.activenorthumberland.org.uk/taketheplunge

The gift of fitness #NoMoreSocks

Struggling to find the perfect Christmas gift?
We have a limited number of membership vouchers with FREE GIFTS!

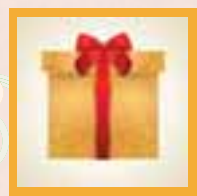


Silver

3 month membership

Access to all Active Northumberland gyms, fitness classes and swimming pools.

PLUS - FREE Gym bag, water bottle and towel



Gold

6 month membership

Access to all Active Northumberland gyms, fitness classes and swimming pools.

PLUS - FREE set of Skull Candy earphones



Deluxe

12 month membership

Access to all Active Northumberland gyms, fitness classes and swimming pools.

PLUS - FREE Fitbit



Visit the website or app for more details

Call us on 01670 620220 or pop in to your local centre



Christmas Tip

Have a working smoke alarm installed on all levels of your home. Check the batteries regularly.

NEW Year, NEW smoke free you

Hundreds of Northumberland residents will make quitting smoking their New Year's resolution and there's loads of free support and advice available to help you succeed.

Commissioned by the county council, Northumberland NHS Stop Smoking Service run clinics in a range of venues including GP practices, pharmacies and community centres.

Some out-of-hours clinics are also available for those who find it difficult to attend appointments during the day.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust public health nurse lead Gillian Emmerson said: "We know you are four times more likely to stop smoking if you get support from an NHS stop smoking advisor. We offer free support and advice to smokers and e-cigarette users. People accessing the service can expect to benefit from free expert NHS advice and a personalised quit plan, as well as prescription treatments to help beat cravings."



People accessing the service can expect to benefit from FREE expert NHS advice and a personalised quit plan

@ You can make an appointment by calling your local Northumberland NHS Stop Smoking Service advisor during office hours from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday on 01670 813135. During weekends and bank holidays you can leave a message and an advisor will get back to you, or visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/stopsmoking

Sexual health advice and support

Residents in Northumberland can get confidential sexual health information and advice at the touch of a screen thanks to a free interactive app.



The app includes centralised booking, where to find clinics, where to get free condoms, an online symptom checker and advice about testing and support.

Users can also email questions using this app direct to the service to get the advice they need from an experienced and qualified sexual health practitioner.

Commissioned by Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust delivers free and confidential sexual health services across the county.

Services include confidential sexual health advice, contraception and sexually transmitted infection screening including HIV testing.

Services are available 9am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday with some slots available on Saturdays, excluding Saturday, December 30.

Please give the centre a call to check if the service you need is available when you require it. You can call the Morpeth One to One clinic direct on 01670 51 51 51. Out of office hours you can leave a message and a member of staff will get back to you.

@ To find out more about the service or to download the app visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/sexual-health-services



What's in your first aid kit?

Get prepared
by updating your
medicines and
first aid kit.

Find out more at
urgentoremergency.co.uk
or call **111**



Dorothy and Pauline visit Overstones Residential Care Home in Hexham

Could you be a home library volunteer?

We are looking for volunteers to come forward to help with our home library service and deliver books to residents who are unable to visit their local library.

The role involves visiting residents in their own homes, sheltered housing or in care homes to enable them to continue to enjoy library services and reading.

The home library service assists residents living in the county who are confined to their home due to a disability, long term illness or frailty and have no-one to visit the library on their behalf. It is also available to carers who are unable to visit their local library due to their individual circumstances.

Dorothy Green and Pauline McCabe from Hexham have been dedicated volunteers and have played a key role in this much loved and valued service delivering free library books and audio-books to housebound people in their local community.

Dorothy said:

“Reading is a great form of mental stimulation which is particularly important for elderly people who can be housebound and alone for many days on end. Being a home library volunteer has

been really rewarding and I have met so many interesting people over the years.”

Pauline added:

“Dorothy and I have been volunteering for over 20 years as a team, visiting and delivering monthly to both housebound people and to some residential homes. We have both been involved in several aspects of volunteering for some years, but it is a real privilege to go into people’s homes and spend time with them as they select their reading material. Volunteering has always been a pleasure for me, as through giving my time, I receive so much back.”

If you are mobile, have a love of reading and helping people and would like more information about becoming a volunteer then please speak to a member of staff at your local library or get in touch via the mylibrary website www.mylibrary.co.uk or by calling the customer contact centre on **01670 620250**.



@ If you are housebound and would like to find out more about the service and how it can help you call **01670 620250**

Hexham library refurbishment almost complete



Work to refurbish the library area in Hexham's historic Queen's Hall is almost complete.

The space is being renovated to create a fantastic new facility that will provide a modern and accessible integrated library, customer services and visitor information centre - all under one roof.

Northumberland County Council is investing £500,000 in the project which will breathe new life into the library area which has been designed taking customer needs into account.

The library and visitor information services are temporarily housed in the old tourist information building at Wentworth Car Park but will relocate back into the Queen's Hall early in the New Year.



Bid to bridge the funding gap

Final preparations are underway on a funding bid to try and safeguard the future of a historic bridge spanning England and Scotland.

The Union Chain Bridge near Berwick is the oldest operational suspension bridge in the world still carrying vehicles, and through securing Heritage Lottery funding it is hoped the bridge can also deliver numerous cultural, heritage and community benefits as part of ambitious plans to safeguard its future.

Scottish Borders Council, Northumberland County Council and community group Friends of the Union Chain Bridge are jointly working on a £7.3m project to secure its status, including the submission of a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery, ahead of its 200th anniversary in 2020.

Both councils have committed £1m each to the Union Chain Bridge project and further work is being planned to secure financial support and grant funding from a range of other stakeholders, including conservation bodies, charities, trusts and professional institutions.



Christmas Tip
Decorations can burn easily. Don't hang them near lights or heaters.

Christmas Tip
Thieves are opportunists. Keep your bag zipped up and make sure your mobile phone isn't in your back pocket!

Christmas Tip
Check your tree lights carry the British Safety Standard sign and always unplug them before going to bed.

FIGHTING FLY-TIPPING TOGETHER



Last year the council received a massive **2,060** reports of fly-tipping

With the dark evenings now upon us, the number of fly-tipping incidents taking place in the county are expected to rise.

We can all play a part when it comes to fighting fly tipping. Here's how.

1: Don't make the mistake of employing rogue traders to remove your waste

- ✔ Many of the culprits who have been caught and prosecuted for fly tipping are rogue waste carriers who charge residents to collect their bulky household waste, but then dump it unlawfully.
- ✔ If you are using an independent waste carrier you should always ask to see the operator's waste carrier licence, issued by the Environment Agency.
- ✔ This is really important because, if you make the mistake of employing an unlicensed waste carrier and they dump your waste illegally - you could also be fined along with them.

BE WARY OF:

- Businesses that only operate through social media
- Businesses that do not have a landline phone number or business address
- Anyone coming to your door offering to remove rubbish on the cheap.

2: Be vigilant and report any fly-tipping sightings immediately

HOW TO CHECK A WASTE CARRIER IS REPUTABLE

Visit the Environment Agency's waste carrier register and enter the business name or, search for licensed waste operators near you on the public registers pages of the website.



@ Fly-tipping is an illegal activity and should be reported to the council. The quicker cases are reported, the more chance there is of catching the culprits. You can do this online at www.northumberland.gov.uk or by ringing the Environment Agency on **03708 506506**

Free dog waste bag dispensers to stop foul play



Cllr Glen Sanderson (right) with local dog walkers at Milburn Park bowling green in Newbiggin

The latest weapon in the war on dog fouling has been unleashed by Northumberland County Council.

Dog owners no longer have an excuse of falling foul of the law when it comes to picking up after their four-legged friends after the installation of free dog waste bag dispensers at two dog fouling hot spots.

The dispensers hold 100 percent compostable and biodegradable dog waste bags which are free and accessible 24/7.

They have been installed at Milburn Park bowling green, Newbiggin and at the entrance to Tyne Green in Hexham on a two month trial basis. If they prove successful there are plans to introduce more dog waste stations across the county.

The stations have been provided free of charge by international market-leading company, TiksPac, who will cover their cost through advertising.



Christmas Tip
Never place candles near your tree or decorations.

Christmas Tip

Many fires start in the kitchen. Avoid leaving a cooker unattended!

Tackling wildfire training with virtual reality

Northumberland firefighters invited partners from across Europe to step into a virtual reality world to improve their responses to wildfires.



Gary Laskey and Amy Hatley from Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service taking part in the wildfire training exercise

The international training event was hosted by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and was the first of its kind in the UK.

The training involved the use of a simulation tool consisting of a network of computers running advanced gaming-style software presenting those attending with a realistic virtual fire.

Commanders were required to use their skills and experience to make informed decisions on how to safely and effectively manage the incident and put out the large-scale and complex wildfire.

The training scenarios included changes in the rate and direction of the spread of the fire and some challenging elements such as nearby local communities and infrastructure.

Application deadline looming for community grants

The deadline is looming for community groups, charities and young people in the county to apply for funding from a much valued community grant scheme.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available from Northumberland County Council to help deliver activities that benefit residents and communities – but applicants need to hurry as the deadline for the next round of applications is January 12, 2018.

The council's long running Community Chest Fund was improved and relaunched earlier this summer following consultation with local communities.

One of the key improvements to fund is a new grant called 'Help For You' which is aimed specifically at the under 18s. Grants of up to £200 are available to help individuals in pursuing a particular ambition – whether it is sporting, musical or academic.

If you are not in a position to apply for funding this month, you can still apply at a future date.



@ To apply, applicants must fill out an application form. This can be done online or by downloading the form from www.northumberland.gov.uk If you have any queries, please email iain.hedley@northumberland.gov.uk

If lack of transport is hampering your job search why not try Wheels 2 Work?

Wheels 2 Work offers low cost scooter and electric bike loan to people who live or work in Northumberland.

Fees include training, equipment, maintenance and insurance.

They are available to anyone aged 16 or over, with secure employment or an apprenticeship and a valid provisional or full driving licence.

For full Ts and Cs and more details, contact David or Kay on 01670 620 136, 07974 388 651 or email w2w@northumberland.gov.uk

European grants available *to rural communities*



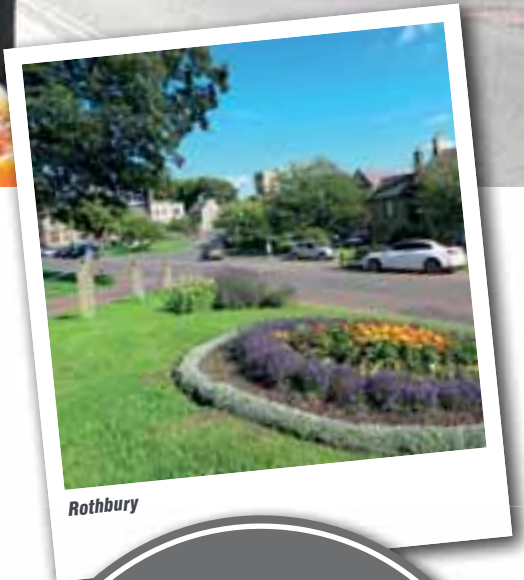
Northumberland communities are being urged to make the most of grants available in coastal and upland areas before we exit the EU.

Groups from the LEADER Funding programme are keen to make sure that communities, farmers, foresters and small businesses make full use of the funding still available to them.

Grants are available to improve the productivity of farming, help small businesses to grow, support rural tourism, develop our culture and heritage as well as provide rural services.

The team is particularly keen to hear about new project ideas that create good jobs or that support and enrich the lives of rural communities and can be delivered by December 2018.

The eligible LEADER funding area includes the towns of Morpeth, Berwick upon Tweed, Alnwick, Amble, Wooler, Rothbury, Hexham and Haltwhistle. It also includes the Northumberland National Park area and Northumberland Coast Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which stretches from Berwick on Tweed to the River Coquet estuary, including Holy Island.



Rothbury

Grants are available to improve the productivity of farming, help small businesses to grow, support rural tourism, develop our culture and heritage as well as provide rural services.



For further information contact 01670 623878 or email ivan.hewitt@northumberland.gov.uk

What's ON

December



Wreath Making Workshop

Be guided through the steps to make a beautiful festive wreath. All materials are provided plus a selection of mulled wine, hot drinks and mince pies for added festive cheer!

Seaton Delaval Hall, £25

Call 0344 249 1895

to book your place

11am - 1pm, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Wednesday 6 and

Saturday 9 December

Christmas by twilight

Visit Wallington Hall after dark and soak up the special Christmas atmosphere. Enjoy festive music, Christmas stories and shopping.

Discounted admission

£5 per adult and

£2.50 per child

www.nationaltrust.org

5pm - 7.30pm

8, 15, 22 December

The Princess & The Goblin

Northumberland Theatre Company presents this seasonal show which is performed with song, dance and fun along the way. Suitable for those aged 5+.

Children £4.00, Adults £8.00

Middleton Village Hall,

10 miles west of Morpeth

NE61 4RA

01670 772600

7.30pm - 10pm

Friday 15

December



Dig Deeper Tour

A 30 minute guided tour of the colliery buildings to learn more about how Woodhorn Colliery operated during its working life.

Suggested donation £2.

For enquiries ring

01670 624455 or e-mail:

visitorservices@woodhorn.org.uk

www.experiencewoodhorn.com

Daily, 11am and 2.30pm

throughout December



Christmas Crafts

Get that festive feeling by creating your own Christmas bauble to take away and add to your tree.

All donations welcome.

Woodhorn Museum, Ashington.

www.experiencewoodhorn.com

11am - 3.30pm

Weekends from Saturday

9 December to Sunday

24 December

Father Christmas at Woodhorn

Meet Father Christmas in a cosy grotto. The 30 minute experience includes time for children to meet Father Christmas and to enjoy crafting a seasonal decoration. Children will also receive a lovely small gift to take home.

£8.50 per child

To book a session please

ring 01670 624455.

www.experiencewoodhorn.com

Weekends from Saturday

9 December until Sunday

24 December

Pit Yard Skating

Enjoy a fun and unique skating experience on the Pit Yard Skating Rink, right in the heart of Woodhorn's stunning historic colliery site.

Advance booking available

01670 624455.

Adults £6.50, Children £5.50

(up to 12 years old)

Price is for 30 minute session

Weekends from Saturday

9 December and every day

from Wednesday 27 December

- Sunday 7 January (including

New Year's Day!)



Cheviot Folk Club

Residents night. Tune your instruments, loosen your vocal chords and come along for a great night of music, singing and humour. Everyone welcome. Supper included.

£2 Cross Keys, Thropton.

Tel: 01669 631030

7.30pm - 11pm

Saturday 16 December



Enchanted Belsay

Explore the grounds of Belsay Hall after dark. Wrap up warm and head out on an adventure through a wonderland of light, colour and sound. Find a fairground with traditional rides and games and a BBQ and food stalls serving sweet treats and festive drinks.

Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens

Tickets: young child £5,

5-15 years £6, Adult £8

www.english-heritage.org.uk

4:30pm - 9pm

Friday 15 - Saturday

23 December



January

Discovering Northumberland - When two Yorkies met the Geordies

An illustrated talk of Ann and John's first impressions of life in Northumberland - with photography and film clips of their first year. Organised by Friends of Kirkley Hall.

£5 non members

£4 members

All welcome.

Kirkley Hall

To book your place telephone

07551 974955 or email

friendsofkirkleyhall@yahoo.com

2pm

Wednesday 10 January 2018

New Hartley Pit Disaster Memorial Concert

Annual concert to commemorate the 1862 pit disaster presented by Beeswing Folk Group and Friends with special guest Jez Lowe.

£5

New Hartley Community Centre,

Bristol Street, New Hartley.

For tickets call 0191 2373152

or email

keith.blackburn@gmail.com

7.30pm - 10pm

Saturday 13 January 2018

February

Voices of Stannington Sanatorium

An illustrated talk by Dr Liz O'Donnell. A fascinating insight into life at Stannington Sanatorium. Organised by Friends of Kirkley Hall. All welcome.

£5 for non-members

£4 for members

Kirkley Hall

To book telephone

07551 974955 or email

friendsofkirkleyhall@gmail.com

2pm

Wednesday 14 February 2018

March

Talk on Bide-a-Wee Cottage Gardens and Nursery

An illustrated talk about these beautiful gardens.

All welcome.

£5 non members

£4 members

Kirkley Hall

To book your place telephone

07551 974955 or email friends

of kirkleyhall@yahoo.com

2pm

Wednesday 14 March 2018



Northumberland Wedding Fairs

Couples planning their big day will be able to take a special tour around two of the most beautiful and affordable wedding venues in Northumberland early in the new year.

Meet the team of registrars

Look around the venues

Alnwick's Northumberland Hall
Wedding Fair
4th February, 11am - 3pm

The Morpeth Town Hall
Wedding Fair
18th March, 11am - 3pm

Speak to over 20 local wedding suppliers

FREE entry