

Northumberland news

Spring 2018



Winter Snow Heroes

Pothole Purge

What's On?



Northumberland
County Council

www.northumberland.gov.uk

COULD YOU

TEACH HER

NEW LIFE SKILLS?

“ My job helps young people get ready for adult life – to learn life skills and build their future. Sometimes they need support to get through difficult situations, just as we all do from time to time. I love it. ”

Maxine,
East Northumberland



Supporting you every step of the way:

Foster with us

Find out more online
northumberland.gov.uk/foster



Talk to Caroline: 01670 62 62 62
Or email: foster@northumberland.gov.uk



Northumberland
County Council

FOSTER CARE EVENT: WEDNESDAY 23 MAY FROM 5PM IN BLYTH

We are looking for new and experienced people to join the team. This special recruitment session will help you to explore the different types of foster care that will suit you.

To book your place visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster or call Caroline on **01670 62 62 62**.

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.

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

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YOUTUBE AT:

www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV

FRONT COVER

Representatives from the emergency teams who battled together around the clock to keep people safe and the county moving during the Winter snowstorms: Northumberland and North of Tyne Mountain Rescue teams, the local farming community, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, Northumbria Police, North East Ambulance Service and Northumberland County Council.



YOUR SNOW HEROES

During the snowstorm 'the Beast from the East' there were some truly heroic efforts by emergency services, farmers, members of the community and Northumberland County Council's workforce, as they battled together around the clock to keep people safe and the county moving wherever possible.

Through our Facebook channel, we asked local people to nominate their Snow Heroes... here are just some of them!

1



Mike and Jamie Hope, father and son, who have a garage in Wooler cleared roads and took shopping and medication to local people who could not get out.

2



Northumberland Mountain Rescue Service and the North of Tyne Mountain Rescue Service attended over 40 incidents, including a massive operation to rescue 17 stranded motorists on the A68.

3



Staff, parents, governors, pupils and other volunteers cleared snow from Allendale Primary School.

4



Well done to Lewis, from Morpeth Chantry Middle School who went out shopping for his elderly neighbours.

5

Ross Corbett and Alan Cowan rescued Michelle and Ollie Meikle's big day by clearing a route through the snow to the their wedding venue Le Petit Chateau in Otterburn so guests could arrive safely.



6

The Wark Monday Men were out in force clearing all footpaths in the village.



7



Local farmers and contractors joined council snow plough and gritting teams working day and night against strong winds and severe drifting snow to try and keep roads and communities open.

8



Picture credit: Hexham Courant

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service helped by transporting doctors, district nurses, prescriptions, patients and supplies to and from locations that became too difficult to access.

9



Rothbury community paramedics Alan and Heather from North East Ambulance Service worked tirelessly to attend to patients.

10



Active Northumberland staff and volunteers at the Pegasus Centre, Tranwell, kept the Morpeth Group Riding for Disabled ponies safe, warm and fed during the snowstorm.



POTHOLE PURGE A PRIORITY

Extra council funding is being used to repair the county's roads damaged by the winter weather.

A combination of sub-zero temperatures, rain and snow throughout winter, with repeated cycles of freezing and thawing, have taken their toll on the county's road network and led to a big increase in the number of potholes being identified throughout Northumberland.

This damage has been further worsened by the effects of the 'Beast from the East' winter storm.

Each year the council undertakes a major investment programme to maintain and improve its highway network, with over £23m being spent in 2017/18.

The council was awarded an extra £930,000 Pothole Action Fund grant for

2017/18 from the Department for Transport, and the authority has also agreed to plough in an extra £420,000 in contingency funding so that it can improve the condition of the county's road surfaces.

The council is also writing to the government for additional funding to help repair further damage caused by the 'Beast from the East'.

The current funding is being spent on increased road inspections, extra equipment and resources and a range of repair work, where possible using techniques that provide for a longer-term fix where the damaged patch of road surface is cut out and repaired.

With over 5,000kms of road to look after, eradicating every single pothole isn't possible, but this £1.3m investment means the council will be repairing thousands of defects ahead of the summer season.

LOCAL FUND SUPPORTS ROAD REPAIRS

A pilot scheme was introduced last summer to give local areas a greater say on road improvements in their communities.

The five Local Area Councils were each allocated £100,000 to be used to permanently repair key problem areas suffering from repeated potholes or localised drainage issues.

Since the scheme was introduced over 120 repair areas have been carried out throughout the county.



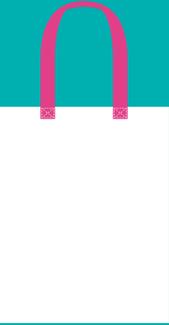
TO REPORT A POTHOLE
Go to the council website at www.northumberland.gov.uk

TOP TIPS TO REDUCE PLASTIC

We've all seen the headlines about the millions of tons of debris floating around in our oceans posing a serious danger to marine life - and most of it is plastic.

Over 90% of the plastic items in our daily lives are used once and then discarded.

Making just a few small changes can have a big impact on the amount of plastic we use on a day-to-day basis. *Here are some top tips:*



1 Bring your own shopping bag



2 Carry a reusable water bottle



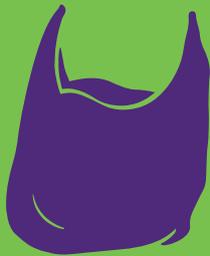
3 Bring your own cup



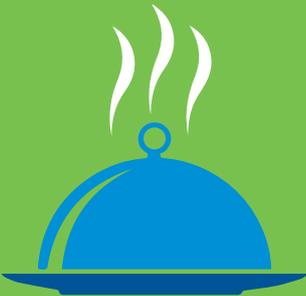
4 Pack your lunch in reusable containers



5 Say no to disposable straws and cutlery



6 Skip the plastic produce bags



7 Slow down and dine in



8 Store leftovers in glass jars



9 Share these tips with your friends

Flower power

Our neighbourhood services teams have been out in force tending to flower beds as thousands of spring bulbs begin to bring bursts of colour to our towns and villages.

We know how important our parks and green spaces are to residents and we are extremely grateful for the ongoing support and commitment of local people, friends groups, town and parish councils and volunteers who help us to keep our communities vibrant and attractive.



Award win for Love Parks campaign

An online campaign which helped to share Northumberland residents' love for their local parks has won a national award.

The Northumberland County Council social media campaign has been recognised as the best in the UK by national environmental campaign charity Keep Britain Tidy.

The Love Parks Award aims to ensure that residents and visitors use local parks and protect these important green spaces. The award was open to entries from all local authorities in England and Wales.

You can view Northumberland's colourful campaign video which features the 12 beautiful parks across the county that are managed by the council and why residents love them by logging on to <http://bit.ly/LOVEParks>



GARDEN GREEN SCHEME STARTS AGAIN



Our garden waste collection service has started up again.

If you are a gardener and haven't already done so, why not join thousands of other residents in the county and take part in our green recycling scheme which provides a convenient way to dispose of cut grass, leaves, cuttings and small branches.

We collect the garden waste fortnightly from March until November and take it away to be recycled into reusable compost and soil conditioner.

Residents who used the service last year have been sent an invitation to renew. There is an annual charge of £36 for each wheeled bin (the equivalent of £1.80 per collection) so we can cover our costs.

If you would like to sign up, please contact us to find out if the service is available in your area: gwaste.northumberland.gov.uk/register

If you don't or can't use the garden waste collection you can take your garden waste to any household waste recovery centre, free of charge, or even try home composting.

May Bank Holiday bins

Throughout the weeks commencing May 7 and May 28 all household bins will be emptied one day later.

If your bin is normally collected on a Monday, it will be collected on a Tuesday. Tuesday bins will be collected on a Wednesday and so on.

Please place your rubbish, recycling or garden waste bins out for collection by 7am one day later than your usual day of collection.



Northumberland volunteers join BIG spring clean

Dozens of Northumberland residents gave up their free time in March to clean up their local neighbourhood in support of the national Great British Spring Clean campaign.

Some events were delayed due to the bad weather but schools, community groups, businesses, town councils and enthusiastic individuals still collected hundreds of sacks of rubbish for the community clean-up.

Northumberland County Council supported many of the groups and individuals by providing litter pickers, hi-visibility vests, gloves, and rubbish bags and by picking up the refuse afterwards.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Sculpture trail in Berwick Parks

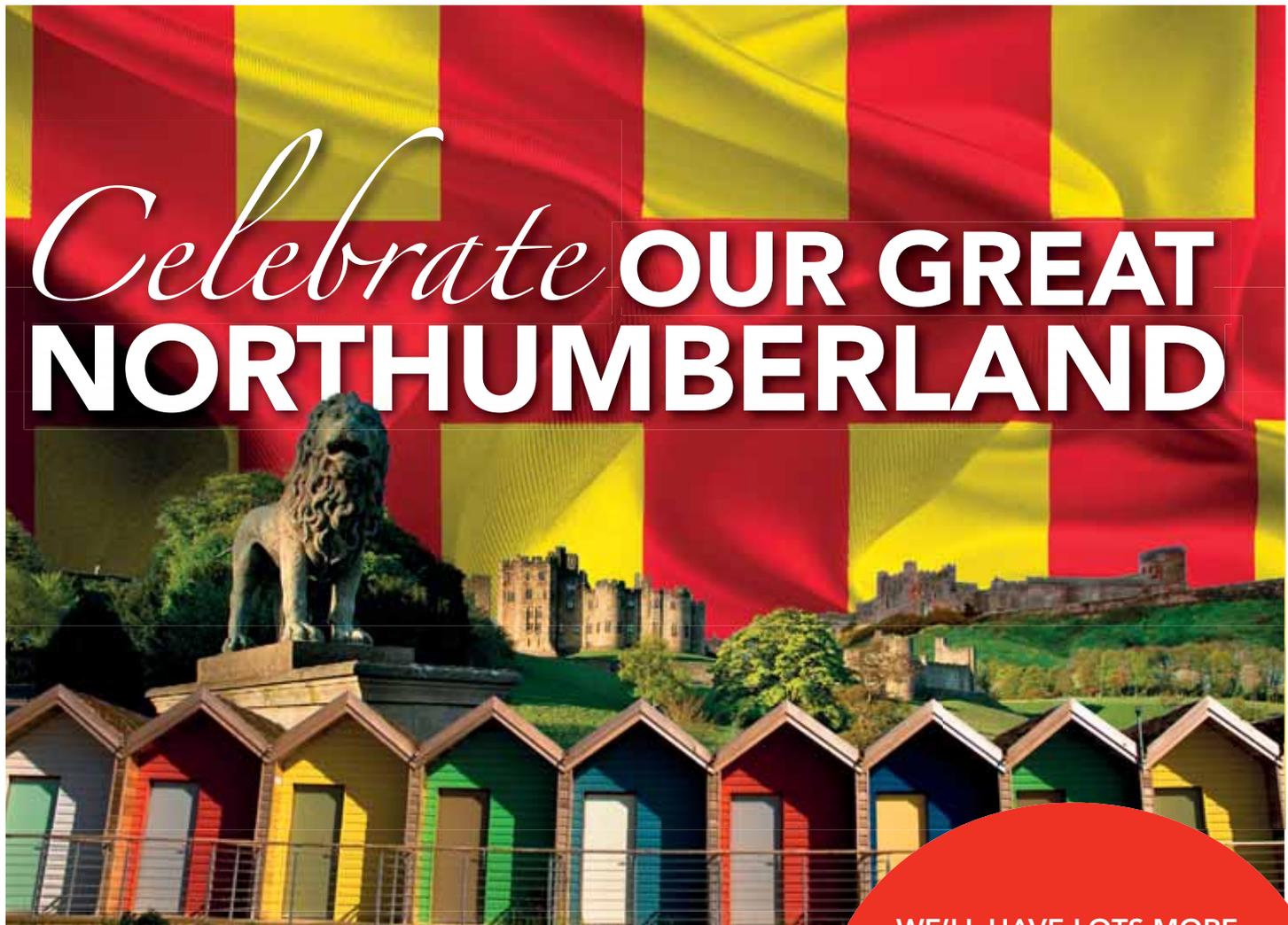
Wooden sculptures, designed by local school children and brought to life by sculptor David Gross are now in pride of place in Berwick's Castle Parks.

The sculptures include a wooden robin, a woodlouse, a bee, an ear of corn, and the iconic Berwick Bear which is depicted on the town's official crest.

The sculpture project was developed by the Friends of Castle Parks with many local partners to add new interest and entertainment for residents and visitors to the parks.

SUEZ communities Trust contributed over £10,000 to the scheme.





Celebrate OUR GREAT NORTHUMBERLAND

In a year that sees the Great Exhibition of the North put the spotlight on our region, we will be celebrating the best Northumberland has to offer.

Great Northumberland will be a summer full of exciting, family friendly events encouraging residents and visitors alike to enjoy, discover and explore Northumberland.

Over nine weekends between 7 July and 1 September, the county will come alive with exhibitions, installations, music performances and immersive experiences.

With free events at venues across the county, we're inviting you to enjoy the arts, heritage, innovation and creativity in Northumberland.

From celebratory festivals to the exploration of the galaxies at Allenheads Contemporary Arts, as well as engaging experiences at Lindisfarne Castle, international sculpture exhibitions and live music performances, there will be something for everyone.

Celebrations will kick-off with a spectacular, family friendly opening ceremony in Hexham on 7 July. This will provide an opportunity to showcase each venue and event happening across the summer. There will also be street theatre and music throughout the day.

Great Northumberland will come to a close with a finale event in Berwick on 1 September. This musical extravaganza will include the first performance of the Great Song of the North. Composers will work with the local communities to create a new song, using the musical heritage of the county as inspiration. It will be performed by local schools and choirs at the event, and celebrations will continue into the evening with a traditional tea party and Northumbrian music and dance.

WE'LL HAVE LOTS MORE TO TELL YOU ABOUT GREAT NORTHUMBERLAND SOON, SO CONTINUE TO WATCH THIS SPACE!



 VISIT [f https://www.facebook.com/GreatNLand](https://www.facebook.com/GreatNLand)
twitter.com/GreatN_Land
[instagram.com/GreatN_Land](https://www.instagram.com/GreatN_Land)

Pupils from Whytrig Community Middle School in Seaton Delaval taking part in a Bikeability course



Schools gear up for BIKEABILITY CYCLE TRAINING

We probably all remember the good old cycling proficiency lessons at school when we got to ride our bikes around the playground once school had finished. Well Bikeability, the modern equivalent, is taking place in schools across the county.

The scheme is designed to give the next generation of children the skills and confidence to ride bikes safely on today's roads. They receive professional training to improve their cycling technique, understand the dangers of the road, know what hazards to look out for, and what road markings and traffic systems mean.

This year over 2,000 children in the county will be taking part in the government funded scheme.

Community grants

Our community chest scheme offers grants of up to £5,000 to help voluntary groups, charities and young people deliver activities that benefit residents and communities.

There is also a £200 grant called 'Help For You' available to assist under 18s in pursuing a particular ambition - whether it be sporting, musical or academic.

To apply, applicants must fill out an application form. This can be done online or by downloading the form from www.northumberland.gov.uk



Community groups in North Northumberland recently received Community Chest funding

ON YOUR DOORSTEP... WILDLIFE WATCH



The puffin is one of the country's favourite birds and there are few better places to see them up close than on the Farne Islands off Seahouses.

This rare bird with its beautiful markings, strikingly coloured bill and almost comic gait returns each year to the Farnes to breed. This is generally between April and late July with the peak breeding season being in May and June. For the remainder of the year, the birds fly out to sea, overwintering on the water, only returning to land each year for a short window to breed and raise their young.

Regular boat trips head out to the Farnes to see the puffins, seals and other nesting birds.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the
Seahouses Tourist
Information Centre
on 01670 625593

INTERESTED? If you have any queries, please email iain.hedley@northumberland.gov.uk

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

New Chief Executive to lead Active Northumberland



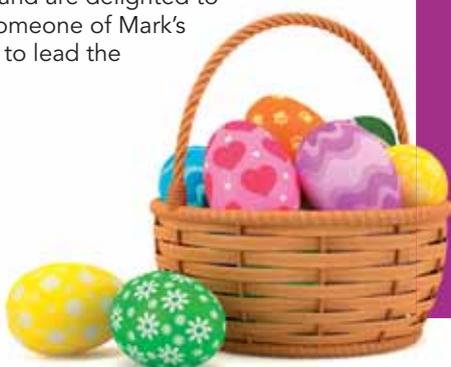
A new chief executive has been appointed to take over at the helm of Active Northumberland.

Mark Tweedie, the former chief executive of Active Tameside in Greater Manchester, has a strong and successful senior management background and a wealth of experience in the sports and leisure industry.

Northumberland County Councillor Cath Homer, cabinet member with responsibility for leisure said:

"Active Northumberland has a team of highly qualified and professional staff who are passionate and committed to providing a valued service to the public. It also has some of the best leisure facilities in the region - and now it has a new chief executive.

"We are working incredibly hard to provide excellent sport and leisure services across Northumberland that meet residents' needs and are delighted to have someone of Mark's calibre to lead the team."



With the school holidays upon us, Active Northumberland has lined up an action-packed programme of activities to keep young children entertained - and many of them are free!

Dozens of activities will be laid on over the Easter and May half term holidays including - swimming, gymnastics, archery, dance, basketball, football, cricket, clip 'n climb and tenpin bowling.

Opportunities will be available for all ages - from tots to teens and there will also be some activity camps too.

While some of the activities are 'turn up sessions', others must be booked in advance to secure your place.



To view the holiday programme in full, log on to www.activenorthumberland.org.uk or find it on the Active Northumberland app.

NEW POOL BASED FITNESS CLASSES AND LESSONS

Why not take the plunge and try one of our fun and innovative low impact exercise classes that use water resistance to improve aerobic fitness, core strength and weight loss?

The pool based classes are available at Hexham, Blyth, Ashington and Ponteland leisure centres on a rotation basis.

- Float fit - a high intensity 30 minute session that uses a float called an AquaBase board.
- Hydro pole - a core and upper body workout using a dance pole in the water.

- Aqua jog - a low impact running session.
- Hydro HIIT - a high intensity 30 minute session targeting aerobic fitness and core strength.
- Hydro fighter - a full body cardio and strength workout using fighter moves with the added resistance of water.



ARE YOU SCARED OF WATER?

- Swimming for the Terrified - introducing non swimmers into the water building on confidence, basic skills and safety.
- Flat Out and Floating - learn to float, relax and move confidently in the water.

The sessions are part of Active Northumberland's Take the Plunge initiative which is funded by Sport England. It is aimed at encouraging more people, especially adults, to use their local swimming pool and feel the benefits - both physical and social - that swimming brings.

Take the  **plunge**



FOR MORE INFORMATION visit www.activenorthumberland.org.uk/taketheplunge, speak to a member of staff at one of the participating centres, or call 01670 620200

Step up your health with weekly walks

FREE health walks are taking place across the county offering people a great opportunity to explore Northumberland's beautiful countryside, meet new people and get more exercise into their busy lives.

The walks are led by friendly volunteers, vary in length and are open to everyone.

Some of the walks are very gentle and last just 30 minutes to encourage new walkers and those with long term health conditions to feel more confident in getting started.

If you fancy giving it a go, all you have to do is turn up at one of the meeting points, wearing sensible footwear and appropriate outdoor clothing.

To view a timetable of walks in your area log on to www.activenorthumberland.org.uk/Activities.aspx and search health walks under the A-Z activity section.



FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact David on DGregory@activenorthumberland.org.uk or call 07860 504763

KEEP SAFE AND WELL WITH



If you have a concern about an adult, child or young person who lives in Northumberland, Onecall is the service to ring.

The hotline number aims to help keep vulnerable people safe and well by providing help at the earliest opportunity before the situation becomes more serious.

It brings together an experienced team from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Police and the North East Ambulance Service.

If you need medical advice and support fast, but it's not life threatening, call your GP or NHS 111. You should always call 999 in an emergency - when someone's life is at risk or someone is seriously injured or critically ill.



FOR MORE INFORMATION about Onecall visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/onecall and listen to people who've used the service.

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO QUIT

For free advice and support on stopping smoking, search **Smoketree**

BECAUSE THE BEST IS **ONE YOU**



STEP INTO SPRING AND AGE WELL

A series of Step Into Spring events are being held across Northumberland to help elderly people to stay active and connected in their communities.

The events are a great opportunity for people to get together, talk about their experiences and find out about groups and activities in their neighbourhood.

Local and voluntary organisations, housing associations and leisure and health services will all be present to offer helpful advice and support.

The drop-in events are being organised by Ageing Well Northumberland which works to promote the health and wellbeing of older people within their local communities and ensure the county is a great place in which to grow old. It is delivered in partnership between Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Northumberland County Council.

The Step Into Spring events will be held at:

- BLYTH: Wednesday, April 11 from 9am to 12 midday at Blyth Sports Centre, Bolam Park, Blyth NE24 5BT
- ALNWICK: Thursday, April 12 from 10am to 2pm at Weavers' Court, Swordy Drive, Alnwick NE66 1SZ
- PONTELAND Thursday, April 19 from 9.30am to 12 midday at Merton Hall, Merton Rd, Ponteland NE20 9PX
- PRUDHOE Friday, April 20 from 10am to 12 midday at St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Prudhoe NE42 5PE



FOR MORE INFORMATION email Kay.Yeo@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE SCHEME

to help reduce diabetes risk



An intensive lifestyle programme will target people at risk of Type 2 diabetes as part of a new drive against the disease in Northumberland.

While Type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented and is not linked to lifestyle, Type 2 is largely preventable through lifestyle changes. In the UK, around 22,000 people with Type 2 diabetes die early every year.

The Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme identifies people at high risk and offers them support to make positive changes to their lifestyle to reduce their risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Those at high risk will be contacted by their GP or practice nurse for a blood test, or referral, for free, personalised support including advice on healthy eating, weight loss and physical activity.

 **FIND OUT** your risk so that you can do something about it with support from your local Healthier You service. Visit www.diabetes.org.uk/knowyourrisk - it's free and only takes a few minutes.



The Golden Guide is out now.

The Golden Guide, a free booklet that provides practical support for the over 50s, is now available. It is packed full of helpful information and advice about leisure, health, money, care and your home.

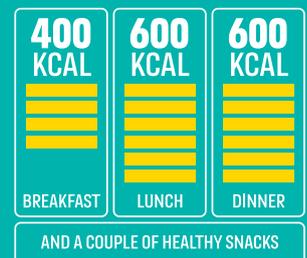
To get hold of a copy, ring the Age UK Northumberland's Advice Line on 01670 784821.



ARE CALORIES CREEPING UP ON YOU?

Aim to follow the 400-600-600 rule of thumb* and look for a tasty, healthier option today.

Search **One You** for more advice and support.



BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY **ONE YOU**

*It's all part of a healthy balanced diet of 2000 calories for women and 2500 calories for men.

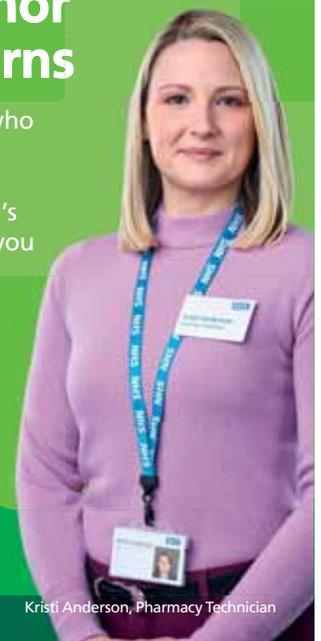


Your pharmacy team can help you with minor health concerns

We're healthcare experts who can give you clinical advice, right there and then. And if symptoms suggest it's more serious, we'll ensure you get the help you need.

We're here to help you and your family stay well.

STAYWELL



nhs.uk/staywellpharmacy

Kristi Anderson, Pharmacy Technician



Help us shape the county's future

WE WANT YOUR VIEWS

We're looking for input from residents and businesses to help us shape the new Local Plan that will set out future housing, business and community development in the county.

WHAT IS THE LOCAL PLAN?

The Local Plan provides a framework to guide and promote future development of homes and employment sites in Northumberland while supporting sustainable communities and protecting the county's unique countryside.

HOUSING - We need to improve the housing choice across Northumberland to meet the diverse needs of existing and future communities - but we want to build in the right places. This means we can ensure that vital community facilities such as schools, GP surgeries, roads and public transport links are in place to support existing and new residents.

JOBS - An important part of the Plan will be promoting economic growth. The Plan will need to ensure that land is available to support new employment opportunities and that the right jobs can be provided in the right places for local residents.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

The Local Plan will guide decisions on whether or not planning applications should be granted permission and gives us the power to refuse inappropriate development. It will also provide clarity to the community, landowners, developers and investors.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We are making this consultation different, by taking a new and interactive approach to consultation with an online survey. It includes an interactive map on which you are asked to mark where you feel the most appropriate places for housing and employment development are. To help guide you, the map will have outlined on it areas of constraint, for example green belts and areas of conservation or special interest.



You can access the Online Spatial Survey via <http://bit.ly/Localplan> or by picking up a paper copy from any library in Northumberland. **Comments are required by 5pm on 2 May 2018.**

Improvements underway at regeneration company

Plans for a revitalised regeneration company in Northumberland that will work for all the county are well underway.

That is the message from the Arch Board which is working to establish a new organisation that will solely focus on Northumberland-based regeneration, job creation, affordable housing and economic growth.

The new company will be closely aligned to the county council and operate as a commercial organisation to deliver a range of projects.

In particular the company will:

-  Help deliver affordable housing
-  Focus on regeneration including new industrial and commercial schemes that will maximise job creation and investment.
-  Work to help existing business to flourish and to attract inward investment to produce more highly skilled jobs.

Work is continuing on numerous projects across the county, including the redevelopment of Bedlington and Ashington town centres and the Coquet Enterprise Park in Amble.

Chair of the Board,
Richard Wearmouth said:

“ We want residents to know the council and the team at the regeneration company are determined to establish an organisation that works for the interests of all Northumberland and that the work to achieve this is now well advanced.



Artist impression: Bedlington regeneration scheme



Artist impression: Amble hotel development

Working to balance budget and banish Post-16 bus charges



Northumberland County Council has agreed a budget to save £65m over the next four years while making ambitious plans for the future.

Councillors approved efficiencies of £8.2m for the coming year, £21.1m in 2019-20, and rising to £65.1m over the term of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018-2022.

The next three years will be more challenging than ever, and councillors warned it may have an impact on the way it delivers services.

To protect vital services and significant demand in services, the council has reluctantly decided to a Council Tax rise of 2.99%. While this rise is in line with inflation, it equates to 85 pence per household per week for a Band D property.

Council Leader Peter Jackson said:

“We’re still very ambitious for our future, and for the future of the people of Northumberland, and our capital programme of £588m is the biggest ever delivered in the county.

“Over the coming years we pledge to continue investing in Northumberland’s future and making sure we get a fair deal for the whole county - one that works for everyone.”

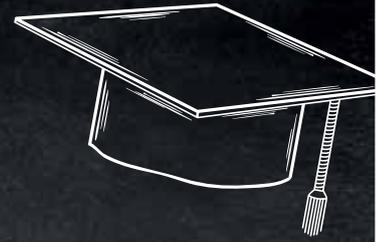
Meanwhile the council’s plans to reintroduce free post-16 transport for students have moved a step nearer.

Public consultation has taken place on removing the charges before new arrangements can be introduced, ready for the start of the new school year in September.

The Council is committed to abolishing the charge for students meeting the eligibility criteria, with a one-off £50 fee being introduced to help cover costs.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

on apprenticeship scheme



Do you want to earn while you learn? If so Northumberland County Council's apprenticeship scheme may be for you.

The council is currently recruiting 220 new apprentices to take up positions across a wide range of local services including construction, customer services, leisure, adult social care, IT and horticulture.

The apprenticeship programme is open to anyone from entry to degree level and provides the opportunity to develop skills and experience while working towards achieving nationally recognised qualifications. Apprenticeships aren't just for young people - they also suit adults who may be out of work or looking for a career change.

Over the last five years, the local authority has taken on more than 1,000 apprentices.

“ Through my apprenticeship I'm training for my National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and am really loving it. The training includes swimming, timed swims and first aid. I am also learning lots of other skills at the leisure centre too. ”



Chloe, 17 is an apprentice at Concordia Leisure Centre in Cramlington.

“ My apprenticeship is very hands on, I get to do all sorts of things, I'm kept busy and learn loads. If someone else was thinking of choosing an apprenticeship I would tell them to go for it. ”



Aaron, 17 is an apprentice in Horticulture



INTERESTED? Register your details at www.northumberland.gov.uk/apprenticeships or email: apprenticeships@northumberland.gov.uk

Be someone special

Become a retained firefighter

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is recruiting retained firefighters right across the county. Could you be one of them?

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Retained firefighters are men and women who combine their day jobs or duties while being 'on call' for the fire service, ready to respond to emergencies when they are needed.

A retained firefighter provides the same level of emergency service as their full time colleagues, but on a part-time basis.

They attend fire and road traffic accidents and a range of other emergencies and also play an important role in community engagement activities.



WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

You will...

- 🔥 work shift patterns with the flexibility to maintain your primary employment
- 🔥 develop new skills such as first aid, LGV driving and fire safety awareness
- 🔥 develop confidence and skills in team working, management and leadership
- 🔥 get paid
- 🔥 get trained
- 🔥 be performing an essential service for your community



PAY

Retained firefighters receive an annual retaining fee as well as additional payments for any training, incidents or community safety events they attend.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Men and women over the age of 18, living or working within five minutes of a local fire station.

WHERE IS MY LOCAL FIRE STATION?

Fire stations are located at: Allendale, Alnwick, Amble, Belford, Bellingham, Berwick, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Pegswood, Ponteland, Prudhoe, Rothbury, Seahouses, West Hartford and Wooler.

WHAT NEXT?

If you are interested you will need to complete an entry form, which you can find online at www.northumberland.gov.uk/Fire/Recruitment



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Telephone: 01670 621123 for an informal chat or email: fire.recruitment@northumberland.gov.uk

Supporting local business

NORTHUMBERLAND TRADE NETWORKING EVENT

A major trade event, aimed at boosting the sale of locally made goods across the county and beyond was held in Hexham last month.

The 'Meet the Maker, Meet the Buyer' event was organised by the council as part of its drive to support local businesses.

The event brought together some fantastic local food and drink producers, artists and crafts people with regional buyers and opened up new networking and business opportunities for them.

Hayley Harmison of the Northumberland Tartan Company said:

“Meet the Maker provided a fantastic opportunity to meet and talk with other small businesses, to build good trading relationships and support each other.”



Martin Homer from Mocha Mondo Coffee in Amble said:

“The event was a great opportunity to meet new and existing local traders, to network and share business ideas and experiences.”



PRODUCED IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland is proud to be home to a variety of fantastic local businesses that manufacture and sell a range of high quality foods that are produced within the county.



Catrina Grieves, Kitty's Ginger Wine said:

“The *Produced in Northumberland* scheme has helped my business to grow to a level which has enabled me to concentrate full time on Kitty's and leave my other employment.”



Produced in Northumberland is a Northumberland County Council scheme that promotes local businesses that make, sell or serve foods produced within the county. The scheme guides residents, visitors and holidaymakers towards authentic Northumberland delicacies to experience and take home.

With the ever-growing popularity of food tourism, and the increased importance of food provenance to the consumer, the scheme provides customers with the confidence that the origin of the food is directly from Northumberland.

The Produced in Northumberland Scheme is operated and verified by officers of the council's public health protection unit. These officers ensure through detailed audits that the food is Produced in Northumberland.

FOR A FULL LIST of businesses who are members of *Produced in Northumberland* and to sign up for the scheme, visit: www.producedinnorthumberland.co.uk



Picture credit: Morpeth News TV

BOOSTING THE *Wedding economy*

The Northumberland wedding industry is big business bringing up to £30m into the county each year. It is an industry the council is working to nurture and develop to help support the many local businesses and jobs that benefit from it.

The Northumberland registration service recently organised special wedding fairs in Hexham, Alnwick and Morpeth to encourage more couples to book their weddings in Northumberland and to support local businesses involved in the industry.

Dozens of local businesses including jewellers, outfitters, florists, photographers, beauticians, car hire companies and cake makers turned up to showcase their wares to potential brides and grooms.

Hundreds of couples attended the events which provided the perfect opportunity for them to meet so many local wedding suppliers all in one day.



Northumberland Registrars



Picture credit: Morpeth News TV

Linda Muir from Jinny and Bonmar, suppliers of wedding stationery and keepsakes said:

“ It was a really lovely venue and I’ve already had a few local people ring me that I met at the fair. ”

Picture credit: Morpeth News TV



Sandy Young from the Cake Garden said:

“ The event was well organised and despite the weather was well attended. It was great to see so many happy couples and make some business leads. ”

Grant helps community bank to help you

Northumberland County Council has given a grant of £50,000 to the Northumberland Community Bank, a local financial cooperative that offers secure savings and affordable loans to anyone living or working in Northumberland.

The community bank is a local, ethical alternative to high street banks and the council's grant will help it to build up greater reserves which it can draw on to assist and support more local people in need.

The bank offers small loans with structured, affordable repayment plans tailored to individuals needs. The loans can be taken out by anyone, but are particularly helpful in assisting local micro businesses to grow and preventing people under financial pressure from overloading credit cards or turning to high-interest loan sharks.

The bank also offers savings schemes for children, adults and organisations which are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme so your money is always safe.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Contact 01670 522779
 Email: enquiries@northumberlandcommunitybank.co.uk
 Website: www.northumberlandcommunitybank.co.uk

FIREFIGHTERS TO THE RESCUE

Two Northumberland firefighters found themselves saving a life outside the county as they made their way to a training course.

Firefighters Paul Cameron and Tom Oliver were on their way to an Initial Boat Operators Course on the River Tyne when they came across a crashed car. They performed CPR on the driver, who it's believed had suffered a cardiac arrest, until paramedics arrived. Their quick thinking and professionalism helped save the driver's life.



NEWS *in Brief*



WEDDING BOOM

It's looking like another record year for weddings in Northumberland which is great news for local businesses. Our registrars have already taken 2,030 civil ceremony bookings for this year - an increase of 272 on last year.

REPORT AN EMPTY HOME NEAR YOU

Do you live near, or own a long-term empty property? The council would like to help get it on the rental market and find new tenants. Assistance and various incentive schemes are available. For information call 01670 622299 or email privatesectorhousing@northumberland.gov.uk

BERWICK BUS SERVICE

A new evening bus service is up and running in Berwick after the county council responded to local concerns about the route being scrapped. The route between the town centre and Highcliffe and Spittal will run for a four-month trial period, with hopes it will continue long-term.



COUNTRY PARKS IMPROVEMENTS

Ambitious plans to improve three of Northumberland's favourite country parks have been approved.

Druridge Bay, Plessey Woods and Bolam Lake Country Parks attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year from both the county and further afield and are havens for a variety of wildlife.

The council has now agreed to invest almost £1m to significantly improve the three parks with a range of new facilities.

DEVO DEAL SET FOR SUMMER

A devolution deal for the North of Tyne could be just months away after strong support from the region to move forward.

The Cabinets of Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside have submitted a detailed report on public feedback to Secretary of State Sajid Javid and all being well he will put orders in place to set up a new North of Tyne Combined Authority by summer 2018.



ALNWICK PLAYHOUSE

The financial future of Alnwick Playhouse has been secured for both residents and visitors.

The council will grant a new 50 year lease to the Playhouse Trust to enable them to continue to operate the theatre, studio, bar and an expanded cafe facility.

Meanwhile the council will use the remaining part of the ground floor to provide a library, tourist information and customer service facilities. Work on the £2.5m project will start in the summer and is due for completion in May 2019.

LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Our five new Local Area Councils are proving a big hit by empowering local communities to have an active role and greater say in decisions that affect their neighbourhoods, especially around planning and transport.

QUEEN'S HALL A HUB FOR COUNCIL SERVICES

A £500,000 scheme to refurbish the library area in Hexham's historic Queen's Hall is complete.

The space has been renovated to create a fantastic new facility providing a modern and accessible integrated library, customer services and visitor information centre - all under one roof.

April

Alnwick Spring Festival

Spring flowers, food and floral art exhibits including children's entries. Plants for sale. Trade stands. Refreshments available. Willowburn Leisure Centre, Alnwick
www.alnwicksspringshow.uk
Sat 14 April - 11am-5pm

Captain Raggy Beard's Pirate School

Swashbuckling family fun for the school holidays. Enjoy Captain's tales of the high seas and learn fun pirate skills. Pirate themed fancy dress encouraged. Woodhorn Museum. Kids go free and adults pay just once for 12 months unlimited returns.
www.experiencewoodhorn.com
01670 624455
April 1- 15

Kayaking and Canoeing at Cragside

Take part in some serious lakeside fun, whether you fancy getting adventurous on a Kayak, or peacefully paddling a canoe with your family around Tumbleton Lake, we have something for everyone.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside
Dates throughout April



Northumbrian Ranters

Music Partnership North. The Northumbrian Ranters are a traditional music group featuring the best young talent from Northumberland Schools. Guests are The Duchess's and KEVI ceilidh bands in a night of fabulous traditional music. From £7
www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk
01665 510785
Saturday 28 April, 7.30pm

X marks the spot

Pirates have taken over Woodhorn and they've left their treasure. Can you find all the "X" marks the spots around the site to answer your questions and to receive your very own treasure. Kids go free and adults pay just once for 12 months unlimited return visits. Free parking.
www.experiencewoodhorn.com
01670 624455
Weekends and school holidays.

May

Berwick Riding of the Bounds

The traditional ride-out of the boundaries of Berwick to keep them known to the Scottish and English. The event regularly attracts a cavalcade of 100 riders. Riders assemble in Parade Car Park, proceed to the Barracks and then the Guild Hall, leaving the town via Church Street at 10.45am
Saturday 5 May

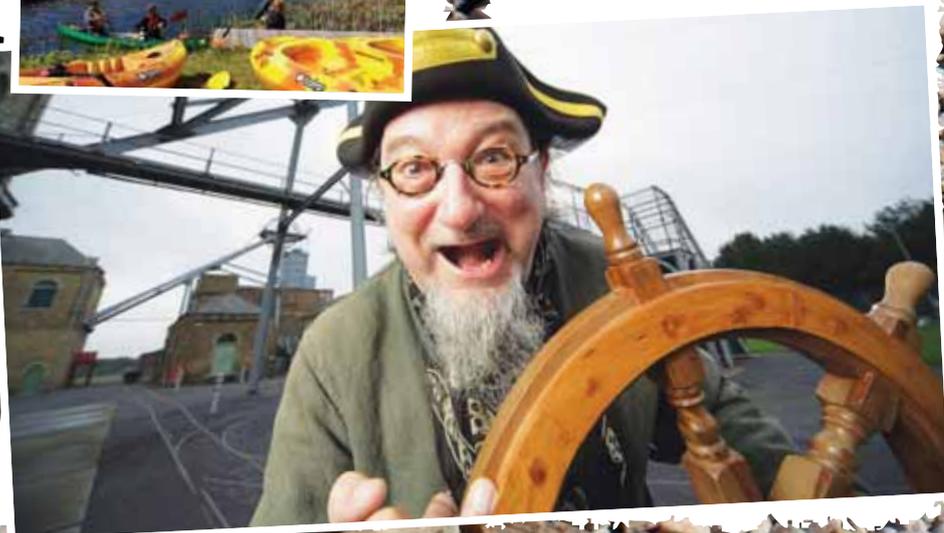
Ten Food Commandments

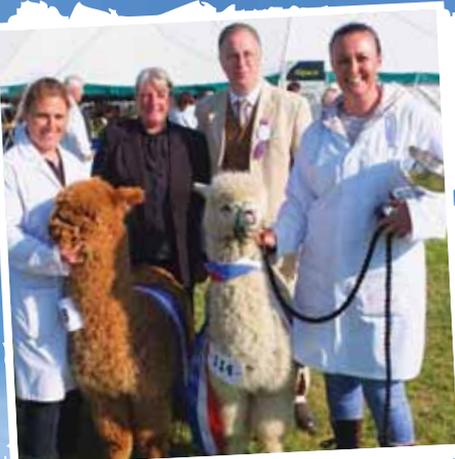
Join Masterchef judge and award-winning restaurant critic Jay Rayner for an audio-visual romp through his Ten Food Commandments. Fast-paced and fun. Berwick Maltings, £19.50
www.maltingsberwick.co.uk
Tel: 01289 330999
Saturday 5 May



Countryside talk at Kirkley Hall

A farmer, custodian of the countryside and carer of injured birds, Peter Middleton will talk about his conservation and countryside work bringing along a barn owl and a very talkative raven. Organised by Friends of Kirkley Hall. £5 non members - £4 members. All welcome. Pay on the door. For further information email friendsofkirkleyhall@yahoo.com
Wednesday 9 May at 7pm





Countryside Festival

A variety of stalls selling local crafts, food and drink. A whole host of activities to get involved in as well as a show arena displaying fantastic countryside events. Teaching staff will also be available to offer careers advice regarding courses at Kirkley Hall.

www.kirkleyhall.co.uk/events

Price: £5, Under 12s - FREE

Sunday 13 May, 10 am - 4pm

Northumberland County Show

Plan an amazing day at the show - animals galore, fun for all the family, crafts, produce and great shopping.

Bywell Hall, Nr Stocksfield, NE43 7AB.

www.northcountyshow.co.uk

Monday 28, 9am - 6pm

June

A talk by The Moorland Spirit Company

Learn about the production of the local award winning Hepple Gin and the company's ambitious juniper restoration project. Organised by Friends of Kirkley Hall.

£5 non members - £4 members. Kirkley Hall.

Pay on the door.

For further information email friendsofkirkleyhall@yahoo.com

Wednesday 13 June at 7pm

Northumberland Day

This day was created to generate pride in everything Northumbrian, past and present, from culture, heritage and arts and crafts, to food and drink, landscape and sporting and community life. There will be a variety of events taking place around the county.

www.northumberlandday.net

Sunday 27 May

Northumberland PRIDE at Alnwick

The inaugural Northumberland Pride will feature music, local stalls and the LGBT services they offer, a health & wellbeing zone, and family zone.

Alnwick Rugby Club, Greensfield Ave, Alnwick, NE66 1BE

www.facebook.com/NorthumberlandPride

June 2, 12 noon to 7pm

Belsay Horse Trials

Enjoy the thrill of the sport of Eventing set against the beautiful backdrop of Belsay Castle. Watch over 500 riders competing in the dressage, show jumping and cross country. Dogs must be on a lead.

www.belsayhorsetrials.co.uk

01661 881 206

Saturday 2 - Sunday 3 June, 8am to 6pm

An Evening with Pam Ayres

Pam Ayres has been making the nation laugh for over 40 years. Funny and warm, her charming understated manner belies a rare comic precision.

Tickets from £21.50

www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

01665 510785

Sat 2 June, 7:30pm.

Newbiggin Maritime Centre

Newbiggin Maritime Centre will be taking part in the Great Exhibition of the North, showcasing local art throughout the summer.

Church Point, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6DB

From Friday 22 June

Northumberland Live - Blyth

Free family festival with a wide range of live music 11am - 10pm. Also street theatre, fun fairs and food.

Blyth Beach, NE24 3PL

www.blythtowncouncil.org.uk

facebook.com/NorthumberlandLiveFestival

NorthumberlandLiveFestival

Saturday 23 June





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