

Summer 2017

# Northumberland NEWS



## Tour of Britain

**ROUTES AND RACE TIMES** *How you can get involved*

## What's on?

Events and Activities

**COULD YOU BE A GREEN DOG WALKER?**

**NORTHUMBERLAND**

Northumberland County Council

# Help your local NHS to help you

NHS services remain very busy and Northumbria Healthcare is urging people in Northumberland to use services wisely.

**Please keep The Northumbria hospital free for serious or life threatening emergencies:**

Suspected stroke



Loss of consciousness



Persistent and severe chest pain



Sudden shortness of breath



Severe abdominal pain



Severe blood loss



**If it's urgent:** use your local urgent care centre at Wansbeck, Hexham or North Tyneside general hospital if you have an urgent problem but it's not life threatening (open every day from 8am until midnight).

Minor head, ear or eye problems



Broken nose or nose bleed



Sprains, strains, cuts and bites



Children's minor injuries and ailments



Minor fractures or broken bones



Abscesses and wound infections



Call NHS 111 if you need medical advice fast, but it's not life threatening or you're not sure where to go. A 111 advisor will assess you and direct you to the best-placed service in your area. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



The NHS  
non-emergency  
number

# TOUR OF BRITAIN RETURNS



**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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*Front cover:*

Local children are preparing to welcome the Tour of Britain to Rothbury



# County gearing up for Tour of Britain return

The Tour of Britain, the UK's biggest and most prestigious cycle race is set to return to Northumberland in just a few weeks.

The race will start in Kielder Water & Forest Park and finish in Blyth, passing through the Northumberland National Park and scores of rural and urban communities along the route.

Northumberland County Council has worked closely with race organisers Sweetspot, Active Northumberland, start sponsors Northumbrian Water and finish sponsors Blyth Town Council to bring the race back to Northumberland.

Leader of Northumberland County Council, Peter Jackson said: "The race will showcase

our communities, heritage and iconic landmarks to an international audience and is set to bring a multi-million pound boost to the local economy.

"We look forward to welcoming some of the world's best cyclists to our county and I hope local residents will line the route and cheer all the competitors on. The day promises to be a wonderful sporting spectacle for the county."

The county is hosting day two of the prestigious Ovo Energy Tour of Britain cycle race on Monday September 4, including an exciting start and finish.



## Where to watch the Tour of Britain

### Monday 4 September

The race will pass numerous iconic Northumberland landmarks including the spectacular Kielder Dam, three historic castles, the stunning Northumberland coastline and the colourful Blyth Beach Huts so there will be some fantastic vantage points from which to watch the cyclists.

Tour of Britain flags and signs will mark the race route. Full Northumberland route details can be found at [www.nlandtob.com](http://www.nlandtob.com)



Did you know... The race will go through 28 communities in Northumberland over the day

Did you know...  
In 2015 the  
Tour boosted  
Northumberland's  
economy by  
£2.1 million

## Hills and Sprints

The Northumberland stage of the race will incorporate three intermediate Eisberg Sprint sections and three SKODA King of the Mountain hill climbs which are expected to prove particularly popular with spectators.

**Sprints:** There will be sprints at Seahouses, Warkworth and Seaton Sluice offering spectators the chance to see riders sprinting for points and bonus seconds.

**King of the Mountains:** Riders will tackle three King of the Mountains climbs. The first above Elsdon, the second and third between Rothbury and Alnwick, gathering points for the best climber's jersey.

Did you know...  
The Tour will  
be broadcast in over  
120 countries, including live  
coverage on ITV4, and will  
raise the profile of the  
county to an international  
audience

## Website

The website [www.nlandtob.com](http://www.nlandtob.com) contains lots of information for residents and visitors including:

- 🔗 Full route details
- 🔗 Race timings
- 🔗 Information on road closures and parking restrictions
- 🔗 Information on how residents and businesses can get involved.

## Road Closures

The Tour of Britain is a major international event and some fixed and rolling road closures are required to ensure the safety of spectators and competitors.

In some areas parking restrictions will apply and in these instances, residents and businesses affected will receive a letter explaining the arrangements.

To find out if you will be affected and need to allow more time or take a different route when travelling on September 4, please visit [www.nlandtob.com](http://www.nlandtob.com) for full details about the road closures.



ROAD  
AHEAD  
CLOSED

# Approximate race arrival times

Rolling road closures will be in place up to an hour in advance - please arrive in plenty of time to your chosen viewing spot



TOUR OF BRITAIN



# How you can get involved

In 2015 The Tour of Britain swept through the county creating a wave of excitement as some of the world's top cyclists, including Sir Bradley Wiggins, sped through our communities.

Residents and businesses dressed the route in the distinctive red and yellow colours of the Northumberland flag and thousands of spectators lined the route to cheer on the cyclists and give them a fantastic welcome. We hope this year local communities will be just as involved.



## Decorate the route

**Paint bikes:** If you have an old bicycle that you no longer need, why not decorate it in the red and yellow Northumberland colours. We'd love to see lots of colourful bikes along the route.

**Hang out bunting**

**Paint your face or make a flag**

**Cheer the riders on:** Support the race by turning up to cheer on the riders and give them plenty of encouragement.

Did you know...  
Northumberland's  
211km stage is  
the longest in this  
year's race



## Community Events

# START

### RACE START:

Kielder Water and Forest Park 10.15am

To watch the start of the race, park at Leapshill from 8am (but before the road closes at 9:15am) and jump on the free shuttle bus to the dam to see the riders prepare to set off at 10:15am.



### RACE FINISH:

Blyth 3.30pm

Activities will be taking place in Blyth Market Square from 10am. There will be live music, stalls, a carnival parade and the popular Street Velodrome will be in action - so don't forget to bring your bike along! Local school children will be competing in Italian time trials on the finishing straight.

The presentations to the pro-riders will take place in the Market Square after the race.

### ALNWICK

From 10am there will be series of attractions in Bondgate Within including The 3SIXTY stunt riding team, spinning bike taster sessions, the Squeezy Rider and a balance bike course.



### MORPETH

From 11am there will be a family fun day in Carlisle Park and the Market Place. 3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team will put on a BMX display at the skate park in Carlisle Park and will help anyone wanting to have a go using their own bike. Other activities include archery, a cycle slalom, games and puzzles with prizes and bowling and tennis taster sessions. There will also be music and a climbing wall in the Market Place.

# Green Dog Walkers

## unleashed around the county



Over 200 dog walkers have signed up to a new initiative, launched in Northumberland to reduce dog fouling and promote responsible dog ownership.

The Green Dog Walkers scheme is intended to be a friendly and non-confrontational approach to changing attitudes to the problem of dog fouling.

Dog walkers are now being encouraged to join the scheme by signing the Green Dog Walker pledge.

**By signing the pledge you agree to:**

- 🐾 Clean up after your dog and dispose of the bag in a bin.
- 🐾 When others walk your dog, encourage them to clean up after it.
- 🐾 Wear the green armband as often as possible when walking your dog(s).
- 🐾 Distribute doggie bags to other dog walkers if requested.
- 🐾 Understand that this is a friendly and non-confrontational campaign to change attitudes about dog fouling.

**Those that sign up will be sent:**

- 🐾 a green dog walkers armband to wear when walking their dog
- 🐾 green doggie bags
- 🐾 pledge leaflets to help publicise the scheme.



**Taking your dog to the coast?**



**Always** clean up after your dog - bag it and bin it

**Breeding birds** - The dunes and surrounding grasslands are important areas for ground-nesting birds. Please keep your dog on a lead during the nesting season.

**Farm Animals** - Often graze in the dune grasslands. When you come across livestock, please put your dog on a lead.

**Roosting and feeding birds** - Please don't allow your dog to run at flocks of birds on the shore.

**Stranded seals** - Don't let your dog near to a stranded seal pup and do not try and handle it yourself. If it looks healthy, it is best to leave it for the tide. If it appears sick, or injured contact the RSPCA on **0300 12234 999**

**How you can sign up**

If you are interested in becoming a Green Dog Walker, please email [greenogwalkers@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:greenogwalkers@northumberland.gov.uk). Green Dog Walking will complement other existing council approaches being delivered across the county including the issuing of fines and educational initiatives to promote responsible dog ownership.

@ For further information about the scheme you can visit the council's website [www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers)



# Community Chest Scheme relaunched

Since 2009  
1,450 community chest  
awards, totalling £2.6 million  
have been made to develop  
projects that strengthen  
local communities

The deadline  
for the first round  
of applications is  
**Friday 29  
September**

**A much valued community funding scheme has been improved and relaunched by Northumberland County Council.**

One of the key improvements to the authority's Community Chest Fund is a new grant aimed specifically at the under 18s.

Under the new plans there will be a 'Help For You' scheme for young people. Grants of up to £200 will be available to help individuals under 18 in pursuing a particular ambition - whether it is sporting, musical or academic.

Both the local and countywide elements of the community chest are being retained and the authority is committing £375,300 this year to the fund.

## What's New:

- A Help For You scheme for young people
- Community chest budgets will be managed and allocated by local area councils
- The budget for each area council will be based on the population living in that area.
- Local area councils can identify funding themes relevant to their communities.
- The countywide element of the pot has been doubled to £60,000. There will be no upper grant limit, but the maximum grant award will be 75% of the project's costs.
- For local schemes, there will be a £5,000 upper grant limit with a maximum award of 75% of the cost of any proposal.
- There will be 2 funding rounds each year.



@ **How to apply** Go to [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk) and type in Community Chest into the search function

# Sill opens its doors *to the public*



**A £15m state-of-the-art visitor centre and youth hostel in the heart of Northumberland has opened its doors to the public.**

The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre and youth hostel at Once Brewed on Hadrian's Wall opened at the end of July and the County Council provided a grant of £500,000 to support the delivery of the project.

The building boasts a 90-seater café, 86 bed Youth Hostel, gift shop, fixed and temporary exhibitions, a rural business hub, learning and event spaces, a national park information point and a fully accessible Whin Sill grassland roof, the only one of its kind in the world.

Visitors can take in the iconic views of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall from the building's fully accessible living grassland roof walk or take a guided stroll to view Peel Crag, a fantastic opportunity to get into the landscape for even the most inexperienced countryside visitor.

Spearheaded by Northumberland National Park Authority with support from partners and funders including the county council, the YHA (England & Wales), and a £7.8 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), The Sill is a unique visitor attraction for the region.

Not only is it a tourist and visitor destination, the all-weather facility provides an important learning and research site for landscape, conservation, countryside management, leisure and tourism skills development.

It will help more people explore the landscape of the National Park and has a target of at least 100,000 visitors annually.

**The all-weather facility provides an important learning and research site for landscape, conservation, countryside management, leisure and tourism skills development**



Chairman of Northumberland National Park Authority and County Councillor Glen Sanderson, said:

**“ We want the Park to be a sustainable, cultural and economic asset that benefits the region for many years to come.**

**“The Sill is providing a superb platform to attract even more visitors to the county annually. As well as enabling local enterprise to thrive, it will help to support employment and job creation through the delivery of 30,000 activity days and events throughout the Park.**

**“The project and its legacy also highlights the important role of the rural economy and sustainable tourism in inspiring future generations to celebrate, enjoy and conserve our wild places for the benefit of everyone and to ensure the communities within them continue to thrive.”**

# Super fast broadband investment

Work has started to ensure a further 3,200 homes and businesses in the county will get access to superfast broadband thanks to an extra multi million pound investment in the programme.



A further £6.4 million is being invested in the programme which includes a £1 million contribution from Northumberland County Council, a £4.4 million reinvestment from BT and £1m from the Government's Broadband Delivery UK Programme.

Locations expected to be included in the extended roll-out include Trillington, Saltwick, Chillingham, Wooperton, Spartylea, Stonehaugh, Akeld, Twizell and Sharperton. To check if your property is part of the plans visit [www.inorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk) and enter your postcode.

Superfast broadband means everyone in the family can do their own thing online, at the same time whether it is downloading music, watching catch-up TV or social networking.

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

More than 152,000 homes and businesses in the county can now access fibre broadband taking Northumberland closer to its target of having 95% of properties able to access superfast broadband by the end of the year.

Residents and businesses should contact their internet service provider and enquire about an upgrade to superfast broadband – as customers do not automatically get faster broadband once fibre broadband is available in an area.



## Walk your way to health with Active 10

Did you know that walking briskly for just 10 continuous minutes counts as exercise?

It's easier than you think to fit into your day.

With a focus on adults, Active 10 encourages adults to regularly do 10 minutes of brisk walking (known as Active 10's) throughout the day.

To help track the amount of Active 10's you are doing each day you can download the app by searching 'Active 10'. The app will help to track your activity level, allow you to set your own goals and encourage you to progress up to 30 minutes of brisk walking per day, to meet the national recommendation.



BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY **ONE YOU**

@ You can find further information on the website [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10)

NHS



Dr Ian Watson

Coughing for 3 weeks?

Get out of breath easily?

Do you have either of these symptoms? Tell your doctor

BE CLEAR ON CANCER

## 10 minute summer shake up

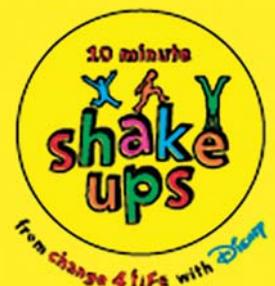
A fantastic, fun initiative is taking place over the summer to encourage children and families to get active.

The Change4Life 10 Minute Shake Up campaign uses a bit of Disney magic to inspire children to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day with fun, manageable, 10 minute bursts of exercise.

Working with some of Disney's most popular characters, the campaign focuses on activities such as running, jumping, skipping, throwing, catching and balance.

# let the fun begin!

Get kids moving with Change4Life #10MinuteShakeUps



@ For local activities & further information visit [www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up](http://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up)



# Discounted prices at Tranquillity Spa

**Active Northumberland membership holders are now entitled to unlimited access to one of the most luxurious spa facilities in the county, for just an extra £3.75 a week.**

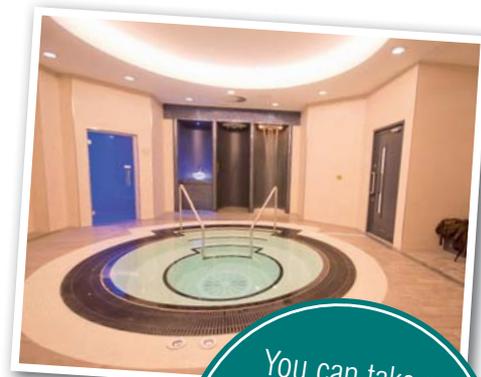
The reintroduction of a 'bolt on' membership of £15 per person, per month gives entry into the beautiful Tranquillity Spa which is based in the new Ashington Leisure Centre.

The thermal spa is a fantastic, modern and fully equipped facility which offers a unique journey in relaxation and revitalisation. It is open seven days a week and boasts a sauna, steam room, jacuzzi, aromatherapy room, monsoon showers, heated benches, foot spas and an ice feature.

The additional 'bolt-on' membership also permits entry into the spa at Concordia Leisure Centre in Cramlington.

In addition to the thermal spa facilities, there are three fabulous treatment rooms, a dedicated tanning room, manicure and pedicure bays with a team of great therapists.

**Members get a 10% discount on these treatments.**



You can take a virtual tour of the spa by following the link <http://bit.ly/Spaday>

Non-members can use the spa facilities at both Ashington and Cramlington Leisure Centres on a £10 pay as you go basis



You can purchase a spa bolt on to your membership, via the Active Northumberland app, through [www.activenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.activenorthumberland.org.uk), visiting your local Active Northumberland leisure centre, or by ringing **01670 542222**

@ For further information about the spa and the treatments on offer log on to [www.tranquillityspa.co.uk](http://www.tranquillityspa.co.uk)

## Cycle loan scheme for adults

**Would you like to cycle more but don't have a bike? If you live or work in Northumberland and you are over 18, you can borrow one of our quality bikes for a month for £25.**

The adult cycle loan scheme is a great initiative and with the school holidays underway, it is the perfect way to get back on a bike and enjoy Northumberland.

At the end of the month, you will be eligible to a discount if you wish to purchase the bike which you can pay back over spread payments.



Alternatively, you can purchase a refurbished bike through our partner agency Watbike.

The cycles can be loaned from Prudhoe Waterworld, Blyth Sports Centre or Concordia in Cramlington. Watbike in Ashington also hire out bicycles for £25 for 10 days. Tel 01670 522111.

@ To find out more log on to [www.activenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.activenorthumberland.org.uk) or call 01670 542222. You will need proof of your address and photo ID to hire a bike.

## Download Active App

**Active Northumberland has launched a FREE new app that allows you to check timetables, opening times and make and manage bookings at its leisure centres.**

It is simple to download. All you need to do is go to the app store (for Apple devices), or Google Play (for Androids), search for Active Northumberland and download the app. Find your local centre in 'My clubs' by pressing the '+' button and use the centre's name, the town or the postcode.

Staff at any Active Northumberland centre will be very happy to provide assistance if needed.



@ For more information on the app visit [www.activenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.activenorthumberland.org.uk)

**ACTIVE**  
NORTHUMBERLAND

# Northumbria launches countdown to 'smokefree' trust



Staff at Northumbria Healthcare, including Dr Afolabi second left, launch the trust's countdown to becoming 'smokefree'.

## Northumbria Healthcare has launched its countdown to becoming 'smokefree' from 31 March 2018.

To help reduce the number of people who smoke and the serious illnesses associated with smoking, the trust has pledged for its hospitals and community sites to be completely 'smokefree'.

Despite declines in smoking prevalence over recent decades, 17.2% of adults in the North East still smoke and tobacco use remains the single largest cause of health inequalities and premature death.

For every death caused by smoking, approximately 20 smokers are suffering from smoking-related disease while smoking during pregnancy is associated with negative health outcomes for mother and baby.

The region has an ambition to reduce smoking prevalence even further to 5% of the population by 2025, bringing substantial health benefits and helping to save almost £18million for the NHS in Northumberland and North Tyneside alone.

Dr Gbenga Afolabi, medical director and respiratory consultant at Northumbria, said:

"Having spent my career caring for people with the ill-effects of smoking I am extremely proud that we have taken this bold step to go 'smokefree'.

"This will mean a much safer and fresher environment for our patients, our visitors and our staff and will bring significant benefits for the health and wellbeing of everyone in our hospitals and using our services.

"We know, for example, that patients recover quicker from illness or injury, have shorter lengths of stay in hospital, need less medication and generally have fewer complications, when they do not smoke.

"Our ambition also sends a very clear message to our local communities about the need for people to take more responsibility and accountability for their own health and wellbeing.

"Over the next few months, we will be engaging with our staff, patients and visitors to identify the most effective ways of supporting them to become 'smokefree' as we work towards making every part of our organisation completely 'smokefree'."

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

# Award winners show their LOVE for Northumberland

The very best in community and voluntary environmental work across the county was celebrated at a special LOVE Northumberland awards event.

The awards shine the spotlight on the work that individuals and groups do, largely in a voluntary capacity, to keep their local areas green and clean, day in and day out, right across Northumberland.

Nineteen groups, organisations, schools and individuals were honoured with winner, runner-up or highly commended awards across eight categories.

Representatives of all shortlisted entries attended the event at The Alnwick Garden, which was hosted by local historian and TV presenter John Grundy with awards presented by The Duchess of Northumberland.



School recycling - Grace Darling Campus



5 year old Oliver Jackson was one of three individual award winners



Children's project highly commended - Morpeth All Saints



Coast or countryside runner up - Longhorsley Community Woodland



Children's project runner up - Newsham Primary School

@ For a full list of the categories and results go to [www.northumberland.gov.uk/love](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/love)



## Historic flower park scoops Lottery funding

A multi million pound cash boost from the National Lottery will ensure Ashington's historic Hirst Park is restored to its former glory.

The County Council has scooped a £2.29 million 'Parks for People' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The funding will ensure that the park is rejuvenated and landscaped, a new play area developed and greenhouses and buildings restored to provide much improved public spaces.

The National Lottery grant will be supported by contributions from the county council, the town council and Ashington Leisure Partnership, bringing the total project value to £2.7m over the next five years.

The major improvements and activities are set to begin in 2018.



### The project plans to deliver:

- ✿ A re-creation of the lost garden of Hirst, with links between the recreation ground and Flower Park opened up.
- ✿ Horticultural training - including courses to help families grow their own vegetables.
- ✿ Research activities and events to engage local people
- ✿ A play zone, including a water play feature and wildlife areas.
- ✿ A community performance and interpretation space on the former site of the Woodhorn monument, telling the mining heritage story of the area.

# Recruitment drive to boost Northumberland's future workforce



Andy Johnson, Interim Director of Children's Services, Deputy Leader Councillor Wayne Daley with young apprentices

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

The council has successfully launched a recruitment drive for 160 apprentices, making a £1.75million commitment to providing opportunities for young people in the county.

The financial investment secures the future placements across the organisation, in schools and with local employers.

The apprenticeship programme offers apprenticeships from entry to degree level and provides the opportunity to develop skills

and experience while working towards achieving nationally recognised qualifications.

After the first series of recruitment events across the county in June over 750 people registered their interest. The Apprenticeships Team are now busy matching applications to vacancies.

@ If you're interested in an Apprenticeship at Northumberland County Council please register your interest at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/apprenticeships) or call 01670 622104.



Kieran Little with Team Leader Michelle Williams

## Blindness no barrier to computer whizz Kieran

Kieran Little, a 20 year old visually impaired student, has just commenced an apprenticeship with the council working in the Information Services department.

Kieran has been blind from birth but never let that stand in his way. While gaining good GCSE's, Kieran's flair for all things IT had already become evident. He then went on to the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford where he continued to build a hugely impressive list of IT related qualifications.

What Kieran really wanted next was a job in IT. A three week work placement was set up for Kieran at the council, where he spent time with colleagues from various departments within Information Services and had the chance to try out a number of different roles using his adaptive technologies. Staff were left 'wowed' with Kieran's skills and an apprenticeship offer was made. Kieran will now work with several teams as he gains new skills and makes use of existing ones.

“ The initial work experience was a brilliant help to me in finding that there were IT jobs I could do and tasks I could complete well. The chance to now become a useful employee and grow in a busy IT environment means so much to me. ” said Kieran

# Bringing decision making closer to communities



**Northumberland County Council has introduced a new committee structure to give residents, town and parish councils a more active role and greater say in decisions that affect their local community.**

Five new local area councils have been introduced replacing the four area committees that were previously in place.

**The new councils have been divided up based on population and ward boundaries. They are:**

- **North Northumberland**
- **Ashington & Blyth**
- **Castle Morpeth**
- **Tynedale**
- **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley**

**The area councils will:**

- Ensure decisions affecting an area will be made by local councillors who know local issues
- Allow residents to have a greater say in issues that affect them and their communities
- Meet monthly to consider planning applications, road spending and petitions
- Coordinate the allocation of the Council's Community Chest grant fund
- Enable the Council to work with, and communicate more closely with town and parish councils

# Ambitious rail scheme remains on track

**The County Council's new administration has emphasised its ongoing commitment to reintroduce direct trains between south-east Northumberland and central Tyneside.**

Passenger trains could be transporting thousands of residents a day along the 20 mile route between Ashington and Newcastle city centre.

The next stage of the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Line (GRIP 3) involves assessing and selecting the most appropriate option that delivers the council's requirements and establishes the scheme can be delivered at the right cost.

Work towards starting Grip 3 is being progressed over the summer and a report prepared for councillors to discuss in the autumn.

Reintroducing passenger services to the current freight line could boost the local economy by up to £70m with more than 380,000 people using the line every year by 2034.

Commuters and shoppers could speed between Ashington and the heart of Newcastle in as little

as 38 minutes, with several new or rebuilt stations along the route linking towns to key areas of employment, training and leisure attractions as well as providing transport links across the wider region and the UK.

Council leader  
Peter Jackson said:

**"We have always supported this ambitious proposal to help secure future jobs and growth across the whole county.**

**"While there is still some way to go until passenger trains are running again, a great deal of work is happening behind the scenes which has the new administration's full support."**



# Happy couple first to be married at *Alnwick's new wedding venue*

**It was the start of a new chapter – not only for the bride and groom, but also for the building where their wedding took place.**

Simon and Heather Doherty's 'big day' was the first wedding to be held inside Alnwick's historic Northumberland Hall which has recently undergone a full internal refurbishment.

At their wedding Mrs Doherty said they were thrilled to have helped shape a little bit of local history by becoming the first couple to get married there.

Heather said: "We had a magical day. When I took my first steps down the aisle, on my father's arm, I was blown away by how gorgeous it all was. All of our family and friends thought the venue was absolutely stunning. We're so grateful to everyone we know and love for making it truly special."

The Grade 1 Listed building, built in 1826 by the third Duke of Northumberland, was recently upgraded to make it more attractive for weddings and events.

The Hall has had a full internal refurbishment in keeping with its heritage with new lighting, curtains and décor transforming the look and feel of the venue. A new catering style kitchen has also been installed which makes the preparation and service of meals much easier.

Simon said: "The beauty of the hall is that it is so versatile. There is plenty of room for seating, tables and dancing. It really lived up to our expectations. We had an absolutely fabulous day."



*"When I took my first steps down the aisle I was blown away by how gorgeous it all was."*



The Hall can be used for a wide range of community functions including affordable weddings. For further information ring the council's ceremony co-ordination team Tel: 01670 602870 or email: [alnwickreg@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:alnwickreg@northumberland.gov.uk)

# Hexham House now one of the finest register offices in North

Work on a £1.5m scheme to restore Hexham House and create a beautiful new wedding venue for the town is now in its final stages with the venue on track to be opened to the public in September.



*Hexham House is located within an award winning park with superb views of Hexham Abbey*



*Restoration work has been in-keeping with the heritage of the 18th Century house*



*There are 7 luxury self-catering apartments in the house for guests to stay including a bridal suite*



The interior of the house has undergone a major face-lift to convert it into a wedding complex, with the creation of a new register office, two wedding ceremony rooms and seven luxury self-catering holiday apartments complete with a bridal suite.

Hexham House is a Grade II listed building and is set to be one of the finest register offices in the North of England providing a great opportunity for couples who are looking for an elegant setting that is also great value for money.

Northumberland County Council will be holding a series of open evenings later in the summer so couples planning to get married can view the venue and meet and chat with members of the Northumberland Wedding Co-ordination Team.

Prices for a wedding ceremony in the House range from £345-£395 Monday - Saturday and £500 on a Sunday or a Bank Holiday.

Bookings for weddings can be made through the council's ceremony coordination team  
Tel: 01670 602870 email: [alnwickreg@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:alnwickreg@northumberland.gov.uk)

# NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## *Elected Members*

 <p><b>Eileen Armstrong</b> (CON) <b>Ponteland East &amp; Stannington</b> 07779 983276</p>	 <p><b>David Bawn</b> (CON) <b>Morpeth North</b> 07947 248220</p>	 <p><b>John Beynon</b> (CON) <b>Morpeth Stobhill</b> 07779 983699</p>	 <p><b>Steven Bridgett</b> (Independent) <b>Rothbury</b> 07769 304288</p>
 <p><b>Deirdre Campbell</b> (LAB) <b>Newsham</b> 01670 355242</p>	 <p><b>Eileen Cartie</b> (LAB) <b>Wensleydale</b> 07789 942212</p>	 <p><b>Gordon Castle</b> (CON) <b>Alnwick (2)</b> 07919 112913</p>	 <p><b>Trevor Cessford</b> (CON) <b>Hexham Central with Acomb</b> 07779 983761</p>
 <p><b>Terence Clark</b> (LAB) <b>Amble</b> 07779 983768</p>	 <p><b>Bill Crosby</b> (BED IND) <b>Bedlington East</b> 07779 983656</p>	 <p><b>Anne Dale</b> (Independent) <b>Stocksfield and Broomhaugh</b> 01434 673326</p>	 <p><b>Wayne Daley</b> (CON) <b>Cramlington North</b> 07897 446773</p>
 <p><b>Grant Davey</b> (LAB) <b>Kitty Brewster</b> 07757 566197</p>	 <p><b>Susan Davey</b> (LAB) <b>Cowpen</b> 01670 369725</p>	 <p><b>Scott Dickinson</b> (LAB) <b>Druridge Bay</b> 07825 035814</p>	 <p><b>Richard Dodd</b> (CON) <b>Ponteland North</b> 07769 304294</p>
 <p><b>Christine Dunbar</b> (CON) <b>Cramlington Eastfield</b> 07779 983663</p>	 <p><b>Susan Dungworth</b> (LAB) <b>Hartley</b> 0191 237 5531</p>	 <p><b>Liz Dunn</b> (LAB) <b>Lynemouth</b> 07779 983685</p>	 <p><b>Barry Flux</b> (CON) <b>Cramlington West</b> 07472 002538</p>
 <p><b>Julie Foster</b> (LAB) <b>Stakeford</b> 01670 825146</p>	 <p><b>Brian Gallacher</b> (LAB) <b>Haydon</b> 07769 304319</p>	 <p><b>Rupert Gibson</b> (CON) <b>Humshaugh</b> 07966 257275</p>	 <p><b>Jeff Gobin</b> (LAB) <b>Sleekburn</b> 01670 822539</p>
 <p><b>Lynne Grimshaw</b> (LAB) <b>Bothal</b> 07769 304301</p>	 <p><b>Allan Hepple</b> (LAB) <b>Cramlington South East</b> 07769 304302</p>	 <p><b>Georgina Hill</b> (Independent) <b>Berwick East</b> 07753 749755</p>	 <p><b>Cath Homer</b> (CON) <b>Hexham East</b> 07766 924639</p>
 <p><b>Colin Horncastle</b> (CON) <b>South Tynedale</b> 07976 677305</p>	 <p><b>Ian Hutchinson</b> (CON) <b>Haltwhistle</b> 07769 304303</p>	 <p><b>Peter Jackson</b> (CON) <b>Ponteland South with Heddon</b> 07769 304304</p>	 <p><b>Veronica Jones</b> (CON) <b>Ponteland West</b> 07775 015075</p>

 <b>Derek Kennedy</b> (Non Aligned) <b>Hexham West</b> 01434 607669	 <b>Jim Lang</b> (LAB) <b>Seaton with Newbiggin West</b> 07748 684665	 <b>Roderick Lawrie</b> (CON) <b>Norham and Islandshires</b> 07779 983693	 <b>Dave Ledger</b> (LAB) <b>Choppington</b> 07920 701884
 <b>Robbie Moore</b> (CON) <b>Alnwick (2)</b> 07779 983751	 <b>Anthony Murray</b> (CON) <b>Wooler</b> 01668 281062	 <b>Kath Nisbet</b> (LAB) <b>Croft</b> 07747 461251	 <b>Nick Oliver</b> (CON) <b>Corbridge</b> 07779 983742
 <b>Ken Parry</b> (LAB) <b>Hirst</b> 01670 855085	 <b>Wendy Pattison</b> (CON) <b>Longhoughton</b> 07779 983072	 <b>Bernard Pidcock</b> (LAB) <b>Holywell</b> 07769 304321	 <b>Mark Purvis</b> (LAB) <b>College</b> 07739 613256
 <b>Karen Quinn</b> (CON) <b>Bywell</b> 07779 983073	 <b>Jeff Reid</b> (LD) <b>Plessey</b> 01670 544113	 <b>Guy Renner-Thompson</b> (CON) <b>Bamburgh</b> 07779 983086	 <b>Margaret Richards</b> (LAB) <b>Seghill with Seaton Delaval</b> 07779 983214
 <b>Lesley Rickerby</b> (LD) <b>South Blyth</b> 07825 024299	 <b>John Riddle</b> (CON) <b>Bellingham</b> 07779 983506	 <b>Malcolm Robinson</b> (BED IND) <b>Bedlington West</b> 07779 983080	 <b>Gregah Roughead</b> (CON) <b>Berwick West with Ord</b> 07779 983091
 <b>Glen Sanderson</b> (CON) <b>Longhorsley</b> 07730 979737	 <b>Catherine Seymour</b> (CON) <b>Berwick North</b> 07779 983097	 <b>Alan Sharp</b> (LD) <b>Haydon and Hadrian</b> 07759 665200	 <b>Liz Simpson</b> (LAB) <b>Newbiggin Central and East</b> 07775 005465
 <b>Gordon Stewart</b> (CON) <b>Prudhoe South</b> 07779 983093	 <b>Ken Stow</b> (CON) <b>Prudhoe North</b> 07779 983098	 <b>Mark Swinburn</b> (CON) <b>Cramlington Village</b> 07506 722998	 <b>Ian Swithenbank</b> (LAB) <b>Cramlington East</b> 07785 921212
 <b>Trevor Thorne</b> (CON) <b>Shilbottle</b> 07769 304311	 <b>David Towns</b> (CON) <b>Pegswood</b> 07779 983109	 <b>Russ Wallace</b> (BED IND) <b>Bedlington Central</b> 07779 983775	 <b>Jeff Watson</b> (CON) <b>Amble West with Warkworth</b> 07802 385367
 <b>Richard Wearmouth</b> (CON) <b>Morpeth Kirkhill</b> 07779 983789	 <b>Gordon Webb</b> (LAB) <b>Isabella</b> 01670 365118	 <b>Tom Wilson</b> (LAB) <b>Ashington Central</b> 07557 354792	<b>TOTALS</b> Conservative 33 Labour 24 Liberal Democrats 3 Bedlington Independents 3 Non-Aligned/Independent 4

## August

### Coquetfest

Coquetfest is a 4 day festival of music, beach and food with attractions for the whole family. Druridge Bay Country Park.

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

Thursday 17 to

Sunday 20 August

### Northumberland Wings and Wheels Festival

Watch aircraft such as the Spitfire and Hurricane performing for the crowds. Whilst on the ground you'll find an incredible mix of super cars, classic cars, vintage machines, live music and licensed bars.

**Single ticket: £12.00**

**Eshott Airfield**

[www.nwwf.live](http://www.nwwf.live)

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 August

### Treemendous

Towering over The Alnwick Garden these trees are mobile and armed with an arsenal of tree-mendous tree related humour. Part of a Lord of the Rings inspired weekend.

**FREE with entry to the Alnwick Garden**

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

Saturday 26 to

Monday 28 August



### Seahouses

#### Annual Lifeboat Fete and Family Fun Day

Fundraising day for Seahouses RNLI, featuring a variety of stalls and amusements. The All Weather Lifeboat and Inshore Lifeboat will be launching as well as a display with the Coastguard Helicopter, service calls permitting.

**FREE Admission**

**Tel: 01665 720370**

Monday 28 August

### Luna Cinema Alnwick Castle

Watch a Harry Potter film under the stars at Alnwick Castle.

**Tickets available from**

[www.alnwickcastle.com/events](http://www.alnwickcastle.com/events)

Wednesday 30 to

Thursday 31 August



### Lindisfarne Festival 2017

Overlooking the stunning Holy Island. 7 Stages, 100+ acts, live music, workshops, camping, street performers, stalls, street food & much more!

**Weekend pass: £65.00**

**Saturday pass: £45.00**

**For more information**

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

Thursday 31 Aug to

Sunday 3 September



## September

### Wonderfolk at Woodhorn

Unearth the Wonderfolk at Woodhorn Museum. Join an exciting and interactive quest to unearth the lost world of the Wonderfolk.

**£2.00**

**10.30 - 5pm**

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

Until Sunday 3 September



### Family Astronomy

The Kielder Observatory team will whizz you and your children through the universe with stunning visuals. Following the interactive talks, enjoy a tour of the observatory and a lesson on how to use the telescopes.

**Tickets from £25**

[www.kielderobservatory.org](http://www.kielderobservatory.org)

**5pm - 6.30pm**

Saturdays throughout the summer

### Berwick Food and Beer Festival

A showcase of local food and drink with events celebrating the culture and heritage of food in the region. There's a wide-ranging programme of events throughout the Festival weekend.

**Adult: £2.00**

**Under 12's free**

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

Friday 1 to

Sunday 3 September



### Hadrian's Wall Charity Walk

This is a linear walk, taking in some of the most spectacular sections of the Wall covering a distance of 17.5m/27k, from Walltown to Chollerford. You choose the charity and get sponsorship. You'll be given support throughout the day, and transport back to the start.

**£30 per ticket**

**Tel: 0191 4133775**

Saturday 9 September

### Alnwick Food Festival

A free, fun packed two day event with family entertainment including a funfair, face painting and gorgeous alpacas. There will be chef demos, street food and local fresh produce.

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

Saturday 16 and

Sunday 17 September

### River Dipping Delights

Find out what creepy-crawlies lurk in the hidden depths of the River Breamish in the Ingram Valley. Bring wellies or old shoes to wear in the river. Aimed at families with children 12 years and under.

**10.30am - 12 noon**

**and 1pm - 2.30pm**

[www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/events](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/events)

Sunday 24 September

## October

### Active Northumberland Kielder Marathon

The Active Northumberland Kielder Marathon route follows an almost entirely off-road course around northern Europe's largest man-made lake, Kielder Water.

**10k: £25.00**

**Half marathon: £32.00**

**Marathon: £38.00**

**Junior run: (child) £8.00**

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

Saturday 7 and

Sunday 8 October

### Autumn Art

Why not try autumn art in Northumberland National Park. Go on a short walk around Walltown looking at the beautiful colours and shapes in nature at this time of year. Then have a go at making some nature inspired art of your own.

**Child: £5.00**

**Adults free**

**Tel: 01434 611505**

Friday 27 October

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council



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