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A MAGAZINE FOR NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TENANTS

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COMMUNITY WEEK OF ACTION

FRONT COVER IMAGE: Young pirate Jack Jobson takes to the helm of the tall ship 'Maybe'.

PHILIP IS NEW HEAD OF HOUSING

Philip Soderquest has been appointed as the new head of housing at Northumberland County Council and will lead the authority's housing team including all those responsible for running, managing and maintaining the council's portfolio of over 8,700 homes.



He has a wealth of local knowledge and experience having worked for the authority since 2009 and prior to that for the former Tynedale District Council.

Philip said: "I had the pleasure of meeting some of our tenants at the Spirit of the Community Awards. The event celebrated some terrific examples of tenants and community groups who are stepping forward to get involved in their communities to improve life for others.

"Partnership working is one of the best ways to improve and develop

our communities and I've been particularly impressed by the strong working relationship between the Homes for Northumberland team, tenants, councillors and other agencies.

"Northumberland County Council will continue to keep tenant involvement at the heart of the housing service and our ongoing work with the tenants forum and the new tenants voice committee is proving invaluable as we work to improve services further and strive to be an excellent landlord."

HOUSING DIRECTOR RETIRES



Kevin Lowry, the former director of Homes for Northumberland and a familiar face to many around the county retired in March.

Steven Mason, Chief Executive of Northumberland County Council paid tribute to Kevin and thanked him for his service: "Kevin's dedication, enthusiasm and determination to get the job done was unfaltering and he

helped bring about continued tenant satisfaction and improvement in the housing service. I am sure I speak for all those who know and worked with Kevin, that he will be a big miss. We wish him well for the future."

COUNTRESS JOINS IN 90th Birthday Celebrations

It's not every day that royalty turns up at your birthday party – but that's just what happened to a group of local residents celebrating their 90th birthdays.



"The Countess is a lovely lady. She was very friendly and I was really pleased to get the opportunity to meet her. The whole day was exceptional - including the weather."

Ord Scott

During her visit to Northumberland, HRH The Countess of Wessex called in on a special celebration that was being held in the Isabella Community Centre in Blyth for local residents who were 90 years 'young'.

The event was organised by Blyth Town Council to coincide with The Queen's 90th Birthday and a number of council tenants were at the party including 90 year old Ord Scott (pictured).

BLYTH HOUSING RECEPTION MOVES INTO TOWN

Council tenants living in and around Blyth who wish to speak in person to a member of staff about their home or their tenancy can do so from Blyth Library and Customer Information Centre on Bridge Street.

Customer service staff at the centre are on hand to answer queries you may have about your home, or other council services.

The service was moved from Blyth Civic Centre as part of Northumberland County Council's drive to provide residents across the county with easier access to council services by creating one-stop shops, with council services available under one roof.

The council is currently reviewing its buildings as it faces further cuts of £58 million over the next four years. It is looking to sell off buildings it no longer needs to create vital savings which will be reinvested back into our towns and used to protect front-line services.

This means you will see 'For Sale' boards up at sites across our market towns, including Blyth Civic Centre, as the council tests the market on buildings and land it no longer requires. This will help establish the value of its assets and how much interest there may be from prospective purchasers.

The housing service you receive will continue as normal. Tenants can still contact their dedicated housing officer in the same ways as before (page 21), ring the customer contact centre on **01670 542424**, email **info@hfn.uk.com** or visit **www.hfn.uk.com**.

The Blyth Customer Information Centre is open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Community Spirit CELEBRATED AT AWARDS

Some of the finest examples of community spirit were celebrated at a special awards ceremony for council tenants who have gone out of their way to help others.

The awards highlighted some really inspirational individuals and communities and were a wonderful way of recognising and sharing all their good work.

GARDEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ann Mackenzie
from Patterson House in Blyth

Ann has always been a keen gardener. When she moved into sheltered housing at Patterson House she took it upon herself to help develop and maintain the community garden which is beautifully maintained and boasts an array of colourful plants for residents and visitors to enjoy.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Clare Landers
from Seaton Valley

Clare is a weekly volunteer at the Seaton Sluice Community Centre and each week bakes cupcakes for the weekly drop in café for the elderly. She attends all the community litter picks and bulb planting days and she entered and won both the local bloom garden competition and Christmas window competition.



BEST YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY GROUP

Silx Teen Bar, Blyth

Silx Teen Bar is a venue where young people aged 11-19 can meet for free and take part in educational and recreational projects and activities.

During the day the centre provides a variety of support to young unemployed people including CV writing, completing application forms and referrals to training providers.

Evening sessions include music, art, health awareness and community involvement projects and there is youth worker support for young people who may be experiencing personal problems.

Thank you to the tenants who played an important role in helping to organise and judge the event.



YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

14 year old Callum Bell, from Blyth

Callum was a young, shy boy before he joined Stryke Karate at the Buffalo Community Centre. Through his hard work and dedication, and the extra support he has received while attending the club, Callum has improved his health, confidence, motivation and his performance at school. Callum is now a black belt and is helping other young people as a junior instructor.



THE BEST ADULT COMMUNITY GROUP

Rodsley Court Resident Group in Rothbury and East Hartford Community Association

The Rodsley Court Resident Group in Rothbury is extremely active and holds regular social and fundraising events for local charities.

East Hartford Community Association took over the local welfare institute which was run down and seldom used. The dedicated group raised funds, cleaned out the building and now put on a variety of events for the whole community to enjoy.



Photo: Margaret Walker receiving her awards.



Winner of winners
Margaret Walker
of Augur Place, in Alnwick

GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARDS

Pat Harvey from Cramlington and Margaret Walker from Alnwick

Pat and Margaret are well loved in their local community for the help and assistance they give to others. They are both valuable neighbours and friends.

Pat makes Sunday dinner for neighbours who live alone, takes a wheelchair bound neighbour for walks and will regularly visit a neighbour with Alzheimers so their partner can have a break.

Margaret lives in Augur Place sheltered housing scheme in Alnwick. She runs a twice weekly coffee morning to raise funds to take residents out for Christmas dinner, she looks out for and cooks for her neighbours and encourages residents to join in events and get involved.

HANDY ANDY

care and repair service

We offer a free handyperson service to help our vulnerable tenants carry out small home repairs or minor household jobs.

If you are over 60, have a disability or are a lone parent with a disabled child and find it difficult to undertake small maintenance jobs, please get in touch on 01670 542424.

We can help with a range of work including hanging pictures, fitting curtain rails, putting items in the loft and moving, dismantling or assembling furniture. The service does not assist with cleaning or gardening. If you require home improvements or any work that would be considered a tenants improvement you will need to complete a Tenant Improvement Form which can be collected from your local council office or posted out to you on request.



HOME IMPROVEMENT

open day

**£31
MILLION
SCHEME
TO UPGRADE
PROPERTIES**



Council tenants who have been informed that their homes are scheduled to receive improvements over the coming year were invited to an exhibition to view the choices available to them.

The housing improvement work is part of a five year, £31 million scheme to upgrade properties and includes kitchen and bathroom replacements, electrical rewiring, new heating systems, replacement roof coverings and windows.



Photos: Tenants viewing home improvement choices at events in Amble and Blyth.

KEEPING YOU SAFE

It's important to let us carry out your yearly free gas safety check and service in your home.

We'll send you an appointment card around ten days before we are due to come to do the check. If you have provided your mobile number, we'll send a reminder text two days before your appointment.

If for any reason you can't be in for us to carry out the gas check, just call us on 01670 542424 let us know and we will rearrange it for a more convenient time.

It is vital for your safety and others in the neighbourhood that this check is carried out.

what to put in your recycling bin

please place items loose in this bin

yes please

no thank you

	✓ Clean cans and tins	✗ Tin foil ✗ Foil trays
	✓ Empty aerosol cans	✗ Full cans
	✓ Card and cardboard	✗ Polystyrene ✗ Plastic wrap
	✓ Junk mail ✓ Newspapers ✓ Magazines ✓ Catalogues ✓ Directories	✗ Shredded paper ✗ Plastic covers on magazines
	✓ Plastic bottles <u>without</u> lids	✗ Plastic bags / carrier bags ✗ Yoghurt pots ✗ Food trays / tubs ✗ Bubble wrap / cling film

*Please take your glass and paper-based liquid food and drink cartons (Tetra Paks) to special containers at recycling sites or household waste recovery centres.

www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Tel: 0345 600 6400

✗ Glass*
✗ Tetra Paks*
✗ Food waste
✗ Textiles and clothing

HOW TO APPLY FOR A LARGER SIZED BIN

If you believe that your household requires a larger sized rubbish or recycling bin, for example if you have a large household or a member of your family suffers from a medical condition that causes the disposal of more waste, you will need to contact Northumberland County Council. We assess each request individually and our recycling officer may contact you to arrange a visit to your home. 340 litre bins are £61 each or £45 if exchanged for a 240 litre or smaller bin.

New affordable HOMES RENTED TO LOCAL FAMILIES

Local woman, Donna Young, can stay in the village that has been her home for more than 25 years thanks to a council funded affordable housing scheme.

The new £1.9 million, 16 home development in the coastal village of Embleton has recently been completed meaning local people are able to rent affordable homes in their local community.

Donna, 32, has lived in Embleton since she was six years old. She went to school locally and now works in a hotel in the village. Until recently she had been living with her mother but has just moved into one of the new two bedroomed affordable properties on Whinstone View which she is renting with her boyfriend Peter.

"It means the absolute world to me to be able to stay in the village I grew up in and live in the countryside I adore."

Donna said, "I have always loved living in Embleton and always feel so proud when I am showing my city friends around. They have never seen anything like it. There is no place like it."

New mum Jayde Stewart has also moved into one of the affordable homes. Jayde is originally from nearby Longhoughton: "In my view, there is nothing more important than having a secure and comfortable place to live at an affordable price. I have a baby who will eventually go to the local school and I have great friends in the area. I cannot express how

happy I am to get the opportunity to continue to live in the area I grew up in next to friends, family and neighbours who are so much a part of my life."

Photo below: Front L-R: Jayde Stewart with her seven week old son Ethan, Donna Young and ward councillor Kate Cairns. Back row Northumberland county councillors Heather Cairns and Allan Hepple.

"It means the absolute world to me to be able to stay in the village I grew up in and live in the countryside I adore."

Donna Young



BUILDING BUNGALOWS IN BLYTH

Work has started on a £2.8 million scheme to build 26 new affordable bungalows in Blyth.

The new housing development on the site of the former Morpeth Road School is being managed and funded by Northumberland County Council and is due for completion in the winter of 2016.

We have many elderly residents wanting to down size into bungalows so these new homes will help to meet this local need. What's more, enabling elderly residents to move into more suitable sized single storey accommodation will release family accommodation for others on the housing waiting list.



Photo: L-R Jonathan Parker and Ian Swainston from Esh Property Services with Cllrs Allan Hepple cabinet member for housing, and local ward councillor Kath Nisbet.

PUPILS LEARN DANGERS OF A BUILDING SITE

Pupils from Morpeth Road Primary School have been given a talk about the dangers lurking on building sites.

With construction work starting nearby on 26 bungalows, affordable housing developers Esh Property Services visited the school to talk to the children and keep them safe.

A building site might seem like a great place to explore but in reality it can be extremely dangerous,

especially for children looking for somewhere to play.

Clare Davison from Esh said: "The event was light-hearted but with a very serious message and at the end all the children agreed that it would not be a good idea to go anywhere near a building site."



Photo: Lauren and Riley from Morpeth Road Primary School.

MARGARET HELPS GET A BETTER DEAL FOR TENANTS



Margaret Carroll from Cramlington has been helping to make sure that the views of tenants in Northumberland are heard nationally.

Around 100 local authorities across the country, including Northumberland County Council, still own and manage council houses.

An association called ARCH (the Association of Retained Council Housing) works hard on their behalf to get the best deal for these councils and their tenants.

Their main aim is to campaign and lobby on government housing policy proposals to secure the future of council housing in the country.

ARCH is keen to reflect the views of people who live in council homes and it holds regular tenant meetings which Margaret attends. She puts forward local views and also uses the meetings as an opportunity to talk to other tenant groups to see how they are making a difference in their communities.

National spotlight shines on TENANT INVOLVEMENT

Our ground-breaking work around tenant involvement was the focus of attention at the prestigious national tenants conference in Blackpool.

Councillor Allan Hepple, cabinet member for housing, Amanda Mason, our resident involvement manager, and representatives from our Tenant Voice and Tenant Forum were invited to speak about our new Tenant Voice sub committee which puts tenants at the heart of decision making.

The committee, the first of its kind in the country is made up of four tenants and four councillors and

gives tenants a direct voice and influence over decisions affecting housing services.

Councillor Allan Hepple said: "We gave two workshops which focussed on how the council has welcomed and embraced tenant involvement since it took over the management of the council housing service. It was great to tell our story and share our experiences with

other tenants from across the country, many of whom are facing similar changes and challenges."

The workshops generated a lot of interest from those attending who may in future look to follow our lead.

The conference was organised by the Northern Housing Consortium.



The workshops generated a lot of interest from those attending who may in future look to follow our lead.

Make a Difference Fund

We've set up a small fund which is being used to help fund new projects that will help improve community life and be of benefit to our tenants.

We've called it *The Make A Difference Fund*. Each housing officer has a budget of £300 which they can use to organise an event or project in the community they work in. This could be anything from a fun day on an estate, a coffee morning, or working with a local school to come up with a project that will benefit the local area and tenants.

Housing officers will be working closely with their tenant involvement officer and together they will use their local knowledge to come up with project ideas.



The Tenant Forum will be visiting other parts of the county over the course of the year.

ALNWICK Community Voice

Members of the Tenant Forum travelled to the north of the county last month to speak to tenants from Alnwick, Amble and Rothbury and to seek their views on housing services.

The meeting also provided the opportunity for representatives of the forum to explain their role, what they had achieved and what they would be working on in the future on behalf of the tenants of Northumberland.

WE'RE WORKING CLOSELY WITH TENANTS

Our new Tenant Forum is continuing to help us improve housing services.

The group meet regularly with the head of the housing service, senior managers and of course, with Tenant Voice.

Last September trained telephone advisors from the Homes for Northumberland team moved into the county council contact centre. The forum has been monitoring this move and as a result of discussions a service development group has been set up to make sure the tenant perspective is always considered if changes are to be introduced in future.

The forum has also made sure tenants views were considered in recent discussions about rent collection and arrears monitoring processes and as a result of their input, whatever future changes are proposed, our tenants will have their say.

RESIDENT Involvement Team



Contact us
**01670
542424**



EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR TALL SHIPS REGATTA

The excitement is growing in Northumberland as the final preparations are put in place to host the prestigious North Sea Tall Ships Regatta Blyth 2016.

Between Friday 26 - Monday 29 August the Port of Blyth is set to come alive when over 30 of the largest and most spectacular Tall Ships in the world sail into port for the Regatta.

The four day event is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors who will be able to access the ships, enjoy free family fun, parades, live music and evening entertainment.

Blyth's association with the sea goes back centuries and people of the region are looking forward to giving the ships' crews a very warm welcome.

The Port of Blyth is a tidal deep water port which can accommodate the largest of ships and it will mean the Tall Ships can sail in and out of the harbour for short trips allowing spectators to see them in their full glory.

IMPORTANT RESIDENT INFORMATION

An event of this scale will be a great boost for the town and the local economy, however there will be a significant increase in traffic flowing in and out of the town during the weekend. A traffic plan has been produced to keep disruption to a minimum and ensure the event runs safely. It includes a temporary one-way system and a park and ride service outside of the town.

There will be restrictions in residents' parking and vehicle movement during the event however emergency access will be maintained at all times including to the hospital and GP services.





NORTH SEA TALL SHIPS REGATTA Blyth 2016

organised by Sail Training International



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Please use public transport to get to Blyth wherever possible, or use the park and ride facilities if you are coming by car.

**FREE
EVENT**

ENTERTAINMENT ZONES

There will be five zones of entertainment around the town including Ridley Park, the Quayside and the town centre. Entertainment will include street theatre, a visitor village, a funfair, nightly fireworks and live music.



Join the VIP Club for **FREE** to access exclusive offers, prizes and discounts.
www.tallshipsblyth2016.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

As the date of the Regatta draws closer, further details about the event, including the entertainment line-up and parking arrangements will be announced.

Residents looking for further information about the event can call in at the Tall Ships Information Centre in The Keel Row Centre in Blyth during set days and times, or contact the council's main switchboard on **0345 600 6400**: Monday to Friday: 8am – 6pm.

www.tallshipsblyth2016.com

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

PORT of BLYTH

Principal Sponsor
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For updates on the event, follow us on:



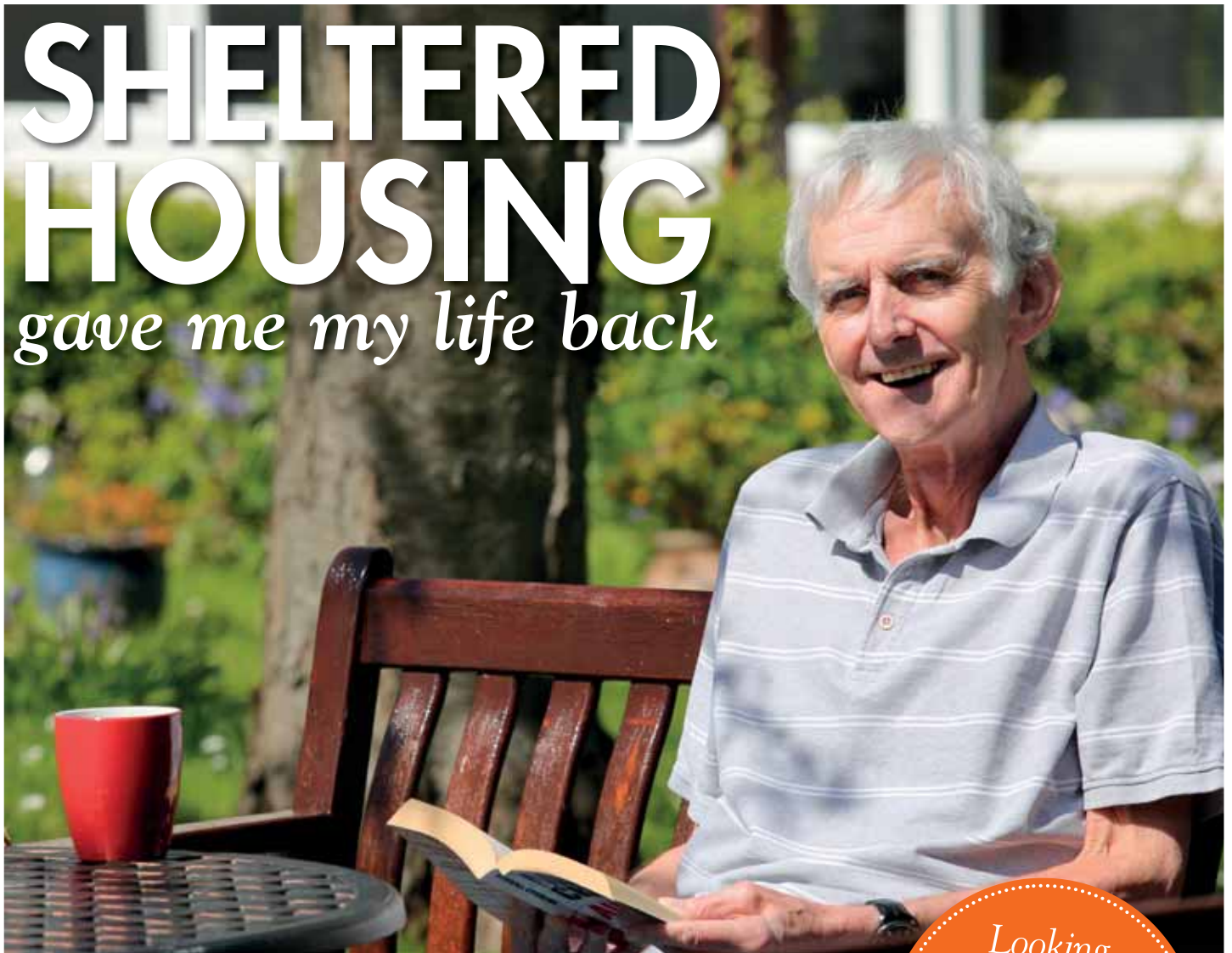
[tallshipsblyth2016](https://www.facebook.com/tallshipsblyth2016)



[@TallshipsBlyth](https://twitter.com/TallshipsBlyth)

SHELTERED HOUSING

gave me my life back



If you want to live independently but in a smaller, easier-to-manage home with support, then sheltered housing might appeal to you.

We spoke to two local people to find out about their experiences of living in sheltered housing.

Looking to move into sheltered housing but not sure if it's for you?



JIM WATERS, 71 moved into Nye Bevan sheltered housing scheme in Blyth last May.

"I used to live in 6th Avenue in Blyth but was spending all my days alone in front of the television. I didn't move from the chair, I didn't eat properly and was vegetating. I didn't realise how much I was missing out on life until I moved here. It was my family who persuaded me to make the move, I was very reluctant but am so glad I did. It has literally given me my life back. I feel great both physically and mentally.

I have the best of both worlds here. I have my own flat with a kitchen, sitting

room, bedroom and bathroom so have my privacy when I want it, but there is also plenty going on socially if I want to join in.

We have a visiting hairdresser, chiropodist and optician so that's really convenient and we have some lovely meals cooked a few times a week.

Every morning we come down to the common room for a coffee and a chat

and we put the world to right. We hold beetle drives, do arm chair aerobics and we are looking to start a pizza night.

It is warm, friendly and secure. Liz is our warden, she's a gem and calls us on the intercom every morning to check we are ok. We have a night patrol who checks all the doors and windows are locked and each apartment is fitted with an alarm system in case of an emergency outside daytime hours.

We can come and go as we please. In fact because I sold my house I was able to afford an amazing holiday in New Orleans. The Titanic Museum in Belfast, WWI battlefields and WW2 landing beaches are next on my bucket list.

The grounds are nice too and when it's warmer I enjoy sitting outside with a couple of glasses of wine. This is my home now and I love it."

JOAN WOODBURN, 80, has lived in Rodsley Court in Rothbury for six years.

"I've lived in Rothbury since 1955 but my home was at the top of a hill so when I gave up my car the walk became too much for me. When I moved into Rodsley Court I already knew many of my neighbours and there were some new faces too, whom I have enjoyed getting to know.

People get the wrong idea about sheltered housing and think it is just old people sitting around doing nothing. It's not like that at all, there is always something going on.

It is a very homely, close knit, caring community so I have friends all around me. We all look out for each other and we have Helen our warden who makes a morning call to check we are ok and she is there if we ever need her.

Rodsley Court is in the centre of Rothbury so I can just pop out to the shops or a local café which is ideal and until recently I volunteered in the local RSPCA shop in town.

We have regular coffee mornings, bingo and fund-raising events which keeps us busy. Many of us are part of the Rothbury Over-60s club and enjoy local outings and bus trips further afield in the summer months. We've been all over - to Skipton, Edinburgh, Ayr, Gretna Green and Scarborough."

*"The flats
and the grounds are
really well maintained
and we often sit outdoors
in the warmer weather.
I am very happy here."*

Joan Woodburn



*If you think
Sheltered Housing
could be for you and
you would like to discuss
it further please call
Sarah Thorpe, in our
housing management
team on
01670 542424*

There are various sheltered housing schemes throughout the county. The following are run by Northumberland County Council:

Bob Elliot House, Blyth • Patterson House, Blyth • Nye Bevan House, Blyth
• Hartley Court, New Hartley • Concorde House, Holywell • Dolphin Court,
Amble • Kennedy Road, Amble • Augur Place, Alnwick • Rodsley Court,
Rothbury.

IMPORTANT ROAD SAFETY RULES TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN



Photo: Children at Newsham First School being taught about the importance of road safety by the council's child pedestrian co-ordinator, Christine Wilson.

The final school bell will soon ring for summer and the kids will be ready for some holiday fun!

The hot summer months provide the opportunity to spend lots of time outside so now is the perfect time to remind your child to be street smart. They are never too young to learn.

OUR TOP TIPS

NEVER...

- use electronic devices when crossing the road.
- run near a road or when you are crossing the road.

ALWAYS...

- wear a helmet if riding a bike, skateboard or scooter.
- look all around, forwards and backwards when crossing the road.
- wait until the green man appears when using a puffin crossing and check the cars have stopped.
- find a safe place to cross, move away from parked vehicles and never run out between vehicles.
- listen out for traffic.
- walk on a pavement.
- cross in a straight line.

NEVER use electronic devices when crossing the road.

ALWAYS look all around, forwards and backwards when crossing the road.



HOW PARENTS CAN BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

- Keep repeating road safety messages to your children.
- Set a good example by wearing a seat-belt while driving a car and a helmet if riding a bike.
- When you are driving around be extra cautious, especially in areas children may be playing. Speed kills.

ESTATE WALKABOUTS

Have you an issue or a suggestion about your area?

Why not join your local walkabout and speak to your housing officers about it.

Check out the dates below. If you would like further information contact your housing officer for more details.

LOCATION	MEETING PLACE	DATES	TIME
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND			
Alnwick - Cornhill Est, St James Est, York Cres	Entrance to Cornhill estate, at the end of Augur Terrace	15 Jul	10am
Amble	Entrance to Straffen Court	8 Jul	9.30am
CRAMLINGTON			
Eastfield Grange	Entrance to Cairnglass Green	7 Sep	10am
East Hartford	Bus shelter on Ormston St	6 Jul	10am
Mayfield Glade	Bottom of Barrasford Road next to Clifton Road shops	22 Sep	10am
Nelson Village	Outside local shop in village	12 Aug	10am
East Cramlington & Lanercost	Entrance to Reedswood Crescent	3 Aug	10am
Eastfield Lea (A's)	Outside community House at 1 Axminster Close	17 Aug	2pm
Cottingwood Grange	Car Park next to 1-7 Coltpark Place	28 Jul	10am
Mayfield Dale & Grange	Car park opposite Tangmere Close flats	15 Sep	10am
SEATON VALLEY			
Blyth Street	Corner of Blyth St / Prospect Avenue	10 Aug	2pm
Deneside / Seghill	Entrance to estate	17 Aug	2pm
Elsdon / Hallington	Astley High School	31 Aug	2pm
Elsdon / Tillmouth	Corner of Elsdon and Tillmouth Avenue	7 Sep	2pm
The Crescent / Northcott	Outside Blake Arms	14 Sep	2pm
Holywell	Corner of Holywell Dene Road/Holywell Ave	21 Sep	2pm
Trevelyan / Leaholme & 1-70 Newsham Rd	1 Kendal Avenue	6 Jul 7 Sep	2.15pm
BLYTH			
The Avenues lower streets	Entrance to First Avenue	1 Jul 26 Aug	10am
Delaval Estate	101 Delaval Crescent	19 Aug	10am
Bowes Court and surrounding area	Church entrance to Edward Street	22 Jul	10am
Benridge Park / Cottingwood Green / New Build	15 Benridge Park	16 Sep	10am
Poets Estate (including 70-289 Newsham Rd)	1 Burns Avenue	20 Jul	2.15pm
South View	Willow Crescent	8 Jul	10am
Newsham Flats and Brockwell Court	Outside 7 Brockwell Court	23 Sep	10am
Hodgson's Road (Limes, Chestnut, Poplar, Willow, Sycamore Avenue, Millfield Gardens and Hodgson's Road Estate)	Entrance to Limes Avenue	12 Jul 8 Sep	9.30am
North Farm Estate (Walton, Temple and Lindsay Avenues, Cowpen Road)	Entrance to Walton Avenue	18 Aug	10am
Solingen Estate	Solingen Estate sign at estate entrance	29 Jul	10am
Cowpen Farm	Outside No 1 Fallow Park Avenue	1 Jul 9 Sep	10am
Kitty Brewster	Outside No 5 Kitty Brewster	30 Jun 25 Aug	1pm
The Avenue higher streets	Outside 9 Twenty Third Avenue on corner	2 Sep	10am
West Court	Rear of 39 West Court	3 Aug	2.15pm

MOBILE CCTV CAMERAS HELP COMBAT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Three mobile CCTV cameras have been bought by Northumberland County Council to help combat crime and anti-social behaviour across the county.



The surveillance systems are currently monitoring disorder hotspots in Blyth and are successfully helping to deter crime in the areas in which they are operating.

The cameras are owned and monitored by the council but we work closely with the police when deploying them. Unlike the traditional CCTV system, the cameras can be quickly and easily moved to new locations when the need arises.

Christine Anderson, anti-social behaviour intervention officer said: "The cameras are highly effective in deterring and detecting acts of crime and disorder and we've certainly experienced a reduction in the number of complaints in the areas they are installed."

"The cameras also capture high quality video evidence so if a criminal act does take place we will pass this footage on to the police to help them successfully prosecute the offenders."

Top Tips

for securing your home

- **DON'T** leave your door keys, car keys or ID documents within easy reach of doors, letterboxes or windows.
- **REMOVE ALL VALUABLES** from your car and remember to lock it.
- **NEVER** leave valuable items such as phones, computers or ipads on display near windows or doors.
- **CLOSE AND LOCK** all doors and windows. If you have multi-locking door handles, lift the handle, lock it with the key and remove it. Put the key in a safe place out of sight.
- **LOCK** side gates, garages and sheds.
- **BE AWARE** of your dog's whereabouts if you leave it unattended in the garden. There have been thefts of dogs from gardens.
- **USE TIMER SWITCHES** linked to lights and a radio so it appears that someone is at home.
- **DON'T** leave bicycles unattended in gardens or on the path way.
- **INVEST IN A SAFE** for valuables and sentimental items and securely fix it to a solid surface.

**DON'T
BE AN EASY
TARGET**

NOTICEBOARD

Could you foster?

People from all walks of life can become a foster carer. As long as you can provide a spare room and a safe, stable and caring home you can do it.

You will need resilience, energy and patience but it is a hugely rewarding experience. You will receive full funding for all placements, 24-hour support and ongoing training.

You can foster whether you...

- are married, single, gay or straight
- own or rent your home
- are any ethnicity, culture or religion
- do or don't have children
- are working or unemployed

For more information visit northumberland.gov.uk/foster, call **Caroline** on **01670 626262** or call in at our next drop-in session in **Alnwick** on **6.30pm**,

3rd August at
Alnwick Rugby Club,
Greensfield Ave,
Alnwick,
NE66 1BE



NEW ROOTS MARKET GARDEN AND GIFT SHOP

THE NEW ROOTS SHOP BASED IN THE GARDENS OF THE BRIARDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF SEASONAL PLANTS, PLANTERS AS WELL AS UNIQUE GIFTS AND HANDICRAFTS.



Briardale Road, Cowpen Estate, Blyth, Northumberland
Tel: 01670 359135 Email: enquiries@briardalecentre.org.uk
SHOP ONLINE AT WWW.BRIARDALECENTRE.ORG.UK/SHOP

IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

THINGS ARE NEVER AS THEY SEEM ON THE SURFACE.

Suspect someone you know is suffering domestic abuse? Call **0800 066 5555** for independent and confidential advice.



VERA BAIRD
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE
Proud to Protect

Home contents insurance YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

We advise all our tenants to take out home contents insurance. We've negotiated a scheme called Crystal to help our tenants get insurance at a price that is affordable. Under this policy there is no excess and no price rise in the event of a claim.

For further information, please contact your housing officer, ring **01670 542424** or email info@hfn.uk.com

Become a flatmate

If you live in a flat why not join our new Flatmate group and have a voice on how services can be improved.

Living in a flat brings different issues to those who live in houses. The group provides the opportunity for those residents to share their issues and concerns with housing officers.

To find out more call Aileen Barrass on 01670 623492 or email: Aileen.barrass@northumberland.gov.uk

free! fun!

childcare for your 2 year old!

Your two year old could get up to 15 hours of **FREE** childcare per week.

For more information visit:
www.northumberland.gov.uk/freechildcare
Or call: **01670 623592**



Community WEEK OF ACTION



Photo: Police community support officer, Nicola Raisbeck meets a dog awaiting micro-chipping.

Hodgsons Road Estate in Blyth was the centre of attention when Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police joined forces in a community week of action.

Throughout the week a range of activities took place to improve the environment and support local residents. An important part of the action week involved talking to local people to seek their views and get a greater understanding of the concerns they may have and the help they would like to see in their neighbourhood.

Housing officer Jane McLeod who organised the event would like to thank everyone who took part.



Photo: Housing officer Jane McLeod (centre) with members of the council's neighbourhood services team during the community clean up.

WARNING AFTER SPATE OF ARSON ATTACKS

Tenants are being warned to be extra vigilant and not to leave rubbish and wheelie bins lying around after a spate of arson attacks in Blyth.

At the end of May, four fires were started in just one week, and in one of the incidents a 70 year old tenant was lucky to escape uninjured.

Some of the fires have been opportunistic due to the presence of a build up of rubbish. Tenants are being reminded of their obligations under their tenancy agreement to store and dispose of rubbish responsibly.

Nobody was injured during the incidents however the repercussions could have been far more serious.

Mark McCarty, assistant chief fire officer said: "People who start these types of fires need to be aware that their actions could have very serious consequences.

"A fire started in a wheelie bin could easily get out of control, spread to nearby properties and, ultimately, lead to loss of life."

Advice to tenants

- Put your wheelie bin out early on the morning of collection, rather than the night before.
- Ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished before placing them in the bin. Never throw a lit cigarette end to the floor and leave it to smoulder.
- Take your bin from the kerb-side as soon as possible after collection.
- If you have a bulky item such as a sofa that needs disposing of, do not leave it lying in your garden. Contact the council to have it removed and do not put it out until the day it is due to be collected.



Photo: Damage to a property caused by an arson attack in Blyth.

"A fire started in a wheelie bin could easily get out of control, spread to nearby properties and, ultimately, lead to loss of life."

Mark McCarty,
assistant chief fire
officer

YOUR HOUSING MANAGEMENT TEAM

Your Housing Management Team is here to help with questions on a range of housing services including, rent, estate management or your tenancy. We have a dedicated Housing Officer for each estate. **Find out who your officer is and contact them on (01670) 542424.**

Susan Ogle



Head of Housing
Management

Philippa Storey



Area Housing
Manager
Blyth North and Alnwick Area

Christine McGregor



Area Housing
Manager
Blyth South

Pearl O'Hare



Team Leader
Blyth North
and Alnwick Area

Sarah Thorpe



Team Leader
Blyth South

YOUR HOUSING OFFICER

ALNWICK OFFICERS

Our Alnwick officers are based at Greenwell Lane, Alnwick and cover: Alnwick, Amble, Shilbottle and our other rural properties in the north of the county.

Simon Crosthwaite



Simon covers:
Alnmouth, Boulmer,
Craster, Embleton,
Eldon, Felton,
Glanton, Harbottle,
Longframlington,
Longhoughton,
Netherton, Newton
by the Sea, Powburn,
Rothbury, Shilbottle,
Thropton, Whittingham

Julian Whitley



Julian covers:
All Amble estates,
Hauxley

Andrew Howstan



Andrew covers:
Alnwick

BLYTH OFFICERS

Our Blyth officers are based at the Civic Centre, Blyth and cover a range of patches including: Cramlington, Seghill, Seaton Delaval and Blyth.

Caroline Hedley



Caroline covers:
The Poet's Estate,
Seaton Sluice,
New Hartley
(she also covers
Allendale and
Haltwhistle)

Graeme Harwood



Graeme covers:
Eastfield Lea,
Collingwood Grange,
Mayfield, Cowpen
Estate Flats

Sitara Choudhury



Sitara covers:
Cowpen estate

Jacqueline Finlay



Jacqueline covers:
The Avenues,
Solingen
Blyth Town Centre

Joanne Walker



Joanne covers:
East Hartford,
Cramlington Eastfield
Grange, Cramlington
Mayfield Grange,
Cramlington East,
Cramlington,
Allensgreen/Allerhope,
Nelson Village

Kayley Atkinson



Kayley covers:
Newsham and
New Delaval

Jane McLeod



Jane covers:
North Farm, Bebside,
Cowpen Farm,
Hodgsons Road,
Cowpen Quay

Kevin Bradley



Kevin covers:
Seaton Delaval
and Seghill

Jeff Baker



Jeff covers:
Seaton Delaval
and Seghill

Multi-sport and leisure activities FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Active Northumberland runs a leisure programme across Northumberland for people with learning and physical disabilities.

Coaches delivering the activities are experienced in working with disabled children and adults and will tailor the sessions to include everyone regardless of their disability.

Participants have a variety of backgrounds including mild learning difficulties, autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder as well as people with anxiety disorders and physical disabilities.



Junior activities include:

Bounce and splash, dance, freestyle, football, teen gym, ten pin bowling/boccia, trampoline and youth club.

Adult activities include:

Football, gym, multi-sports/games, rebound therapy, swim, ten pin bowling/boccia.

Ronnie Scheu is the lead officer for the programme. He said: "Our focus is on letting individuals be themselves and offering them the chance to socialise and make friends outside of the school environment. We offer much needed respite for parents and carers and the chance for them to build up a support network with families in similar circumstances."



TO BOOK AN
ABILITY
2 PLAY ACTIVITY
RING BLYTH SPORTS
CENTRE ON
01670
622217/18

For further information:

Contact **Ronnie Scheu** on **07889 320377**
or email RScheu@activenorthumberland.org.uk.

ACTIVE
NORTHUMBERLAND



WALK YOUR WAY TO HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR FREE

Do you ever feel it would be nice to get out and about more often? Get a little more fresh air in your lungs? Be a bit more active?

If so, why not join one of the local free health walks.

You'll have great company, trained walk leaders and safe walking routes of varying lengths to get you on your way to a healthier lifestyle. All you need to get going is a pair of shoes with good grip and support.

For further information:

Visit www.activenorthumberland.org.uk or ring your local health walk co-ordinator:

- David Gregory, for Central and South East Northumberland: **01670 623549** (Ashington, Blyth, Cramlington, Morpeth, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice, Seghill, Widdrington)
- Jane Hardy, for North Northumberland **01665 605030** (Amble, Alnwick, Rothbury)
- Loraine Oliver, for West Northumberland **01670 622368**



ACTIVE
NORTHUMBERLAND

Photo: Rothbury Walking Group.

clip'n climb

Climbing walls meet theme park in an exciting new leisure concept for all ages (4+). Our stunning series of climbing-based activities provide healthy, challenging fun for all the family!

Public session prices

Under 8's	£8.00
8-17 yrs	£12.00
18+	£15.00
Leap of faith (additional cost)	£2.50

For more information about group bookings and exclusive hire, please visit our website.

Public session opening times

Term time*

Wednesday-Friday
4pm - 9.30pm. Last session 8pm.

Saturday & Sunday
10am - 6.30pm. Last session 5pm.

* Please note that Clip 'n Climb is closed Mon-Tues during term time

School holidays

Monday - Sunday 10am - 6.30pm. Last session 5pm.

Bank Holiday Mondays 10am-3pm. Last session 2pm.

To book, please call in and see us or:

Call: 01670 542222

Email: info@clipnclimbcrumlington.co.uk

Visit: www.activenorthumberland.org.uk

In order to book online, you will need to be registered on Active Northumberland's database.

Café
and licensed
bar located in the upper
concourse within Strike Bowling.

Swimming is a simple way to keep fit, to relax and to socialise. It's also a great way to bond as a family. To help you on your way we are offering a discount off any public swim session. Simply cut out the voucher below and take it with you to your local pool to get **£1.50 off your next swim.**

THIS VOUCHER
ENTITLES YOU TO

£1.50 OFF
ANY PUBLIC SWIM
SESSION

VALID AT

Concordia Leisure Centre,
Cramlington; **Blyth Sports**
Centre; Willowburn Sport
and Leisure Centre, Alnwick;
Swan Centre, Berwick,
Rothbury Pool

NAME

EMAIL

CONTACT NO.



CUT OUT THIS VOUCHER AND BRING IT WITH YOU.
VALID UNTIL JULY 31, 2016 (ONE VOUCHER PER PERSON)

ACTIVE
NORTHUMBERLAND



Active Northumberland



@ActiveNland



FOLLOW US ON



for latest news & advice

Why not follow us on Facebook and keep up to date with the latest news and advice about your home and the services we provide.

If you have a Facebook account, simply search **Homes for Northumberland** and click to *like* our page.



KEEP IN TOUCH

CONTACT US

For queries about your council property, repairs, rents and neighbourhood services ring **01670 542424**.

For questions about any other Northumberland County Council service such as Homefinder, council tax, housing benefit or refuse collection ring **0345 600 6400**.

SAVE TIME AND DO IT ONLINE

If you want to report a problem, apply for services or pay bills it is cheaper, faster and easier to do it online. Simply visit **www.hfn.uk.com** and complete your task from the comfort of your own home.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION CENTRES

You can call in at any Northumberland County Council customer information centre and speak to one of our friendly advisors about any housing or council related issue.

www.hfn.uk.com