



Monthly Digest

February 13th, 2024

News, Events, Updates



Hub & Steering Group News

Membership

The Hub now has 61 members.



Introducing the SIG Coordinator

To make sure that we get the best out of our WhatsApp Special Interest Groups, we're planning to introduce 'Coordinators' for each of them. Each SIG would have 2 Coordinators – a member of the Steering Group and a member of the wider NGH community.

Between them, Coordinators will add and welcome new members, introduce topics of interest (along with other members of the group), provide a quarterly update for the Digest and upload documents to the Google Drive for members to access.

Each Special Interest Group is free to develop in its own way – one group has already started to meet face to face. We hope that having the Coordinators will help the groups to develop their own identity – without it being a time-consuming role.

So, if you're interested in helping to get the most out of the groups you're involved in, get in touch by emailing northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com

Updates to the NGH Members' Guide

Following feedback from NGH Members, the Steering Group has updated the NGH Members' Guide with the following changes:

1. Clarified the process for replacing a Steering Group member in the event of someone leaving. This would be done by seeking a volunteer from the wider community.
 2. Made it explicit that it may be necessary to co-opt additional Steering Group members to help with specific issues where additional skills or expertise are needed. This would be done by seeking a volunteer from the wider community.
 3. Conduct a review of the network's governance arrangements after 12 months in existence i.e. in September 2024.
 4. Replaced the word 'creed' in the Equality of Opportunity Policy with the phrase 'religion or belief'.
 5. As Colin Elliot has taken on the admin role of onboarding new members the Data Protection Policy has been updated to state that he has access to the Members' contact database. There are now 3 Steering Group Members who have access: Colin, Lesley, and Liz.
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Only 50% response SO Far! Please Confirm Your Acceptance of our NGH Policies

Last year we sent everyone a copy of the NGH Guide for Members. We subsequently emailed and asked you to confirm that you have read and are happy to ACCEPT the policies and procedures included in the Guide.

To date, we have only had 30 responses from an active membership of 61. Our aim is to keep NGH red tape and procedures to a minimum. However, if you wish to continue as an NGH member, your agreement to accept the network's policies is one of our expectations of you. If you have not responded by submitting the form online, we kindly ask you to take a minute to do so now. We will then keep your Acceptance on file for the duration of your membership of the Northumberland Green Hub.

It's very easy to click and complete the form online here: <https://forms.gle/3ixBoHa3NeqRpAgy8>

If you can't access the form online and prefer to send us an email confirming that you've read the NGH Members Guide and are happy to accept the policies in it – that will be fine. Thank you.

Directory of Useful Contacts

As agreed at the December 2nd 2023 meeting, we've started to draw together a list of useful contacts for NGH members and communities. We really need your help to add to this. Charities & NGOs, Funding Bodies or Resources, Crowdfunding website, NCC Contacts, Politicians, Businesses, Advice Groups & Venues – are but a few of the tabs we've created. If you are confident adding information to a spreadsheet, you can add your contact information directly [via this link](#). If you would prefer the Steering Group to add it – then please email to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com, or send it via WhatsApp message.

Book Swap Club

The idea of a book swap club among NGH members has been mooted. The Steering Group is exploring how it might work in practice. If you are a member of a book swap club and have any suggestions that would help us, please contact one of the SG team through WhatsApp, or send an email to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com

NCC Library Climate Change Collection

NCC Library has a collection of books on climate, sustainability, and environmental issues that you can borrow if you are a registered library service user. You can search for these on the NCC website, library service, Advanced Search page. Navigate to Collections – it's quite a way down the page - then choose [Climate Change Collection](#). The full list will appear for you to browse. You can reserve any book you'd like to borrow.

HOLD the Date

The next face to face meeting of the NGH network community is on Saturday April 6th at the St James Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick. 9.30 – 1.00pm. The programme is currently being prepared and will be circulated as soon as it is ready.

Upcoming Events



Meet the Artist – Luke McTaggart. The Morwick Paintings – 17th February

At: Alnwick Playhouse Gallery

Time: 1.00 – 4.00pm

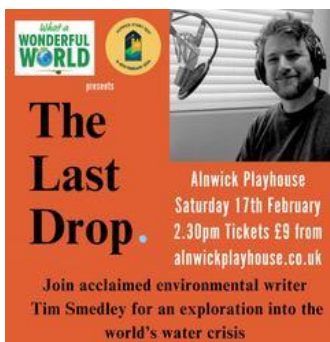
Amble-based artist and NGH member, Luke McTaggart, will be hosting a 'Meet the Artist' event on Saturday 17th February from 1pm-4pm upstairs in the Alnwick Playhouse Gallery for his new solo exhibition, 'The Morwick Paintings'. Come along and chat to Luke about his paintings that reflect the changing seasons over the course of a year, ranging from Autumn 2022 through to Autumn 2023. His works document the landscape and environment of this hidden corner of Northumberland. A microcosm that has seen many changes in recent years, both from storm damage but also from drastic alterations in river levels, seeing extreme lows in the summer and high flood levels through the winter.

Tim Smedley - The Last Drop - at Alnwick Story Fest. Saturday, February 17th, 2024

At: Alnwick Playhouse

Time: 2.30 pm

Tickets: £9 are selling fast!



Alnwick Story Fest joins forces with **What a Wonderful World Festival** in an exciting new partnership to present the latest book by renowned environment journalist, Tim Smedley. Tim's book, *The Last Drop* looks at the global water crisis, both shortages and excesses, and some encouraging future solutions.

When it comes to water scarcity, the last place on Earth you'd think of is rain-soaked England. Flooding is a growing problem in the UK but strangely the same forces that are driving the increase in torrential downpours are also driving water shortages both here and across the globe.

Tim has travelled the world talking to farmers, householders, engineers and activists and his book is packed with personal stories of the struggles faced by communities as rivers and aquifers dry up and glaciers retreat but also with the ways people adapt and build resilience. Time and again the most effective remedies are nature-based solutions rather than the large-scale dams and river diversion projects of the recent past. **Book now** at <https://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/event/the-last-drop/>

Lent Climate Change Vigil - 14th - 24th February



'We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it'

Barack Obama

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, 14th February 2024, [Christian Aid](#), [Tearfund](#), [Cafod](#) and many other charities are coming together to hold a 10 day vigil, 24 hours a day, outside Westminster. *'We will be praying for creation, for our global neighbours, and for bold climate action from*

the UK government'. A time has been set aside in **St Michael's, Alnwick**, to join this vigil in spirit and prayer.

On **Friday 16th, Sunday 18th and Monday 19th between 3-4pm** there will be the opportunity to come together in **St Michael's** to hear readings and prayers. Please consider coming along for as little or as long a time as you wish. As the Christian Aid website proclaims *'Prayer is powerful. It can bring transformation, even in the midst of injustice'*.

'Those on the front lines of climate disruption are the least responsible for this disaster'.

French activist - Camille Etienne

The Vigil calls on the government to:

1. Make the UK's biggest polluters pay for climate action.
2. Deliver and build on the UK's international climate finance pledges and pay into the UN's Loss & Damage Fund.
3. Ban new UK-based fossil fuel projects.

If you happen to be in London at all between [14th and 24th](#), [go to the Christian Aid website](#) to find out how you can join in in person. However, we all have the option to engage in this vigil from home.

The link below gives details as to how to participate, with the additional opportunity to gather in Alnwick on the three days mentioned above.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/nffif-vigil-from-home-prayer-hour-2024.pdf>



Rothbury Rubbish Friends - February 24th, 10.00-11.00am

Community Litter Pick ([See website for details](#)).



No Time for Waste – Environmental Gathering – February 25th

Venue: Linskill Community Centre, North Shields. NE30 2AY

Time: 10 .00– 4.00pm

FREE ENTRY

['No Time For Waste'](#), is an [environmental eco-festival](#), successfully funded by a [Spacehive](#) bid by the local community. The gathering plans to connect all the brilliant people out there doing incredible things to say No to Waste. The event poster was produced as a result of a local school competition.

Do come along for a day full of information, stalls, eco-business pop ups, film showings, talks, craft, art workshops and so much more. There's plenty to see and do for kids and adults whatever stage you are at in your planet friendly journey. [Find out more here](#).



Visit the Solar (PV) Technology Centre in Blyth – February 27th

At: Photovoltaic Technology Centre. Albert Street, Blyth. NE24 1LZ

Time: 3.00pm

FREE ENTRY

CPRE (formerly Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England) are hosting a FREE visit to the new [Solar PV Technology Centre](#) in Blyth.

Come along to find out whether rooftop solar panels could be the answer for every new home, what technology advancements are happening and whether photovoltaics can be integrated into other building materials. The afternoon also includes a tour of the Solar Capture manufacturing facility. For more details and booking, email Annie.CPRE@gmail.com



Tyne for Change - A People's Conference – Thursday, February 29th

At: Haltwhistle Community Hub/Mechanics Institute/Library, NE49 0AX

Time: 10 .00– 4.00pm

FREE ENTRY – includes a simple, locally sourced vegetarian / vegan lunch & refreshments.

TRAVEL: 5 mins from train and bus stops. Please consider coming by public transport

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

A gathering of communities who are concerned about river health in the Tyne Valley and beyond, and who want to take action. Organised by [Sustainable Haltwhistle](#).

This one-day event will present data on the effect of sewage spillages on river health and biodiversity. We will learn what some local groups have been doing about it and discuss what actions we as a community can take. As a follow up to the event we will be passing questions to Northumbrian Water and a further community event may be organised.

Nick Morphet will present data on sewage spillages in the South Tyne catchment and comment on how effectively Northumbrian Water are dealing with the problem. He will present data on the South Tyne's health, focusing on elements which are affected by sewage pollution and suggest actions which could be taken to put a stop to sewage pollution and make the river healthier.

Ceri Gibson, CEO of Tyne Rivers Trust, will share a presentation looking in detail at the effect of river health on biodiversity and wildlife.

Prof. Mike Dibb-Fuller, Wylam Clean Tyne Group, will describe their journey of attempting to get bathing water status for the Tyne at Wylam, developing faecal bacteria monitoring, and their results, as well as wider engagement to clean up the river. The Wylam project is very advanced and there will be an extended Q&A allowing audience members to explore the detail of the project as well as understand how to replicate it.

Felton Clean River Group will provide an update on their work on river health in the Coquet Valley. They have set up a coalition of local community groups including the Women's Institute.

Discussion, Shared Learning and Next Steps will be key to this community event.

[TO BOOK CLICK HERE](#)

Please complete one booking form for each person attending. Full details, directions and final agenda will be sent out by email the week before the event.

Can't attend but want to go on Sustainable Haltwhistle mailing list? [Click HERE](#)



Rothbury CAN – TALK Trees in Art – March 9th, 2024 - Jubilee Hall, Rothbury 2.00pm.

This talk follows the Repair Café which is being held earlier at the same venue.



Hold the Date – June 27th – 30th – Alnwick Playhouse

What a **Wonderful World Festival** dates **27 - 30 June 2024**

The focus this year is on something we all need – clean air! To find out more about the programme for **The Air We Breathe** and when tickets will be on sale

[Click here.](#)

Repair Cafes

- 1. Greener Berwick Zero Waste Group Repair Café – Saturday 24th February 2024 in the Salvation Army Hall, Church Street, Berwick. 10.00-1.00pm.** Darning, sewing repairs, toys, phone software, computer software, blade sharpening, general repairs. The repair café will run on the last Saturday of every month, same venue, and same time. For information contact info@greenerberwick.org.uk and put FAO Repair Cafe Team in the Subject heading.
- 2. Coquetdale Repair Café - March 9th, 2024, in the Jubilee Hall Rothbury -10.00-2.00pm** Combine fun & learning with reducing waste. Have your broken items repaired or learn to repair them yourself with the help of friendly volunteers. Tea and cakes available! <https://www.coquetrepair.co.uk/>
- 3. Felton Repair Café – April 13th, 2024, at Gallery Forty5, Felton 11am – 3.00pm** Bring along your sewing, clothes, bicycles, knives, and tools for sharpening – and if you need help with that tricky bit of IT – bring that along too. Join the Repair Revolution! [Find us on Facebook.](#)

Special Interest Groups – News & Updates



Climate Crisis Response - SIG

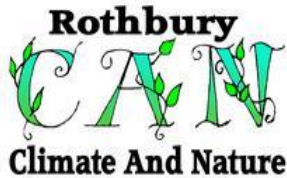
A few members of the Climate Crisis Response group met recently for a chat and a coffee. We felt that there were several positives in meeting face-to-face rather than just on WhatsApp. As well as getting to know each other better, we could share our concerns and understanding of the climate and ecological crisis. We wanted to expand our knowledge and develop perspectives of what could be and is being done to tackle the crisis of environment and nature. We plan to meet again at the **Lindisfarne Centre in Alnwick NE66 1AU** on Friday **March 1st, 10.00am.**

Do come and join us – there's a café with delicious cakes at affordable prices and plenty of parking. Though if you can, please use public transport or car share. If you want more information, contact **Terry Smith, SIG Group Admin**, via email to tezzalamezz@icloud.com



Coquetdale Green Network - SIG

The Coquetdale Green Network is a communication and sharing hub for green activists and green groups in the area.



Part of the CGH is Rothbury CAN. Rothbury CAN is an umbrella name for several small groups of climate activists. Each group has a different focus and is dedicated to doing all they can to combat climate change and help nature thrive. We believe that everyone can contribute in their own small way to make a difference and we aim to empower individuals and communities to act towards a more sustainable future.

Rothbury CAN comprises several groups:

- Rothbury Tree Wardens
- Rothbury Rubbish Friends
- ROWANS (Recovering Our Wild and Natural Spaces)
- Low Carbon Housing
- Transport
- Coquetdale Repair Cafe

Rothbury CAN is now linked to **CRAG – Coquet River Action Group** (see below for more).

Website: All Rothbury CAN and action group news can be found here www.rothburycan.org

Change of Email: Please note our **NEW** email address: rothbury.can@gmail.com



Coquet River Action Group (CRAG)

CRAG is a new collaborative project, working in conjunction with the Northumberland Rivers Trust. CRAG brings together environmental groups, parish councils, WIs, etc, along the length of the river. We are initially looking at coordinating regular water quality testing with the aim of providing data to assist in maintaining and improving the water quality and the health of the river.

We've been working on a protocol to ensure a consistent scientific approach for all groups which will be rolled out next month when testing starts in earnest. Rothbury WI and Warkworth Green Matters have already started testing and trialling methods.

Rothbury CAN held a meeting of interested people recently, led by Jane Davis of Rothbury WI. 14 people attended, with 4 sending apologies, but confirming commitment to the group. So, this is proving to be a very popular type of positive activism.

Jane says: *“There are exciting times ahead hopefully and a project that will go on to encompass all aspects of the health and biodiversity of this important SSSI river over the long term!”*



Arts and Culture - SIG

The NEW Arts and Culture SIG joined the WhatsApp Community at the start of February. The aims of the group are to “...creatively highlight our concerns, raise awareness and visualise the science of the climate emergency. You don’t have to be an artist it’s all about making connections, sharing events and funding ideas to use art to inspire and educate.”

The SIG Coordinator is Northumberland artist and environmental activist, **Ali Elly**. If you are interested in exploring or contributing to how art and culture can raise awareness of the climate emergency and would like to join the group – just make a request to join. If you are not a WhatsApp user but would like to connect and collaborate with Ali and other creatives, do contact Ali by email aliellydesign@gmail.com.

News from Around the County



Estuary Group have ongoing algae monitoring of the Tweed and are liaising with NW and EA on possible volunteering of members to become water rangers.

Transport and Active Travel Group are helping promote the town's cargo bike recently provided by NCC. They are also promoting better bus services and usage through lobbying NCC.

Warmer Homes Group are promoting and leafleting on the Government's current grant schemes. [Click on this link](#) for more information.

Further information on Greener Berwick Action Group activities can be found [here](#).



Duchess Community High School Climate Club

Several students at DCHS will be taking part in the Big Plastic Count in March 11th to 17th March. See more information about the campaign and how you can also take part below. It’s a great way to get the whole family involved. Visit <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

Students in Drama and Environmental Science are preparing contributions for the forthcoming What a Wonderful World Festival. The student body are being encouraged to capture photographs representing 'My

Northumberland' showing why the county is such a special place, for an exhibition coming to The Alnwick Playhouse in June. To find out more about the planned exhibition and how to submit your photos, you will find the Entry Form with the rules and age groups here:

<https://whataww.org/photography-exhibition>

Campaigns & Surveys



The Big Plastic Count – 11th – 17th March 2024

Organised by Greenpeace, the plastic crisis isn’t going away, so the Big Plastic Count is back. Plastic is everywhere. From the candy-coloured vapes that litter our streets to the pots and packets our food and drink often comes in. **Plastic is harming our health and our environment.**

Want to do something about it? This year we have a huge opportunity. The UK government could play a leading role at global negotiations about plastic waste. But first, we need to show our government the scale of the problem. **The Big Plastic Count -**

the UK's biggest investigation into household plastic waste. By taking part, you can help pressure the government to turn off the plastic tap once and for all.

This year, when nations come together to agree on a [Global Plastics Treaty](#) they will set new global rules for the production of plastic. With public pressure, they could choose to turn off the plastic tap once and for all.

For just one week – 11-17 March 2024 – households of all shapes and sizes, schools, community groups and businesses all over the country will count their plastic packaging waste and share their results.

It's simple to take part in The Big Plastic Count. **Sign up today and Greenpeace will send you a free counting pack with everything you need for the survey.**

When you submit your data at the end of the Count week, their whizzy data analysts will send you your personal plastic footprint. The data will be used to form a national picture of the state of plastic waste in the UK today.

[Watch the video](#) to see how it works and join the Count here.

[Sign up today](#)



The Great British Spring Clean

This campaign runs from **15th to 31st March 2024**. Each year in the UK over 3 million small mammals are killed by littered cans and bottles. They are attracted to the sugar, climb inside, get trapped and die. In one bottle alone, Lynne Russell of Warkworth Green Matters, found 4 dead shrews. Please can as many people as possible promote the event and get involved in some way, whether through your parish/town council or individual groups.

Full details are on the [Keep Britain Tidy](#) website.

Call to Collaborate on Facebook

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth have a very active [Facebook page](#) on which they regularly post two or three articles, opinion pieces, news items and information/announcements of oncoming events. Our broad theme is the environment - particularly threats to it, nature, and diversity. Whilst we know that Facebook isn't everybody's choice information source, we would welcome members and supporters of Northumberland Green Hub joining in and maybe contributing. You can find the Facebook page at <https://www.alnwickfoe.org.uk/>

Funding Opportunities



Spacehive is the only dedicated community fundraising platform in the UK and Ireland. It's completely free to set up your own fundraising page. Spacehive's mission is to 'empower people' and make it easy for communities to make their local area better. [Spacehive](#) partners with councils, companies, and foundations to help bring project ideas to life.

These partners have funds which they will use to support crowdfunding campaigns on the Spacehive platform.

Their website states *“Spacehive has millions of pounds available in funding across the UK and Ireland from our partners; from the Mayor of London to Birmingham City Council, to BT and Arts Council England. Whether you're crowdfunding for a festival in Worthing, a sports tournament in Huddersfield or a green space in Liverpool, Spacehive has funding to help you make it happen.*

Communities tackling climate change and environmental issues in the northeast have successfully raised funds through the platform.



The Steering Group are drawing together a list of relevant funding bodies and crowdfunding sources to help all NGH member communities. If you know of any that have worked well for your group please send details to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com

NCC Climate Change Team – February Update

Thank you to the NCC Climate Change team for their latest newsletter. We've captured the highlights here.



Vape message taking to the county's roads

Efforts are being stepped up to make sure that residents are aware of how and where to recycle their vape tubes responsibly and Northumberland's bin lorry fleet are relaying the message. All of Northumberland's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have vape tube bins.

Alternatively, people can return the tubes to the retailer they bought them from, where they will then be sent to be responsibly disposed of.



Energy Efficiency Drive for Historic Homes

The government has published new plans aiming “to remove barriers and drive energy efficiency in historic homes, cutting energy bills for households across the country, while also ensuring that the important historical and beautiful features of these homes are properly protected.”

The review has set out a series of commitments to drive energy efficiency and low carbon heating improvements to listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas across England, as part of the Government's commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050. Find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-efficiency-drive-for-historic-homes>



NGH Exploring Opportunities to Collaborate with NCC Climate Change Team

Liz and Lesley from the NGH Steering Group, are meeting with a member of the Climate Change team to explore ways in which our network might connect and collaborate with the team going forward.

Northumberland Farmers Working Towards Net Zero



**Northumberland
Coast
National
Landscape**

Farming in Protected Landscapes on the Northumberland Coast National Landscape.

Hello everyone, my name is Fiona MacLeod. I'm a member of NGH and also the assistant for the **Farming in Protected Landscapes**

Scheme. (Fipl for short). Fipl is a great programme that provides grant funding for farmers, land managers or Parish Councils within the Northumberland Coast National Landscape. It recognises the special value that the Northumberland coast has, both for its natural and cultural heritage.

The Scheme aims to assist farmers in creative opportunities to support nature, address the climate and biodiversity crisis, improve people's engagement with the natural world and support sustainable farm businesses and communities. Some recent examples of projects we have supported are helping farmers create ponds and wetland areas, sow wildflower meadows, try innovative new methods of compost making and create nature trails and educational resources around the farm. Amongst many others!

Applications need to be within the National Landscape but areas just outside this may be considered if it can be shown to bring benefit to the protected landscape. Group projects are welcomed as this can bring additional benefits for both the environment and people.

If you know farmers or land managers within the Northumberland Coast National Landscape, please tell them about the scheme. All ideas will be considered, whether small or large, so please get in touch. The Fipl team are very happy to come and meet you for advice or to help develop any ideas you may have.

More information can be found here: <https://www.northumberlandcoast-nl.org.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes/>

Any queries to Mark.Middleton@northumberland.gov.uk or Fiona.MacLeod@northumberland.gov.uk



Is Farming the Problem, or is it the Solution? A Practitioner's Perspective, The Journey to Net Zero...

Recently appointed to the EU's Soil Mission Board and a special advisor to the UK's Agriculture Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), John Gilliland, is a willow and livestock farmer from N. Ireland, whose farm has independently been verified to be

"Beyond" Net Zero, today. Delivering a pioneering project in Northern Ireland, he has demonstrated that it is possible for farmers to make structured progress towards net zero and revealed that some are already hitting the target.

On 1st February he gave a presentation to a group of Northumberland Farmers at Farmers Talks in Embleton. Hosted by Northumberland Coast National Landscape and delivered by Coastal Grains Ltd, the talks are funded under Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.

His presentation provided an overview of the steps that were followed with a group of farmers (including stock, arable, sheep and dairy) in Northern Ireland, which led to significant reductions in their CO2 emissions and significant increase in carbon capture in soil and trees. He also detailed the software used for essential carbon data gathering as well as the monitoring practices required to enable farmers to move their agricultural businesses towards Net Zero.

Resources on Farming for Net Zero can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IU_QO0t1o_1MuED9cp6AVbvtvEYpQUiP/view?usp=drive_link

To view John Gilliland 's Presentation Slides:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IS3frcQD5ZXXu9DkC001-0WfL7EsgMcT/view?usp=sharing>

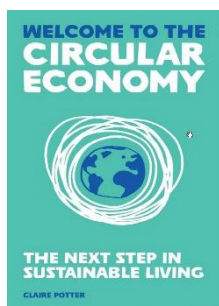
Film Reviews

The End We Start From

Released on 19th January and coming to a cinema near you, [The End We Start From](#) is adapted from a dystopian novel set in the future, although author, Megan Hunter, says it now feels more relevant in a directly contemporary way.

The film features Jodie Comer as a nameless female protagonist fighting to survive in a waterlogged London, and acts as a reminder about how easy it is for society to break down. The film focuses on the realities of motherhood pushed to extremes. The film's director, Mahalia Belo, hopes the film could encourage those in power to sit up and take note *“The feeling is that it's inevitable to some extent, unless some change happens and unless people who have some ability to make change actually really listen to what experts are saying and basically make sure that we aren't living in a challenging state in the future.”*

Book Reviews



Welcome to the Circular Economy - The Next Step in Sustainable Living Author – Claire Potter [Publisher - Orian 2021]

Taking inspiration from nature, the circular economy is a series of interconnecting systems that make everyday life more sustainable. Plus, we can all be part of it: you, your second cousin, that guy that lives down the street and the person you follow on Instagram on the other side of the world.

In this handy book, Claire Potter helps explain what the circular economy is, how we as individuals fit into a bigger landscape, how we can demand more of brands, corporations, and governments – and how all the decisions we make really do make a difference. You can [Preview the book on Google here](#)

In the Media

Water bosses in England and Wales face bonus bans for illegal sewage discharges.

Senior executives got £26m in extra payments over the past four years despite public outrage at the extent and frequency of overflows. Now Ministers are to ban bonuses for water company bosses in England and Wales who fail to prevent illegal sewage spills that pollute rivers, lakes, and seas.

The policy, which many campaigners – including Labour and the Liberal Democrats – have been lobbying the government to implement, follows public outrage over the impact and scale of recent illegal raw sewage discharges. The environment secretary, Steve Barclay, is proposing to block payouts to executives of firms that commit criminal acts of water pollution, starting with bonuses in the 2024-25 financial year from April. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/feb/11/water-bosses-face-bonus-bans-if-their-companies-discharge-sewage-illegally>

MARCH Digest – Copy Deadline

Please send your items for the next edition by email together with any attachments to northumberlandgreenhub@gmail.com by **March 10th latest!**



To ALL contributors to this month's Digest.

You know who you are, and your efforts made pulling this edition together so much easier.