



## Welcome to CyberNorth's October Newsletter

CyberNorth is working to support the growth and development of the whole cyber security community across the North East region. Find out more below and make sure you sign up so you don't miss out on key events and fun activities!

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## Ministerial Visit to #CyberFest

Wow! #CyberFest is over for another year, with 16 events, 1200 registrations, 1000 attendees and a Ministerial visit. A huge shout out to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's festival amazing. Special thanks to Aspire Technology Solutions who worked tirelessly as our co-hosts to produce the headline event, Aspire CyberFest, at St James' Park on 26 September 2023.

The hard work paid off with a surprise visit from Viscount Camrose, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for AI and Intellectual Property), with responsibilities for all Department of Science, Innovation and Technology business in the Lords, Artificial Intelligence (AI), intellectual property and cyber.

Viscount Camrose's visit marked the first time a Government minister has addressed #CyberFest. Before addressing the conference, the Minister met with regional cyber security leaders to discuss the challenges being faced and the potential to grow the cyber and digital sector to unlock new jobs and investment across the region. He also put his computer hacking nous and cyber knowledge to

the test in the 'BattleBots arena' – a robot wars-style interactive game which brings together cyber security and hardware skills.

The visit was an amazing opportunity for the region to put its case directly to the Government, of which we took full advantage.

Keep an eye out over the coming weeks for further news from #CyberFest including the recordings of the two online events.

As always, we are keen to find out your thoughts on the events, so please complete this [online feedback form](#). We will also be sending it to everyone who registered and sharing it on our social media pages.

The form also has a section on why you couldn't or didn't attend as that information is just as useful so please take a look and help us make sure we can keep improving.

Did someone say #CyberFest24?

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## Meet the Board



**Annabel Berry**

Chair, Chief Executive, Ladies  
Hacking Society



**Danielle Phillips**

Director of CyberNorth



**Phil Jackman**

Director of CyberNorth



**Caroline Churchill**

Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson



**Paul Matthewson**

Security Consulting Manager,

Since April this year, CyberNorth has been an independent Community Interest Company. This is giving the cluster better direction and control over its future. To provide proper governance, a Strategic Board as been appointed. Chaired by Annabel Berry, Chief Executive of Ladies Hacking Society, the board comprises five directors in total, including:

- Danielle Phillips - CyberNorth and Inside Out Consulting
- Phil Jackman - CyberNorth and Guerrilla Working
- Caroline Churchill - Womble Bond Dickinson
- Paul Matthewson - Accenture

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## October Events



As always there are plenty of events going on across the region. October has a real focus on learning, education and skills:

- Schools North East SUMMIT 2023 - 19 October at St James Park. This year's summit will look at the policies and actions required to ensure that all of our schools can be 'Great North Schools' in a system that is worthy of them. How do we make the whole system 'Great'? [Tickets](#)
- CyberFirst North East Education Conference - 23 October at The Catalyst. Join us for a day of learning and collaboration at the Cyber First Education Conference for secondary school teachers. We're looking for North East businesses who either provide cyber security services, or have a dedicated

team of cyber-security professionals to attend, either as delegates or exhibitors. The purpose is to raise the profile of the NCSC CyberFirst programme for schools and the vital participation of the region's cyber security community, in order for it to be successful in planting the seeds for future generations of locally nurtured cyber security professionals. Contact [cyberfirst@cybernorth.biz](mailto:cyberfirst@cybernorth.biz) if you're interested in taking part. [Tickets](#)

Don't forget to keep checking our [events page](#) for the latest updates and let us know of any events that you are planning so we can shout about them too.

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## Shared Apprenticeships

Over the summer CyberNorth has been working on a proposal to deliver a shared apprenticeship scheme whereby apprentices could work across more than one business during their apprenticeship; exposing them to a number of different roles and skills across the sector and connecting businesses to the new generation of talent.

Unfortunately, our application to become a Flexi-Job Apprentice Agency has not been initially successful. We are now working through the new hurdles put up by DfE and remain fully committed to the project and the benefit to the sector as we look to address the experience gap.

Watch this space.

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## Get Involved



If you are work, study or are interested in cyber security then CyberNorth is your community. Do get involved!

**MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:**

- Come along to our events and encourage others too.
- Volunteer to speak at an event, write a blog post or take part in our podcast
- Give us content for the website, including your own organisation's events
- Amplify our message by commenting on, reposting or liking our social media
- Suggest ideas for future initiatives
- Encourage your colleagues to become part of CyberNorth
- Tell people outside the region about what is going on





## About CyberNorth

[www.cybernorth.biz](http://www.cybernorth.biz)

CyberNorth is the region's cybersecurity community, supported by Accenture, UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration and recognised by the Department for Science, Information and Technology (DSIT) and the National Cyber Security Centre as representing the region. It is part of the UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration (UKC3) and Global Epic.

CyberNorth is working to support all organisations across the regional cybersecurity ecosystem including cybersecurity service suppliers, consumers of cybersecurity services, academia, government, other public sectors including blue light organisations, media and policy makers.

Our aim is to position the North East as a great place to deliver cybersecurity services.

## Contact us

If you would like any further information on the contents of this newsletter, or any other related issue then please contact us at [hello@cybernorth.biz](mailto:hello@cybernorth.biz)

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