



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 149 Dec 2024/Jan 2025

Festive lights parade snakes through town

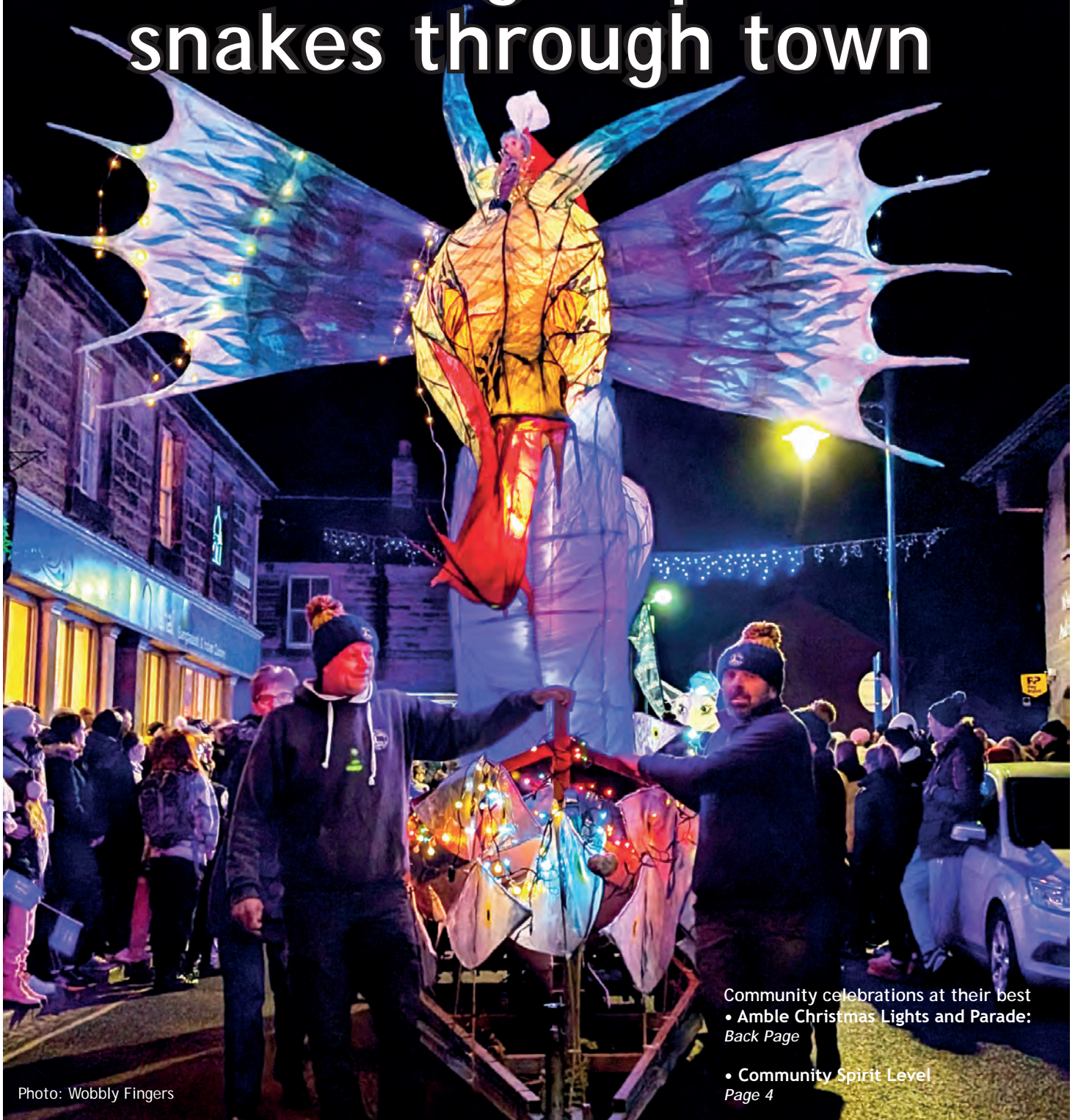


Photo: Wobbly Fingers

Community celebrations at their best
• Amble Christmas Lights and Parade:
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Decision on Duke's development angers residents



40 houses and 58 supported living apartments have been given approval by planners

A planning meeting descended into chaos as furious residents vented their frustration over the approval of plans for a new housing development in Amble. Locals from Amble branded the decision “disgraceful” while one man claimed he would have to sell his home as he “could not live” next to such a development. The meeting’s chairman, Coun Colin Hardy, was forced to delay proceedings and ask the public to leave as tempers flared.

The plans, brought by the Duke of Northumberland’s property company Northumberland Estates, will see 58 supported living apartments and 40 standard homes built on land at Braid Hill, south of the Gut, with access via Riverside Park.

Despite the fact the plans were recommended for approval by council planners, there had been stiff opposition from local residents. A total of 55 letters of objection were received – although some objectors submitted more than one letter – while Amble Town Council also objected on the grounds that the site is on a flood plain with Riverside Park suffering from sewage flooding during heavy rainfall.

Speaking at the meeting, objector Paul Dancer outlined residents’ concerns. He said: “I speak for many residents. I urge you to take a decision in the public’s interest and not in the interest of the Duke of Northumberland.

“Management measures for flooding are woefully inadequate. Sewage flooding is a certainty.

“There is going to be a two-year construction period. It will

be equivalent to living next to an opencast site – life will become unbearable.”

Northumberland Estates’ development planner Guy Munden defended the plans. He explained a previous application had been withdrawn and reworked to make it more acceptable to council planners.

Mr Munden added that measures being installed as part of the application would improve both current road safety and flooding situations following the completion of a road safety audit and lengthy discussions with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LFFA).

He continued: “There has been some localised flooding on Riverside Park. The application includes measures



Plans are to raise the surface level of the development as it is in a flood zone. Access will come via Riverside Park.

for an oversized surface water attenuation tank and extra road gullies at the site access, to the betterment of the existing situation.

“There are numerous benefits. The development will have a mixed demographic of residents with the extra care scheme alongside housing suitable for a range of ages and stages of life including affordable housing. It is an exemplar of

what a lifetime neighbourhood can be.”

Officers from the LFFA also reminded members that a development did not have to solve existing flood issues on a site. Rather, applicants just had to ensure their plans did not make the issue worse.

Coun Trevor Thorne proposed approval of the plans. He said: “It is a very difficult site. It has had its problems but I think the officers have come up with solutions.

“We have a growing elderly population in Northumberland. As regards to the site, yes it has its problems but location-wise it is excellent in that it can flow into the good facilities of Amble which have improved markedly over the years.

“There are problems with the site but our statutory consultees and the planning department are telling us that they are happy. Yes, there might be a flood in 40 years but our flood experts are doing all they can to make sure it is a safe site. We have to recognise the advice and expertise we get.”

Coun Wendy Pattison, the council’s cabinet member for social care, added: “I’m very

keen that we have extra care and supported living housing in this area.”

However, not all members were convinced. Coun Martin Swinbank said: “This is difficult – it is as difficult as it goes for planning.

“The need for adapted, supported living is well established and it is in good proximity to the settlement – yet it is on a flood plain.

“I have absolute respect for the officers but sometimes people get these things wrong, and we have seen where it has been got wrong and people’s houses have been flooded. It’s absolutely devastating.

“I’m just not confident that this is going to be enough, and I fear people are going to be flooded out of their homes. I cannot support this.”

The proposals were approved by five votes to two, with one abstention.

Speaking after the meeting, Northumberland Estates’ planning and development director Colin Barnes said: “We are pleased that the council has approved the scheme.

“All concerns raised by residents regarding flood risk and access have been thoroughly reviewed by the Local Lead Flood Authority, the Environment Agency, and the Highway Authority, which also required satisfactory Road Safety Audits. The Council has consistently maintained that the principle of developing the site—previously approved for housing and a supermarket—is acceptable and the new proposals, which include a mix of private, affordable, and assisted living for the elderly, address the needs of the community.

“The site is currently overgrown and partially brownfield, and the design of the scheme will be of high quality, contributing to the ongoing regeneration of Amble. We have also addressed residents’ concerns about access over the Braid; the revised plan removes the need for a road to be built across this valued open space. Overall, this represents a well-balanced decision.”

*James Robinson
Local Democracy Reporter Service*

Ed: See also Letters page 8

Allegations against RSPB warden 'unfair and unproven'

A Coquet Island manager who was sacked by the RSPB, has now received a substantial undisclosed settlement from the bird charity.

A number of allegations were brought against Dr Paul Morrison which resulted in him losing his job of 38 years, while a team of local volunteers walked out in protest at the decision.

As reported in the Daily Telegraph, Dr Morrison was alleged to have kept colleague Dr Ibrahim Alfarwi on Coquet Island for two months without a day off, and treated him like a modern-day slave.

The allegations came in the summer of 2022, at the same time as Coquet Island was seeing the outbreak of avian flu, which ultimately caused the deaths of thousands of birds on the RSPB run bird reserve.

As a result of the outbreak, staff and volunteers were described as struggling with an "insurmountable workload". Poor weather also contributed to difficulties accessing the island.

Volunteers and researchers who had worked on Coquet Island for years said they found the accusations against Dr Morrison "hard to believe",

and many of them resigned in protest.

Lord Ridley, a former member of the House of Lords was a frequent visitor to the island. He expressed his shock at the RSPB's judgement. Speaking on GB News he said: "The allegations, some of which were false and others certainly haven't been proven, effectively amounted to a very unfair treatment of a very talented individual."

Despite his denials of unacceptable behaviour and an offer to make changes that were required, the RSPB sacked Dr Morrison in March 2023.

Mounting a defence, Dr Morrison then brought a legal challenge against the RSPB, and in October this year, reached a settlement with the bird charity, receiving what the Telegraph described as "a substantial undisclosed sum".

A spokesperson for the RSPB said "It is correct that this individual no longer works for us. The RSPB takes pride in being an organisation which is committed to ensuring that all employees and volunteers are treated fairly and reasonably.



Dr Paul Morrison told The Ambler he was "devastated" by the accusations



Coquet Island is an internationally important bird sanctuary, hosting over 60,000 nesting seabirds each year, including puffins, eiders, fulmar and kittiwake. The island is famously home to the sole UK colony of roseate terns, Britain's rarest nesting seabird.

We will not be making further comment on issues relating to previous members of staff."

The Ambler understands Dr Alfarwi no longer works on Coquet Island.

In July 2023 a different RSPB team took over the running of the bird reserve, and after a call for help in The Ambler, a new group of volunteers has been recruited to assist in managing the island for the future benefit of the birds and wildlife.

Anna Williams



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Spirit of community reflected in Little Shore event



Photos from Dry Water Arts, Ivor Rackham, Lynne Morelli, Anna Williams and Sandra Guy

Over 2000 people are estimated to have attended a beautiful and atmospheric event at Amble's Little Shore which sought to celebrate community spirit.

Organised by Dry Water Arts, the unique outdoor event brought together original sound, installations, giant puppets and performances.

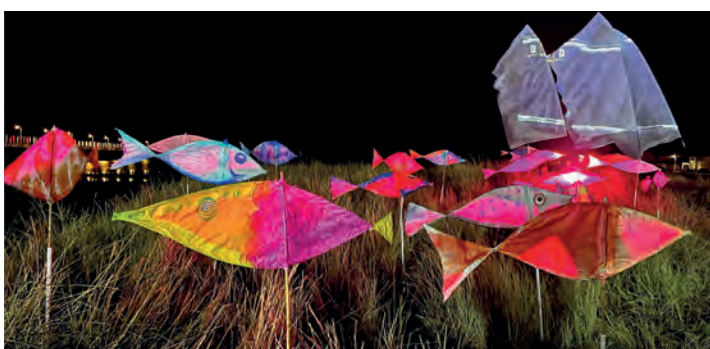
The event was inspired by South Korean culture and folklore and mixed with local voices and descriptions of Amble. Spirit walkers dressed in white performed a moving meditation walk along the Little Shore.

Beautifully lit flags and banners were placed around the area, a giant sea serpent created

by Amble Coastal Rowing Club floated in the water, and a local jazz band entertained the crowds, all adding to the atmospheric evening.

Paula Turner of Dry Water Arts said: "We have been overwhelmed by the positive responses. Right now there is a palpable need for positivity and unity.

This project has been powered by the people of Amble making known what really matters to them and giving the concept of community spirit a living, breathing outlet. 87 volunteers have given their time and skills over many weeks demonstrating that Amble is a place of creative innovation and ambition."



Local poet shortlisted for Britain's biggest poetry prize

Katrina Porteous's new poetry collection, *Rhizodont* (Bloodaxe Books), named after a fossil fish found on the Northumberland coast in 2007, has been shortlisted for the prestigious T.S. Eliot Prize, awarded annually for the best new poetry collection published in the UK and Ireland.

Katrina, who lives at Beadnell, has a long association with Amble, which began with a stint as a poet visiting schools in 1990. Her work is well-known around the town: lines appear in the town square, a poem is displayed at the harbour, and a sequence of her work is included in podcasts with Geoff Sample for the Amble Bord Waalk app. Her poems featured in BBC Radio 4's *Open Country: The Bord Waalk of Amble* in October 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000nvtc>. These bird poems now appear in her new book.

"I called my book *Rhizodont* because it's all about survival, extinctions and transformations," Katrina explains.

"The first part is a journey along the North-East coast,



Katrina Porteous at Amble Puffin Festival

from the former coal-mining communities of Durham to North Northumberland where the rhizodont's fossil was found. I wanted to set familiar places and wildlife, like the birds of Amble harbour, against a backdrop of vast geological time, and our own recent coal-mining, fossil-fuel burning history. The book addresses social and environmental change."

The second part of *Rhizodont* is quite different, dealing with global technological

developments like robotics and AI, and with the massive cycles of Earth's climate.

"I'm interested in how, at a local level, we adapt to global change," Katrina says.

"Amble is a place which has changed hugely, from coal staithes and railway lines to an increasingly busy tourist destination, while its fishing industry constantly negotiates change. Many of these poems consider how familiar local cultures or words, like 'creeve'

for a lobster pot or 'Cuddy's duck' for the eider – change and survive, or vanish, against a background of global developments.

Being shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize has come as a wonderful surprise to Katrina.

"It's a fantastic affirmation," she says. "My work is informed by many different voices: fishing families, former coal mining communities, as well as the scientists whose work I studied for the book. Displacement is a major theme in poetry, but these are the opposite: poems of place – places which are not often heard from in London. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who inspired or commissioned these poems – including Amble Development Trust and my publishers, Bloodaxe Books."

Readings by the ten poets shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize 2024 will take place in the Royal Festival Hall on Sunday 12 January. The winner of the £25,000 award will be announced at a ceremony in London on 13 January.

Rhizodont is available from Bloodaxe Books, price £12.99.

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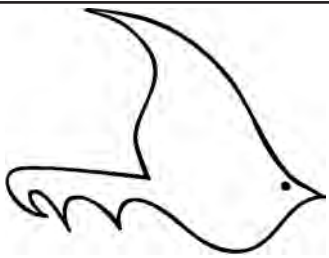
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The Ambler

COMMENDED at the Newspaper of the Year awards 2023

Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace
Amble, Northumberland NE65 0DT
Tel: 01665 712929
www.theambler.co.uk
editor@theambler.co.uk

Facebook: TheAmbler
X/Twitter: AmbleByTheSea
YouTube: AnnaAtTheAmbler1
Threads: AnnaAtTheAmbler
Bluesky: AnnaAtTheAmbler
Instagram: TheAmblerNews



Editorial Team:

Vivienne Dalglish, Norma Hinson
Ian MacKarill
Editor: Anna Williams

Distribution:

Charlotte, Wendy, Janette
Ian, John, Richard

Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

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#150 - 6 Jan #153 - 20 Jun
#151 - 21 Feb #154 - 29 Aug
#152 - 11 Apr #155 - 31 Oct

Reasons to be cheerful...



If ever there were reasons to be cheerful (and let's face it we need as many reasons as we can find these days), then the community of Amble can deliver in abundance.

In this edition we have page after page showing people working together for the benefit of others, putting on large community events, and looking

out for our environment.

We're a community that remembers our past, but also looks to our future. This is particularly shown on the Artograffi pages. Please do read their exclusive interview with James Andriot, the new head at James Calvert Spence College.

One thing Mr Andriot doesn't like is social media - and we

at The Ambler are re-assessing our presence on some of the platforms too. We are having a look at Bluesky and Threads so if you're on either or both of those, then please say hi. Our details are listed on the left of this page.

Finally, the Ambler team wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas, and we'll see you all again in 2025!

Changing Rooms comes to AYP

Amble Youth Project (AYP) was lucky enough to garner support from the Inn Collection Group, owners of the Amble Inn, to help redecorate the youth project building. Staff, trustees and young people helped the visiting team.

The painting project is part of the relaunching of AYP with changes to the projects on offer after a period of reorganisation and planning.

Matthew Connolly chair of

AYP said, "We welcomed a crack Changing Rooms type team from The Inn Collection Group who volunteered their time to help redecorate Amble Youth Project building."

After a busy summer program AYP have been looking at the range of projects they run and assessing the funding and the demand for activities. Training and development have been implemented for staff, and



we are recruiting a new service Delivery Manager. Volunteers are welcome to help on the projects, to expand on the things that are missing. Check www.ambleyouthproject.org or FB page for more info.

WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p8

A plea for bus stop seating

Because of my advancing age, and some ill health, I have recently had to make a number of journeys to various medical establishments by bus and have become aware of the lack of seats at bus stops in the town particularly the one outside the doctor's surgery at the bottom of Percy Drive.

It can be difficult and distressing to find that you have to wait 15 or 20 minutes for a late running bus without being able to sit and rest your legs. I

have contacted Councillor Terry Clerk about this and he has been in touch with the relevant authority, which apparently is Amble Town Council, to see what could be done. Their response was that they were not prepared to consider installing any form of seating in the bus shelter because this would encourage 'Anti-Social Behaviour'.

This is an utterly inadequate and pathetic response. Elderly and infirm people must now

suffer because the police are unable to control a small minority of people who are intent on destroying public property. Is this truly an example of what our society has become. There are millions of bus shelters all over this country most of which have some basic form of seat installed in them.

Is Amble such an unruly place?

Robin Lewsey
by email

Muddy footpaths

I see from Ambler edition 148 that Councillor Watson has promised to resurface South Avenue once the adjacent school reconstruction is finished.

Please can he include the muddy footpaths across the grass patches at each end of South Avenue in this resurfacing contract? It would cost very little extra, please many parents and save carpets throughout Amble!

Tom Lloyd
via email

Ed: We understand Cllr Jeff Watson has replied to Tom on this issue, and a conversation is ongoing.

Winter access to the library

In issue 148, you had a full spread on the middle page about the Library in Amble, I live just beside the library and enjoy the fact that it is right outside my back door, so I can visit it reasonably easily. I do so each Friday for a painting course, plus the use of the computers, borrowing of books etc.

Access to the library is reasonably easy during the dry days and months, but during the dark rainy months, it not so easy, due to flooding of the

lane. Then it becomes a mud bath of huge puddles, and mud to ice skate to.

I am concerned for myself aged 66, and my next-door neighbour who struggles to walk. In fact, all the neighbours on this street are older than myself. I personally have fallen twice. My husband has tried the council, the library management, even fix my street, for three years we have tried and still nothing happens.

Name supplied
via email

The Ambler contacted both County Councillors on this issue. Cllr Terry Clark replied: Strategic Estates are looking into this problem with flooding, mud & gritting.

Hugh's views: For the love of birds

What a great year it has been for birds and bird watchers in and around Amble. It's always exciting to hear of rare birds in the area such as the bridled tern which appeared on Coquet Island or the Siberian stonechat which took up temporary residence in the uncultivated corner of a field adjacent to the Caravan Park in early October.

The recovery of the seabird communities on Coquet Island after the devastation caused by bird flu was welcome news. The Seabird assistants and volunteers play such an important role in the success of this RSPB reserve.

The Space for Shorebirds project also had success this year with protecting ringed plovers which nested on the shore at Amble Dunes. In early July I was lucky enough to encounter two newly hatched young which were already feeding with their parents outside the protected zone. Unfortunately, neither survived to fledge but it was still



Locals looked out for the crow

an important milestone.

Another bird which seems to have given great pleasure to several people in Amble was a young carrion crow which turned up on the green area between Percy Drive and Rose Finch Drive in early summer last year. Unable to fly, the youngster was at first attended by at least one of its parents. It was undersized with hardly a tail and only stubby flight feathers. It sought refuge in a hawthorn bush beside the footpath roosting there at night.

Several people recognised its plight and soon donations of bird food were being left regularly under the tree. Although it disappeared for a few days around Christmas, it did reappear and continued to forage over the green. The hawthorn afforded very little protection during the winter but the young crow survived the worst of the weather and continued to prosper.

Eventually, as it grew stronger the crow abandoned the hawthorn and began roosting in a silver birch close to the vets' car park. New feathers replaced the original worn and stunted plumage and the bird seemed to grow in confidence. The crow still accepted food offerings although never losing its natural wariness of humans and by early September it was gliding short distances across the grassed areas.

Then on 16 September I witnessed the crow fly up into a tall birch near the hawthorn. I only saw it once more and hope that it is enjoying its new found independence.

Hugh Tindle

JCSC 'buzzin' for books



Max, Carl and Alfie with Mrs Johnson (left) and Mrs Bramwells (right)

Students from year 7 and 8 at James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) were buzzin' for books when they took part in the Bookbuzz programme organised by charity, BookTrust.

This curated programme gives students the chance to choose a book each from a collection of 16 titles, which is then bought by the school for the student to take home. Pupils attended library sessions with their form tutor and Mrs. Johnson, Librarian at JCSC, who introduced the books that were available so the children could choose their favourite.

Mrs Johnson said: "Bookbuzz is a brilliant way to get children excited about reading and helps build the narrative that reading for pleasure is fun! We have had great fun during the sessions and it is always interesting to see what book the children pick – the difference in favourites is vast."

Katie chose a book as she

loves a murder mystery; Lacey chose an animals subject; and Evangeline chose a spooky story about ghosts and the paranormal.

Mrs Johnson required the assistance of some enthusiastic students to help her collate and label the 200+ books. Max, Carl and Alfie were amongst the helpers - Mrs Johnson said "The three were very convincing as librarians/ book sellers, although we agreed £1million was a bit steep for one book! They did a great job at unpacking the boxes and sorting them for us to label. It was great to see them excited about books!"

A class of year 7's were the first to receive their books, Mrs Johnson said: "It's a great feeling being able to hand over a book for free! I hope they really enjoy the book they have chosen. We will keep one of each of the 16 titles in the library stock, so if the pupils liked more than one book, they can borrow it from our library."

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Planning approved despite objections

Does anyone in Amble agree with the County Council's decision to allow Northumberland Estates to build on The Braid? There cannot be many. The planning application was approved by Northumberland County Council, despite a multitude of objections from the residents of Amble, not least from the Town Council itself.

There are three issues here. Firstly, this is a clear example of the super-rich riding roughshod over the wants of us, the ordinary people who value the Braid and use that green space.

This is indicative of the total disrespect that the elite has towards nature, demonstrating they would do anything for a quick profit.

Secondly, there are the ridiculous restrictions placed upon planning decision making by central government that

makes it ever more difficult for residents to have control over their communities. The acres are deliberately dealt into the hands of the developers.

Thirdly, our elected representatives on the County Council are once again kowtowing to the Duke and not representing us, the people of Amble. Either that, or they don't have the courage to stand up and vote against the Duke. They are reverse Robin Hoods, taking away from us and giving to the rich. They don't represent me and should hang their heads in shame.

We have a Local Plan that Northumberland County Council has ignored once again. It says we required 540 additional homes to be built between 2016 and 2036. That number has already been vastly exceeded. 776 homes have already been built since the Plan

was written, with permission for a total of 1100 new houses approved. This is a political issue. The Tory controlled council allowed this travesty, and Labour is insisting on a huge housebuilding increase in Northumberland. Yet, there are over 12,000 homes, 7.7% of properties in our county, sitting empty that the Council could do something about.

Yes, we need truly affordable and social housing so young people can manage to live here. We also need sheltered housing to help us care for our aging population. However, there are other common-sense ways of addressing that and it is no reason to destroy yet another of our green spaces.

Shame on all those who allowed this to happen.
Ivor Rackham, Lead Campaigner, Amble Green Party
Ed: See also p2

Bede announcement

It is with great sadness that the Board of Directors announce that after One Hundred and Twenty Two years Amble Club Ltd (The Bede Street Club) is facing closure.

This is largely due to the increased cost of utilities, as well as the downward trend in people socialising on a regular basis.

Companies House have charged the Board of Directors to undertake an URGENT AUDIT of the shares/shareholders.

- Please present, in person*, to the Secretary or a director at the times listed below
- Please have with you your share certificate or membership card** if at all possible

The Secretary will be available in the club at the following times:

- Tuesday mornings: 9am - 12noon
- Thursday evenings: 7pm - 9pm

*If you are unable to attend yourself you may appoint an agent to act on your behalf

** If you are not able to produce the document(s) then please still attend so that we can verify your membership

Carol Nelson, Secretary

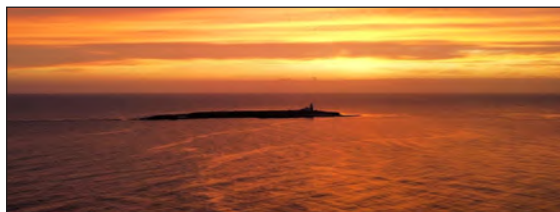


Fabulous festive cactus

I thought I'd send you a photo of my enormous Christmas cactus.

Its about 20 years old and flowers like this every year in November. Isn't it fantastic?

Claire Peiffer
Amble



Thank you to Carle Robinson for this gorgeous sunrise over Coquet Island



Well done to all the people who put together Styles by Helena's amazing Christmas window. Very impressive!

Save the wood



Having contacted planners, politicians and developers, to no avail, I wish to make this final plea to stop mature woodland being destroyed to enable a dangerous road junction, and the adding of 480 houses onto an already overloaded school road in Amble.

The woodland, is across the A1068/Percy Drive roundabout from the Amble Inn. Persimmon have been given planning permission to demolish the woods and add a T junction access leading directly onto the A1068, dangerously close to the existing roundabout.

Meanwhile another developer, Tantallon, have been given planning permission to build 480 houses, with the only vehicle access onto Acklington Road adjacent to no less than 3 schools and the only vehicle access to a further 200 houses currently being built by a third developer.

There is a simple solution that

would solve all 3 problems if the developers, planners and highway authority could just get their heads together, which is to build a shared vehicle access direct onto the roundabout, as shown on the attached plan drawn over Persimmon's current layout.

I am not trying to stop the developments and I am not on social media. I am merely a concerned local resident dismayed by the current inefficient unsafe and unhealthy proposed designs, based on nothing more than historic farm boundaries. I am hoping that media pressure can shame the responsible parties into providing a layout worthy of local residents and motorists, while there is still time. After all, it's the people of Amble who will be stuck with these layouts long after the developers are gone!

I can provide more information if required.

Tom Lloyd - tomcolloy@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Policing updates

Following a report of a non-residential burglary in Amble which occurred on the evening of 17 October, where numerous items were stolen, PCSO Darin Fawcett, sprang into action and through his local knowledge the majority of the stolen property was recovered from a derelict garage. It was subsequently reunited with the owner. The investigation is still ongoing to identify those responsible.

In relation to vehicle anti-social behaviour, several vehicles have been stopped and drivers spoken to. Three of the drivers

were driving with no insurance, so their vehicles have been uplifted and they have been referred into the criminal justice system for driving offences.

The team also successfully tracked down and arrested two wanted people. Both were charged with offences and have now been remanded in custody.

Please continue to contact us via alnwick.npt@northumbria.police.uk or via the force website here with any information regarding anti-social behaviour.
Tracey Brown 2167 Sergeant Neighbourhood Policing (Rural)



Exciting new Irish band Amble recently visited the Friendliest Port. They told The Ambler: "We've spent two days here in the middle of our UK tour to relax, beautiful place!"

If you'd like to hear them live, they'll be playing the Boiler Shop Newcastle on 11 Feb before they tour Australia, New Zealand and the US. Check them out www.facebook.com/amblebandofficial/?_rdr

Lily Tibbitts' Student Life

In the middle of September, I was shortlisted for a writing competition, and anyone who has spoken to me since then will know that I absolutely have not shut up about it.

This has less to do with the actual shortlisting and more to do with the fact that, after the shortlisting, they asked for a further 40,000 words of writing to determine who wins. That's a lot of words.

They also asked for it by the start of November – not very long to write half of a novel.

I honestly wasn't sure if I would be able to do it on top of university and work, and I was apprehensive putting so much time into my writing when it's unlikely to win, but I decided to give it a go, setting a very ambitious goal of 2,000 words a day that I fully expected to not achieve.

But, by some miracle, I did achieve it. I shoved everything else aside and was able to write the full 2,000 words almost every single day. I had been worried about being able to fit



the writing in around university and work, but it was actually on a day when I'd just finished a nine to five shift that I was able to write 3,000 words in the evening. I finished the 40,000 words with a few days to spare.

I expected to feel stressed now that it's submitted, but I don't. No matter whether it wins or not, I've got half of a novel, and I've shown myself what I can do with a deadline and a dash of inspiration. For now, I'm looking forward to actually seeing my friends again, or maybe doing some of that university work I've been ignoring...





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*Joseph A. Donkin Financial Management is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services; more details of which are set out on the group's website: <http://www.sjpp.co.uk/products>. The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

A way to process loss: the people behind Amble's Memorial Clock

A poignant poem by our very own John Griffiths tells us about Amble War Memorial Clock

*'Oh what a debt we owe to them,
Amble lads never to come back
again,
And what a price they had to pay,
So we could have the time of day.'*

The foundation stone for the War Memorial Clock was laid in May 1924 by Mr. R.C. McInnes the oldest resident of the town. Mr. Earnshaw, on behalf of Mr. McInnes, appealed to the young people of the town to be 'the custodians of the future protection of the memorial.' There cannot be many of them left today, so it is up to us to see that it is cherished.

Some have ignored the appeal and not treated the memorial with respect. There has been stone damage to the clock face, graffiti, five footballs in the roof area and a tennis ball which blocked the drains and did untold water damage. This was not accidental damage. The custodians have had to raise funds too. Repairs have not come cheap; this is a grade II listed building.

It took a lot of hard work to get things started.

A public meeting was held in November 1917. Many of those who had died in the war were interred in foreign lands, so it was felt a local focus for people's grief would be a benefit to the town. Quiet contemplation at the memorial could help townfolk bear their loss.

A committee was formed from representatives of the community to garner ideas for a fitting tribute. The idea for a clock tower came from Cllr. T. Tully, Chairman of the Council. It was an ambitious project, but moves to raise the funds were put in place.

The land for the memorial was donated by Mr. Edward M. Lawson-Smith, who at the time was living in Tadcaster, but had local connections. Mr. Lawson-Smith lost two sons in the war, John who died aged 22 and Thomas Edward who died aged 25, in separate offensives both in 1914. His loss is noted on the memorial.

The land was valued at £600



Photo: Colin Graham

and the gift meant that the funds raised could be used towards the memorial itself. The plot was considered an ideal location, right at the bottom of Queen Street and visible from many areas of the town.

A time capsule was placed in the foundations. It contained examples of the current coins of the realm; a book entitled 'The soul of war' by Sir Philip Gibbs, which featured the Northumberland Fusiliers; a signed letter from the author in which he paid tribute to the Fusiliers as a man who had followed them in foreign fields; a copy of the 'Daily News' from 25 April 1915, it featured an account of the Battle of St. Julien, where many Northumberland Fusiliers had perished; and the names of the Memorial Committee and all the contractors.



Belle Chapman in 2000. Belle helped fundraise for the clock tower by laying a trail of pennies. She died in 2008 age 96.

Not everything went smoothly. In 1923 when times were hard, a group of ex-

servicemen felt that a recreational park would be of greater benefit to the community as a fitting memorial.

Meetings took place and a referendum was held and the proposal was defeated. On the plus side it did reinvigorate the fundraising effort for the clock tower.

Money was raised by public subscription, with whist drives, dances, quilt making, auctions and a Grand Bazaar. Key figures in this were Captain Esson and his wife. Mrs Esson was president of the Bazaar Committee and was noted for encouraging the great enthusiasm of the ladies in their various crafts.

The tower was designed by William Burton ARSJ who was surveyor to Amble Urban District Council.

It was built by R. Carse and Sons at a cost of £1,390.11s.9d.

The inscriptions were sculpted by Messrs Whittle and Sons, at a cost £72.10s.0d.

The clock was made by Potts and Sons from Leeds and cost £267.

Opening ceremony

The unveiling was performed by Major Vernon Merivale MC. on Saturday 9 May 1925. Two of his brothers, Francis Merivale, who died aged 23, and John William Merivale, who died aged 29, are named on the memorial.

At the unveiling, ownership and responsibility for maintenance was handed over to Amble UDC, but £50 -£60 was still owing. A silver trail of coins

was begun around the boundary wall to make up the deficit. This was started by two children who had lost their fathers to the war, Bella Turnbull (father Robert Henry Turnbull, died aged 30, one of three brothers named on the memorial) and John Mackay (father Alexander Mackay died aged 34).

I remember Belle Chapman (nee Turnbull) giving me a copy of her memoirs to read, starting the trail was an occasion she never forgot.

The unveiling was attended by thousands. There was a procession through the town, led by the regimental band of the Northumberland Fusiliers supported by the bands of Amble and Radcliffe. A guard of honour was provided by 36 men from C Company, Northumberland Fusiliers. Floral Tributes were laid, prayers were said and hymns sung, culminating in the National Anthem.

This practice has continued for many years, but the marching through the town stopped when the veterans of WW2, including my father, were too old to continue.

The site as it appears today was constructed in 2000, with the creation of the Town Square. The original boundary wall was retained.

There are 124 from WW1 and 63 from WW2 on the memorial. No ranks are mentioned, all were equal in death. To see them visit the site or www.newmp.org.uk
Vivienne Dalglish

Remembrance Day 2024



HUNDREDS of people gathered at Amble Town Sq to remember

the fallen on Remembrance Day this year. Prayers were delivered by Coquet Churches Together, and wreaths were placed on both war memorials, by representatives from



the armed forces, local councillors, community and voluntary groups. A wreath was laid on behalf of the King by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant. Veteran Jim Shepherd who is

101 placed a wreath on Amble war memorial with his son and grandson.

*Photos by Andrew Mounsey
More on our website*




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Were toys in the past better than now?

Everyone wants the newest iPhone or the most expensive beauty product.

But what did children want for Christmas in the past? We asked some older people about some of the toys that they remember.

1. Screwball Scramble. This was from the 1980s. You have to get a ball from one side to the other in a time limit.
2. Space hopper. Bouncy fun. These first came out in 1969 and are still going today.
3. Cabbage Patch Dolls. There was a

scary one called Snacktime in 1996. This doll would chew food and poop it out into a bag. Unfortunately it also ate children's fingers and hair, so it was discontinued.

4. Geo Safari. This was mint. You had to answer questions about the world and animals. This was in the days before iPhones.
5. Etch a Sketch (pictured right). This was a drawing game in the days before computers. Everyone wanted one. It looks like it was very hard to draw on it. By Issy



HAND MADE PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Money can be tight around Christmas times, so here are some awesome ideas from Artograffi. Why don't you think about making some creative crafts? We have two amazingly talented crafters on our team so we asked them for ideas.

Indie crochets

"I crochet lots of different things such as stuffed animals, bags, headbands and scrunchies. Some things take me a few minutes and others take hours."



Eden makes jewellery such as bracelets, phone charms, necklaces and earrings. "I have been doing this for a year now. Bracelets take ten minutes, earrings take five minutes, necklaces take ten minutes and phone charms usually take fifteen minutes." What you need to make jewellery is beads (any type of beads) string, chain, pendants, earring hooks and jump rings. Tiktok Shop- Eden's Jewellery



What you need to make these is yarn or wool, crochet hook and scissors. Also if you need patterns you can find them on YouTube, TikTok, Facebook or Instagram. I have been doing this for a year and taught myself by watching YouTube videos. Depop- indiescrazycrochets



The Climate Clock: our time is

Like the time left in this year, the time on New York's Climate Clock is running out. For those who don't know, the Climate Clock shows how long it is estimated to take before the planet reaches 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming, which is when the carbon dioxide emission budget runs out.

The term carbon budget is used to show how much CO2 can be emitted on a global scale before the temperature raised by global warming becomes 1.5°C. When reached, the likelihood for catastrophic natural disasters - disasters on a similar scale to the recent hurricane Milton for example - will be drastically increased, and it would also be more difficult to reverse the effects of global warming.

The clock is updated every year to show how long it is estimated to take for the carbon budget to be depleted. It is

made to reflect the carbon dioxide emissions from the previous year and how long we will have before, at that rate, we will deplete the carbon budget. At the time I wrote this sentence, the clock read 4 years, 273 days and 23 minutes.

My advice on how to help combat climate change is: try to avoid single use plastics, try to walk or at least take public transport instead of a car if you can, and so on.

One other thing I urge you to do, if you like to buy a lot of clothes from fast fashion companies such as Shein or Temu, is to immediately stop. Fast fashion is awful for many reasons - not only does it harm the environment, but companies like that have appalling working conditions for their workers who don't get a living wage.

In the future I hope to write a more

running out

detailed article on this topic so you know the negative effects that these companies have on the environment, and the other issues that they have. Trust me, there's a lot.

Big companies are much more to blame for climate change than the average person. We should all do what we can, but there is only so much one person can do. To help, we desperately need the big corporations to also care about the environment instead of just Greenwashing.

Greenwashing is when a company misleads their customers into thinking that they're better for the environment or have better impacts on the environment than they actually do. It makes people feel like the company is more ethical than they really are. by Grace



MEETING MR ANDRIOT OUR NEW HEADMASTER



We were delighted to interview Mr Andriot, the new head teacher at JCSC. He was a lot of fun to talk to, and we really enjoyed asking him about the school, about Amble, and about himself.



Have you worked in a school for a long time? I've been a teacher since 1997. I was head of school at Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham and Principal at Excelsior Academy in Newcastle.



What were your favourite subjects at school? English, French and Latin.

What was your dream when you were younger? When I was 5 I wanted to be either Dr Who or a bus driver! When I was 15 I wanted to be an RAF fighter pilot, because of the film Top Gun. Then I wanted to be an archaeologist because of the Indiana Jones films! I decided to become a teacher when I was 22 after running youth clubs in the summer holidays. I realised I liked working with kids.

What would you change about JCSC? Not so much emphasis on exams. The government got rid of coursework but I

think it's a fairer way for young people. I wasn't particularly good at exams. So I would have coursework as well as exams.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do as a teacher? To permanently exclude someone. No teacher signs up for that. But sometimes a young person does something that makes exclusion have to happen.

Why are we having a new school (rather than just fix the old one)? I've come in about half way through this process. From what I can see we do need a new building. Amble is probably the last place in Northumberland to get a new school. I don't think there's anything dangerous, but it is very old. It's amazing the difference a new building makes to your education. I'm looking forward to getting new dining space, new hall, proper projection systems, nice sports facilities and learning walls in the classrooms.

If a student had a question or suggestion, how would they give it to you and how would you answer it? Come and speak to me at lunch (read the room though, in case I'm already talking to someone). The student council is the

most important group. Take your ideas to them and they meet with the senior team. That's an example of us listening to students.

Have you had a chance to see much of Amble? What do you think about it so far? I don't live in Amble, I live in Newcastle, but I've been to Amble lots of times. My wife's auntie lives here. I am scared of the sea but I like to look at it. I like the pods, they remind me of Whitstable in Kent near where I'm from originally.

Which Harry Potter character would you be? I would be Prof Lupin who turns into a werewolf in The Prisoner of Azkaban. We heard you like sharks - what's your favourite? My fave is the Great White. Sharks are my specialist subject. When I was 5 my Dad showed me Jaws. I've been terrified and fascinated by sharks ever since. There aren't many sharks off the British coast but we do have the Porbeagle which is a common shark and it looks a bit like a Great White, but not as big.

TikTok or FB? Neither, I don't like social media. Taylor Swift or Harry Styles? Harry. Cats or dogs? Dogs. Pizza or burger? Both! By Eden, Indie and Issy

Reports from our County Councillors



A sight loss awareness walk around

Amble was arranged through the Thomas Pocklington Trust (Jack Moffat), myself and Amble Town Council members.

We attended a sensory impairment awareness training to understand and explore ways of creating an accessible environment, raising awareness of sensory impairments and looking at areas of the town for those with sight impairments.

The training session gave us a better understanding of how people with vision impairment could be helped to navigate our town.

We walked the town centre with glasses that gave us the experience of what it is like to have reduced vision and how to guide a person with sight loss safely in different scenarios and areas.

Sight loss will affect one in four of us during our lifetime. We need to create a welcoming and safe environment for blind and partially sighted people living in Amble or visiting, who will come up against many barriers in life.

Perhaps it's information not being available in an accessible format such as large print, electronically via email, audio or braille or facing issues when visiting cafés and bars, supermarkets and high street shops. Even just getting

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk 07779 983768

about and travelling on public transport can be a challenge.

Jack took us around the High Street to the Town Square and Harbour Village. He talked about his own sensitive and emotive subject with humour and self-deprecation. It made us much more aware of the challenges people with loss of sight face every day, and a thing that we take for granted every day.

The whole experience was very informative and engaging giving an immensely valuable understanding of visual impairments, and of where we can make improvements within the town.

Highlights from our experience included obstructions on pavements, such as wheelie bins, rubbish bags, containers, street furniture, A-boards pavement signs, tables and chairs. All of these can present trip and collision hazards.

Street furniture must be installed in a practical way. Consider how you use your pavement from outside your home to high streets. We need room to pass by, footpaths having the correct dropped kerbing, bollards placed correctly, not turning footpaths into a maze.

We all must help with making our streets more inclusive for everyone.

*Sightlosscouncils.org.uk
Cllr Terry Clark Amble, Hauxley and North Broomhill*



The two new schools on South Avenue were opened in September after a short delay as the contractors' work was not quite finished on schedule. The facilities are very, very good in both schools and the money that Northumberland County Council spent on them was well worth it. King Edwin School and Barndale by the Sea will, I am sure, be assets to our community.

I was pleased to see the resurfacing of the road (completed in the half term holiday) that I arranged, at South Avenue, as it was not included in the original specification. It was obvious to me that the work that had taken place on the schools had damaged the road surface, and I felt it was only right to resurface it.

New arrangements have been made, I understand, re parking on Acklington Road for visitors to the Welfare Grounds. I am meeting the new head and hoping to continue to work together with him to enhance community involvement with JCSC, as facilities change.

NCC have been trying for some time to arrange for the reopening of the closed path at the harbour that runs behind the Lifeboat House. Legal and structural concerns have continuously delayed the reopening. However, a survey has now been done, by divers, of the structures concerned and costs are being assessed to enable a decision to be made about reopening.

I personally feel very frustrated by these long delays we have had to deal with, but would like to assure readers that I will continue to press for this much-loved route to be reopened and made available for everyone to enjoy.

It was a pleasure to see the new gates at the Dovecote Centre, that I sponsored, in place. The management of the centre was plagued by inconsiderate and unlawful parking and had difficulty in providing parking for the events taking place there. The gates should prevent that from happening in the future.

In these dark winter nights, for road safety reasons, please encourage joggers and cyclists (especially children) to wear something reflective at night to improve motorists' visibility of them.

May I wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Jeff Watson

Jeffrey.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk 07802 385367

New gates for NTC



Jim Donnelly, chair NTC; Cllr Jeff Watson; Kate Morrison, NTC trustee

New gates have been fitted to the car park at Northumberland Touring

Theatre Company (NTC), thanks to a generous donation from Northumberland County

Councillor Jeff Watson.

The gates were fitted to make the building more secure and to control parking, which the theatre company has had to implement, after a number of recent instances when they have been unable to park their own vehicles.

Chair of NTC Jim Donnelly said "I'd like to thank Jeff Watson for his kind donation towards our gates. We had gates until just before Covid, but they had to be removed for safety reasons, and it's taken us five years to find the funding to replace them."


The gates cost £5,000 and funding came from Councillor Watson's small schemes fund.

They were made by Amble based metal fabricator BenWell.

Community groups and members of the public are still welcome to use the car park, but NTC ask they let the theatre company know ahead of time, and provide a small donation. If you are interested, please contact the office during working hours on 01665 713655, or email natalie@northumberlandtheatre.co.uk

NTC's next performance at the Dovecote Centre in Amble is Grimm Tales on 22 December. This Christmas show is aimed at children aged six and above. Tickets £12.50, £10 concessions. More details: www.northumberlandtheatre.co.uk

**Hauxley Parish Council would like to wish
all Parishioners
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



The Parish Council would like to thank the community for their support with the Neighbourhood Plan which has now been adopted by NCC.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you would like to apply please contact the Parish Clerk on hauxleyipc@gmail.com for more information.



Hello everyone, welcome back to Trust Life – just in time for Christmas!

I hope you enjoyed the two events held recently. Drywater Arts secured funding to host another brilliant community event at the Little Shore, bringing artistic interpretations together, the spirit of community and wellbeing. Events like these take a lot of organising, manpower and money but bring so much enjoyment.

Similarly with the Light Procession to switch on the town lights. There are months of work put into making and erecting the displays as well as organising the procession, road closure and stewarding to ensure everyone's safety. Then of course there is the ongoing need for fundraising – the road closure alone for the Light Procession costs just under £1500. We are lucky to have volunteer support but more is always appreciated. Without willing hands these events just wouldn't happen, so a big thank you goes to each and every one

of those who give up so much time and of course everyone in the community who supports in any capacity they can.

While I am still not able to offer an update on the Playzone (I know, how long can it take?!) I can however offer a positive update on other Welfare issues. It does look as though a solution to the parking problems on Acklington Road will soon be resolved. It has taken a while (and lots of complaints) but once again thanks go to everyone who has been involved in working towards a solution. Not least the football teams who have had to put up with constant criticism despite trying to reach an amicable agreement on parking land. Hopefully now they can concentrate their time and efforts (again as volunteers) working with our young town members and offering training programmes through the various age groups.

On Neighborhood Planning – the steering group held the first community consultation days

work last month and over 120 visited to see, listen and offer their thoughts on the various designations of all aspects including green spaces, conservation, leisure and heritage. These have all been written up and where relevant will inform the neighbourhood plan. Any suggestions that the steering group are not able to include (that are outside the scope of the plan, as in what is legally required) will be forwarded to the Town Council and where possible used as evidence of proof of need for future projects either by the Town Council of the Development Trust.

For future updates, log on to the website (www.ambleplan.org)

So until next time, next year, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year from everyone here at the Development Trust.

Julia, all Trust staff and Trustees
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Fundraising for Amble events

Following on from the article on page 10, concerning the clock tower: it is with this history in mind, Amble Events Committee want to carry on the proud tradition of fundraising that occurred to build the memorial.

This coming together to raise funds for a common purpose is powerful, and it can be seen how collective action helped heal wounds and focussed attention on rebuilding shattered lives. While the commemoration of those lost is important, we could really celebrate the efforts of those left behind, who fundraised and built the memorial.

We think that a series of fundraising events that copy or pay homage to the fundraising efforts of a hundred years ago would be a fitting commemoration.

We are starting with producing a limited-edition calendar for 2025 of images of the Memorial Clock Tower, and want your help with other ideas and events.

If you're interested in buying a calendar or helping the team in some way, email matthew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Amble Events Committee

Hello Amble,

Our caring and professional teams are here to help, guide and advise you through the best ways to say goodbye.

Find us at Queen Street, Amble, NE65 0DA, or call us on 01665 710437.

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Amble Town



COUNCIL

Town: 12 December, 9 January at 6pm. Council Office
Amenities: 30 January at 6pm. Council Office

EAST WARD:	Helen Lewis, 5 Meadowburn, 33 Warkworth Ave, Warkworth. NE65 0TP ian.parks. amble@gmail.com	Craig Weir (Chair/Mayor) 76 Priory Park, Amble NE65 0HY 01665 712342 craig.weir. amble@gmail.com	WEST WARD:	David Bewley 11 Brinkburn Place Amble NE65 0BJ 07525713086 david.bewley. amble@gmail.com	Ivor Rackham 7 George Street Amble NE650DW 01665 798435 Ivor.Rackham@ amble.gov.uk	CEN. WARD:	Kate Morrison, 3 Island View, Amble NE65 0SE 01665 711191 kate.morrison. amble@gmail.com	Vacancy
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GIFT FOR AMBLE'S NEW SCHOOLS
Council is delighted to say that members agreed to donating £1,000 to each of the new schools in Amble. Amble Links Primary School, King Edwin Primary School, Barndale by the Sea School and once built, the new JCSC site will each receive this gift.
Schools will be free to purchase whatever they need but Council have asked that some of the funds are spent on a lasting memento to celebrate the creation of each new school.

COMMUNITY HUB FOR AMBLE
Council is working hard to investigate options for a possible Community Hub in Amble. Two drop-in sessions for the public have taken place already. We still need to hear from as many of you as possible. What are your views on this? Does Amble need a community building? Are the locations we have now enough for all the activities people want? Without acknowledged community support this will not happen. What could it be used for? What activities/groups would you like to see take place which are not here already? Let us have your views as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM MAYOR CRAIG WEIR
This is the time of year to reflect back on our achievements, and what a year it has been.
I, however, prefer to look ahead to our future.
The Neighbourhood Plan is taking shape, we hope for progress with a Community Hub and the schools are being refurbished.
Amble Town Council are working closely with the

Emergency Services to try and fit in with our changing Community and we are pushing for more information and action for our retail park.
A prestigious event is taking place on the 10 May 2025 which celebrates the 100 years Anniversary of the Amble War Memorial Clock Tower.
My apologies if I have missed anyone out - there are many people working behind the scenes to achieve a bright future for Amble.
I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Craig Weir

EARMARKED FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024		ASSET MANAGEMENT	
COMMUNITY		CEMETERIES	
SCHOOL PRIZE FUND towards next batch	£1100	EAST CEMETERY MAINTENANCE walls/ boards etc.	£3658
SEATING refurbishment/replacement	£6252	MEMORIAL SAFETY checks and stabilisation	£7000
TOWN PROJECTS towards projects/enhancements	£10591	WEST CEMETERY PREMISES maintenance	£3000
COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL public meetings/ environment works etc.	£20970	WEST CEMETERY MAINTENANCE walls/drive/fence/trees etc.	£15518
COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS	£7986	WEST CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT signage/mapping/new	£25331
MATCHED FUNDS towards projects attracting grants	£1300	CEMETERY REGISTERS legal requirement	£610
ALLOTMENT FUND boundaries, walkways, maintenance	£14739	COUNCIL COMMITMENTS & STAFFING	
RECREATION maintenance/future replacement	£9261	GRANTS (Puffin Programmes, Christmas Parade Road Closures)	£2000
WEBSITE & IT infrastructure, maintenance, replacement	£11000	QUALITY STATUS registration fee	£500
LITTER BINS refurbishment/replacement	£6420	ELECTION COSTS for elections/ by election	£13200
BUS SHELTERS refurbishment/replacement	£9950	OFFICE furnishings, fittings etc.	£16161
NOTICEBOARDS repairs/replacement	£4750	LEGAL/ REGULATORY PROCEDURES advice etc.	£20000
ACTIVE AMBLE interaction between businesses/community	£4450	TRAINING staff & councillors	£5000
CCTV maintenance, replacement	£17539	COVID GRANT residue	£3270
TOWN		LOYALTY FUND retirement gift/ civic & community	£3390
MEMORIAL CLOCK maintenance/service	£6187	CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS in case of precept non payment	£73550
MEMORIALS upkeep/repairs	£4886	CONTINGENCY emergency cover	£10000
MEMORIAL GARDENS maintenance	£7418	GENERAL FUND non designated-for unexpected, unbudgeted items	£28884
WALL REPAIRS	£4720	EQUALS TOTAL BANK BALANCE	£381604
CHAIRMAN'S EXPENSES	£500		
CLLR / STAFF EXPENSES	£500		

PLEASE CALL IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31/03/2024

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT Tel: 01665 714 695 www.amble.gov.uk
Email ask@amble.gov.uk Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil
Office hours: 10.30am-12noon & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday Vicki Smith, Town Clerk Minutes available to view in Office or online

Lobster scheme relaunched

The Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA) has relaunched its successful lobster v-notching scheme.

After a hiatus following the 2017 national prohibition on landing egg bearing females (berried hens), the initiative has been reintroduced in response to industry feedback.

The process involves buying lobsters from local wholesalers, measuring, and recording their details, and then marking them by removing a small v-shaped piece from the inner tail flap.

This year, NIFCA has already measured, v-notched,

and released over 1,070 female European lobsters into local waters.

Globally, v-notching is recognised as an essential conservation tool by both scientists and fishers alike.

By protecting reproductive lobsters from being caught, v-notching ensures a healthy breeding population, which in turn supports a sustainable and profitable fishing industry.

From 2000 to 2017, NIFCA's lobster v-notching programme resulted in the protection of over 20,000 female lobsters, helping to sustain the region's lobster fishery.



The breeding season on Coquet Island went well and most species produced more chicks per pair than usual, indicating a good food supply. In particular Arctic Terns had the best breeding productivity ever recorded on the island.

Numbers of returning pairs for most species were down, which is to be expected after two years of bird flu. However Roseate Terns, for which Coquet Island is the only UK colony, were slightly up on last year, 126 pairs bred and almost all the chicks fledged. The wardens ringed 177 chicks and subsequently saw 85% of these as fledged youngsters on the rocks and the beach.

In total 28 species of birds nested on the island, including seven species of duck. One of the few small birds to nest on the island is the Rock Pipit. Wardens have started colour-ringing these birds with a normal metal ring as well as a green plastic ring. We hope to get information on the

size of their territories and where they go. Already this autumn three of these birds have been seen on the beach between Hauxley and Amble and one is now feeding in Embleton Bay.

The autumn saw a few migrant birds landing on the island, including three never previously recorded. These were Red-breasted Flycatcher, which breed in north-eastern Europe, Jack Snipe and Lapland Bunting which breed in northern Scandinavia and further east.

The wardens and our fantastic band of volunteers (thanks to the Ambler we now have over 50 people helping us on the island) are continuing to work through the autumn, getting the island ready for the returning birds and wardens next year. The RSPB are making improvements to the warden's accommodation in the lighthouse and are repairing one of the Roseate Tern nesting terraces.

Stephen Westerberg

Wishing you & your family

*A Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

*Thanks for all your support during
2024*

Best wishes

Scott Dickinson MBE

*Member for Druridge Bay &
Northumberland Labour Leader*

**Putting
Local
People
First**

**NORTHUMBERLAND
Labour**

Council can't afford to plant new trees

Despite assuring the people of Amble that new trees would be planted to replace mature shrubs removed without warning on Ivy Street, (Issue #142 p7 *Shrub removals left residents and councillors stumped*) Northumberland County Council (NCC) has now decided the cost will be too great.

At the time, NCC denied that the decision to remove the shrubs had been for cost cutting purposes.

The Amble has asked repeatedly for an update over the last year, but no answer was received until now. A spokesperson for NCC replied:

"Urban tree planting schemes undertaken by the County Council at various locations across the county in recent years have been grant funded; unfortunately, there is currently no grant funding or budget available to accommodate the high costs of planting and aftercare for the suggested trees at Ivy Street.

"The Trees and Woodland team will keep the proposal listed as a candidate for planting and aftercare in the event of budget or funding becoming available again; until then we are unable to proceed with the proposed tree planting."

It's a pleasure to be writing for the Amble, which I know is a tireless champion for residents in Amble and the local area.

I hope that over the next five years I can be the same. I make no secret of the fact that my priority in this Parliament is to be a constituency-focused MP, and I hope that over the coming months and years I can be a familiar face to residents, community groups and businesses across the area, as well as a trusted voice in London on the issues that matter to you. Here's some of what I'm doing for Amble this autumn:

I recently met with Amble Town Council to discuss local concerns, including the lack of further education options in the area, the stalled development at the retail park, and Coble Quay. I committed to raising post-18 education options in Amble with Kim McGuinness, the North-East Combined Authority Mayor, and look forward to working with ATC to make sure Amble is always being listened to by Northumberland County Council.

I've been hosting a number of local surgeries and I look forward to hosting my first

A message from our new MP



Amble surgery on 7 February. This will be an online surgery (details will be shared nearer the time), and all residents of North Northumberland are welcome to all surgeries that I host. Surgeries are an opportunity to share a more complex concern or issue with me that isn't possible to resolve over email. You can keep up to date on Facebook or Twitter, or write to me for more information.

Finally, I was pleased I recently had the opportunity to raise the issue of the Coquet Grange Estate being neglected by a private developer in a recent Parliamentary debate. It is incredibly frustrating that some private developers are

ignoring their responsibilities using a contractual gap. I will be monitoring this situation closely, and please do update me if you're a resident of the estate.

If you'd like to get in touch with me, whether to raise a concern or find out more about what the Government is doing to support working people you can email me at david.smith.mp@parliament.uk, or you can write to me at 'David Smith, Houses of Parliament, London, SW1A 1AA'. You can also follow me on social media to see what I'm up to.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

David Smith MP



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Hadston House



MEAL ON WHEELS

Enjoy a two-course meal delivered directly to your door and ready to be served for £6.50 per person, per day.

The service is available 7 days a week. Our menu is 4 weekly and we are able to cater to specific dietary requirements.

Our service has been rated 5 Star for 10 consecutive years since we began



COMMUNITY CAFE

Our community cafe is open 7 days a week with a wide range of food available with daily specials. Working in partnership with the Farm Bakery for our bread products. The cafe is open 9am - 2pm Monday to Friday, 9am-1pm Saturday and Sunday lunches are available for sit-in or take-outs between 11am - 2pm.



LUNCHEON CLUB

We run a luncheon club every Monday and Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30am. Transport is available for those who need it for an additional cost. Once here everyone enjoys a couple of rounds of bingo followed by a freshly cooked two course meal from £6.00. This is an opportunity for people to relieve isolation, meet new friends and spend time with others supported by our staff and volunteers.



TRIPS

Here at Hadston House we give the opportunity for the members of the public the chance to explore Northumberland, over the last year we have managed to deliver 32 trips across the year plus large trips such as Flamingo Land and our yearly Christmas Market trip to Manchester. If you are interested in taking part please get in touch or pop down to our monthly coffee morning to see which trips are on these happen on the 1st Thursday of every month.



SIT AND GET FIT

We offer a gentle exercise class every Tuesday 10:30am-11:15am, £3.00 per lesson refreshments are available after the class and transport is available for those who require it.

Our instructor loves to have new people and its all about helping people live healthy for longer. Its become a little social group too and everyone is welcome



YOUTH CLUB

At Hadston House we run a youth club for children who are aged 9 to 18. We have plenty of activities for all to enjoy from PS4's, a pool table, arts and crafts, outdoor games, board games, and many more. Every school Holidays we aim to organise trips for the children to attend all at a subsidised price.

Monday's, Tuesdays and Thursdays Junior 5pm - 6:45pm Seniors 7pm - 8:45pm



We would like to say a big thank you for the support over the last year and we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to 2025 keep your eyes peeled for some exciting activities, if you would like to start attending any of our services or would like more information give us a call or email us: info@hadstonhouse.co.uk

01670 761537



Review: Northumbrian neets oot success

Two evenings of maritime-centred entertainment with a Northumbrian bent were enjoyed at Warkworth Memorial Hall in October.

The 'Canny Neet Oot' shows featured music, singing, storytelling, dance and a rollicking new play by Far Horizon voices.

Compered by playwright Dave Stockwin and Hauxley's Poet in Residence Paul Mein, the shows started with the Warkworth Singers, making their debut, singing the traditional Northumbrian song 'Blow the Wind Southerly', made famous in the 1940s by the contralto Kathleen Ferrier.

Continuing the north-eastern theme, Amble Sword performed the tricky but well-choreographed stamina sapping sword-locking dances under the watchful eye of 'Squire', Tony Unwin.

Paul Mein followed with his haunting tale of an encounter with a disappearing figure in an isolated church who had 'died' in the early 1800s.

Renowned local folk singer Peter Burnham then got the audience laughing and joining in with his witty songs including

'Have a Game for the Crack' and 'Here's the Tender Coming'.

On the second night, teenager Teddy Cuthbert joined in with his ukelele and richly entertained with a selection of salty saucy sea-shanties whilst Paul finished the first half with his hilarious rendition of 'Wor Geordie's Lost His Penka', a song illustrating how a game of marbles, or liggies, can have catastrophic consequences.

Part two of the evening was devoted to the premiere of Dave Stockwin's script-read comic melodrama 'Bill Stanley - A Sailor's Story' featuring a talented cast of eight.

The laughs came thick and fast as lovestruck seaman Bill defied the odds to win the hand of Tyneside's best lass Mary Danvers in the face of blackmail, violence and immense stupidity. Gallantry and true love prevailed as good triumphed over evil in the inhuman form of Squire Wates.

In keeping with the maritime theme, £120 will be donated to the RNLI which is celebrating its 200th anniversary.

Colin Heathcote

Advertisement feature

SeaWaves Jewellery - Olive's Legacy



SeaWaves Jewellery is proud to announce a new jewellery range available in the pod.

Recently, Karen lost her beloved little French bulldog, Olive. She was loved at the pods at the Harbour Village, adored by everyone she met, locals and tourists alike. Unexpectedly, Olive was diagnosed with Lymphoma and sadly died in September.

Karen says she wanted to find a very special, lasting way to remember Olive. "At a time of such devastating personal loss, new customers came to SeaWaves Jewellery asking us to make memorial jewellery from their beloved family members'

ashes. 'Olive's Legacy Memorial Jewellery' was born. It's been an honour to care for our customers' loved ones who have sadly passed away, both their human and furry companions.

"We have a beautiful collection of rings, necklaces, earrings, bracelets and charms for you to choose from in women's and men's designs. With 12 colours available, you can personalise your piece of jewellery. All designs are made to order in 925 Sterling Silver, 9ct Gold, Rose or White Gold.

"Once chosen, we take your loved ones' ashes and set them in your preferred colour using the highest quality Jeweller's Resin. You have a permanent memory of the person or family pet you have lost, giving so much comfort. Your special jewellery piece can be worn every day helping you cope with your loss. Our customers tell us it brings such a source of comfort during very difficult days.

If you'd like to discuss a piece of jewellery in memory of your loved one, come for a chat at the pod or call Karen on 07912 509560.



Make it look pretty again!

Design - Build - Maintenance

- landscaping
- paving
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Our ever expanding teams of fully trained and insured operatives are insured and able to carry out all of the following aspects of Domestic and Commercial cleaning for you, or your business.

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SeaWaves

JEWELLERY

Olive's Legacy - Memorial Jewellery

Creating a lasting memory of your loved ones' ashes into a forever piece of Jewellery

Pod 3
Amble Harbour Village
Amble NE65 0FD
07912509560
seawavesjewellery.com



Greener Amble group

This is a new group that shares concerns for green matters and climate change. It is an opportunity for individuals and group representatives to share ideas and interests about what we can do to make Amble an even greener place.

Greener Amble is open to anyone who lives in the Amble area, has family links or works here (paid or voluntary). Whatever your interest you are welcome to join us. This might be nature and biodiversity, sustainability or just that feeling that with all the news of climate change you would like to do something but are not sure what.

If you would like to know more or would like to come

along to future meetings email Sue: suannar@icloud.com or Tash: natasha.hemsley@northwt.org.uk or ring 07393 571998

Greener Amble group would like to invite other local groups to come together and share their efforts at a 'Greener Amble Fair' on Saturday 8 February 2025 at the Dovecote Arts Centre. Whether you're wanting to share your success stories, invite people to volunteer with your group or spread awareness please contact Tash at Northumberland Wildlife Trust for more information.

The Greener Amble group is a community led group being supported by Northumberland Wildlife Trust's 'Nextdoor Nature Northumberland' project.

Our coast alive with shorebirds

Season's greetings to everyone from the Space for Shorebirds team! During the beach-nesting bird breeding season, we spent many days protecting the wonderful ringed plover chicks on Amble Links beach. Now as we hunker down through the shorter days, keeping cosy indoors, out on the coast it's the busiest time of year for shorebird species.

We are incredibly lucky that in the winter Northumberland plays host to globally important numbers of endangered shorebirds.

we have of rocky shores next to muddy bays and estuaries alongside sandy beaches and coastal farmland is a total shorebird buffet. Because of this, these cold winter days are alive with shorebird activity if you know where to look and are actually the best time of year to be able to see lots of different shorebird species at once.

To make the most of this spectacular shorebird season we will be running free events throughout the winter. Our



They come here in their thousands, having spent the summer raising their families in the far northern parts of the world (some as far as Arctic Canada, Greenland, and Svalbard!). Many of them choose to stay here all winter long while some of them use our coastline as a pit-stop along their epic migrations further south, but they are all here for the same reason and that is to feed up!

Northumberland offers some excellent feeding habitat for these birds, the wonderful mosaic

"shorebirds for beginners" guided walks and birdwatches have proven very popular and are a great idea if you want to learn more about these fantastic birds and how to spot them in the wild. If you are interested in finding out more and would like to book a spot on one of these events please head over to our website at: www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk and follow the link to our events page. We look forward to seeing you out on the coast soon!

Space for Shorebirds

Leek Show



Winner: Jeff Smith

This year the Masons Leek Show was held at the Blue Bell.

Winner: Jeff Smith 332.8 Cu.Ins
2nd: T. Urwin 227.2 Cu.Ins
3rd: M. Brieley 205.11 Cu.Ins.

Winner of three onions, as pulled: P. Griffiths. Winner of blanch leek and dressed onion: P. Griffiths
Many thanks to Mandy and Dave at the Blue Bell.

Hermitage Luncheon Club

The Hermitage Luncheon Club, incorporating the Warkworth and District Probus Club, are looking for new members. We would welcome all to join us from our local communities. We meet monthly, on the third Thursday at 12 noon for 12.30pm at the Hermitage Inn, Warkworth. Our format is relaxed and friendly,

while enjoying a two-course meal. We normally engage a local speaker to provide talks on a wide range of topics. Historically, we have organised a summer trip out, as well as a special Christmas luncheon for members and partners. Interested? Questions? Contact Clive Purdy 075 0220 2726

Amble Sword looking for a venue

Since 2018 Amble Sword Dancers have met every Tuesday at 7.30pm at The Masons Arms, Woodbine Street. Sadly, the pub closed in June this year, leaving not only the community with one less drinking venue but also Amble Sword homeless!

A big shout out to Morrisons in Amble who are kindly providing us with a temporary Community Room where we can meet and practice. It isn't a long-term arrangement unfortunately as the size of the room is smaller than our needs. We are therefore looking for a permanent venue, for example a function room or hall that has a wooden floor and enough space for us to practise our daring and dazzling dances with Longswords. We are a small side with limited resources and so far, we have not had to pay a fee for the hire of the rooms we have used.

Hopefully your readers will be able to provide our team with suggestions or offers so we can keep the Amble Tradition going.

We have danced at various venues this year in Amble and Warkworth, even venturing down to Northallerton recently to dance with other sides. The highlight of the year however was our Weekend of Dance in June where readers may have noticed an influx of strangely dressed individuals from outside of Amble playing music and dancing Morris and Sword Dancing around the town. It was so successful we hope to repeat the event in 2025. We also perform at local events such as Puffin Festival, Mauritania Day, RNLI and Amble Christmas Light Parade.

If you are interested in joining Amble Sword either as a musician or learning the dance to become part of our team please do come and introduce yourself if you see us out and about, or message us. If you would like to offer us a venue on Tuesdays between 7.30pm-9.30pm contact us on our Facebook page: "Amble Sword Dancers" or email us on amble.sword@yahoo.com

Rotary Club Update



September and October have again proved to be a remarkably busy time for the Amble and Warkworth Rotary club.

We have had a number of interesting and informative after dinner talks. In early September Angela Davis, Environment Manager from the Women's Workshop Amble, introduced the work of the project to Rotarians and their guests. The project has been involving and supporting local women since 1998 and in 2022 they formally changed their name to the 'Women's Workshop.' The

workshop offers a programme for women to try out new ideas, gain new skills and obtain support. The Women's Workshop whilst based in Amble also supports women across Northumberland via its outreach programme.

On the October 1, Laura and Liz from The Samaritans gave an insight into how this organisation has developed and moved with the times since it was founded in 1953. This talk really highlighted the importance of good listening skills when engaging with individuals experiencing emotional stress. The

presentation gave a real insight into the challenging nature of the work undertaken by the Samaritan volunteers.

On October 8 Amble artist Luke McTaggart who has been described as one of best young landscape artists working in the north-east today gave a talk about his personal journey to becoming an artist. In addition to talking about his own work, Luke also highlighted the work of the Dovecote centre in Amble in hosting a recent gallery show of local artists and his own personal ambition to put Amble at the centre of the arts in North Northumberland.

Amble and Warkworth Rotary club have also been active supporting other local organisations in their work and on September 13 Rotarians assisted in the litter pick at Warkworth Beach, organised by Lynn Russell, Warkworth Green Matters events organiser (and also a local Rotarian). This beach clean was part of the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean event. As well as cleaning up our coastline, some of the volunteers

noted down all the items they found in a 'marked out' 100m area of the beach. Every bit of rubbish within this area, no matter how small was dutifully recorded. This data is important as it helps track litter back to its source and enables the Marine Conservation Society to campaign for positive change.

And finally on Sundays October 13 and 27, members engaged in the planting of thousands of naturalising daffodil bulbs along Rotary Way, whilst other members conducted a litter pick in the area. Bulbs were donated by Northumberland County Council and Rotarian Mike Wyllie. Watch out for the daffodils as they start to flower next Spring.

If you are interested in finding out more about Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club contact us via www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org or our Facebook page.

If you have a business and are looking at ways to increase your community impact, please feel free to contact us to discuss further.

"A real Christmas experience for the whole family"



**Living
Nativity Scene**

Sat. 14th December

Drop by anytime

11am –2pm



The Radcliffe Club. Charles Rd. Amble NE65 0RA

*Live Animals, Real Actors, Carol Singers
and all the sights & sounds of Bethlehem.*

A free community event hosted by

HARBOUR LIGHTS
C H U R C H

Warkworth Cricket Club



are up, next year, we'd be in the league above.'

However despite suffering a relegation, which is a stain on his glittering career. He was one of the top performers for bowling in the second XI;

Getting 13 wickets - 24 average – Bowler's Best 3/20

An impressive total for the man who bleeds Green and Gold added 'Relegation is never easy but I'm naturally delighted with my own performance, I've got a spring in my step again, we've got plenty irons in the fire ahead of the new campaign, but collectively we'll dust ourselves down, take our medicine and go again'.

Warkworth Cricket Club legend Adam Jobson vows to fight back in season 2025 after Warkworth CC second XI unfortunately finished 13th in division 5N resulting in relegation into 6N.

Jobson passionately stated 'What I would say is that I'd like to keep the lads ticking along and hopefully when the daffodils

Amble lifeboat fundraisers

This year, 2024 has been the 200 Anniversary of the RNLI and we're ending our fundraising events at Amble Lifeboat Station with our Christmas coffee morning. Santa and Mrs Claus will be there handing out presents to the children and we'll have a couple of our own craft stalls. We'll have our tasty home bakes, tea/coffee upstairs

Sunday 8 December 10.00 - 1.00 Christmas Coffee Morning with raffle and tombola

There is no coffee morning in

January, we'll be back as usual on Sunday 16 February 2025.

The RNLI shop will be open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11.00 to 3.00 until December 8 and will be closed from then until Easter.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Amble RNLI. Thank you for all your support Saving Lives at Sea.

Follow us on FB Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers & RNLI-Amble Lifeboat Station

Amble Photographic Group awards



The October competition for the group was architecture. This competition was set up in memory of George Hodgkinson, a former member.

The judge was Richard Spiers of the Northern Counties Photographic Federation. There

was a wide entry with a lot of good images, but only nine images could be awarded places.

The overall winner was Ken Bush with a shot of very futuristic buildings in Panama. He is shown on the left, receiving the trophy from the judge.

Concerts and Ceilidhs in Warkworth

Our Christmas Ceilidh returns on the 13 December (to be confirmed) , with live music from the Warkworth Irregulars. No experience necessary, we'll have a caller to guide you through the dances.

Just a week later (20 December) we welcome the combined forces of Werca's Folk and Voice Male. A return of two of the foremost choirs of the region that gave us a sell-out event last December.

We plan to start the 2025 concerts on the 17 January (to be confirmed) with The King Bees, a five-piece band from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne playing

the finest Electrified Rhythm and Blues from the 1950s and beyond. 'Blues with a Feeling...?'

February 15 we'll have contemporary folk music with the Wild Cloudberries, followed on March 28 by a musical drama Behold Ye Ramblers.

More about these and subsequent guests later – or have a look at our website at wwmh.uk .

For above concerts: Doors and bar open at 19:00 for a 19:30 start. For further details and for tickets contact Peter Burnham, preferably by email to peter.burnham@gmail.com . Alternatively telephone him on 01665 711388.

Carols for Choir and Audience

Alnwick and District Choral Society present "In Dulce Jubilo". A concert of Carols for Choir and Audience on Sunday 15 December 2024 at 3.00pm.

St Paul's Church, Alnwick
Musical Director: Peter Brown
Organist: Linden Innes-Hopkins
Tickets £12.50 Students Free
Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Rotary Club Santa Tour 2024

Wednesday 11 December
Acklington:
Dairy Close. 5.00 to 5.10
Acklington Drive/ Quarry Drive. 5.15 to 5.25.
North Broomhill: North End Est/ Togston Road. 5.28 to 5.38
Togston Club. 5.39 to 5.49 The Trap. 5.50 to 6.00 Elpha Lodge 6.02 to 6.25
Red Row: Ocean Star Chinese. 6.25 to 6.35 Hadston Precinct. 6.42 to 6.52 Hartside Crescent, at No 40, 6.55 to 7.05. Cheviot Crescent/ Woodside Cres. 7.10 to 7.20. Chevington Gr / Hedgehope Cres. 7.25 to 7.35. Tif Way/ The Dunes. 7.40 to 7.50

Thursday 12 December,
Amble West:
Robson Way/ Williams Close. 5.00 to 5.11. Gloster Park/ The Close. 5.13 to 5.23. Acklington Street/ Westfield. 5.27 to 5.37. Alnwick Way/ Etal Drive. 5.42 to 5.52 Ford Crescent/Warkworth Way. 5.53 to 6.03. Aidan Road/ Lindisfarne Road. 6.06 to 6.16 Straffen Court. 6.18 to 6.35 Priory Park/ Tynedale. 6.36 to 6.46. Glendale/ Dandsfield Square. 6.48 to 7.15 Links Avenue/ Burton Road. 7.16 to 7.26 Holywell Crescent/ Cuthbert Avenue. 7.27 to 7.37. Ivy Street 7.38 to 7.50

Friday 13 December,
Warkworth: Opposite No 1 Montagu Ave in lay-by. 5.15 to 5.30 Bottom of Montagu Avenue. 5.31 to 5.41 Centre of Barns Road. 5.43 to 5.53 Centre of Warkworth Avenue. 5.54 to 6.04 Centre of Knights Road. 6.05 to 6.20 Morwick Rd/ The Guildens. 6.22 to 6.30 Morwick Road/ Riverbank. 6.30. To 6.40 Elm Grove. 6.42 to 7.00 Dial Place/ Bridge St. Bertram's/ Warkworth House. 7.00 to 7.10 Masons Arms/ The Hermitage Inn. 7.10 to 7.30
Timings and stopping points will be confirmed nearer the time via Rotary Amble and Warkworth Facebook page

The Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth will also be present at Morrisons Supermarket in Amble with the Sleigh between 11.00am to 5.00 on Wednesday 18 December, Thursday 19 December, Friday 20 December, Saturday 21 December and Sunday 22 December. Santa will also be in attendance each day from 4.00pm.

All money raised goes to local charity/community causes. Donations raised either by cash or card machine. In addition, remote donations can now also be made via a new Just Giving account: Coquet Community Trust - JustGiving

Churches Together services

Welcome to the church services over Christmas
Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Christmas Eve, 24 Dec. First Mass of Christmas 5pm. 28 Dec. Saturday Vigil Feast of the Holy Family 5pm.
St Mark's (at Dry Water Arts) United Reform Sun 22 December Carol Service 10.00am
Sunday 29 Dec. 10.30am "Welcome All" (singing the carols we've missed.) Coffee/tea/mince pies afterwards.
Trinity Methodist Sunday 15 Dec. Carol Service 4pm
Tuesday 17 Dec. Advent Communion 10.00am
Sunday 22 Dec. Morning Service 10.00am
No service 24 or 25 Dec.

Hauxley Methodist 8 Dec. Carol Service 4pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies - all proceeds to Amble Youth Project and Northumberland Hospice. *(Please note: This will be the very last Carol Service at Hauxley Chapel as it will be closing in 2025)*

Sunday 15 Dec. Service 4pm
Sunday 22 Dec. Service of the Word 9.30am at St Cuthbert's
No service 24 or 29 Dec.
St Cuthbert's Cof E Sunday 15 Dec. Carol Service 6pm
Sunday 22 Dec. Joint Service of the Word with congregation of Hauxley 9.30am
Tuesday 24 Dec. Christingle Service 6pm
Christmas Day 25 Dec. Holy Communion 10.00am
St John - Chevington Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.30pm
Friday 27 Dec. St John's Day joint worship with St John, Acklington Celtic Service 10.00am in Acklington, moving to Chevington for Informal Worship at 12.30. Soup for lunch - all welcome RSVP Facebook "St John the Divine Chevington" or email stjohnchevington@gmail.com if you wish lunch please
St Lawrence Warkworth Cof E Sunday 15 Dec. Lessons and Carols 4pm Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.15pm
Christmas Day Collective Worship, Warkworth School 8.45-9.05am



HARBOUR LIGHTS CHURCH

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December

10:30am

The Radcliffe Club
Charles Road Amble NE65 0RA

*Join us to begin your
Christmas celebrations!*

harbourlightschurch.com



SHOP

Christmas

WITH MOCHA MONDO

It's Christmas at Amble Harbour Village

Our Pod Shop is fully equipped with a range of gifting options for the coffee or tea lover in your life.

We have a selection of gifts to suit all budgets for both coffee and tea lovers. Plus, our best selling Christmas Blend is back, along with our brand new Luxury Christmas Blend!

Available now from our Pod at Amble Harbour Village and our Roastery Shop at Coquet Enterprise Park.

Shop our entire Christmas range
Online at [MOCHAMONDO.CO.UK](https://www.mochamondo.co.uk)



World of Coffee Gift Box



Christmas Blend is Back!



Personalised Coffee Tin



Tea Break Gift Set

“It was a magical night... community, parade, volunteers, lights, and holly, jolly spirit”



Above, Angie Thompson and Jayz the dog switched on the lights, with Kate Morrison from Amble Events Committee. Left: Delilah (6) and Joanie (8) met Santa and his elf. Below l: a tribute to James Calvert Spence's WW1 medical heroism from John Sadler's Time Bandits. Below r: Dry Water Arts' beautiful hand made puppets rejoined the community (see p4). Photos: Andrew Mounsey and Anna Williams. More on our website.



Above: Street band Meze Mundo. Left, Odhran Dawson age 7 months meeting Santa for the very first time. Below r: Amble RNLi and l: Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band. Full story on our website.

