



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 124 Oct/Nov 2020

Town centre car park 'victory'

Plans have been lodged to extend the car park in Turner Street from the current 47 spaces, to 139 pay and display bays. And it has been claimed as a victory for the people of Amble who have called on the county council to address parking issues for years.

Amble Business Club chair Ann Burke told The Ambler she was pleased to see the plans had been submitted.

"It's great to see it on paper, it is eight years since the 3000 name petition, instigated by the Business Club, was handed to NCC, asking for a car park in the centre of the Town. I appreciate that every piece of land has been looked at, and it has been the support and determination of NCC that brings it to fruition. I will be very happy when I see cars parked in it."

She added, "It will be a victory for the people."



Ann Burke at the Turner Street car park

In 2012 over 3000 people signed a petition in one week, calling on the county council to address the lack of long term parking and the constant threat of parking enforcement wardens on Amble's Queen Street where

parking is restricted to one hour.

A parking group was set up with members of Northumberland County Council, Amble Business Club, Amble Town Council and Amble Development Trust.

But despite regular meetings, progress was slow. The lack of suitable land in the town centre was cited as being the biggest stumbling block.

Now a site has been secured by Northumberland County Council, which includes the current Turner Street car park and adjacent land.

The old bungalow will be demolished to make way for the additional parking spaces which will include seven disabled spaces and six bays for electric vehicles. Spaces for motorcycles and pushbikes will also be included, and the cycle route will be altered slightly. Drainage, lighting and access to the site will also be improved.

Recreational vehicles will no longer be allowed in the carpark and a height restriction bar will be installed.

See more on NCC's planning website, ref: 20/02736/FUL

Inside:

Amble Festival of Light announced



The Torchlight Procession is cancelled, but organisers have had a bright idea to light up the town. See page 13.

Receiving a shoebox in return

Many of us have sent Christmas shoeboxes, for people less fortunate than ourselves. But how many have received one in return? See page 15.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

For the latest Coronavirus situation, including where to find advice, visit our website www.theambler.co.uk or see our Facebook and Twitter pages

Prospect of six months' curfew 'very worrying'

With the local lockdown restrictions now established, and the prospect of another six months of a 10pm curfew for the hospitality trade, businesses are anxious about the future.

Angie Thompson of Angie's bar told The Ambler "I'm absolutely gutted at the 10pm curfew. I get and agree with a lot of the restrictions, we already wear face coverings and do table service. But I don't see how a 10pm close will help.

"It's a big blow to an already troubled trade. Also it's hard on some customers, a few of my customers work in restaurants and don't get finished till 10pm, so enjoy the last couple of hours we are open. It's going to affect a lot of people."

Ruth Charlton of the Old Boat House and the Fish Shack told The Ambler she wondered where and when the restrictions would end. She described some customers as looking worried at times.

"It's very sad for the pub trade" she told The Ambler. "Some of these pubs in our local area rely on service after 10pm."

"Customers who eat with us enjoy moving on to enjoy a local beer or two in locals bars and restaurants. It is very sad and our thoughts are with our colleagues who own or operate establishments which rely on trade after 10pm."

>> continued on page 3

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What you can expect from Coquet Medical Group

For patients of Coquet Medical Group we are fully aware that the last 6 months have been very difficult.

The pandemic of Covid19 has had a huge impact on people's lives and this will continue to unfold over the coming months.

Delays in routine care, illness and fear from Covid and changes in day to day life, combined with financial uncertainty for many has taken a significant toll.

Moving into Autumn/Winter many of you will be wondering what services you can expect from Coquet Medical Group.

- The Practice is open as it has been throughout, but the doors will remain closed for the safety of both you (our patients) and our staff.

- All appointments will be triaged by phone. Please always ring before you attend.

- All patients must wear a mask or face covering that covers both your nose & mouth.

- A one-way system is in operation at the surgery sites.

- Your doctor or nurse will be wearing a mask.

- For safety we will aim for you to be inside the practice building for the minimum amount of time. Your doctor or nurse may even meet you in the car park.

- As we move into Autumn/Winter certain patients with possible Covid will be assessed in the car park assessment areas and some will be seen in a dedicated portakabin.

- It is important that if you have a cough of any kind please use the 111 on line symptom checker here <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> before you try to speak to a nurse or doctor.

- We have started to reintroduce

more of the standard clinical services that Coquet Medical Group offer, such as minor surgical procedures. However, these services will be suspended if Covid pressures become extreme.

- Home visits will only be performed when people are either palliative or too unwell to attend surgery. In all other circumstances patients will be expected to attend the surgery if needed.



- We are keen to hear from any patients with new serious symptoms such as weight loss, lumps or masses in your neck, breasts, testicles or abdomen, problems swallowing, night sweats or a change in bowel habit. These may be an indication or cancer.

- We will, of course, always be there to help parents who have a child who seems unwell.

- Many patients have experienced deteriorating mental health over the last 6 months and we would encourage you to discuss this with a doctor (GP) or Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) if it is affecting your daily life.

- Please do keep in mind

that if you feel you may need counselling you can access this yourself, directly through Northumberland's NHS Talking Matters service on Tel: 0300 303 0700. <http://www.tmnorthumberland.org.uk/contact-us/>

• Please also remember that if you or a family member is experiencing a mental health emergency, the Crisis Team can be contacted directly on Tel: 0303 123 1146.

that if you feel you may need counselling you can access this yourself, directly through Northumberland's NHS Talking Matters service on Tel: 0300 303 0700. <http://www.tmnorthumberland.org.uk/contact-us/>

- Many older patients have benefited significantly from focused social input and occupational health involvement. This can help with the ability of frail patients to cope with matters such as washing/ mobility / cooking / shopping. This can be accessed without involving your doctor by simply calling the Northumberland One Call service on 01670 536400 and requesting a needs assessment. (<https://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/adult-social-care/one-call/>)
- For those with musculoskeletal problems such as back pain, knee pain or shoulder pain can access the JMAYS advanced physiotherapy service directly

by calling Tel: 03301 244 652 <https://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/musculoskeletal/northumberland-joint-musculoskeletal-and-pain-service-jmaps/>

- Finally, please remember that if you have a cough please use the 111 symptom review site here <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> before you contact the surgery.

If you need to arrange a Covid test for you or your family then dial 119 or use <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Future services

We greatly appreciate your understanding.

There is no doubt that Autumn/Winter will be a very busy period for our doctors and nurses and your patience will be greatly appreciated.

We are hopeful that by early 2021 our understanding of how we move forward and the services we can provide safely will have developed significantly.

The most important message is that if you or a family member of yours is genuinely unwell then we will always be there for you and we have a Duty GP on-call every morning and afternoon.

New staff member

Dr Julia Lamberth has joined our team as a Salaried GP who will be working 3 days a week mainly based at Amble Health Centre.

Dr Lamberth previously worked at our practice a few years ago as a GP Registrar (Dr Julia Barnes previously) and will be a great addition to our Practice Team.

Coquet Medical Group

Curfew measures causing anxiety

<< continued from front page

Ruth said that their staff often go out to local pubs after their shifts.

"Our team of staff work so hard - even harder at this moment in time because of restrictions and added pressure and whilst we totally understand these measures are necessary to try and minimise the virus

spread, our future worry is where and when will these measures end.

"The Boathouse has lost a bit of soul; there's no seats at the bar." she said "There's just a general feeling of anxiety overall."

Anna Williams

New barber on Queen Street

A new barber's shop is opening on Amble's Queen Street. Dawn Robinson told The Ambler "I have been barbering in Amble for the last 18 years and decided that it's time to follow my dreams and open up my own shop. I am really grateful for the massive support from my family, friends and loyal clientele."

The business will open on October 15 at 60 Queen Street, directly opposite the Post Office.

Opening hours are: Monday & Tuesday 9am-5pm, Wednesday 9am-2pm, Thursday & Friday 9am-7pm, Saturday 7am-1pm, Sunday closed.

No appointments are required and all Covid-19 guidelines will be followed in the salon.

Contact Dawn on 07725475962.

Praise for JCSC students' well deserved grades

There was a palpable feeling of relief at James Calvert Spence College, that finally pupils have been given fair and deserved exam grades, after so much confusion and last minute reversals of marking procedure.

Despite excellent grades achieved by some pupils, seventy five percent of JCSC's A Level students were initially marked down by Ofqual's algorithm-based system.

The Coronavirus lockdown meant students were unable to take their exams, and although the government asked teachers to grade each pupil, an algorithm was later applied to the results. When the A Level results were announced, they drew a national outcry, as many young people saw their results fall short of their predicted grades, often resulting in a loss of university places.

A week later, a U-turn by the government saw the algorithm overturned, meaning students' grades could be improved if the teachers' assessments were higher.

Executive Head Neil Rogers told The Ambler how anxious he had felt. "It was upsetting and frustrating at the time. As a mathematician I can understand the rationale behind the government's thinking, but that black and white outcome just doesn't fit the kids. I could understand what the education

experts were saying, but they didn't have to look a child in the eyes and tell them they didn't have the grades. So I'm really pleased the government has taken the right decision and allowed the children to get the grades they deserved."

A Level student Sebastian Bilacz told The Ambler how he had been apprehensive before results day: "I was initially quite worried knowing that many grades had been arbitrarily marked down in Scotland, but was overjoyed once I opened my results, I couldn't have asked for better. I'm greatly looking forward to going to Durham University in late September to study Physics and Astronomy. I hope to get a masters degree and I'm excited to see where I go afterwards."

The GCSE pupils' results day proved much less stressful, as the young people knew they were getting the grades they deserved.



A Level student Sebastian Bilacz



GCSE student Lily Tibbitts

For those unhappy with their grades, there is the option of taking the exams in the Autumn.

Students studying for BTECs however were still left in limbo, as their results were put on hold by the exam board at the last minute.

For GCSE student Lily Tibbitts, there was relief the whole saga was over. "I'm really happy with my results," she said. "It's been very strange to finally get our results after all this time, especially after the stress of not knowing if our grades were going to be teacher predicted or not."

She was grateful for how staff had done their best to help, despite the difficulties and last minute changes.

"The school's been really

good about it though. Even before it was announced that teacher predicted grades were going to be the official ones, they said that they would let any students in [to sixth form] based on teacher grades."

"It was lovely to see lots of smiling faces, and the sign up desk for the sixth form was busy" said Neil. He praised both the staff and the children who have all experienced both the ordeal of lockdown, and the uncertainty surrounding their exams.

"We have such a close community school, we really get to know the children from age nine. So we are thrilled for the recognition of all the hard work and dedication of the students," he said.

Parish boundary decision questioned

A boundary between two Northumberland coastal parishes has been amended, despite strong opposition from the council in one area. Now the legality of the decision is being disputed.

A community governance review has taken place in relation to three proposals by Amble Town Council, with a decision made by county councillors at their full meeting on Wednesday, September 2.

A bid to change the boundary with Warkworth Parish Council, to include Rivergreen, Mariner's View, the Gloster Hill area to the farm cottages and the new housing development, and a call to increase the number of Amble town councillors from nine to 11 did not go

ahead, both in line with the recommendations.

The boundary change with Warkworth had been strongly opposed by the parish council and 23 residents objected, while 10 were in support.

But the green light was recommended that a change to the boundary with Hauxley Parish Council, to include the whole of the sewerage works and the remainder of the adjacent field, where the new Hauxley Grange development is taking place.

And while the first two were relatively uncontroversial and passed on a show of hands, the change to the Amble-Hauxley boundary, which was strongly opposed by the parish council and sparked objections from two

parishioners, went to a named vote.

This resulted in a tie of 22 for and 22 against, with 15 abstentions, and the chairman, Cllr Richard Dodd, used his casting vote to approve the change as recommended.

But in a recent statement, a spokesperson for Hauxley Parish council questioned the legality of the decision, suggesting one of the councillors should not have cast his vote. The legality of this decision by the County Council was being queried with the County Legal Officer (a tied vote of 22 in favour, 22 against and 15 abstentions, in which the Chair of the meeting used his casting vote).

"It is believed that the County Councillor who also sits

as a member on Amble Town Council should have withdrawn from voting due to his registered and potentially prejudicial interest in which a body he represents seeks to financially gain from the altering of the boundary; which would be the case when Amble Town Council are in receipt of the precept for the properties to be built and occupied on the permitted Hauxley Grange development site.

"Had the County Councillor withdrawn from voting the outcome of the Community Governance Review would be very different."

Amble Town Council were asked for a comment.

See also page 14

Meet five-year-old Amble

Here's the story of a five year old boy who was named after the Friendliest Port, a place neither he nor his parents have ever visited.

Amble Owen Ryan lives in Ocean Grove in Victoria, Australia with his mum Lauren, dad Glen and baby sister Daisy. Lauren explained how he came by his name.

"A few years ago before Amble was even a twinkle in our eyes we surprised my mother with a trip interstate from Victoria to Queensland to take her to the cemetery where my nanna and pop are buried. While we were there a young boy next to them had the name Ambler on his headstone and we thought what a unique and laid back name it was.

Everywhere we visited after this we saw signs throughout Queensland and coincidentally our little caravan that we owned at

the time, in which we holidayed in regularly had 'Ambling Along' written on the back of it.

After researching the word Amble on the internet we found that the place Amble was a gorgeous little town that appeared to be a beautiful holiday spot similar to that in which we holiday in our caravan.

Once finding this gorgeous little town 'The Friendliest Port', we discovered that it was only a short distance from where my nanna, pop and mum were born in South Shields.

All of these unusual connections continued as we kept looking into the name and town.

We also discovered that the word Amble originates from the gaelic word Am Beal, meaning tidal inlet. This also means a lot to us as we were living in a small tidal inlet town in Australia when Amble was born and still

live not too far from it now.

This then lead us to look up on facebook the town Amble, it was here we learnt about the fantastic Puffin Festival and were lucky enough to come across the book Bramble of Amble in which we received just in time for Amble's birth on the 2nd of May 2015.

We look forward to visiting England in the future when travel is an option and the world is a little more certain. We will love to take Amble to



Amble aged 3 with his dad Glen, reading 'Bramble from Amble' a book written for Amble Puffin Festival

the beautiful little town that he was named after, have some fun, hopefully help raise some money for the incredible puffins and of course meet some the friendly locals."

We look forward to meeting Amble and his family.

Youth Project awarded ten year sponsorship

Amble Youth Project are pleased to announce an ongoing sponsorship programme with Cheviot Holdings.

This unconditional sponsorship has been agreed to last for ten years with an annual donation of £5,000 to help the self-supporting charity which has been in operation for over twenty years.

Maurice Sewell the Chairman of Cheviot Holdings (Amble) Ltd said "Since starting a housing development programme in Amble we have been impressed by its strong caring community and we are pleased to be able to support the young people in the area via the



Maurice Sewell of Cheviot Holdings. Photo by Rod Hardisty

Amble Youth Project, we hope to be able to offer employment to local people soon and continue to contribute to the future success of the community"

An official cheque

presentation and photo was planned but unfortunately Covid 19 has prevented this,. Nevertheless the donation was successfully made.

Ian Parks and Jeff Watson

of Amble Youth Project said "It was a shame to have to cancel the cheque presentation but it does not spoil the appreciation that we feel for this ongoing sponsorship from Cheviot Holdings, it will help to ensure that we can continue to support the young people of the Town for years to come"

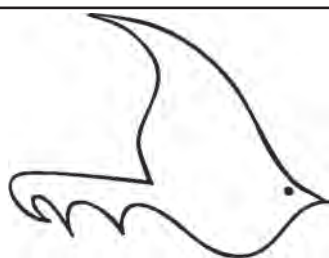
The project is restricted by Covid precautions at the moment but is doing as much as it can to continue its work with young people, and will resume normal operations when it is safe to do so.

Jeff Watson

Amble Youth Project

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like to volunteer.

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Let's get through this

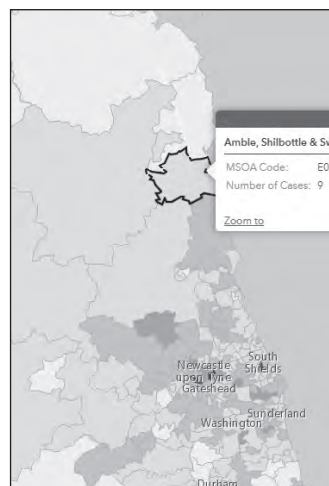
We think we live in a quiet
part of the country. There's
probably more sheep than people
in some parts of Northumberland.
So it came as quite a shock to
find we were included in the
extra restrictions imposed by the
government on 18 September.

And as you read this it's
possible those restrictions will
have been lifted and we are once
again aligned with the rest of
England.

One thing is clear from the
information we have: the rates
of infection in the population are
growing, and growing fast.

At the beginning
of September, north
Northumberland was showing
between 0-2 cases in each area,
with slightly more in Blyth,
Cramlington and North Tyneside.
By 12 September, there were five
cases in Amble, Shilbottle and
Swarland. On 20 September the
numbers had increased again, and
so had those in surrounding areas.

So once again we need to be
vigilant, stay safe, keep each other
safe and let's get through this. As
shown once again on our back
page, we are a wonderful, caring
community.



Infection rate on 20 September:
Cases in Amble, Shilbottle and
Swarland had increased to nine

**From Friday 18th September,
regulations will lawfully ban
the following:**

- Residents must not socialise with other people outside of their own households in private homes and gardens
- All hospitality for food and drink will be restricted to table service only
- Late night restriction of operating hours will be introduced, with venues required to close between 10pm to 5am.

**Residents are also advised to
adhere to the following guidance
to further reduce rates of
infection:**

- Residents should not socialise with other people outside of their own households or support bubble in all public venues.
- Residents are advised to only use public transport for essential purposes, such as travelling to school or work
- Holidays should be taken within your own household or support bubble

• Residents are advised against attending amateur and semi-professional sporting events as spectators.

From 21 September informal childcare (for example grandparents looking after children,) is now allowed for children 13 and under or vulnerable adults where this is necessary for caring purposes.

More info on NCC's website:
www.northumberland.gov.uk/
coronavirus.aspx

WHAT YOU SAY...

Missing cat

Have you seen Leo the cat?
He has been missing from the
Coquet Grange (Persimmon
estate) area since Wednesday
26th August.
If anyone has seen him please
contact Katy on 07949858649
or Janet and Stephen on
01665 710325.



Trying to find mother's family

Isabella Jackson nee Wood

My name is Anthony Jackson I am trying to trace my
mother's ancestry tree.

My mother's name is Isabella Jackson nee (Wood). She
was born on the 25th April 1899, Amble, and she died in
Toowoomba in August 1995, was buried at the Garden of
Remembrance, Toowoomba.

My mother migrated to Australia circa 1932. Her brother
Tom was already here. Her nephew Robert Hall migrated
circa 1950. The only trace I can find (Census 1901) are two
families residing in Amble at that time: 19 Church Street, 2
people, and a family living at 37 Gordon Street (William and
Margaret Wood and Isabella, listed as one of their children).

I would appreciate it if someone still living in Amble
could provide me with further information.

Tony Jackson (tojack4 @ msn.com)

Trustees required

Amble Youth Project would like to
increase its Trustees who oversee
the work of the Project. Although
anyone interested is welcome to apply,
a local parent would be especially
welcomed.

Applicants are asked to contact
info@ambleyouthproject.org

Fire in allotments

A beautiful Bank Holiday morning
completely spoiled by smoke,
drifting from a fire, in the allotments,
adjacent to the Wynd, Amble. It is
only 9.45 and all doors and windows
must be closed to prevent the smoke
from entering.... and there is no
possibility of sitting on the patio.

This is a regular occurrence.
In view of our awareness of air
pollution and the effect on health, is
it permissible for fires to be lit, almost
daily, in these allotments?

Name supplied
via email

We welcome your letters, email, Facebook and Twitter comments for publication. Your name and address must be supplied, but will be withheld on request. Letters/Facebook comments may be edited.

Victory for wildlife - or misplaced decision?

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is delighted that controversial plans by Banks Mining Ltd to build what would have been the UK's biggest coal mine on Druridge Bay in Northumberland, have finally come to a halt.

It is over four years ago since Banks Mining submitted the application to develop the three million tonne open-cast Highborn Mine. Two years ago, Sajid Javid, the then communities secretary, turned down its application for the site, but, undeterred the company pressed on to have these plans reconsidered.

County councillors had originally approved the scheme but for over four years it was met with opposition. Local residents, wildlife groups and environmentalists including Northumberland Wildlife Trust argued that the mine would have huge implications for the environment both locally and globally, effecting beloved wildlife including otters, dolphins and pink-footed geese



Druridge Bay beach, image by Steve Scoffin

on this beautiful stretch of the Northumberland coastline.

Mike Pratt, Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Chief Executive is both relieved and grateful with the Government's decision to finally refuse permission for the proposed Highborn Mine to go ahead, he said: "From the outset this was always a difficult proposal to accept from an environmental point of view. It sits next to a Site of Special Scientific Interest - Cresswell Pond which we conserve for

wildlife and forms part of a seven-mile sweep of beach, dunes and fields which are extremely important for birds and, for people who come to marvel at the spectacular scenery.

"It would have been totally unacceptable to open a coal mine in the middle of a climate and extinction crisis and to try to do so during a world-wide health crisis would have been totally inappropriate.

"The coal industry is proven outmoded. We need clean and

green solutions to energy and employment moving forward. With coal being phased out by the Government in five years, it would have been a travesty to start mining at this point. It is a shame that previous decisions to halt it were not lived up to earlier to prevent such a waste of money and time.

"This is a great result for nature, the climate and communities and signals that this Government is taking climate breakdown measures very seriously."

Gavin Styles, executive director at Banks Mining, said: "We are just so very saddened that this misplaced decision stops us from being in a position to offer them and the many people living in the surrounding communities who supported the Highborn application the continued support through jobs and investment that they so richly deserve and need.

"We will now review the precise reasons for this decision before agreeing on the most appropriate steps to take."

No official Christmas Lights switch-on

Because of the coronavirus situation, there will be no official Christmas Lights switch-on this year. The lights will go up as planned but there is no exact date for a switch-on. The torchlight procession has also been cancelled, but replaced by Amble Festival of Light - see page 13

Remembrance Day service 'on hold'

Due to the present restrictions on gatherings we could not hold a ceremony to commemorate VJ. Day; however the exhortation was said before a silence then tributes were laid at both memorials before the Kohima exhortation at the end. At the moment we are told that our usual Remembrance morning ceremony cannot go ahead but hopefully that may change.

Amble Town Council

Understanding anxiety

Musician Brian English has set up a facebook page to help those suffering from anxiety. Brian explained he started suffering from anxiety in the late 1990s. He said "I'm not a medical person, but if some of the links help, and my self-help videos do some good, I try to help those who have fear going outside or how to deal with a panic episode in a shop etc. The page is looked at quite a bit and due to this year being a bad one for us, mental health is a concern."

See <https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Musician/Understanding-anxiety-by-brian-english-2107564676165427/>

Amble CAB reopens

Northumberland Citizens Advice are happy to welcome you all back to our Covid-Secure premises at Fourways1 in Amble. We will be open on Tuesdays 10-12. Don't forget to adhere to our social distancing regulations. Ring 03444 111 444 to make an appointment. www.citizensadvice-northumberland.org.uk

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Member of the Legal Services Guild





Returning home after a journey from Berkshire, the news of a leak from my redundant back boiler gave me a bit of a shock. Thoughts of what I should have done years ago, requiring the removal of said boiler and associated pipework made me feel rather silly. Forward planning is a necessary part of life.

Our time of Covid-19 remains a shock to societies worldwide. Questions come to mind. Why didn't the world see this coming? Where did it come from? What should have been done earlier?

Hindsight always gives us 20/20 vision, but what really matters is the future. The BIG PICTURE isn't just an adage of visionary politicians. We all need to think hard, muster our

arguments, and then persuade others that our solution for the task in hand is likely to work.

In our Trumpian world, division is everywhere. People with opposing views rarely talk to one another; except with loud hailers. History should tell us that the inability to debate always leads to division and insecurity.

To self-isolate, to lockdown, to live in one's own Bubble, all have been suggested. What strikes me above everything else is that the basis of all good government is the consent of the vast majority of citizens.

However, can you imagine what it's like to self-isolate in a refugee camp, or in the favelas of many South American cities?

I do not blame the many U.S. citizens who expressed

their frustration with life in general by electing a demagogue. Perhaps they could learn from a number of European nations who have had welfare state provision for years. Recent news broadcasts have emphasised the importance of welfare state provision.

The USA now tops the charts for Covid-19 deaths. Hardly a surprising result. No nation appears to have a real answer to Covid-19.

Vaccination may be the answer, so long as the conspiracy theorists don't persuade people that government plots lie behind attempted medical interventions.

A radio programme talked of the benefits of forming as many groups as possible to

work together in a true spirit of subsidiarity. The presenter claimed that a TOP DOWN approach is responsible for many of our ills. Remember when we voted down an attempt to form regional assemblies? Many of us thought that we had enough layers already. Even so, Germany has done well with regional government with economic powers.

Productivity is claimed to be higher in London than in other parts of the country. Obviously, a place, which attracts people and money, is likely to do well. The same programme pointed out that inequality is on the rise.

We oldies are indeed a very lucky generation.

Harry

Spotted a seal on the beach? Be wildlife aware

Have you ever come across a young seal on the beach and wondered what to do? Here's some advice from the British Divers Marine Life Rescue on how to enjoy wildlife safely

- Try to avoid causing any disturbance by being quiet and keeping your distance
- Dispose of any litter you find to avoid causing injuries to wildlife
- If you are concerned about an animal, please report it to 01825 765546

About seals: We have two species of seals in the UK: Grey seals (born in the winter months), Common/Harbour



Photo of common seal by Lynne Howard -Young

seals (born in the summer months). Seal pups are only dependent on their mother for less than a month of their life. They are then left to fend for themselves and this is a vulnerable time for their survival. Seals spend a lot of time on beaches and come out to rest, digest their food, to shelter and to raise their pups. They return to the sea to travel and feed and do not need to be kept wet.

What to do if you find a seal pup: Keep your distance and keep dogs under control and on a lead. If a pup still has a fluffy white coat, it is still dependent on its mother. She will be close by, but will not return unless it is safe to do so.

DO NOT touch the pup. A mother may reject her pup if human or dog scents are present.

Pups have very sharp teeth and can react aggressively if they feel threatened.

DO NOT approach the pup or try to put it in the sea. Never pour water over the pup: A pup will spend most of its early days out of the water conserving energy and doesn't need to be kept wet.

Have a good look from a distance. If it appears thin, alone, is coughing and has a runny nose or injuries, it may need help. Please report it by calling 01825 765546.

Dead whales, dolphins or porpoises should be reported to the Cetatean Stranding Investigation Programme on 0800 625 0333.

British Divers Marine Life Rescue
01825 765546 www.bdmrl.org.uk

Advice for visitors who become unwell

Visitors to Northumberland are asked to make sure they know what to do should they become unwell while on holiday in Northumberland.

Filled with ancient castles and unspoilt beaches, Northumberland is a magical place and holidaymakers visit in their droves every year. During the pandemic, it is important to be prepared while on holiday, as well as taking extra care to maintain social distancing, washing hands frequently and using face coverings to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Anyone who develops symptoms of coronavirus while holidaying in Northumberland is reminded to:

- Self-isolate and stay indoors
- Arrange a test using their holiday address
- Notify their accommodation provider

Test kits can be requested by going to the NHS website or by calling 119. Visitors can book an appointment at a drive-through or walk-through test site, or ask for a home test kit to be sent to their holiday accommodation and results will be issued by text or email.

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Amble Links Coastal Holiday Park
Links Road, Amble, Northumberland, NE65 0SD



Everyone must know about the stone snake trail at the Little Shore. Well this snake trail was the idea of an 11 year old girl called Beth and her stepmum Jacqui. The trail started at the first seat on the concrete path, and Beth's dream was to get it to the beach huts.



We met Beth's step mum Jacqui Jones and her dad Andy Sunter at the Little Shore. We talked to Beth



Beth Sunter

She says she likes coming to Amble because everyone is friendly and she enjoys the beach.

She said, "I got the idea from someone else who started a 'COVID Snake' near

THE STONE SNAKE

via email to find out more about her and where she got the idea from.

Beth told us she lives in a village called Queensbury, near Halifax with her mum, 16yr old sister, and two cats.

my primary school, I thought it was a great idea for the local children to decorate their own pebble and feel part of something, to show that we are a community and not alone."



it seemed to get about halfway [to the beach huts] then it went really quickly when people started getting out and about."

Now we,, as a community, have reached Beth's dream and the snake reaches all the way to the beach huts. Tourists have also put some stones down too.

Jacqui said "It's amazing now, so many people say how



somehow made permanent.

I think the best place to put the snake would be on the history walk in the Town Square. This is so that we can remember it and what happened in

2020 and all the people who made it.

Jacqui told us that there are now plans to move the stones over the winter so they can be varnished and a new permanent place can be found for them. So don't worry if you go to see them and they have gone.

By Megan
Photos by Bethany



SCHOOL IS BETTER THAN GOOGLE



When we first went back to school during lockdown we didn't know what to expect.

Honestly what I expected was that we'd be taught by the same teacher in classes of 10 or 15 but really we were in proper classrooms with lots of people and more teachers than just one.

To be honest school isn't that bad, children like me are learning lots more than on google classroom and teachers have an excuse to go out. It is a win win!

By Hannah



Andy Sunter and Jacqui Jones



WARNING TO YOUNG CYCLISTS

Time to gear up! - Warning to young cyclists in Amble after a number of concerns spotted by local officers.



Amble town centre.

"Whilst this is great for health and fitness, it can be very difficult for drivers to see cyclists if they are not wearing high-visibility gear or using lights on their bikes.

"The speed limit of 20 miles per hour on many of Amble's town centre roads can help to give drivers more time to react but having lights on your bike is really important too.

"We urge parents to invest in lights for their children's bikes and high-visibility clothing in order to keep them safe, and for young people to do the same with their own safety in mind.

"These small steps could save your life!"

Neighbourhood Officers in Amble are urging young people and their parents to take steps to keep them safe on the streets. Patrolling officers have spotted youngsters out riding on busy roads and with very little high-visibility clothing and equipment.

Now Neighbourhood Officer PC Louise Bowlt has warned of the dangers and urged cyclists to take the time to gear up – it could save your life.

PC Bowlt said: "We're seeing an increase in the use of push bikes amongst young people in

R.I.P. HALLOWEEN?



Is Halloween dead? Because of Covid, Halloween is cancelled, which means no trick-or-treating, which also means no sweets, which, double also, makes me sad. Surely you can relate - who else liked Halloween mostly because of the sweet snacks?

ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween goes back to the ancient Celtic festival called 'Samhain,' 2,000 years ago. Halloween has multiple other names: Hallowe'en, All Hallowe'en, All Hallow's Eve and finally, All Saints' Eve. As expected, they mostly have something similar to Halloween.

FUN FACTS

The Jack o' Lantern comes from the Irish legend of Stingy Jack.

Candy corn (A small American sweet) was first called Chicken Feed.

Trick-or-treating comes from an ancient Celtic ritual called 'souling.'

By Grace



NEW SHOP HELPS NEGLECTED DOGS



Thanks to the current circumstances, people haven't been doing as much shopping as usual, so you may not have noticed the new addition to Amble's Queen Street.

On the 8th of August, SHAK (which stands for Safe Homes And Kindness) opened a new charity shop, that works to support abused and neglected dogs.

"Not all of them can be rehomed as they can be very damaged," says Marion Beesley, the manager of the Amble shop, "But Stephen Wylie, the founder of SHAK, believes that every dog has a home."

Which is how SHAK was founded: a sanctuary for dogs that are waiting to be rehomed or can't be rehomed, set up to make sure that no dogs get put down. It's a completely different concept to most other rescue places, whose sole purpose is to rehome every dog. During the coronavirus, there's been a marked increase in dog abuse, and there can be up to 70 dogs



in the sanctuary at a time, so now more than ever they need donations.

"We've been overwhelmed by the strong community spirit in Amble. Everyone's been so kind." Marion told us, but they're still looking for as many donations as possible. "As long as it's good quality, we'll take any donations! Books, clothes, shoes, bric a brac. Dog food and dog beds are also useful for sending down to the sanctuary."

SHAK is open from 9.30 till 4.30 from Monday to Saturday and they're always looking for donations and volunteers (ask in the shop if you're interested in volunteering).

It's a great opportunity to help out a local cause and make sure no dogs have to get put down because of neglect and abuse.

By Lily and Ava



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Why does Amble not have a sports centre?

The government are asking us to keep healthy and take exercise. For some people, joining the netball team, or taking up cycling or running is the answer. But is Amble missing out on a dedicated sports centre?



The government launched its Better Health campaign in July:
www.nhs.uk/better-health/

a school holiday and after school activity programme was offered to Amble Town Council earlier in the year. Active

As far as we can tell, Amble is the only large town in Northumberland without any sports centre, or sports activities provided by the county council. We asked why.

A Northumberland County Council spokesperson said: "Active Northumberland manages leisure facilities (and services) in the county on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

"Active Northumberland and Northumberland County Council also work in partnership to provide a sports development service. This can include activity sessions to children and young people and support for local sports clubs and community groups. As part of this service,

Northumberland also deliver free health walks in the town."

We can't claim to have no sports provision in the town - we have the swimming pool at Park Leisure, the sports hall at JCSC and three gyms around the town. But if we would like additional support, the county council say they are happy to talk.

"Officers from Active Northumberland and Northumberland County Council's sports development team would welcome talks with Amble community leaders to see where we can assist and support the community to develop future health and wellbeing initiatives and activities."

Anna Williams



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A bright idea to light up the town: Amble Festival of Light

Amble Events Committee are planning a unique alternative to the famous Torchlight Procession. The annual parade which coincides with the Christmas Lights switch-on is one of Amble's most popular events, but due to Coronavirus restrictions, it has had to be cancelled this year.

However, determined not to be defeated by the grinch-like virus, members of the committee have had a bright idea to light up the town.

The committee are encouraging households, streets and individuals to participate in the Amble Festival of Light. The idea is that every street is lit up with individual home-made lanterns, light installations or banners, hung on their doorsteps, windows, in their garden or back lane, or even on their nearest lamppost.

Those who would like to participate but don't want to make something could have a lantern or light made by someone else.

Street coordinators will also encourage younger members of the community to make things for older neighbours too.

Online workshops will be held to show people how to make lanterns and illuminated window displays and how to order and collect the kits, which would be free to local residents. There will also be information about how you can use readily available materials you have at home to add to your display or how to donate materials that you might



have to the project. There will be a webpage so that all the films of the event and resources can be accessed in one place. The page will also have a sign up facility so individuals and streets can sign up, and hopefully street co-ordinators can be recruited.

Frances Anderson of Dry

Water Arts will be co-ordinating the lantern workshops. She said "We're inviting people to take part in a new Amble tradition inspired by the need to socially distance which brings light, togetherness and celebration to the streets and doorsteps of Amble without having to leave your doorstep or street!"

The Christmas lights in the town centre will be switched on sometime during mid November; this year there is no formal switch on date.

Organisers of the Lights Committee and the Events

more contributions so that it grows during the festival.

As with the Torchlight Procession, the Festival of Light will have a theme: for this year it is Myths and Legends.

Frances said "We will begin the build up to the festival with an online storytelling and myth creation workshop with Malcolm Green, a storyteller and Author of Northumberland Folk Tales.

The idea is to inspire people with an emphasis on creating new myths and stories. Some suggestions to start with could be: The Little Shore Snake, the Lobster Queen, or the Amble Selkie. Or traditional stories such as the Lambton Worm. Windows of domestic dwellings can become the showcases for these legends, encouraging people to let their imaginations fly!"

For more information contact Frances Anderson (07542 141411/ info@drywaterarts.uk) or Julia Aston (01665 712929/julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

"The idea is that every street is lit up with individual home-made lanterns"



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Reports from our *County Councillors*



Anti social behaviour - Once again a minority is displaying disruptive behaviour on our high street especially during the weekend / late night.

I am aware of reports coming in of criminal and disorderly offences, this behaviour is disruptive to the community and causing difficulties on Queen Street for local businesses.

If you witness ASB or people causing disorder I urge you to make contact and report all of the relevant information to assist any future police investigation, you can call 101 these reports allow the police to build a picture of the problems being caused within our community and ensure the relevant action is being taken in a bid to prevent this behaviour from reoccurring.

Also NCC can deal with ASB, there is a dedicated community safety team who deal with -

• Anti social behaviour. • Neighbourhood Issues. • Neighbour disputes. • Vehicle disorder. • Noise problems.

Phone 0345 600 6400. Ask for public protection.

Email public.protection@northumberland.gov.uk

Let's work together and tackle this behaviour to ensure disruption to the

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk

community is prevented.

I am so proud of all Carers within our community. A massive thank you.

Carers are the bedrock on which a lot of health and social care sits their job is vital and requires skill, knowledge, and dedication to do it well and properly.

This pandemic has shown that they are essential and dedicated to what they do on the frontline and expected to take the risk giving care, genuinely giving and providing a high standard of care for thier residents, and in order to do that they are experienced, dedicated staff.

Carers are required to work weekends, evening's, public bank holidays including Christmas, New Year and Easter and they do not get paid any extra for doing this, yet they do it every day despite the risk to themselves and their families, they do it because they know how vital and important their job is and are passionate about what they do, they care deeply for those they have a duty of care towards and continue to show commitment, passion, towards the residents they care for.

When this crisis is over it is fairly obvious that health and social care workers deserve more than a medal.

Especially all Carers in Northumberland.

We all appreciate your dedication and commitment.

Iam delighted that at last we can see that a planning application has been entered for a new large car park at Turner Street in the centre of Amble. The problem of car parking in Amble has grown as the Town has increased in popularity as a tourist destination.

There is no doubt that for many residents in the area tourism has supplied a life line for them and created many jobs that were so badly needed after the shutdown of the main employer on the Industrial estate. Unfortunately, the success that the Amble tourist based business has had has raised other issues and placed strains on the infrastructure which have been apparent this summer especially with the Covid 19 factor thrown into the mix. This new proposal, when approved, will help alleviate traffic congestion and parking availability substantially, I welcome it.

I cannot make this report without referring to Covid 19 and its presence in our community, as I write this I know new measures are coming which are designed with only one purpose and that is to help prevent it's spread and keep us all safe. I am sure some people will find the measures taken to be extremely hard to follow and some people will not like the restrictions, but they are only being advised or indeed imposed to protect us all.

We are as they say between a rock and a hard place, I for one would rather be careful of the health and lives of our residents than take any risks that are preventable.

Stay safe.

Jeffrey.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk
0780 238 5367



**HAUXLEY
PARISH
COUNCIL**

New Chairman

Cllr Rita Callender stepped down from being Chair of the Parish Council due to work and personal commitments although would remain as a member of the Parish Council. Rita has been Chairman for over 4 years and was thanked for all she has done for the community.

Cllr Dickon Howell was unanimously elected by those members present to take over as Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

Neighbourhood Planning - consultation

An engagement exercise has commenced on the draft vision, objectives, policy themes and community actions as part of the preparation of the Hauxley Neighbourhood Plan. The engagement document has been delivered to every door within the Hauxley parish and a link to the online survey made available on the parish council website <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/hauxley> The consultation closes on 23rd October. We encourage every resident of the Hauxley parish to respond, your feedback is valuable in helping shape the future of Hauxley.

Local Transport Plan Priorities 2021/22

Every year the Parish Council is invited by Northumberland County Council to submit the three top highways and transport priorities to be considered at part of their Local Transport Plan.

Hauxley Parish Council agreed to request the as priorities:

- The introduction of a lower speed limit/ traffic calming for the entire extent of Highway between High Hauxley and Low Hauxley,
- The introduction of a safe and formal pedestrian route between High Hauxley and Low Hauxley, and
- Improvements to access via the introduction of parking restrictions at Links Road, Low Hauxley.

Community Governance Review

The outcome of the Community Governance Review was noted with disappointment that the Hauxley parish boundary was agreed to be altered, it was believed that this would come into effect from May 2021.

The legality of this decision by the County Council was being queried with the County Legal Officer (a tied vote of 22 in favour, 22 against and 15 abstentions, in which the Chair of the meeting used his casting vote). It is believed that the County Councillor who also sits as a member on Amble Town Council should have withdrawn from voting due to his

registered and potentially prejudicial interest in which a body he represents seeks to financially gain from the altering of the parish boundary; which would be the case when Amble Town Council are in receipt of the precept for the properties to be built and occupied on the permitted Hauxley Grange development site. Had the County Councillor withdrawn from voting the outcome of the Community Governance Review would be quite different. A response was still awaited at the time of the Parish Council meeting.

It was noted that there is no route of appeal to the outcome of the Community Governance Review and the only way to look to overturn the decision would be via a judicial review which is unaffordable.

As boundary alteration would affect the designated neighbourhood area for the purposes of the Hauxley Neighbourhood Plan; which currently mirrored the parish boundary, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would work with the Planning Consultant and County Council Planning Officer in the future to look at altering the designated neighbourhood area to reflect the altered civil parish boundary.

Future meetings

An Ordinary meeting of the Parish would be held at 6.30pm on Monday 9th November 2020 via Zoom.

A big thank you from the Amble Food Bank

Amble Food Bank wishes to thank all the organisations and individuals who have helped us during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Obviously, we are not able to thank every person or organisation, although some have had a thank you letter for their donation, however there are a few we are aware of and thank these on behalf of the Amble Food Bank in particular and the Community at large.

Individuals include Rachel Cook; Julie Baxter; Terry Long; Marion Long; Ben Moore; Elizabeth Wardle; Angela Scammell; Colin Scammell; Mary Davidson; Eric Davidson; Lynne Morelli and Tracey Bagnall.

Organisations include Best One Shop Links Avenue; CO-OP Queen St; Morrison's Amble; Dry Water Arts Centre; Amble Pin Cushion and Amble Churches.

We would also like to thank the local community for food donations directly to us or to Morrison's and the Co-op and for their generous money donations.



Terry Long from Amble Food Bank

A special thanks to Frances Anderson and her team at the Dry Water Arts Centre and Norma Arthur from Amble Pin Cushion and her team for making masks for volunteers and those families receiving Foodbank parcels.

An incredibly grateful thanks to all those who donated to the Just Giving Page, which is currently at £5092.00.

During the Coronavirus outbreak, we had several organisations and volunteer groups who have helped with advice and referrals from the community. These include locality coordinators from Northumbria healthcare, Amble Town Council, Alnwick Social

Services, Northumbria police and Isolation Support in Amble and Surrounding Area.

Finally, a huge thank you from all the recipient families of a food parcel in Amble and surrounding area over the past few months, we know they would have suffered without the support of the donations received.

Continued support is still very much needed for those in the community who require our service, we hope the community will continue to donate as they can, as we feel we are a long way from normality.

*Bill Cruickshank
Coordinator Amble Food Bank*

New service to support mental wellbeing

Northumberland residents whose worries about job security, going back to work after being furloughed, finding a new job or finances are affecting their mental health can now access a new support service.

Through a new freephone helpline people can gain confidential advice and be directed to online self-help, one-to-one counselling, or other services that can support them.

The new service has been funded from the North of Tyne Covid Capacity Fund, in recognition of the impact that coronavirus is having on people's working lives and mental wellbeing.

It is being provided by Cygnus support, specialists in providing mental health and well-being services to people in Northumberland.

Through the service you can access online self-help tools to support you to manage stress and anxiety and help you to build your resilience and, if you need it, one to one counselling too.

Cllr Jeff Watson, cabinet member with responsibility for adult care and wellbeing at Northumberland County Council, said: "We all know what an impact Covid-19 has had on everyone's lives. For some, worries about job security or other work-related issues can become overwhelming. This is where this new service, arranged by the council and funded through the North of Tyne Covid Capacity fund, comes in.

"Specialist advisers can chat through your concerns and suggest the sort of support that might work for you. I urge people to give this a try. It's completely confidential and could provide you with the tools to cope much better with what the future holds."

To access the service, call 0808 196 3933 free during these times:

- Monday 10am-2pm
- Tuesday 1pm-5pm
- Wednesday 3pm-7pm
- Thursday 1pm-4pm
- Friday 10am-2pm

This Northumberland COVID19 Capacity Fund Project is funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

You can find out more Coronavirus information hub at www.northumberland.gov.uk

A shoebox gift sent in return

Many of us have sent Christmas shoeboxes, packed with small gifts for people less fortunate than ourselves. But how many of us have received one in return?

Amble resident Angela Henderson was surprised and touched by a shoebox sent by a family in thanks for the gifts they had received.

Angela told us: "Approximately three years ago I did two shoeboxes, one for a 4-6 year old, the other for a teenager. I always put a Christmas card in with my name and address, in the event I might be able to help a little more. I thought they were going to Syria, but mine ended up in Romania and possibly in a school."

Angela thought no more of the gift, until the following spring, when a parcel arrived for her. On opening the box she discovered it was full of lovely goods from Romania, sweets and a scarf. An accompanying letter and photo explained all.

The letter was sent from a lady called Cristina. She told



Cristina, Andrei and their children

Angela she was the mother of a little girl who had received the shoebox that Christmas.

"We want to send you our thanks for the joy you have brought to our daughter Stefi. We want to tell you that your beautiful gift has arrived in Galati, a city in Romania, at a six year old girl by the name of Ariana-Stefania."

The letter explained that the parents, Christina and Andrei were both GPs working in Romania. They also had a son called Robert, and they invited Angela to visit. "In the future it will be our great honour to have

you as our guest and to show you our traditions, customs and the beautiful places we have here in Romania."

Angela has kept in contact with the family online. She said "Christina and Andrei were due to come and work as GPs in England. With Brexit, they settled in France, but I watch them diligently on Facebook. Although I was invited to Romania, I was apprehensive of a strange country. Had they come to England then I would have loved to have met them."

Anna Williams



Amble Town

COUNCIL

*All meetings at 6pm via Zoom until further notice
- details on website*

Town: 8th October, 12th November, 10th December

EAST WARD:	Helen Lewis,	Craig Weir	WEST WARD:	Jeff Watson	David Bewley	CEN. WARD:	Jane Dargue	VACANCY
Ian Parks,	5 Meadowburn,	(Chair/Mayor)	Tracey Hinton,	14 Magdalene	11 Brinkburn	Kate Morrison,	10 Sylvia's	
33 Warkworth	Amble	76 Priory Park,	13 George	Fields	Place	3 Island View,	Close,	
Avenue,	NE65 0PH	Amble	Street,	Warkworth	Amble	Amble	Amble	
Warkworth.	07751 229 739	NE65 0HY	Amble	NE65 0UF	NE65 0BJ	NE65 0SE	NE65 0GB	
NE65 0TP		01665 712342	NE65 0RZ	07802 385367	07525713086	01665 711191	07795360513	

TRAFFIC FLOW

This thorny problem continues in our town which was built before so many vehicles were on the roads. Unfortunately there is no easy solution, although many have been suggested. The implementation of the one way system has helped slightly although we are often asked why not take it closer to the harbour area, to ease the congestion especially at weekends and why does it go that way. We must remember that our harbour is a working port and therefore large vehicles need access to it. To do this they must be able to go both ways along Harbour Road as many cannot manage the turn at the top of Broomhill Street. This also means that Ladbroke Street cannot be one way either.

After consulting with Highways, it was decided that the flow from the North needed to be into the town, down Queen Street towards the harbour area. There was a suggestion about extending this so that traffic from the South also took this same route making part of Albert Street one way but this would cause problems for public transport at the Bede Street corner and for through traffic trying to turn onto Bede Street at the junction with Church Street. The traffic flow is also restricted by parked vehicles being on both sides of some streets. Park and Ride was tried unsuccessfully; a new car park is being vigorously looked at.

We have become aware of some vehicles with 'blue badges' causing difficulties by parking on the yellow lines in Leazes Street and are addressing this with Highways to see if a solution can be found. There are difficulties with traffic flow in some other nearby streets but attempts to restrict parking to one side, even only at weekends, have not been possible. Can you suggest a different answer to the traffic problem but remember that there is a difficult balance to strike between our residents' needs and wellbeing and visitors who the town relies on to stay viable and vibrant.

Unfortunately the problem of congestion will not go away while there are many physically able people who see their car as the only means to get from A to B and feel the need to be as close as possible to their destination.

COVID 19 CHANGES

We now have all our staff back working from the office. They will be available to handle your queries between 10.30am and noon and again between 1pm and 2.30pm. We would hope that all your queries can be dealt with in this way while the Development Trust building remains closed to the general public. However if your query cannot be dealt with by email or over the telephone, then staff will arrange an appointment for you to come to the office. We ask for your understanding of, and co-operation with, the procedures in place for the prevention of the spread of Covid 19. Please do not attend if you have any symptoms or have been asked to isolate. You will be asked to wear a face covering and will be met at the agreed time at the outer door (at the top of the steps or ramp) and thus proceed to the office maintaining social distancing. During your visit you will be encouraged to use the hand sanitizer and expected to remain behind the screens. After your visit, you will be escorted back to the outer door so that staff can make the building secure. Please work with us to keep everyone as safe as possible.

LITTER

It didn't take long for this to rear its head as more people were able to get out and about. What a sad testimony on our society that some feel the need to blight our towns and countryside through their laziness. There cannot be many places the size of Amble who have such a vast number of litter bins in their central area, so there is really no excuse for not using them. While we supply them, NCC regularly empty them- more at weekends and Bank Holidays- yet still we see papers and take away packaging blowing about.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Having lived in Amble for over thirty years I have seen lots of changes, some good and some not so. The town is growing very quickly (some say too quickly) and the volume of traffic some days seems never ending. My own view is that visitors to the town must be respectful when parking as to where they leave their cars and in the manner in how they're parked.

On a more positive note- during this lockdown there have been many voluntary groups and agencies who have carried out their excellent work keeping people safe both in body and mind. It would be unfair to single out a few for praise so I would like to thank them all including all the businesses who have provided essential foodstuffs throughout. Well done and keep up the good work. Amble needs you all!!

Cllr David Bewley

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

For a few months we have been holding these using the 'Zoom' platform. We have encountered problems but members are now getting more used to the way it works. We still sometimes have breaks in connectivity but are fortunate that Amble's broadband offer is quite good. Some of the more remote areas of the county have not been able to carry on meeting due to the lack of this. Just as with the physical meetings, members of the public can take part and there are details with the agenda on our website. We are investigating venues for future physical meetings but these must be Covid 19 compliant and adhere to strict guidelines which we have been given. So to this it may be a while before we can 'meet' again but we do hope that the warning we have been given about being prepared to hold virtual meetings until May 2021 will not be the case. Meanwhile if you are not comfortable with this means of communication, please do take the opportunity to contact our staff or your local councillor with any queries you may have.

PLANTING

Haven't the Dilston Terrace and Wynd planters been magnificent over the last few months? How their beautiful blooms have cheered us all when there were some dark days at the beginning of 'lockdown' and made us smile in the weeks since.

What a wonderful way to thank all those who worked hard to help out, especially those working in the NHS. Thanks to the NCC operatives who helped to organise, plant and water these throughout.

Soon the local Rotary volunteers will be out on Rotary Way planting more purple crocus bulbs for us to admire in the Springtime. Warkworth and Amble councils were delighted to contribute.

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



Welcome back to Trust Life. I'm going to start with some good news but replacing one dreaded (by some) C word for the even worse C19 words!

While we may not be able to hold the annual Torchlight Procession, the Events Committee are supporting an innovative idea put forward by Frances Anderson of Drywater Arts, who also sits on the committee.

We couldn't let Christmas pass without some form of celebration, so while we cannot have the physical workshops and parade, we are going to do something different where anyone who wants to participate still can and help to light up the town – the Amble Festival of

Light!

The Amble Festival of Light will bring light, togetherness and celebration to the streets and doorsteps of Amble without having to leave your doorstep or street.

The concept is that as many people as possible make a doorstep lantern or a light installation in gardens or windows, or lighting up back yards or back lanes or decorate with banners etc, so every street is lit up somehow with individual offerings - or it could even be as simple as just candle in the window.

Information on what we are proposing will be on Drywater Arts' website and will include the following:

- materials available
- downloadable info sheets / materials / kits
- info on the festival workshops / films / downloadable info/ which means they can all be accessed online from one page and streets and individuals can sign up online via the page for kits etc and can be allocated a time to pick up from the Dry Water Shed.
- workshops for schools via a video link.
- Live zoom support Q and A sessions for participants and street coordinators
- Live Map of streets and participating houses so people can visit street by street
- Online community storytelling workshop and local myth

creation workshop with Malcolm Green storyteller and Author of Northumbria Folk tales

- Online resource of stories / myths created by participants

Our chosen theme for this event is Myths and Legends (real or imagined!) so get your thinking caps on, let your imagination run free and let us light up the town. After all at the time of writing we may well be in lockdown again and looking for something creative to do with our time – sorry!

Julia and Trust staff
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Pet care tips from Coquet Vets

Neutering - should I or shouldn't I?

Neutering is a very important topic of conversation to have with regard to your new pet. Individually people differ in their opinions.

Here at Coquet vets we believe, if you are not intending to breed from your pet, then it is absolutely the right thing to do.

In this article we are going to discuss the benefits of neutering for cats, dogs and rabbits.

Cats

We recommend neutering cats from the age of six months. However in certain circumstances we can neuter them when they are younger, for example when young male and female kittens live in the same household.

The benefits of neutering include:

- Preventing unwanted kittens and therefore reducing the load on our rehoming shelters and charities
- Removal of pregnancy associated complications



- Reduce roaming and therefore reduction in the number of cats involved in road traffic accidents
- Significant reduction in mammary tumours in female cats as well as ovarian and uterine diseases
- Reduction of urine spraying to scent mark in male cats



Dogs

We can neuter dogs from the age of six months. However, in large breed dogs it is often advised to let them physically mature more before they are neutered, so we often neuter them between their first and second season. This is something that is very dependent on the individual, so we recommend talking to one of our vets first.

Even in her first season a female can mate so great care is required to ensure she doesn't come into contact with a male dog in this period, which can be up to three weeks. If we allow

a female to have a season we have to consider when is the best point in their cycle to neuter her. We recommend 12 weeks from the end of their season.

Benefits of neutering include:

- Preventing unwanted litters and again reducing the load on our rehoming shelters and charities.
- Removal of pregnancy associated risks that can be costly, for example the need for a caesarean section.
- To prevent problems associated with a female's oestrus cycle for example false pregnancies
- To greatly reduce the risk of mammary cancer (breast cancer)
- To prevent or treat a condition called Pyometra (womb infection) in female dogs which can be life threatening
- To reduce problems associated with the prostate in male dogs
- To prevent some tumours of the anus
- To reduce or treat the risk of testicular cancer. This is particularly important if the testicles have not fully descended as these are more prone to cancer.
- As part of a combined treatment plan for unwanted behaviours for example wandering or inappropriate sexual behaviour



Rabbits

We neuter rabbits from approximately five months old. However this can also vary depending on breed and circumstances, for example for some giant breeds we advise waiting until they are nine months old.

The benefits of neutering include:

- Prevention of unwanted litters
- Prevention of false pregnancies
- Reduce the chance of uterine neoplasia in females
- Reduction in hormonally related aggression towards companions or to you, their owner

It is very important to note that after neutering any animal will have a reduction in their dietary requirement. It's important to reduce their food intake appropriately and accordingly as well as maintain a good level of exercise in order to prevent obesity.

From the team at Coquet Vets
www.coquetvets.co.uk
 01665 252 250

Hungry at Hauxley?

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Emergency Fund, Northumberland Wildlife Trust has been able to purchase an outdoor (mobile) catering unit for their Hauxley nature reserve, as the café remains closed for the time being.

Situated at the side of the Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre (which remains open), the unit, open six days a week from 10am - 4pm, will be stocked with a fabulous menu of soup, cakes and hot and cold drinks. Top of the menu will be the quirky range of scones, made daily on the premises by the café team and a huge hit with visitors.



Dry Water Arts

It's Autumn, usually a time imbued with a sense of getting back to the old routines.

However, in the new Covid world we are all aware that this year is very different and at Dry Water we take your safety very seriously.

Given the current state of flux with infection rates and changing guidelines, we have taken the decision to remain physically closed until the New Year for our usual timetable of well being, dance, yoga and arts programmes and classes.

However we will be offering yoga and arts classes online as well as working on some more socially distanced community initiatives which we will be in touch about later in the autumn. So, there will be plenty of opportunities to participate in Dry Water activities over the coming months.

We are continuing to collect a waiting list for arts and creativity workshops and will hopefully be able to resume those in January. If you have signed up you will be sent notification of dates nearer the time.

You can access our online content on our website and please get in touch if you need more information about this and/or find it easier to talk to a person!

Those of you who have already participated in our online classes will shortly be getting emails about your courses.

We also have some rather exciting news which is that we are developing the top floor of our building. This means we will have more space to offer more and it also means that in 2021 whatever the situation with the virus we will be able to open with more classes and more space to ensure social distancing and enjoyment of our Arts Centre.

We also want to thank the many people who have been in touch to say how much they value the Arts Centre and the Creative Lockdown programmes and community initiatives we offered from April until August. We were incredibly moved by how many people have responded with such open hearts to our most recent online Exhibition: More Than Medication and we pay tribute to the group of carers who worked so hard to make this thought provoking and moving exhibition possible.

So although it is a time of uncertainty we remain committed to being a place dedicated to community, participation and possibility

With every good wish to you and your families

Frances and Paula
Dry Water Arts

Harbour Lights Choir

Were you in a choir and miss singing? Do you want to join a choir? Harbour Lights – Amble Community Choir have been singing since 2010 and haven't let a little thing like a pandemic stop them! We have had around 20 members join us each week and are always looking for new people to join us.

When do you meet?

We meet at 7.00pm on Thursday evenings. Next session will be 15 October.

There are extra lessons you can join which focus on improving singing technique. We also plan to have some small group face-to-face rehearsals in the near future.

Where do you meet? On Zoom! - though we would like to return to our normal venue, as soon as it is safe to do so.

How does it work? Sarah, our Choir Leader, sends a ZOOM link (via our email hello@harbourlightscommunitychoir.org) to everyone. You will need access to a device or PC with a microphone and camera.

We start with warm-up exercises, then Sarah will introduce new songs or help us improve songs we already know. We sing all sorts of music – pop, rock, folk, gospel, musical. When you sing, you can only hear yourself and the accompaniment which takes a bit of getting used to but it is great fun and helps you to improve your singing and self-confidence. Meeting each week is important for keeping in touch and maintaining friendships.

Anyone over 16 can join.

The cost is £5.00 per session and a £10 a year membership fee which gives you access to our on-line resources. Anyone coming along gets their first session free. (If cost is an issue you can speak to the Chairman in confidence.)

To find out more check out our new website: www.harbourlightscommunitychoir.org. It has information about our leader Sarah, who we are, choir members, events, our music, so find us on Facebook under 'Harbour Lights – Amble Community Choir'

Fancy joining us? Get in contact with Alison at hello@harbourlightscommunitychoir.org or 07948521463 for more information.

HospiceCare shop welcomes you back

HospiceCare North Northumberland is delighted to confirm that their charity shops in Amble, Wooler and Berwick are now open for business. They are back to generating much-needed funds for their clinical services, which are delivered free at the point of need to people living in North Northumberland, who wish to die at home rather than in a hospital setting.

Kelly Burton, Central Support Manager said "We would like to reassure our customers that our shops are a safe place to visit, and that we have followed all Government guidelines to make the shopping experience as safe and enjoyable as possible."

Julie Frost, Marketing & Communications Officer said "Our shops are a vital source of income that contributes directly towards the delivery of our specialist Hospice at Home and Family/Bereavement Support services to people living in North Northumberland. We know from the lovely feedback we have received from local families, that we have been able to make a real difference in our communities."

"We have always felt blessed by the support given from people in our communities and have seen that support as a partnership. It's that continued partnership that that will get us through the next few months and beyond. Please support our shops. We have missed you and very much look forward to welcoming you back."

Full details of shop opening hours can be found on www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk or email: enquiries@hospicecare-nn.org.uk.

FC Amble Juniors' new sponsor



FC Amble Juniors with their very generous sponsor Taj Mahal Amble.

The Taj Mahal have been unbelievably generous during these uncertain times to our new up and coming stars, the U7s. They have bought strips and rain jackets so the children can start their new campaign looking very smart. The season starts in a couple of weeks playing on Sundays in the Northumberland Football League.

Gary Chambers the new manager is really looking forward to this new challenge with these talented young people.

Anyone who would like to come along and join our long established club please get in touch 07544599030

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2020, will be different this year as The Royal British Legion navigates new ways of working in these unprecedented times. Subject to social distancing rules in place on the day the branch members and members of the public are welcome to attend a short service to lay wreaths on Sunday, 8 Nov at Warkworth War Memorial in Dial Place at 9.45 am and afterwards at Amble Town Square. *Please check nearer the time.*

The branch is still closed for meetings until the New Year when we will reassess the situation. Our Annual General Meeting will be held virtually. To donate directly to the RBL visit www.britishlegion.org.uk/our-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak

Memorial Hall update

The Warkworth hall re-opened in August to welcome back our regular groups and new bookings. However, various restrictions are being imposed for Covid protection. These rules will change in line with government regulations, with full details and the latest information being displayed on the Hall's web site. www.wwmh.uk. Individual groups will make their own decisions on how quickly to return. We have a couple of concerts planned in October and November and we will make a decision in September as to whether or not these will be viable.

For Hall Bookings contact Yvonne Stoddart (warkworthwmh@gmail.com). For any other hall related matters contact Peter Burnham (peter.burnham@gmail.com)



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1. Terms and conditions apply. Does not include vineyard packages.
2. Based on properties listed between 1st January 2019 and 31st December 2019.

Yopa
A Smooth Move

Local heroes who deserve our thanks

Thank you to everyone who nominated a 'local hero' for this issue. In the last Ambler, we began a list of people who we think deserved a big pat on the back and thank you, for all

the work they've done for our community during the last few months.

Some have gone above and beyond their normal work practise, others have volunteered

their time and energy to help the vulnerable in our community.

We think they deserve praise for their tireless efforts. Is there anyone else you think deserves to be thanked?

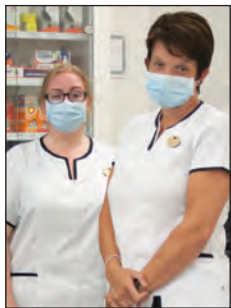
Read more on our website:
www.theambler.co.uk

Health care services and businesses



We received nominations for Alison Wintrip, Heather Osborne, and "all the staff at Heatherdale Care Home (some pictured above) who've done an amazing job keeping all the older people busy and happy and safe from covid."

"I would like to thank all the carers in the Amble area, and the carers at Dolphin View (pictured above) as this has been a hard time for all key workers."



"Boots' staff delivered medicines to residents out of the goodness of their hearts and in their own time, to make sure no one was put at risk."

Amble Boots team
(Laura and Sarah pictured)



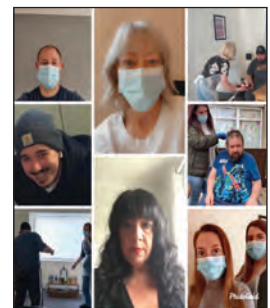
From day one of lockdown, Lorraine was a whirlwind, baking and delivering goods - from eggs and flour, to cheesecakes and treat boxes.

Sweet & Flour pod



"Roland's butchers, especially Jeff who went out every night delivering food to people in shielding, and to all the staff."

Roland's Butchers



"All the staff from Turning Point who supported my son who has learning disabilities and his housemates throughout the pandemic."

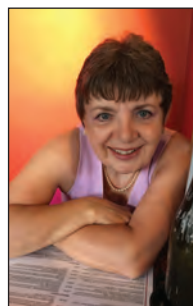
Turning Point, Morpeth

Community groups and individuals



"I'd like to nominate Sarah Gray. She is the inspirational director of Harbour Lights Choir has kept us together singing on line"

Sarah Gray



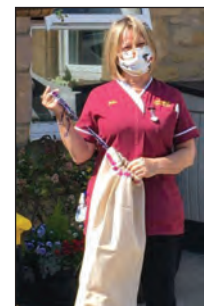
"Meg has enabled St Cuthberts Parish Church to broadcast weekly services and daily prayers. Her patience and technical skills knows no bounds."

Meg Dixon



"Luke has been out delivering parcels of food in all weathers with his little buggy. Good on him and all the food parcel providers."

Luke McTaggart



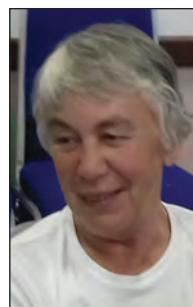
"The team are phenomenal, and also everyone who donated fabric & other materials." So far the group have made 2512 individual items of PPE.

Amble 'Sewing for the NHS' group



"I want to thank Nicola in the Post Office. All the way through, she sat on her own, keeping the Postal Service going, and with a lovely smile on her face!"

Nicola Patterson/Queen St PO



"Sue delivered food boxes from AgeUK, to those who used St Mark's Puffin Lounge, a group for those with dementia and their carers. She still keeps in contact."

Sue Swanston



Sam Bewley/newspaper deliverers

The newspaper delivery team at Premier Convenience Store were nominated: Laurie Wilkinson, Ellis Bell, Sam Bewley, Callum Rowell, Lyla Smith, Malachi Watters and Grace Armstrong. A particular mention to: "13 yr old paper boy, [my] Grandson Sam, has coped with increased deliveries and has met some of his lovely customers (Gloster Park- Robson Way)"