



# The Ambler

## Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 125 Dec 2020/Jan 2021

### Festival of Light brightens whole town



Six year old Phoebe Aston with her home made lanterns.



See more of the lanterns and window displays on [www.drywaterarts.uk/amble-light-festival-2020-gallery](http://www.drywaterarts.uk/amble-light-festival-2020-gallery)



Above: images of Narnia and below: a magnificent phoenix



Below: Festive lights on Philip Drive



The dark nights have been pushed aside, as hundreds of Amble residents signed up to make bright and cheery window displays and lanterns for Amble's first Festival of Light.

The theme was myths and legends, which inspired images of dragons, mermaids, firebirds and even a kraken surfacing off Amble pier. Beautiful hand painted images of Narnia, fabulous fairy tales and gorgeous jewel-coloured lanterns were all on show in people's front gardens and windows.

Frances Anderson of Dry Water Arts, who organised the festival said: "We've been overwhelmed by the support for this festival, which we hope will continue for many years. The Covid restrictions meant that the annual lights parade couldn't go ahead, so this was a way for people to bring light, togetherness and celebration to our streets and doorsteps."

She added "Our dementia positive programme Curiosity Cafe have been working hard

to put art packs together for the community to light up lockdown."

The Christmas Lights team were determined that the town would still have its traditional festive lights, and as a goodwill gesture, none of the shops and businesses this year were charged.

The Town Council installed and decorated two new fir trees in the town, and the clock tower was lit up in beautiful colours in the Memorial Gardens.

Philip Drive resident Connor Simpson also got into the Christmas mood by being one of the first to decorate the outside of his house. He told The Ambler: "We normally have a few bits up but because of the pandemic I thought I would brighten the street up by adding extra lights."

The festival began on 18 November and was funded by Amble Events Committee, Arts Council England and Northumberland County Council's Cultural Fund.



Above: Memorial gardens



*Santa spotted!*

Amble gets lots of famous visitors (see back pages) but our photographer spotted someone Very Special recently. It looks like he could have been checking his naughty and nice list in a secret place in Amble. Can you guess where?



For the latest Coronavirus situation, including where to find advice, visit [www.theambler.co.uk](http://www.theambler.co.uk) or see our Facebook and Twitter pages.





**CBSWorld**  
Complete Business Supplies

## Personalised Wrapping Paper

Printed onto environmentally friendly 90gsm recyclable paper.  
Available in 2 standard sizes or custom sizes on request.  
Choose from one of our editable design's or supply your own artwork (artwork guides available).

Quantity breaks per sheet	A2 (594x420mm)	A1 (840x594mm)
1	£3.99	£4.99
2 - 5	£2.99	£3.99
6 - 10	£2.49	£3.49
11 - 25	£1.90	£2.75
25+	P.O.A.	P.O.A.

Delivery charges may apply. FREE delivery on all orders over the value of £35

Unit 5 Elm Square, Lionheart Enterprise Park  
Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2ES  
Tel: 01665 660022 Email: [sales@cbsworld.co.uk](mailto:sales@cbsworld.co.uk)  
**[www.cbsworld.co.uk](http://www.cbsworld.co.uk)**



## Youth Project helps move rock snake

Youngsters from Amble Youth Project helped to move some of the stones from the Amble rock snake, as they are going to be spruced up and varnished ahead of finding a more permanent home.



Kelsie and Klayton Ramsey turned out after school to help pick up the rock snake on the Little Shore.

"We had some volunteers including a few passers-by and with the welcome help, and a forklift off the harbour master

Alan Puntton, we were able to collect all the stones, which will be stored until they have all been varnished," said Kate Morrison, volunteer with the Youth Project.

Kate said, "We are looking for help, and donations from local businesses. We have already been offered help from DP builders, Amble Morrison's Store and varnish from Young's but are hoping other building businesses will be able to help with concrete.

"We are also looking for someone to make a plaque explaining what they are."

The painted stone snake began life at the Little Shore back in April. By September, the trail reached along the whole of the concrete path to the beach huts.

Amble resident Jacqui Jones told The Ambler the idea had come from her 11 year old stepdaughter.

"It took a while to get going. During lockdown it seemed to get about halfway [to the beach huts] then it went really quickly when people started getting out and about. It's amazing now, so many people say how much they like it."



*Wishing you all a Happy Christmas  
& a healthy, peaceful & prosperous New Year*

**Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus:  
Carol Service Sunday 20th December 10.30am  
Christmas Day Service 11am.**

**Online only at: [harbourlightschurch.com/media](http://harbourlightschurch.com/media)**

**Where you will also find all our regular Sunday Services**



**Would you like prayer? Call our Prayerline:**

**07368 459411**



**[harbourlightschurch.com](http://harbourlightschurch.com)**

*because  
He is Love...*



## Car park loss for town centre



The land on Turner Street has been used as a public car park for many years

In a dramatic last minute change, the future of Amble's new car park in Turner Street is in doubt, as the county council reduced the agreed price a week before the expected completion date.

Owners of the land on Turner Street said they were left in shock when they were contacted by Northumberland County Council (NCC) who announced



Mrs Baron

that they were dropping their offer on the land by 25%.

In mid October, with only a week to go before contracts were due to be signed, council officers told the owners that there could be no negotiations, but that if they agreed, contracts could be completed the following week.

Land owners Mr and Mrs Baron, and Mrs Scott told The Ambler of their shock and frustration at the turn of events. "We've been in discussions with Northumberland County Council since December 2019, when the council put in an offer for the land. We refused as we had other offers which were higher. The council then matched the other offers, so we agreed the

price," said Mrs Baron.

Over the subsequent months, negotiations moved slowly, and in July, Mr Baron questioned what was taking so long.

"We were told there were new executives in post who wanted the land revalued," he said.

"Then they ring and say, 'we're offering you 25% less.' based on one valuation of the land as a car park, not as development land. We cannot believe they would do this at the eleventh hour – not to mention how much money they must already have invested in this."

"I think we've been led down the garden path," said Mrs Scott. "It's not the way to do things. You wouldn't agree to buy a house then reduce the price a week before completion. It was all agreed, that's the sad thing."

Mrs Baron said "We are absolutely not going to accept 25% less than the development value of the land, so at this stage we have gone back to other interested parties and pursuing other options. I feel really sorry for the people of Amble but why would we accept such a reduced offer."

The news comes shortly after NCC lodged plans to extend the current car park on Turner Street, in what had been described as a

'victory' for the people of Amble, who have waited for years for a long-term town centre car park.

Mrs Baron summed up the group's feelings: "We were shocked at 25% which is a ludicrous reduction, shocked that we were then given five working days to complete, and even worse that the decisions have been made based on one evaluation, and two new



Mr Baron

executives who have undone everything that others have strived to do."

NCC were asked for a comment. County Councillor Jeff Watson said "I cannot comment on live commercial transactions which involve public money.

"What I can say is, NCC and I are committed to creating extra car parking spaces in Amble and are working hard towards that goal."

*Anna Williams*

Update November 2020: The Ambler understands that NCC have recently reopened negotiations with the land owners.

## Poppy appeal thanks

To everyone who supported the RBL Poppy Appeal this year a big thank you!

Although restrictions were in place, the new Morrison's supermarket in Amble came to our rescue and provided a warm, safe, socially distanced environment for us to set up a collecting table to promote the RBL poppy items available.

Our week-long stint by four volunteers Derek Rabey, Wendy and Keith Hedley, David Shoemaker and myself raised £2,369.49. Marian McKenzie-Long, Morrisons community organiser helped us and made the whole process conducive to our fundraising by displaying a large banner of knitted poppies made by the staff. The total for wreaths sold by us is £1,400 with

more due. A generous donation of £500 was received from one of our branch members. With the poppy tins from Warkworth Post Office and the Greenhouse, Warkworth still to be counted we should easily pass the £4,000 mark this year. A great result. Thank you everyone!

*June Watson*  
Secretary, Warkworth & Amble District Royal British Legion

## New books by local authors

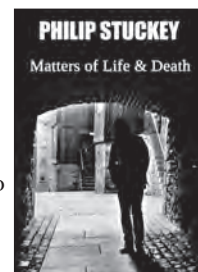
**Matters of Life & Death** (Philosophical fantasies for the real world). A collection of short stories by Northumbrian writer Philip M Stuckey, is published by indie publisher Bridge House.

These 'matters of life and death' are explored through stories that delve into human emotions, take a glimpse into the lives of others, and invite the reader to consider the true nature of our world and their place within it.

Born in sight of the shipyards of Wallsend upon Tyne, Philip Stuckey became an award winning entrepreneur, manufacturing textiles for a global market in Alnwick as well as organic skincare brand, Natural Empathy in Amble.

He is also well known as the front man and songwriter for the Progressive Rock band, Stuckfish. Philip lives in Warkworth.

The book is available in paperback or Kindle from Amazon, Waterstones, Foyles, Bridgehouse Publishing and from the author: votv2013@gmail.com

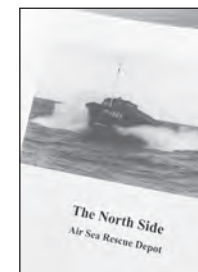


Local historian Irene Liddle has written a booklet on the history of the Air Sea Rescue depot which was built on Amble's North Side during WW2.

In the booklet, she traces the origin of the depot and associated RAF activity in the area, through newspaper reports and old photographs.

Featuring local families and quotes from those stationed at the base, the book brings together a good deal of information on this unique moment in Amble's wartime history.

Copies are available for £4 plus p&p by emailing [hauxleypc@gmail.com](mailto:hauxleypc@gmail.com)





## Doorstep deliveries from Morrisons

If you are elderly or vulnerable you will qualify for free next day delivery from Morrisons Amble. We have been offering this service since the start of lock down and now it seems the service is needed as much as ever.

The process is as simple as calling 0345 611 6111 and choosing Option 5 (Monday to Saturday). Someone will take your order and our driver will deliver it from the Amble Store next day (Tuesday to Sunday). There is no restriction on the type of groceries you can order. Payment is made at the doorstep when we deliver your groceries (card only).

If you prefer to come to the shop when it's quiet, when we have no music and the till 'beeps' are turned down then we have a quiet hour on Saturday 9 - 10am and Sunday 9.30 - 10.30am. Our NHS hour will run as normal.

Marion McKenzie-Long  
Morrisons Champion

## Click and collect from the Co-op

Queen St Co-op now has a click and collect service:  
<https://coop.uk/3eKs6Lz>

## Useful numbers during Covid restrictions

(Apologies if we have missed anyone. See our website for more.)

**Amble Health Centre:** 01665 710481. Coquet Medical Group asks anyone who thinks they may have Covid-19 symptoms NOT to visit the practice and to stay at home for 7 days. Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- Use the online 111 service (<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>)
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

### Pharmacies:

Cromies: 01665 710 896.  
Boots Amble Queen Street: 01665 710288

### Dentist:

Amble Dental Practice: 01665 710678

### Vets:

Alnnorthumbria Vets: 01665 713111  
Coquet Vets: 01665 252250

### Essential shops:

Roland's butchers: 01665 710210  
Amble Butchers: 01665 712700  
Queen St Post Office: 01665 713195  
Independent Fruit & Veg: 01665 721057  
Lawrences: 01665 710800

Farm Bakery: 01665 603333  
Trotters Bakery: 01665 710458  
Premier Convenience Store: 01665 710394  
Amble TSB: 01665 804999  
Hauxley Dairy Farm:  
[hauxleyfarmdairy@gmail.com](mailto:hauxleyfarmdairy@gmail.com)  
Mocha Mondo coffee: 01665 714767  
Amble Harbour Village/Seafood Centre: 01665 713580  
Queen St Co-op: 01665 710826.  
Tesco Express: 0345 675 7150  
Young's newsagent Newburgh St: 01665 710433  
Nisa Newburgh St: 01665 710895  
Best One Links Ave: 01665 714554  
Morrisons: 01665 639347

### Cafes/restaurants/takeaways

(Some venues may be closed. Please check ahead.)

Jasper's Bistro: 07853449465  
Sea & Soil: 01665 713569  
Old Boat House /Fish Shack: 01665 711232  
Taj Mahal: 01665 713777  
Bengal Spice: 01665 711722  
Taste of China: 01665 713389  
Golden Harbour: 01665 714889  
Euro Pizza: 01665 714040  
AFC Pizza: 01665 714145  
Queen's Plaice: 01665 799477  
Coquet Tea Rooms: 01665 712964  
Harbour Fish Bar: 01665 710442  
Quayside Chippy: 07526 126583  
The Sand Bar: 01665 799543  
Kayleigh's Kitchen: 07562915901  
1911 Coffee Co: 01665 710706  
Wellwood Arms: 01665 714646  
Rossini: 01665 713575  
La Famiglia: 01665 713159

Spurreli: 01665 710890  
Radcliffes Cafe Bar: 01665 712134  
Radcliffe Club: 01665 710406  
Lilly's Landing: 01665 713001  
Angie's Tavern: 01665 713160  
The Dock: 01665 710322  
The Schooner: 01665 712391  
Masons Arms: 01665 712134  
Bella Pizza: 01665 710206  
Circa: 01665 711735  
Artique: 01665 711611  
The Amble Inn: 01665 613333  
Old Storehouse: 01665 710500

### Advice helplines:

- Samaritans: 116123
- Childline: 0800 1111
- RSPCA: [www.rspca.org.uk/](http://www.rspca.org.uk/)
- Domestic Abuse Support services. Freephone 24 hour helpline: 0808 2000 247. Call 999 if in immediate danger.
- Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services: 01434 608 030 10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri
- ChatHealth Messaging Service. Text your School Nurse. 11-19yrs can text: 07507 332 258. 9.30-4.30 Mon - Fri excl bank holidays.
- Grace Rape Crisis - counselling service for victims of sexual abuse: 0800 035 2794
- Tyneside and Northumberland Mind - counselling for those affected by suicide or traumatic death: 0191 477 4545
- Talking Matters Northumberland - Psychological therapies - counselling/CBT: 0300 3030 700
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - Children's mental health: 01661 684 588

## Harry McQuillen's



# Age of insecurity



Pen in hand and a blank sheet of A4 in front of me and I hardly know where to start. News of Track and Trace and the difficulty of testing millions of students before the Christmas break fills the news.

Control of Covid is in the minds of parliamentarians and health professionals, to say nothing of the general public. The problems will be with us for some time. Would anybody like to suggest a Magic Bullet approach?

Deaths and hospital admissions have soared after a delayed lockdown. The lesson is obvious; do as you're told, or people will die. There are glimmers of light, with the likelihood of a vaccination for Covid. It's worrying to think that there are so many anti-vaxxers in our society.

Vaccination only works if enough members of the population accept it. I know that I'll be happy to have it.

Unprecedented financial support is out there for those who know how to access it. Rancour and controversy will continue, as it always does in times of trouble.

Rishi Sunak, my tip as a future Prime Minister, shows strong nerve and sound judgement. Besides, he looks pretty fit, and that's always an asset for those who accept high office.

Dominc Cummings will soon leave for pastures new, ensuring our Prime Minister will have to appoint a new chief of staff. DC has proved to be a marmite character, so I prefer not to comment.

Across the Pond there's a

whole lot of presidential pique from the incumbent at the White House. The ultimate sore loser, DJ Trump may well retreat into his Trump Tower refuge, to pour vitriol on anybody who has helped oversee his downfall. Fortunately our transatlantic cousins ensure checks and balances through their constitution. Sadly DJT has power of Hire and Fire, even in the dying days of his administration. As I write, he is still questioning the election result. Over 70 million citizens of the USA voted for him!

Back home, in the background there's talks of infrastructure projects of all sizes. A Stonehenge underpass and HS2 are two of the main developments we're likely to see.

Nearer to home there's talk of a rail link for passengers

between Ashington and Newcastle. Feasibility, cost and priority will come into play. These things take time and, with luck, wise heads will prevail.

Decent weather and our wonderful beaches have attracted record numbers of visitors. Holiday lets have been used a lot, including the estimated 400 in Amble. We've been discovered by many people who usually head for the sun.

The number of lets gives rise to grumbles about the inability of young locals to find a home in the area. My feeling has always included the thought that one can't buck the market.

Once again I can confirm my love for my home area, and my home town. Here's to the FUTURE!

Harry

# Letter from JCSC's Executive Headteacher

It doesn't seem like almost five years since I took up the post of Executive Headteacher at James Calvert Spence College. I knew that this would be the perfect job for me. JCSC is in a part of the world I visited regularly and thought I knew quite well. Looking back, of course, I had hardly scratched the surface of what makes Amble a unique place. I've worked in schools across the northeast, but none have had the same 'feel' as JCSC.

In March, when we had to close to the majority of children, I took assemblies with the Year 11 and Year 13 students and told them that JCSC is not a 'normal school'. It's much better.

I wanted to impress upon them that, during their time at school with us, they had been treated as individuals with every member of staff giving them the care and understanding we would expect for our own children. Our school has a true community feel, with classes and year groups like families. The school gates and corridors are places where staff and students open doors to each other, are

*"This is our students' one shot at school."*

courteous and greet each other warmly, that's special. That's not, in my experience, the norm for a school, but it's what you get at JCSC.

The children and their community make James Calvert Spence College such a warm and welcoming place, and we are lucky to be in such a beautiful part of the world. On the flip side, the rurality of



Neil Rogers

the catchment area is a huge challenge and one that, even after five years, I'm still yet to come to terms with. Providing a wide selection of extra-curricular activities and after-school clubs whilst still ensuring all our students can travel home safely is a constant dilemma.

The question of a new or refurbished building is something that comes up regularly. We'd love to see our community have modern facilities for education and leisure, but plans and conversations around this have been put on the back burner.

The coronavirus pandemic has presented the biggest challenge I've faced in my time as a school leader, indeed, the biggest accomplishment for all schools is actually being able to provide an education for its students, whilst keeping them all safe. We all know that life has changed dramatically. This time last year, if you told someone that we'd all be wearing face masks to shop, it would be difficult to go to places like the cinema and you couldn't legally

visit the homes or gardens of friends and family, they wouldn't believe you. Yet, that's exactly where we find ourselves.

At JCSC we're trying to strike the right balance to ensure that our staff and students are kept safe, whilst being able to get on with our job of providing high-quality education. After all, this is our students' one shot at school. We need to make sure it's as good as possible, and our dedicated team are doing just that.

Our students have taken the necessary changes in their stride:

- zoned areas around the building
  - limited hot food choice (click and collect food for key stage 4)
  - teachers moving to them instead of vice versa
  - regular hand washing and sanitising before each lesson
  - masks for students in Year 7 and above on buses, in corridors and internal communal areas.
- They've been amazing.

We've developed positive relationships with our students and community. It's our unique selling point - we're big enough

to provide lots of opportunities for our students, yet small enough to know them all as individuals, to celebrate their strengths and assist with their weaknesses.

The school's autumn open evening is traditionally a time when prospective parents get the chance to come into school, meet us and experience the warm interactions we foster. They get the chance to see that, in many cases, the school they went to and remember has changed for the better. They get the chance to see that we're not just people in suits, but caring people and parents ourselves, who talk passionately about our vision for their children's education. The coronavirus pandemic has meant this could not happen. Whilst many schools hosted a virtual open evening, we wanted to meet our community and so in October, we ran a pared-down, socially distant and lockdown compliant open evening alongside a virtual event on Facebook. Meeting the parents and carers of prospective students was lovely and emphasised that though the world around us is quite different, it's incredibly important for us to keep talking and listening to our community in order to best serve its needs.

January 2021 will come around soon and that will mean five years at JCSC for me (and for Mr Nisbet our Head of School.) The weeks are flying by and we're looking forward to what 2021 will bring, both for JCSC and the wider community.

Wishing you all the very best for 2021,

Neil Rodgers,  
Executive Headteacher, JCSC

## Sullivan Associates

CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYORS

Offering professional property advice throughout Northumberland

Building Surveys, Defects Inspections  
Plans drawn for extension and new build  
Planning Applications, Building Regulations Approval  
Disabled Access Advice, Party Wall and Boundary Matters  
Design and Project Management

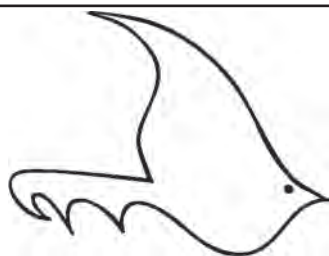
Tel: 01665 513010

Email: [info@sullivan-associates.co.uk](mailto:info@sullivan-associates.co.uk)

Fourways 2 6 Dilston Terrace Amble Northumberland NE65 0DT

TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME  
01665 710 442  
MONDAY TO SATURDAY: 11.30AM-9.00PM SUNDAYS: 11.30AM-2.30PM  
\*\*\*\*\* NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN





## The Ambler

Fourways 2  
6 Dilston Terrace  
Northumberland NE65 0DT  
Tel: 01665 712929  
www.theambler.co.uk  
editor@theambler.co.uk  
Twitter: AmbleByTheSea  
YouTube: AnnaAtTheAmbler1



### Editorial Team:

Vivienne Dalgliesh  
Cath Findlay - Chris Herzberg  
Norma Hinson  
Andrew Mounsey - Bartle Rippon

Editor: Anna Williams

### Thanks to:

Mark Beswick & The Artograffi Crew  
Judith Hardisty

### Distribution:

Charlotte, Sadie, Rachel, Lorraine

### Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

Would you like to join  
The Ambler team? We are a friendly  
group who welcome contributions  
and help from anyone who would  
like to volunteer.

Thanks to all our contributors,  
sponsors and advertisers:

NCC Community Chest

Rotary Club of  
Amble and Warkworth

Inner Wheel Club of  
Amble and Warkworth



The Ambler is a proud member of  
the Independent Community News  
Network



The Ambler is a project of  
Amble Development Trust

The Ambler is printed six times per  
year. The views expressed in The  
Ambler and The Ambler Online are  
not necessarily those of  
the Editorial Team

Printed on paper from sustainable  
forestry in the UK

## Please don't give Covid to your granny

With some relaxation of the Covid restrictions allowed over Christmas, we are still being urged to be cautious with socialising. Maybe leave big family gatherings until Spring? Especially if then we have vaccines to combat this dreadful virus.

Our local businesses - particularly in the hospitality sector are going through such a difficult time and we hope they can survive the blows that lockdowns and tier restrictions have landed. Please support them however you can.

Our appreciation for individual acts of generosity continues - a special mention to Sharon Crisp of Crispys Cakes and Cookies, who made lunches and breakfasts for local children during half term, and once again to Rachel Cook, of the Isolation in Amble Facebook group, who is collecting toys for youngsters this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who is continuing to help others. Your kindness is appreciated by us all.

Have a good Christmas, The Ambler team



## WHAT YOU SAY...

### Why change the boundaries?

In reference to your article on page 4 and 14 Issue 124 Oct/Nov 2020 about the changes to the Parish Boundaries.

The last time I heard about boundary changes was at national level under David Cameron's administration. I heard this on BBC Radio2 and the newsreader said very clearly that all the changes were in favour of the Tories. To my recollection there was no objection from the opposition. Why? Well with this and a couple of other things it convinced me that the Leader of the Opposition was just a rebadged Tory.

As we now know the newsreader was spot on, as Labour have lost the last four elections, and they wonder why. Who would have thought that by moving boundaries would have such an impact on the shift of political power.

I would like to ask a few questions:

1. Who wants to move the boundaries, but more

importantly why?

2. Did they discuss the proposals with the parish councils before the voting took place?

3. Why were two done on a show of hands, yet Hauxley's went to a named vote. What is a named vote? I have to assume it is as it says, all councillors putting it in writing than just a show of hands.

My concern is like before, changing boundaries will have an impact on political power, as the Tories already know. So who is going to benefit the most from these changes? It certainly won't be Hauxley. Whatever reason they have for moving that boundary has to be a damn good legitimate reason. We know what's at stake both politically and financially. I hope that Hauxley will endeavour and get what is rightfully theirs.

KC, Via email

### Thanks from Amble Food Bank

We thank Councillor Jeff Watson for his very generous donation of £500, from his members small scheme allowance, to the Amble Food Bank as a contribution to the half term effort of providing food to those children in need in Amble and surrounding area.

This is a very demanding time for those who are finding it difficult to make ends meet and we only fear it is only going to get worse before

getting better.

We know this will go a long way to providing those who have found themselves in this situation, through no fault of their own, with the support they need.

Once again thank you for your support to the Amble Food Bank.

Bill Cruickshank, Coordinator Amble Food Bank

### Swimming at the Little Shore

As a regular swimmer at the Little Shore for the last eight years I thought I would contact you about the one incident which concerned me.

This is in light of more people using the area for recreation especially with the current interest in wild swimming.

Whilst swimming close to the beach huts I got whipped along by a strong current pulling me towards the pier. As I was not out of my depth I was able to get out but it was a strong pull and

frightening. A local coastguard informed me that it was due to the proximity of the river. The tide was coming in but this combines with downcoming river water to push a current into the Shore.

With the possibility of children in the vicinity of the huts it is a worry however. I am wondering whether a sign near the beach huts may be an idea to inform people.

Ruth Hawkins  
via email

### Thank you for helping me

I'd like to offer a huge thank you to all of the people who came to my assistance when I fell down in Amble main street on Friday (lunchtime) 25th September - in particular to the man who was first on the scene and stayed with me offering support in a calm, caring manner as well as giving me space until I pulled myself together (also asking all the 'right questions'!)

Apart from being dazed and shocked for a few hours after, only my pride and specs appear to have suffered any long term hurt (thankfully).

I'm sorry I wasn't in a fit state to say a proper thank you to you all at the time but I send my sincere and warmest wishes to you all. Stay well and stay safe. Thanks again.

Joan Robinson (Chester le Street) via email

## Queen Street Post Office, here for you

From the start of Lockdown 2 on Thursday 5 November the Queen St. Post Office has returned to normal hours, 9am to 6pm six days a week.

This was in response to talk of “New Normal” and “Big Reset,” terms I simply dislike, as I, and a lot of our customers are yearning for a return to normality.

I now have a full complement of five staff (we were down to one during Lockdown 1) and all necessary precautions are in place, so we all agreed our Post Office, which can do most people’s banking requirements, both personal and business, should stay open thus avoiding trips to Morpeth or Alnwick, and it allows for the sending of parcels between

separated families in the run up to Christmas. All very good reasons to go back to 9am – 6pm six days a week.

I have restarted the mobile Post Office and was overwhelmed by the gratitude expressed by villagers at having a local Post Office again.

I have received the Government Grants for the Self Employed and have told the team those monies will be used to avoid their being furloughed. Unfortunately, this means a 20% pay cut, but Beryl and I are committed to continuing this for the team as long as possible. However the old adage of ‘Use it or Lose it’ very much applies to Post Offices at this time.

*Brian Hewson*

## Raw sewage pumped onto Amble beach



Sufers Against Sewage reports that raw sewage has been pumped onto Amble Links beach 62 times in the last year. The full SAS report can be found at: [www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Water-Quality-Report-Digital-v1.pdf](http://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Water-Quality-Report-Digital-v1.pdf)

Readers may be aware of a recent report from Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) that Northumbrian Water has been pumping raw sewage onto local beaches.

In their 2020 Water Quality Report, SAS list Amble Links and Warkworth beaches among the worst affected areas in Northumberland.

There were four main areas listed: Warkworth - 56 discharges, Seaham Hall Beach - 60 discharges, Amble Links - 62 discharges, Spittal - 91 discharges

We contacted Northumbrian Water and asked them why this has happened so often, and what they intend to do about it to keep the public safe.

A spokesperson for Northumbrian Water, said: “A huge amount of investment has gone into the improving the bathing waters around the North East coast over the past 20 years.

“The result of our programme of investment is that 33 of our 34 bathing beaches in the North East reached good or excellent status

in 2019. This includes Warkworth and Amble, which have both received excellent status for a number of years. The ‘excellent’ status is awarded based on samples taken independently by the Environment Agency to assess the bathing waters against strict regulations.

“At times of heavy rainfall, storm overflows are used as a relief valve on our network, to protect customers’ homes. This happens with consent from the Environment Agency and the outfalls discharge what is largely rainwater, mixed with some of the contents of our network from the area affected. When this happens, we make an effort to get a team to clean up any debris as soon as possible.

“To make the public aware of what is happening, we have a section on our website called Beach Aware, where we provide updates on the overflow status of each area, as well as the bathing water quality requirements.”

*Anna Williams*

## Meet the police and council officers



l-r PC Louise Bowlt, Judith Davis Community Safety Officer NCC public protection, PC Darren Stapleton, Lindsay Jones Housing Officer Karon Jones, CSO Darin Fawcett.

In October, in the first of what is hoped to be a repeated event, members of the public were able to meet with local police and county council officers at Northumbria Police’s Community Engagement van. The event took place in the Town Square.

PC Bowlt explained that the van is a force-wide resource, used to encourage people to come and talk, ask questions, even ask about the joining the police. The other representatives are available to answer questions in their specialty fields. She hopes to be able to use the community engagement van in the future so members of the public can drop by and have a chat about local policing issues that may concern them.

## Expertise Wills and Wealth

### PROTECT YOUR FAMILY ASSETS

Long Term Care • Third Party Challenges • Divorce  
Business Failure • Sideways Disinheritance

### LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

in areas of Property and Affairs • Health and Welfare

Make sure you have them in place while you're fit and healthy

### WILLS

Simple Wills • Trust Wills • Free Reviews

### PROBATE

Call us for Expert Help and Advice

### PENSIONS

Do you have pension pots scattered here and there? Now coming up to retirement?

We're here to help you go through your options.

### A MEMBER OF THE WILL WRITING SOCIETY

Ring Enid: 07772 182 130 • 01670 855 768  
for a FREE CONSULTATION in your home



Email: [enid.eww@sky.com](mailto:enid.eww@sky.com)

Barrister Intermediary and

Member of the Legal Services Guild





# Amble harbour inspires modern Guernsey knitting

Congratulations to Amble Pin Cushion who have received Highly Commended in the 2020 British Knitting and Crochet Awards, for their cushion cover inspired by Amble harbour.

Many local people will be familiar with the traditional Northumbrian Gansey or Guernsey knitted sweater, worn by fishermen up and down the coast. Villages such as Seahouses, Craster, Amble, Newbiggin and Cullercoats all had their own distinctive design of intricate stitches.

In fishing families, girls would be taught to knit from a young age, able to produce socks from five years old, and graduating to ganseys at about twelve. Patterns were committed to memory rather than paper.

The 5-ply pure wool combined with narrow gauge needles, made for a taut fabric giving the Gansey its ability to turn water. With the advent of man-made fibres and cheap mass-produced clothing, interest died out in the traditional close-fitting, usually seamless garment,



The cushion cover design won Highly Commended

often knitted in dark blue, and taking around 160 hours to make. Nowadays, the Heritage Crafts Association has Guernsey or Gansey knitting on their "Red List" of endangered crafts.

Amble Pin Cushion's Anne Baxter was asked to design an introductory Guernsey knitting project, using traditional 5-ply 100% British wool, thereby supporting a renewable home industry at a difficult time.

The brief was to develop a product which would appeal to those who are new to this style of knitting, as well as those interested in heritage knits. A home accessory instead of a garment, (with the investment of time and yarn quantity that entails), seemed to best fit the bill.

Anne developed two new products. Her cushion cover and tablet cover designs, while

being based on traditional fisherman's gansey stitches, such as the tree of life, take inspiration for their combination of stitch patterns from in and around Amble harbour, where ropes (represented by cable combinations), nets, anchors and ladders are often seen. The dolphin on the back of the cushion cover is "Freddie," famous in Amble from 1987 to 1992.

Both designs were made up as kits and entered into the 2020 British Knitting and Crochet Awards. The cushion cover received "Highly Commended," and the full results are in the December issue of "Let's Knit" magazine.

Amble Pin Cushion has added these Guernsey knitting kits to their Northumbria Knit and Stitch brand, which also includes a wide range of Northumbrian cross stitch designs, from their recent acquisition of the Picrosso range. These are all available from APC and on their website: <https://amblepincushion.co.uk>.

## Dentistry and the current COVID-19 pandemic

Like everyone else, it's been a challenging time for us in dental practice. We received notification on 23 March that we had to close our doors and stop treating our patients. At the time no one really knew what the risks were, or how the virus was transmitted.

Over subsequent weeks we manned the phones to deal with queries, provided advice, prescribed antibiotics and cancelled a lot of pre booked appointments! Our team ran errands, did shopping for

some of our shielding patients, collected prescriptions and generally provided an ear to listen to some of our patients who were left isolated during that initial lockdown.

Many of the team were left exasperated that they couldn't provide solutions to the dental problems that some of our community were experiencing.

Thankfully, at the start of May our application to become an urgent care centre was accepted by the NHS local team so we were able to start seeing patients to provide very limited treatments. Not ideal, but at least we could provide a solution to the most acute situations.

Gradually we were allowed to reopen more fully, providing more treatment options. Many of the treatments we provide in dentistry involve creating a spray which potentially can create an increased risk to the dental team, so a raft of new protocols were introduced including enhanced PPE. We had made the decision in early April to invest in technology to clear the air from the surgeries more effectively

which has allowed us to get back on track, but everything takes more time and involves more team members, so we still have a much lower capacity than pre COVID. Please bear with us!

As we have been able to see more patients, we have all noticed an increase in the number of suspicious lesions. Oral cancer is a disease that is increasing in prevalence but often is something that goes unnoticed by many patients in the early stages. Whilst it has nothing to do with the SARS-COV-2 virus, the fact that we haven't been able to see everyone as frequently as we would like this year we think has resulted in small early issues which we often refer for investigation not being identified as early as we would like.

November has been designated as Mouth cancer awareness month. We would like to use this opportunity to ask anyone who has an ulcer that isn't healing after 2 weeks, or an unexplained lump or bump that has developed in their mouths to get in touch so that we can



have a look, ideally providing reassurance, but if not make an early referral for appropriate care.

We are staying open during this new lockdown in November and will continue to provide care for everyone who needs it. To ensure the safety of everyone we ask that you only come to the practice if you have an appointment. Please call us if you need advice, have concerns or want to book a screening appointment.

Please stay safe, but rest assured that we are available if you need us.

*Amble Dental Practice*

**THE MAD JAM WOMAN**  
&  
**Pride of Northumbria**



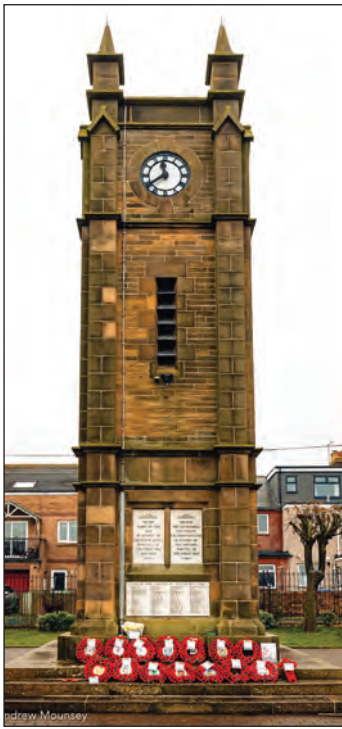
**Award winning Preserves & Relishes**

Fourways One  
Bridge St, Amble NE65 0DR  
07766 857680

Also available at the Seafood Centre  
[www.madjamwoman.com](http://www.madjamwoman.com)



## Remembrance Day 2020



Whilst official services were cancelled this year, individuals turned out on the morning of Sunday 8 November, for a very short, socially distanced Remembrance Sunday service. A two minute silence was followed by wreath laying.

Photos by Andrew Mounsey

# BE YOUR OWN BARISTA

Included in the Christmas Bundle:

- Fracino Piccino espresso machine
- Piccino on Demand grinder
- Mini professional knock box
- A tamper and tamper mat
- 350ml milk frothing jug and thermometer
- A shower plate brush and spatula
- FREE 228g bag of our Christmas Blend coffee
- 3 MONTHS worth of Roaster's Choice Subscription
- ++ Free delivery

Order from [mochamondo.co.uk](http://mochamondo.co.uk) or visit us at Unit 6C, Coquet Enterprise Park



**MOCHA MONDO**  
COFFEE



## What to do if you see a stranded seal



Recently there have been a few sightings of seals alone on our local beaches and coastlines. So I got in touch with Claire Arkle who is a volunteer at British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR). They have a website and a facebook page.

Claire has been a member of BDMLR for 6 years. It started for her when she found a seal pup on the beach and didn't know what to do. She was very interested in what BDMLR did when they came to help and she signed up for a course. BDMLR is a charity, and anyone over 18 years can volunteer to join and they have vets on call to help them if the seals are badly injured.



If a seal is injured the medic on-call will assess the seals appearance, eyes, mouth, skin/fur, size, injuries and take photos. If the seal needs further medical attention it will be uplifted and taken to the local vets for treatment and overnight observation. If they are of suitable weight and respond to treatment they are released the next day. If they need further help then they will go to the Blue Reef Aquarium in Tynemouth who help the BDMLR in their recovery.

Sometimes the seals are ok and JUST NEED TO REST until the next high tide; they can be relocated if the beach is busy as they NEED TO BE LEFT IN PEACE.

Claire told me that call-outs increase around pupping season; Common seals around June and Greys around November. Bad weather can also make seals come ashore. They can get very exhausted whilst being in the heavy sea along with illness and injury.

I asked Claire what is the main cause of injury to seals. She said, "With the little ones it's more underweight or exhausted or perhaps both. Once ashore they get hurt by dogs coming to them. Also they have their own diseases: lung worm, mouth problems, temperature, infections, lack of food and dehydration."

So - what should we do if we see a stranded seal?

As soon as you see a stranded Seal you need to call BDMLR on 01825 765 546. DO NOT GO NEAR IT OR TRY TO CHASE IT BACK INTO THE WATER. You should warn people about the seal especially people with dogs. If you have dogs keep them on leads.

Covid affected BDMLR Claire told me they were restricted to travel; their call-outs had to be carefully decided upon, as the safety of the medics came first. Up-lifts where they take seals to further care is generally done in pairs, as seals are heavy to carry, and people weren't allowed to mix, or travel, in case of accidents. They didn't want medics getting injured and to put further strain on the NHS. So it is carefully decided whether to send medics out or not. Also not a lot of vets were open so there was nowhere to treat the seals.

Thanks to Claire for talking to me and remember if you see any stranded seals call BDMLR at 01825765546 or look them up on their website or face book page. PLEASE PUT THE NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE #HELPTHESEALS

by Megan

## Halloween Fun

Despite Covid restrictions, many families were determined to make the most of Halloween. In Amble, a trail was organised around where families were encouraged to walk around their neighbourhood, and spot Halloween

items, some as simple as a drawing of a pumpkin in a window or something more elaborate. Sweets were left on garden gates so that no-one needed to knock on doors.

>> continued on p12



Olivia, 7 and Jac, 4 months



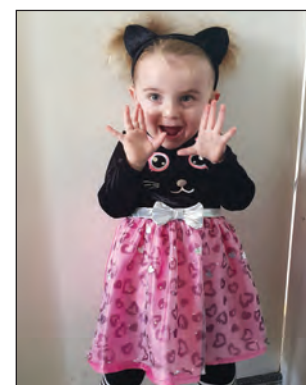
Patterson family



Cora, 5



Wilson family



Rhea, 2



Matthew, 7, Chloe, 3 and Lucy, 2



Kabe, 3



Yearnshire Mackarem family



Beatrix, 3

## Running through lockdown



Before March, Parkrun (the 5k run event held on Saturdays all over the world) was a huge part of my life. Every Saturday, besides a few, I would go to Druridge Bay, run 5k and spend time with like minded people. But then covid hit and it was torn away.

I kept running through lockdown, and discovered some beautiful new paths just outside my doorstep. It was great to explore new places, but it wasn't without the nagging feeling that it shouldn't be like this. Eventually it became habit, and Parkrun was forgotten, along with normalities like school.

But then everything started opening again and things returned to normal- or at least the 'new normal'- I started school in September, went out for celebratory meals and could meet up with my friends again.

There was even a point when Parkrun announced they were opening back up for socially distanced events, but, with new rules in place as cases rose, this was shut down and instead they continued their 'virtual parkrun' (run 5k at home, and upload it to the website).

I don't know when they'll be able to restart, I doubt it'll be before the year is over. Whenever it is, I know so many people who'll be excited to start again, and feel more inspired to run again.

by Ava



## Lunar water and moon mice

Lunar water is just a more scientific way of saying moon water (It also sounds better). Scientists found out there once was water on the moon, and if there wasn't I wouldn't be writing this. So if there was moon water, or Lunar water, that means there could have been life on the moon! Imagine moon fish and moon pandas.

It would be bad if there was moon mice because apparently mice eat cheese so if there were hundreds of starving mice which thought:

'Hey! This place is made out of cheese so why not eat it?' 'Sure it sounds nice,'

And then they would eat the moon - and they ate it to its core, which was just a rock and that's why it looks like what it looks like now. A rock - not just any rock - a space rock.

By Grace



## Should schools have stayed closed?



We are back into another lockdown with a lot of businesses closing and social gatherings severely restricted. However, the main places that haven't been shut down are schools, colleges and universities.

From March until September, schools were completely closed, leading to predicted A-Level and GCSE grades and a lot of online learning from home which didn't always work as well as teachers hoped.

When they opened again, they had restrictions just like everywhere else (lots of sanitising and mask wearing), but in an environment with so many people it's hard to distance effectively. Schools are full of large gatherings of people that, currently, would be unheard of in most other settings, so should they still be open?

Faith Bell is a year 12 student at JCSC, where masks are required in the corridors and different year groups are separated into bubbles. "[The restrictions] are there for us to be safe, but the kids don't always listen. The rules are working to some extent."

Speaking about schools going into lockdown, Faith said: "I personally don't want to, but I think if everyone else is we might as well, to try and help. But on the other hand, kids need their education." It's not just schools that are locked down.

Many students who have gone to university this year have been met with a very different experience to what they imagined.

Oliver Frater, a former pupil at JCSC, started studying at the University of Salford this year, but there's a no guest policy and different university flats aren't allowed to mix. As well as this, masks have to be worn in all face-to-face lectures, and the online lectures still have lots of technical difficulties.

For him, the most noticeable difference was there were no freshers events, as well as very few societies running. "I didn't really mind that as I'm not a massively sociable person, but it made it difficult to mix with people outside of my flat. We're not allowed to mix at all-that's been hard because I felt like if there's an issue in my flat I haven't got anyone outside of them because those opportunities haven't happened."

"In terms of actual learning I've found face-to-face alright. I've felt safe and comfortable in terms of social distancing and stuff like that. The online learning has been the most difficult. I'm a very hands-on learner and I don't find focusing for long times very easy, but luckily we have this resource called blackboard which is where we're taught. All of the lectures are recorded, but it's not the



same as being able to do it in person like you would in school which is what I'm used to."



"I think if the government cares about the safety of people, as a whole, not just a certain age group, then they should shut everything." He said, on



the issue of shutting schools and universities, "I know people who are going to school and sitting directly next to people. I know people going

to school and having to line up in massive groups to get into the building. Whether that's the school's fault or not, it's not going to help the cases. If they want to do something they should either do it properly and fully or not at all."

Schools and universities have been very different in the past few months, with some aspects working better than others. With infection rates steeply rising in secondary school children especially, it seems ineffective to leave education institutions open, but closing them again would severely damage the education of thousands of children across England. It feels as if nobody knows what to do which, as a student, is not a reassuring thing to hear.

by Lily



## Neville the dog's lockdown Christmas

Neville had never experienced lockdown before, and he never wanted to experience it

again. It wasn't fun only being able to go to the same short walks every day and especially not meeting his friend Ozzy for months. Without many people visiting, he started staring at the fish blowing bubbles, swimming around for hours. Much less fun than having his friends around.

It was snowing, white fluffy flakes falling from the sky. There was a cold chill going through the house, which didn't make sense since all of the windows and doors were closed. It was Christmas day, and

Neville rushed to the living room to see the presents. To his surprise, the door was closed! 'It's not like I would rip all the presents apart,' Neville thought. Just because he's a dog doesn't mean he'd tear the wrapping paper.

After some intense minutes of staring at the door, there was a sound of running down stairs. Hannah opened the door, with everyone sprinting in. The Christmas tree was decorated with a giant golden star, and lots of tinsel. There were so many presents! There was new bedding and treats, and later a special Christmas day meal. Best lockdown Christmas ever!

By Grace





## Thoughts on the US Election



The US presidential election has been happening over the past few months, and on November 7th it was finally announced that Biden won. It may seem insignificant to us in Britain, but the impacts will be felt for years to come.

Personally I support Biden, but only because he was the lesser of two evils. Over the past four years Trump has called black people 'thugs', taken away transgender rights, appointed Supreme Court judge Amy Coney Barrett (who is against abortion and gay marriage), not to mention the numerous rape allegations and more.

Biden may not be perfect, but he has better principles and can do more for minorities.

Additionally, he has the first female vice president in American history! It's so exciting to have Kamala Harris representing, and is definitely a step in the right direction. I think it's high time someone young and up to date took to politics, instead of these old white men who don't fully understand what today's world needs.

Trump's views were that of a traditionalist and someone who only thinks for themselves, as well as one who has not been exposed to the current world. Climate change has been increasingly getting worse but Trump continued to ignore it, saying "I don't think science knows, actually". Science does know, but ignorance is always bliss.

With Biden in office, he wants to U turn on climate policies (which will help globally) and support minorities by taxing the rich more. Lots of people are against this, but I think if you make more money you should give more back.

By Ava

### B & S DOMESTICS

0772 5305 491  
0771 9573 355



Sales and repairs of  
• washing machines  
• tumble dryers  
• electric cookers  
• built-in ovens etc

Over 20 years  
professional experience

### edie pebble

Pod 14 Amble Harbour Village



Beautiful handmade gifts,  
vintage treasures and  
nautical decorations

## Star Bakers

Food lessons are one element of JCSC school life that have been impacted by social distancing restrictions. Cooking lessons can't go ahead as usual, so many students are missing out.

However, JCSC food teacher, Mr Shiel, is determined that everyone still gets a chance to cook. Students in year 7 and 8 were set homework to cook a variety of dishes at home, with special prizes for the winning dishes donated by some of Amble and Warkworth's cafes and restaurants, including Coquet Tea Rooms, Masons Arms, 1911, Jaspers, Spurreli, The Harbour Fish Bar, Jackdaw Restaurant, Bertram's and The Sand Bar.

"I hoped that this competition would be fun for the parents as well as the children. Cooking can really bring everyone together and trying the food may inspire students to make some of the recipes again," said Mr Shiel.

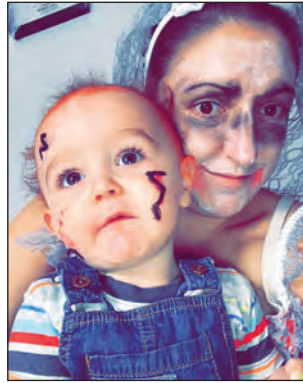
He also said that cooking at home gives young people valuable life skills for when they leave school.

By Lily

## Halloween Fun

continued from centre pages

The Amble Pumpkin Trail organisers, Lorraine Hudson, Louise Skirving and Christine Teesdale, hope to repeat it next year. Lorraine said "It went well, we are really hoping to build it for next year. It would be lovely next year, if there was an organised parade, with a gathering in the town square. We know nothing can be done until Covid is under control."



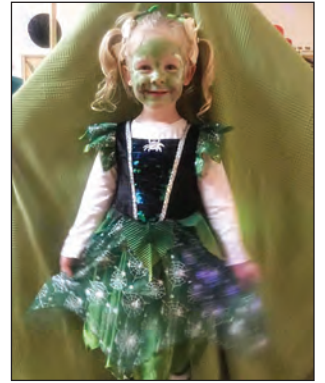
Henry, 11 months & Kerry



Lacie-Mae, 6



Robin, 2



Alyssa, 2



Lucas, 2



Emily, 4 and Harry, 1



Ayla, 3



Baxter family



## Christmas puppies and kittens

Christmas is frequently a popular time of year for families to get a new puppy or kitten. We thought we would revisit some pointers we at Coquet Vets feel is important to cover for your new family pet.



### 1. Come and meet us!

We love to see you and your new addition and offer free puppy/kitten health checks.

### 2. Vaccinations

It is important we ensure your pet receives their core course of vaccines at the correct intervals to ensure their protection is maintained as the antibodies from their mothers fall. Until your new pet has received their full vaccination course we strongly advise they are kept indoors.

### 3. Fleas and worming

Ensuring your pet is covered

against pesky parasites is important. Young animals can easily carry a parasitic burden so getting a fresh weight and the appropriate treatments on board is key.

### 4. Microchipping

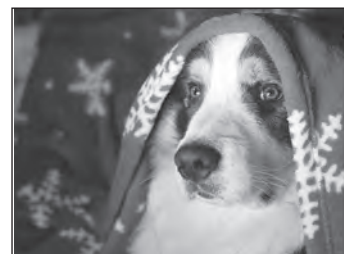
It is a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped in the UK, However this is not the case for cats. It is important that owners always keep details up to date in relation to your pet's microchip.

### 5. Insurance

There are many insurance companies and it can seem a daunting task going through them all. We strongly recommend insurance is taken out for your new pet. Through a provider we offer 4 weeks free insurance following a health check with one of our vets.

### 6. Socialisation

Your new pet is learning all the time so exposing them to different stimuli is very important. This can range from



meeting family members to playing with their feet and ears to brushing their teeth!

### 7. Christmas Hazards!

It is very important to be aware of hazards for your new pet. However at Christmas it is even more so due to the increased number of hazards around! Hazards include chocolate, tinsel, baubles, mince pies and so much more...

If you believe your pet has consumed anything then please call us immediately as many of these hazards can result in a life threatening illness.

Please call us on 01665 252250 for more information or go to our website [www.coquetvets.co.uk](http://www.coquetvets.co.uk).

*Have a Happy Christmas,  
from the team at Coquet Vets*

## Vicar's Christmas Challenge

Christmas is almost upon us. Despite the many difficulties we've all experienced this year this Christmas will be a season of hope, light and vitality. It is a time to make merry and share. A time to look forward with joy and happiness rather than back in regret and sadness.

Whether or not you see and appreciate the holiness and solemnity of the birth of the Saviour, the basic message of new birth presents us all with new possibilities and opportunities.

I suspect that those who invest most in making Christmas a time of joy will be the ones who gain the most out of it. At Christmas we may discover that it is in giving that we receive. If you see the glass is half full you will be more satisfied than if you look and see it as half empty.

So, this Christmas I am asking if you are up for a challenge?

I am suggesting that during the Christmas period you aim to contact by phone, messaging or even waving through a window two or three people that you have not contacted in recent times.

Make it a positive call and include

the idea that you are responding to the Amble Christmas Challenge. And ask them to join in too. If most people who read this participate there will be a cascade of positive interaction across the town and beyond. You do not have to attend church to do this. Anyone can join in sharing the spirit of Christmas with others.

Finally, can I remind you that all local churches will do their best to be open over Christmas in keeping to the law. We at St Cuthbert's will be putting our services online, so you can follow them at home via our church Facebook or webpages. The annual popular Christingle service will be online but you will need to sign up in advance. The Christmas Carol service will also be online on the Sunday before Christmas. Midnight Communion will go ahead all being well.

To everyone in Amble and surrounding districts I wish you and yours a very blessed and joyful Christmas regardless of your circumstances.

*Rev. John McDermott*

## Lionheart Cleaning

Commercial & Domestic Cleaning Services

### Your One Stop Cleaning Service Provider

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.

Carpets and upholstery	Conservatory	Pressure washing
Windows	Roofs	End of Tenancy
Gutters/Fascias	Commercial	Post Build
	Kitchens	General

01665 713448 [www.lionheartcleaning.co.uk](http://www.lionheartcleaning.co.uk)

## Co-op Funeralcare

Our caring staff are here  
to listen and advise you,  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Coquetdale Cottage, Queen Street, Amble  
Tel: 01665 710437





# Reports from our *County Councillors*



**C**ovid kills, it causes serious long term illness to some while it hardly affects others. It can overwhelm intensive care units and devastates elderly care homes.

My experience started in the middle of April, when I tested positive, despite feeling completely fine. Three days later I started to get terribly achy, tired and listless, and not wanting to do much more than sleep on and off.

All I could think about was all the people whose breathing was seriously affected and ending up in hospital on ventilators, a constant worry at this point.

Lying on the sofa I felt like I had been hit by a bus, feeling very tired all the time and constantly parched, with hardly any appetite.

By night I was completely soaked in sweat with a fever that was unrelenting, hot one minute and chills the next. My body was so achy it was painful to gather the energy to go to the bathroom.

I didn't have much of an appetite during this time just eating toast and drinking flat lemonade.

During all this time my wife

*Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk*

Mary who is a care worker was going through the same experience.

After three days of what I would class as mild symptoms, I improved dramatically, finally getting back in the garden and finish cutting the grass. After a week, all my symptoms had completely gone away and my appetite was slowly returning.

I would not wish Covid -19 upon anyone. This is not the common cold or regular flu, this virus is serious. You do not know how it may affect you.

As this goes out, NHS staff will probably be under a huge strain.

We can all help reduce that pressure by doing the right thing and keep taking small measures; washing our hands frequently, keeping our distance from others outside our households, and wearing face coverings in indoor settings.

We need everybody to do their part and follow guidelines to flatten the curve and prevent the growing spread. If we all do our bit, hopefully we can all enjoy Christmas with our family and loved ones. Eventually this virus will end and we will resume what our lives used to be. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

**T**he Covid crisis has dominated everything that the County Council has been doing for many months and it doesn't look as though it is going to end soon.

I have done what I could to help and am pleased to say that I arranged a grant of £500 to the Amble Food Bank to help those children over half term who were on free school meals as well as other families in difficulties. Central government have stepped in to help during future school holidays to ensure that no child goes hungry while schools are closed

I was also pleased to help Amble Youth Project who are struggling to keep up the good work they have been doing because of social distancing issues in the restrictive space that they operate from. At times like these you realise the amount of work that volunteers in Amble do to contribute to the community at large and how valuable that work is.

I am looking at replacing the existing interactive speed sign on Acklington Road with a new one and hopefully a one that works! Unfortunately, I can't go ahead just yet. I have to be sure that the existing site will still be in the best place when the road alterations connected with the new developments are finalised, but I am keen to get this sign in place to help slow down drivers as they approach the play areas on the welfare grounds.

I am aware that some residents are unhappy about parking on Edwin Street and am working with County Highways department to see if anything can be done to help.

Remembrance Day this year was another victim of Covid restrictions, but it was good to see the people who went to the war memorial properly social distancing and paying their respects to those who lost their lives in service to their country. I would like to say a special thank you to those volunteers who raised money for the Poppy Appeal in Morrisons as well as the staff who enabled the generous residents of Amble to contribute to the charity.

I hope you can have a merry Christmas despite Covid.

*Jeffery.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk 0780 238 5367*



## Councillor donates to hungry children

**C**ouncillor Jeff Watson has given money towards helping hungry children during the Christmas holidays.

He told The Ambler "I have made a donation to Amble Food Bank in order to help in the current pandemic situation.

"I understand that this excellent

organisation is delivering extra kids food for the half term holidays and that the £500

"I have donated from my members small schemes allowance which will hopefully help a lot.

"I am allowed to make this donation by NCC as it is seen as a special case in these difficult times."

## School shoes request

**N**orthumberland has offered a warm welcome to over fifty children, settled here with their families. However, providing sturdy shoes for them to go to school is well beyond the financial means of their parents.

Please help these children by giving to the School Shoes Fund. Cheques can be sent to the treasurer, Peter Edge, 2 Hobberlaw Farm Cottages, Rugley Road, Alnwick, NE66 2AQ.

Or via BACS to Northumberland County of Sanctuary Account no: 77748368 Sort code: 30-65-22 Charity no: 1185663



### Neighbourhood Planning - consultation

The engagement exercise on the draft vision, objectives, policy themes and community actions as part of the preparation of the Hauxley Neighbourhood Plan ended on 23rd October. We received 26 responses which is a great return so thank you to all who submitted feedback. The comments are currently being collated and will be used to inform further work and the preparation of a draft neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Steering Group meeting is planning a series of meetings between now and early 2021 to discuss the consultation results across the themes of the natural environment, the built environment and community action. It's really important to the Parish that we get continued engagement so we will be asking for further feedback on the draft neighbourhood plan following these discussions early in 2021.

### Highways matters

The Parish Council have invited a Northumberland County Highways Officer to visit the parish for a walk about to

enable them to better understand the highways issues facing the village e.g. speeding, options for traffic calming and parking on verges.

### Maintenance in the Village

The Parish Council will be arranging some routine maintenance of the public seats ahead of spring 2021 and are looking at the feasibility and costs of installing a new noticeboard at Kirkwell Cottages.

### Christmas 2020

The Christmas Tree should now be in position in Hauxley Village and we hope it will bring a welcome boost to the local community during these trying times.

On behalf of the Council we would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and we look forward to being able to see each other a bit more in 2021!

### Future meetings

An Ordinary meeting of the Parish would be held at 6.30pm on Monday 11th January 2021 via Zoom.

Parish Clerk: Elaine Brown Tel: 07588 659 600 Email: [hauxleypc@gmail.co.uk](mailto:hauxleypc@gmail.co.uk)

Website: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/hauxley>

## Morrisons helping the Amble community

It's been a busy few months in Morrisons, Amble! We have been fundraising in a COVID19 way – back in August raising over £1000 for Amble Lifeboat on a rather windy day and in the company of the Lifeboat fundraisers. September was Children's Cancer Awareness Month and the store took part in Jack's Challenge. Through fundraising in stores and sites, we raised an incredible £150,000 for CLIC Sargent and also helped Jack Thomson hit his £100,000 fundraising target.

In October we raffled our spooky friend Mr Bones, a 5ft Skeleton! He was won by Charlotte Whitfield. Our online pumpkin carving competition was won by Henry Cook and The Bell Family.

Halloween was a day of trick or treat mayhem in store. Colleagues dressed up and children were invited to dress up and get sweet treats from the spooks – and they did just that! A good day was had by all.

October also saw us donate 30 lunch packs per day during half term via the Food Bank, thank you to Terry and his team for helping us get the packs to the right people and to Sharon from Crispy's Cakes and Cookies for her donations too.

In November we have been concentrating on the Poppy Appeal. Poppy Appeal volunteers were able to sell merchandise in store and although we have not been able to finalise the fundraising amount just yet we are hoping it will be near £3,000. This is the first time our local volunteers have had the opportunity to use Morrisons and we wish them the best of luck and keep our fingers crossed for a good amount raised.

So as we head on through November and head long to the festive season you will see new signage on our Amble Food Bank Pick up Pack stations. We have changed the price structure for the Pick up Packs from only



Charlotte Whitfield, winner of 'Mr Bones' the skeleton

£2 and under to include £3 and £4. This is to give us more flexibility in the offerings we can make to the food bank and to give our Customers more choice in their donations. We work very closely with Amble Food Bank and speak regularly with them to know which items

they really need. Many thanks to all our Customers for their extreme generosity. Very soon we will have a toy donation station beside the food bank deposit cage. This will enable our Customers to buy a toy, leave it in the donation cage and to know their donation will be going to a family who are finding it tough this Christmas.

There will be lots happening in the store throughout December – absolutely more dressing up and, IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: the week before Christmas Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club will have their sleigh at the store, I know we will all miss them touring our streets with Santa and his helpers, raising lots of money for local charities and good causes, so hopefully their collection buckets will be jingling by Christmas Day.

*Marion McKenzie-Long  
Morrisons Amble Community  
Champion*

## Church celebrates 150 years

St Cuthbert's Parish Church has been at the centre of the town for 150 years. This year, the hope was to have a year of celebration events leading up to Sunday 18 October when a big celebration would mark the actual day 150 years ago when Amble finally got its own Parish Church. Of course, none of this happened.



The congregation were able to celebrate the day at a socially distant service in the company of Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle. Bishop Christine blessed the new font, part of the refurbishment of the back of the church, which includes a kitchen/servery and a toilet. The church has also had a replacement boiler for the heating system which assures you of a warm welcome when you can return!

At the time of writing the church building is closed again for everything except funerals, but hoping to open again for public worship on Sunday 6 December, depending on Government guidelines.

But the building being closed is not the church being closed. The members of the church are active in the community, many being involved in support in various areas of community life. The church is still praying. Prayers are offered for individuals, local and national situations, and your prayer requests are welcome. Each morning a prayer is posted on the Church Facebook page, Instagram accounts and on the web page. These are designed and written by the St Cuthbert's team.

Since March the team has also been producing an online service. These have proved very popular and produce positive feedback. Parts of the service have come from various venues in the town as well as the Church building. The town square, gardens, the beach huts and allotments have all featured as venues for worship. They can be seen on the Church YouTube channel. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN\\_BCgo2\\_s0pOK75EPO-5NQ/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN_BCgo2_s0pOK75EPO-5NQ/videos)

"It has been a lifeline for me during lock down" said one person who contacted the church. A Zoom Christingle is planned for Christmas Eve and booking is now open. (See p19)

St Cuthbert's is looking forward to the next 150 years of being "The Parish Church for Amble". Details of services and contacts can be found online: [www.stcuthbertsonline.com](http://www.stcuthbertsonline.com)

## Could your premises be a safe place for vulnerable people?

More locations are needed throughout Northumberland to provide a Safe Place for vulnerable people who may need a little extra help when they are out and about.

Safe Places is a national project which approves local High Street shops, cafes and community venues and similar areas to provide support where needed. An approved Safe Place will have completed training in how to help anyone feeling anxious, scared, or lost, and will show a sticker in the window with the Safe Places logo.

SpLinter group, based in Amble, has been working on signing up venues to provide a network in Northumberland, and already has several venues on board.

SpLinter is a user-led community group of young adults with learning differences. They run a range of social events and community projects and have used their personal experience to create a unique training offer. It's designed to improve understanding and promote personal safety in the community.

During the current Covid-19 lockdown it's even more important that vulnerable people have somewhere to go to feel safe, and SpLinter are continuing their training remotely during this time.

Local venues that are already on board include the Blyth Community Enterprise Centre, Costa Coffee in Alnwick, and Newbiggin Maritime Centre.

Suitable places will be close to the town centre and/or transport hubs such as bus stations, with a quiet area where someone could sit for a while and be prepared to complete the online training.

If this could be your premises, please get in touch through the contact details below

"Safe Places gave us peace of mind for both of us to know that help was there if needed or in the event of an emergency" said Mark Beresford of Pegswood.

Contact for further information: 07775 817544  
[splintergroupnorth@gmail.com](mailto:splintergroupnorth@gmail.com)  
Facebook: @  
SplinterGroupNorth  
Julia Lyford





# Amble Town COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm via Zoom until further notice - see our website  
Town: 10th December, 14th January 2021, 11th February 2021  
Amenities: 28th January 2021

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	

## REMEMBRANCE

Like many, we were very disappointed that the Covid guidelines meant the usual Remembrance Sunday service could not be held. Despite this, but aware that representatives from various organisations would like to lay wreaths, we had organised to enable them to do so at a safe social distance following the two minutes silence - then the regulations changed and we were advised it would not be prudent to go ahead. However THEY WERE REMEMBERED. It was wonderful to see the wreaths and commemorations placed there by individuals going in their own time determined to still pay tribute. Those laid on behalf of the town were placed there on Armistice Day itself.

## MAYOR'S RECEPTION

Sadly another event not taking place due to the current situation; a time when Council thanks all those who have helped not just with council projects but also with community support-many giving their time voluntarily. This year in particular there are many, many more wonderful people who have been working hard helping our community through the last months of change. We extend our heartfelt thanks to you all in whatever way you have helped- whether it be for a single individual or more; whether in a professional role or a neighbourly one; whether caring, shopping or just a call to say 'Need Any Help?' Whatever you have done has been much appreciated by all.

## MEMORIAL GARDENS

Work continues here to remove and replace some of the planting there with the hope that the 'ground' areas will be complete for next Spring. The remodelling of the raised beds at the front has been started with Amble and Warkworth Rotary undertaking to empty and replant one bed over the coming months. The other raised bed will be worked on in the coming year. Plans for the Seafarers Memorial were well advanced before being delayed by the current Covid restrictions put in place. Thanks to many peoples' generosity we now have all the elements and are eager, when it is possible, to see the work completed.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT!

What cheer those wonderful Christmas lights volunteers are bringing to us all, by managing to erect all the lights and brighten not only the town but all our lives. We are lucky to have so many wonderful people in our community; although we could not thank them by turning out for the annual switch on, we hope they know that we do all appreciate all the work they put in.

## SAFE DISPOSAL

In these troubled times most of us are trying to follow the guidelines so we all stay safe. It is disturbing to receive complaints about face masks being thrown onto our open areas and into the hedgerows. Please, take them home or dispose of them in the many litter bins located throughout the town.

## TREES

After a long wait for the best time to uplift them, the majestic 'live' nordmann fir trees have now been planted in the gardens at

the Memorials and High Street thanks to the hard work of Bill Dodd and Northwood Tree Surgery aided by many helpful

volunteers and operatives from NCC, Amble Boat Company, Amble Marina, Councillors and ATC staff.

It is hoped these slow growing evergreen species with minimal leaf drop will give pleasure for many years to come.

## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

As you read this, our country may be emerging from a second lockdown: a hard time for all, but especially for the vulnerable. My hope is that we did not forget our sense of community spirit with many organisations and individuals coming to the fore as local heroes.

Now more than ever we need to act responsibly to keep ourselves and others safe. Strive to be kind -helping those that might need a little extra support, interacting with local services and key workers who work tirelessly (often unacknowledged) to ensure that those in our local community who need help get this.

On a brighter note, despite restrictions making our Christmas procession impossible, Amble Events committee start a new tradition inspired by the need to socially distance. It is intended to bring light, community spirit and celebration to the streets and doorsteps of Amble. Individuals and groups are asked to fill the windows of their homes with illuminated illustrations, installations and lanterns depicting their favourite 'Myths or Legends' Check out Dry Water Arts web page for ideas on how to join in with this.

Cllr. Jane Dargue

## WEST CEMETERY

At long last Northumbria Water have connected the supply here, just in time for it to be switched off for the winter! We apologise for this long delay which has unfortunately been out of our hands. Despite understanding the delay in the beginning (that a cemetery was not a priority when staff numbers were reduced due to Covid 19,) we have been desperately contacting them over the last months. We have had inspections of the work which have not been fully reported; then further visits with connection dates which have not been met...but now we have water there. The new fountainhead is in place ready for Spring and the tarmac work on the drive, which had to be put on hold until the utility work was complete, is now done. The rest of the memorials have been tested for stability and where possible owners have been contacted to have work carried out to make them safe.

## PADDLERS PARK

The new rope bridge and net were installed at the end of October. We hope those using them will be age appropriate and that everyone will discourage any vandalism as play equipment is very expensive to replace. We are currently reassessing the water feature as we have never been pleased with how it works since it was installed under the joint project with NCC. Several attempts have been made to improve parts of it with little difference. We have also been meeting with NCC officers about the ever present flooding issue in the low lying part near the hill by the rear of Sea View. Currently a contractor is investigating the drainage which was put in place and from there it is hoped that a solution can be suggested and then finance found to implement it.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT Tel: 01665 714 695 [www.amble.gov.uk](http://www.amble.gov.uk)

Email [ask@amble.gov.uk](mailto:ask@amble.gov.uk) Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil](https://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, Sadly I begin with some very sad news. Many of you will know Terry Broughton who was chairman of the Trust from its inception until two years ago when he had to give up the position due to ill health and we have just heard that Terry lost his battle over the weekend.



Terry Broughton

For myself it has been a privilege to know Terry and work under his guidance and share his passion for the town where he grew up and spent all his life.

Terry was a font of knowledge and always happy to share this staff and trustees keeping us all on track. But there was nothing he loved more than his family who were his pride and joy, and to who we have sent our heartfelt condolences. For sure we will all miss Terry and his jovial smiling face around the town.

The last Ambler informed everyone about the opportunity

to join in celebrating the lead up to Christmas by making lanterns and window displays to light up the town. At the time of writing we know over 600 packs have gone out and there have been some fabulous displays made so the town should look wonderful leading up to Christmas. Thank you to everyone who takes part and a special thanks to Drywater Arts and the street co-ordinators who have put in so much effort to make this a success. Its amazing what teamwork can achieve and I look forward to hearing what myths or legends your imaginations have come up with.

Work on the sculpture Trail continues, with artists now contracted and progress information will be included on

the app so that each stage of sculpture development can be either viewed or heard once the trail is complete.

We are submitting an application to the Arts Council for community development work which will initially run alongside the trail delivery but also beyond that, so we can bring the community into the project.

One thing is for sure Christmas will happen regardless of covid or any other variant that gets thrown at us, so I will wish you all a merry Christmas however you are able to celebrate and hope 2021 brings a little more joy and happiness to us all.

*Julia and Trust staff*  
[julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk](mailto:julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk)

## Footpaths at risk

More than 2,000 miles of historic footpaths across the North East could 'disappear' if action is not taken.

Many routes across the region have been in use almost continually for hundreds of years, if not thousands in some cases.

But a catalogue of admin errors and oversights mean the right to use them could soon be lost forever, prompting campaigners to launch a new drive to see them registered before it is too late.

"[In the North East] there's a lot of old paths linked to old pits and other workplaces," said Neil Allender, of the Northumbria

Ramblers.

"If you look at 19th Century maps there's old paths which go to old pits, especially in places like Hexhamshire, but as the pits closed no one had reason to walk them anymore."

"After the Second World War, local authorities were supposed to add them to their maps, but while some parishes were very good, others were more lackadaisical."

According to the Ramblers, whose 'Don't Lose Your Way' campaign has mapped more than 49,000 miles of paths across the country at risk of being lost if they are not registered and added to the 'definitive map' every English

council is supposed to maintain.

The government has set a deadline of 2026 for these to be added to official records.

Simply identifying what appears to be a footpath is not enough however for a route to gain official recognition - documentary evidence also has to be provided demonstrating its former use, including historic records and maps, but also photographs and diaries.

In the North East, Northumberland accounts for 1,117 miles of unofficial footpath, followed by 537 in County Durham and 131 in Tyne and Wear.

Allender added: "A lot of

these paths have been walked for hundreds of years or more - we could lose those historic links to the past. If you couldn't afford a horse, you walked, which was pretty much everyone. The only comfort is we're not as bad as some parts of the south.

"It is a problem and we're going to lose a lot of footpaths unless we can make the case these footpaths were there before and were only left off the maps by mistake."

Visit [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) to find out more.

*James Harrison*  
*Local Democracy Reporter Service*

## Food Bank thanks - and a plea for more support

Amble Food Bank wish to thank the people, companies and institutions of Amble and the surrounding area for their kind donations, and hope they will continue with them in the run up to Christmas.

Currently more families are going to need our help despite the government's pledge to help children during the school holidays.

We wish to thank all the people who collected for the Harvest Festival, taking donations to Amble Links First School, Amble First School, Warkworth First School, Trinity Methodist Church, St Mark's URC and St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, and those who left food

donations directly to the food bank or to Morrison's, the Co-op and The Galley on Queen Street.

We aren't able to thank every person or organisation, although some have had a thank you letter. However there are a few who stand out including Rachel Cook, Julie Baxter, and the volunteers at the Amble Food Bank. We also thank Rachel for requesting toys for children in need in Amble and surrounding area this Christmas.



Terry Long of Amble Food Bank. Donate on their justgiving page: <https://bit.ly/335CEAy>

We were most grateful that during the recent half term holiday Morrison's Amble supplied packed lunches, Bertram's in Warkworth supplied packs, and Sharon Crisp from Crispy's Cakes and Cookies supplied packed lunches, cakes and cookies for the children in need.

We really appreciate the organisations and voluntary groups that have given advice and referrals from the community, these include

Northumbria Healthcare, Amble Town Council, Alnwick Social Services, Northumbria Police and Isolation Support

Finally, a huge thank you from all the families who have benefitted over the past few months, who would have suffered without this support.

Support is still much needed for those who require our service in the run up to Christmas, we hope the community will continue to donate, as we feel we are still a long way from normality.

Wishing all the best for Christmas and New Year.

*Bill Cruickshank*  
*Coordinator Amble Food Bank*





## Wednesday Runners

We are called Amble Wednesday Runners and the adults meet at 6.30 pm on Wednesdays. All abilities welcome. The juniors meet on a Tuesday now at 6.30 pm and both nights we meet in the carpark at Amble Links First School. I am a qualified level 2 athletics coach and our group is a splinter group of Morpeth Harriers. It is of course free to run with us although I do encourage the juniors to join Morpeth Harriers when they want to compete. We have a Facebook page called Amble Wednesday Runners and people can message me if they need any more information

*Josie Goodfellow*

## Sharing photography via Zoom

When the first lockdown occurred Amble Photographic Group had to look for alternative ways of continuing with their Friday morning meetings.

The Group's committee put their thinking caps on and came up with the idea of holding virtual meetings by Zoom. There was a steep learning curve but by members helping each other meetings have been going from strength to strength with good attendances. A varied and interesting programme has been maintained with a good mix of competitions, invited speakers, and member activities. The programme can be seen on the APG website.

If any photographers out there would like to join our Friday morning meetings please contact Helen Holmes for details ([helenholmes1947@gmail.com](mailto:helenholmes1947@gmail.com)).

*Helen Holmes*

*Membership Secretary, Amble Photographic Group*

## HospiceCare fundraising campaigns

Northumberland HospiceCare is running several fundraising campaigns over the winter, which you can see online:

- Virtual Light up a Life event. Please visit our website: <https://www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk/lightupalife>.
- For those wishing to dedicate a star in memory, visit: <https://visufund.com/dedicate-a-star>
- Our first-ever Virtual Christmas Craft Fair goes live on 1st November 2020 – readers can view/shop by visiting: <https://www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk/virtualchristmasfair>

## Learn secrets of selling on the internet

Unlock the secrets of selling on the Internet - a free workshop held over two weeks, on Wednesday 6 January 5.30 - 6.30 pm and Wednesday 13 January 5.30 - 6.30 pm.

Laura Mathieson from selling Online Support lives in Amble and wants to help local businesses who may be looking at selling online as a way to increase sales during the Covid-19 crisis.

"These are difficult times and now I'm back living in Amble, I'd like to do my bit for the community" says Laura, who has been helping online sellers for over ten years. "I'm running this same workshop for Digital Durham and I thought that Amble retailers could benefit too."

There is usually a charge for this workshop, but Laura is generously offering places to Amble businesses for free.

The workshop is aimed at local retailers who want to start selling online and gives a broad overview of how eCommerce works for sellers. Comparisons are made between the different options of marketplaces, eCommerce website and advertising sites such as Facebook and Gumtree, and a way to decide the next step is explored. For a free Zoom invite please email [info@selling-online-support.com](mailto:info@selling-online-support.com)

## Chloe joins her dream team

Morpeth resident Chloe Cook is Northumberland Wildlife Trust's new 'Catch My Drift' project assistant.

The project, which has just received a funding boost of £415,800 from players of the National Lottery via a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is working to improve biodiversity and reconnect people with nature at the wildlife charity's 185-hectare East Chevington reserve on Druridge Bay.

Chloe joins the 'Catch My Drift' team from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, where she recently graduated with a BSc (Hons) Degree in Ecology before studying for an MSc Degree in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the same university.

Although Chloe will be based at Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, working with the rest of the team, her project assistant role will see her learning practical skills such as reed bed, meadow and woodland management as well as survey training with a view to her leading volunteers on survey tasks on the East Chevington reserve.

Once restrictions have been lifted, she will also be out and



*Chloe Cook, photo by Sophie Webster*

about helping to host public information and awareness sessions in the area, talking to local groups and meeting visitors to the reserve.

Speaking about her appointment, Chloe said: "I'm so happy to have been given this opportunity so soon after finishing university. I have grown up around wildlife, so to be able to make a small contribution to wildlife so close to where I now live is wonderful."

## Bailiffgate museum reopening

Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery will be reopening on 3 December (subject to government rules). Their new exhibition, Extended, was installed just before Lockdown and features a range of beautiful, thought provoking, inspirational pieces of textile art created with great skill and imagination by Fusion Textile Artists.

In spite of the difficulties and closures, Bailiffgate has had a lot to celebrate this year and has been recognized and celebrated, winning three awards this year:

- 'highly commended' by the Museums & Heritage Awards 2020 for their fantastic '100 Years of Fashion' exhibition in the category of 'Limited Budget Project of the Year'
- 'highly commended' by the prestigious British Museum Marsh awards with a 'Volunteers for Museum Learning Award'
- 'Travellers' choice winner' for 2020 from Tripadvisor.

And a successful bid to the Garfield Weston Foundation has allowed them to recruit Catherine Neil to take up the role of Exhibitions Programme Manager. She will oversee Bailiffgate's exciting programme of Art, Culture and Heritage Exhibitions over the next two years.

Visit their website to see ideas for unique Christmas gifts including Friends Membership and Adopt an Object, both of which open up a range of exclusive benefits, including unlimited entry to all their exhibitions.

## FC Amble Juniors' new sponsors



**F**C Amble Juniors under 13s football team would like to give a big thank you to Spurreli as our continued team sponsor. Also, on match days the team would like to give a massive thank you for the free ice-cream vouchers they give out for our Man of the Match every game. Needless to say it's a great incentive for our players to give it their all every week.

*Ian Armstrong*

*FC Amble Juniors U13s*

FC Amble Juniors under 10s would also like to thank Phil and Diane from Lumiere Amble for their kind generosity of paying for our u10s rain jackets for the 20/21 season.

Lumiere is a great pod on the harbour. They sell a multitude of amazing beautiful gifts for everyone. Pictured above is Diane with one of our attacking midfielders.

*Gary Chambers*

*FC Amble Juniors U10s*

## Christingle service via Zoom

**T**his year we will not be able to hold our very popular Christingle service on Christmas Eve. The congregations have usually been around 200 people and at the present time our church can't hold that many and maintain social distancing.

Rather than turn anyone away we have decided to hold our Christingle on line via Zoom.

If we are to do this, we need to know how many people will be taking part. This means we can plan to send out some materials for you to use at home. It won't be quite the same as all being together in Church to begin our Christmas celebrations but it is the next best thing.

It will also mean that we can make a collection for the work of the Children's Society who brought the Christingle to Britain and who rely on the collections at Christingles up and down the land for their work.

The Children's Society work with vulnerable children to support

and protect them. They also have a role in speaking to Government about legislation and the needs of children. We shall be arranging for an online collection and envelopes.

We aim to stick to the same time of 6 o'clock on Christmas Eve. As many of you will want to go out at that time and ring a bell at your front door, we will ask people to log on at 5:50pm, then there will be a space for bells to ring which we should all be able to hear and the service will start at 6:05pm. All of the elements of storytelling, singing and prayers that we usually have at a Christingle will be there.

If your family is interested in taking part in the Zoom Christingle please let me know as soon as possible.

Booking will close on Wednesday 16 December and your Christingle bag will be delivered to you soon after that. (if you live in the Amble area). You can email me at [pennyhorseman@gmail.com](mailto:pennyhorseman@gmail.com)

*Penny Horseman*





Make it look pretty again!

Maintenance and Design

- weeding
- grass cutting, edging
- planting, flower potting
- hedge trimming
- pruning
- landscaping
- paving, fencing

**STANTON**

**Coast & Country Garden Service**

**01665 798543**
**AMBLE**
 Visit us on Facebook

## Hauxley Hounds

Professional Dog Walking Service



- **Friendly and reliable service**
- **£10 per hour\*** (See our website for details)
- **DBS checked • Fully Insured**
- **Pet Taxi service** (See our website for details)

**Contact Mark:**  
**07720 425 027**  
[hauxleyhounds@gmail.com](mailto:hauxleyhounds@gmail.com)  
[www.hauxleyhounds.co.uk](http://www.hauxleyhounds.co.uk)



## Cromie PHARMACY

**Did you know we provide:**

Minor Ailments Advice, Travel Clinics,  
 Stop Smoking Clinics, Period Delay,  
 Emergency Contraception & Vaccinations.

**Convenient prescription medication supply:**

- **FREE** prescription collection and delivery service.
- We collect prescriptions daily
- Our delivery service covers Amble and surrounding areas



01665 710 896

158 Percy St, Amble, Morpeth NE65 0AG



## Media stars flock to the Friendliest Port

Amble was 'the place to be' this autumn when the crew of ITV's *Vera* arrived, with star Brenda Blethyn seen filming outside the Schooner pub. A few days later, the Hairy Bikers rode into town, filming at the harbour for their new BBC2 series. They met Amble chef Martin Charlton, and used the Fish Shack to create one of their recipes.



Above: Brenda Blethyn filming part of the new series of *Vera* outside the Schooner pub. *Photos by Andrew Mounsey*



Above: Si King and Dave Myers - aka the Hairy Bikers - visited Amble in October as part of filming a new BBC2 TV series. *Photos by Andrew Mounsey and Judith Hardisty*





# The Ambler

## Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 124 Oct/Nov 2020

### Festival of Light brightens whole town



Six year old Phoebe Aston with her home made lanterns.



See more of the lanterns and window displays on [www.drywaterarts.uk/amble-light-festival-2020-gallery](http://www.drywaterarts.uk/amble-light-festival-2020-gallery)



Above: images of Narnia and below: a magnificent phoenix



Below: Festive lights on Philip Drive



The dark days have been pushed aside, as hundreds of Amble residents signed up to make bright and cheery window displays and lanterns for Amble's first Festival of Light.

The theme was myths and legends, which inspired images of dragons, mermaids, firebirds and even a kraken surfacing off Amble pier. Beautiful hand painted images of Narnia, fabulous fairy tales and gorgeous jewel-coloured lanterns were all on show in people's front gardens and windows.

Frances Anderson of Dry Water Arts, who organised the festival said: "We've been overwhelmed by the support for this festival, which we hope will continue for many years. The Covid restrictions meant that the annual lights parade couldn't go ahead, so this was a way for people to bring light, togetherness and celebration to our streets and doorsteps."

She added "Our dementia positive programme Curiosity Cafe have been working hard

to put art packs together for the community to light up lockdown."

The Christmas Lights team were determined that the town would still have its traditional festive lights, and as a goodwill gesture, none of the shops and businesses this year were charged.

The Town Council installed and decorated two new fir trees in the town, and the clock tower was lit up in beautiful colours in the Memorial Gardens.

Philip Drive resident Connor Simpson also got into the Christmas mood by being one of the first to decorate the outside of his house. He told The Ambler: "We normally have a few bits up but because of the pandemic I thought I would brighten the street up by adding extra lights."

The festival began on 18 November and was funded by Amble Events Committee, Arts Council England and Northumberland County Council's Cultural Fund.



Above: Memorial gardens



*Santa spotted!*



For the latest Coronavirus situation, including where to find advice, visit [www.theambler.co.uk](http://www.theambler.co.uk) or see our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Amble gets lots of famous visitors (see back pages) but our photographer spotted someone Very Special recently. It looks like he could have been checking his naughty and nice list in a secret place in Amble. Can you guess where?





**CBSWorld**  
Complete Business Supplies

## Personalised Wrapping Paper

Printed onto environmentally friendly 90gsm recyclable paper.  
Available in 2 standard sizes or custom sizes on request.  
Choose from one of our editable design's or supply your own artwork (artwork guides available).

Quantity breaks per sheet	A2 (594x420mm)	A1 (840x594mm)
1	£3.99	£4.99
2 - 5	£2.99	£3.99
6 - 10	£2.49	£3.49
11 - 25	£1.90	£2.75
25+	P.O.A.	P.O.A.

Delivery charges may apply. FREE delivery on all orders over the value of £35

Unit 5 Elm Square, Lionheart Enterprise Park  
Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2ES  
Tel: 01665 660022 Email: [sales@cbsworld.co.uk](mailto:sales@cbsworld.co.uk)  
**[www.cbsworld.co.uk](http://www.cbsworld.co.uk)**



## Youth Project helps move rock snake

Youngsters from Amble Youth Project helped to move some of the stones from the Amble rock snake, as they are going to be spruced up and varnished ahead of finding a more permanent home.



Kelsie and Klayton Ramsey turned out after school to help pick up the rock snake on the Little Shore.

"We had some volunteers including a few passers-by and with the welcome help, and a forklift off the harbour master

Alan Puntton, we were able to collect all the stones, which will be stored until they have all been varnished," said Kate Morrison, volunteer with the Youth Project.

Kate said, "We are looking for help, and donations from local businesses. We have already been offered help from DP builders, Amble Morrison's Store and varnish from Young's but are hoping other building businesses will be able to help with concrete.

"We are also looking for someone to make a plaque explaining what they are."

The painted stone snake began life at the Little Shore back in April. By September, the trail reached along the whole of the concrete path to the beach huts.

Amble resident Jacqui Jones told The Ambler the idea had come from her 11 year old stepdaughter.

"It took a while to get going. During lockdown it seemed to get about halfway [to the beach huts] then it went really quickly when people started getting out and about. It's amazing now, so many people say how much they like it."



*Wishing you all a Happy Christmas  
& a healthy, peaceful & prosperous New Year*

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus:  
**Carol Service Sunday 20th December 10.30am**

**Christmas Day Service 11am.**

Online only at: [harbourlightschurch.com/media](http://harbourlightschurch.com/media)

Where you will also find all our regular Sunday Services



Would you like prayer? Call our Prayerline:

**07368 459411**



**[harbourlightschurch.com](http://harbourlightschurch.com)**

because  
He is Love...



## Car park loss for town centre



The land on Turner Street has been used as a public car park for many years

In a dramatic last minute change, the future of Amble's new car park in Turner Street is in doubt, as the county council reduced the agreed price a week before the expected completion date.

Owners of the land on Turner Street said they were left in shock when they were contacted by Northumberland County Council (NCC) who announced



Mrs Baron

that they were dropping their offer on the land by 25%.

In mid October, with only a week to go before contracts were due to be signed, council officers told the owners that there could be no negotiations, but that if they agreed, contracts could be completed the following week.

Land owners Mr and Mrs Baron, and Mrs Scott told The Ambler of their shock and frustration at the turn of events. "We've been in discussions with Northumberland County Council since December 2019, when the council put in an offer for the land. We refused as we had other offers which were higher. The council then matched the other offers, so we agreed the

price," said Mrs Baron.

Over the subsequent months, negotiations moved slowly, and in July, Mr Baron questioned what was taking so long.

"We were told there were new executives in post who wanted the land revalued," he said.

"Then they ring and say, 'we're offering you 25% less.' based on one valuation of the land as a car park, not as development land. We cannot believe they would do this at the eleventh hour – not to mention how much money they must already have invested in this."

"I think we've been led down the garden path," said Mrs Scott. "It's not the way to do things.

You wouldn't agree to buy a house then reduce the price a week before completion. It was all agreed, that's the sad thing."

Mrs Baron said "We are absolutely not going to accept 25% less than the development value of the land, so at this stage we have gone back to other interested parties and pursuing other options. I feel really sorry for the people of Amble but why would we accept such a reduced offer."

The news comes shortly after NCC lodged plans to extend the current car park on Turner Street, in what had been described as a

'victory' for the people of Amble, who have waited for years for a long-term town centre car park.

Mrs Baron summed up the group's feelings: "We were shocked at 25% which is a ludicrous reduction, shocked that we were then given five working days to complete, and even worse that the decisions have been made based on one evaluation, and two new



Mr Baron

executives who have undone everything that others have strived to do."

NCC were asked for a comment. County Councillor Jeff Watson said "I cannot comment on live commercial transactions which involve public money.

"What I can say is, NCC and I are committed to creating extra car parking spaces in Amble and are working hard towards that goal."

*Anna Williams*

Update November 2020: The Ambler understands that NCC have recently reopened negotiations with the land owners.

## Poppy appeal thanks

To everyone who supported the RBL Poppy Appeal this year a big thank you!

Although restrictions were in place, the new Morrison's supermarket in Amble came to our rescue and provided a warm, safe, socially distanced environment for us to set up a collecting table to promote the RBL poppy items available.

Our week-long stint by four volunteers Derek Rabey, Wendy and Keith Hedley, David Shoemaker and myself raised £2,369.49. Marian McKenzie-Long, Morrisons community organiser helped us and made the whole process conducive to our fundraising by displaying a large banner of knitted poppies made by the staff. The total for wreaths sold by us is £1,400 with

more due. A generous donation of £500 was received from one of our branch members. With the poppy tins from Warkworth Post Office and the Greenhouse, Warkworth still to be counted we should easily pass the £4,000 mark this year. A great result. Thank you everyone! *June Watson*  
Secretary, Warkworth & Amble District Royal British Legion

## New books by local authors

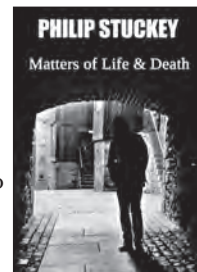
**Matters of Life & Death** (Philosophical fantasies for the real world). A collection of short stories by Northumbrian writer Philip M Stuckey, is published by indie publisher Bridge House.

These 'matters of life and death' are explored through stories that delve into human emotions, take a glimpse into the lives of others, and invite the reader to consider the true nature of our world and their place within it.

Born in sight of the shipyards of Wallsend upon Tyne, Philip Stuckey became an award winning entrepreneur, manufacturing textiles for a global market in Alnwick as well as organic skincare brand, Natural Empathy in Amble.

He is also well known as the front man and songwriter for the Progressive Rock band, Stuckfish. Philip lives in Warkworth.

The book is available in paperback or Kindle from Amazon, Waterstones, Foyles, Bridgehouse Publishing and from the author: votv2013@gmail.com

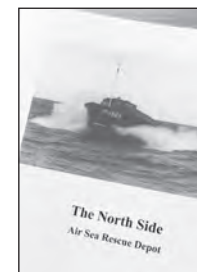


Local historian Irene Liddle has written a booklet on the history of the Air Sea Rescue depot which was built on Amble's North Side during WW2.

In the booklet, she traces the origin of the depot and associated RAF activity in the area, through newspaper reports and old photographs.

Featuring local families and quotes from those stationed at the base, the book brings together a good deal of information on this unique moment in Amble's wartime history.

Copies are available for £4 plus p&p by emailing [hauxleypc@gmail.com](mailto:hauxleypc@gmail.com)





## Doorstep deliveries from Morrisons

If you are elderly or vulnerable you will qualify for free next day delivery from Morrisons Amble. We have been offering this service since the start of lock down and now it seems the service is needed as much as ever.

The process is as simple as calling 0345 611 6111 and choosing Option 5 (Monday to Saturday). Someone will take your order and our driver will deliver it from the Amble Store next day (Tuesday to Sunday). There is no restriction on the type of groceries you can order. Payment is made at the doorstep when we deliver your groceries (card only).

If you prefer to come to the shop when it's quiet, when we have no music and the till 'beeps' are turned down then we have a quiet hour on Saturday 9 - 10am and Sunday 9.30 - 10.30am. Our NHS hour will run as normal.

Marion Mckenzie-Long  
Morrisons Champion

## Click and collect from the Co-op

Queen St Co-op now has a click and collect service:  
<https://coop.uk/3eKs6Lz>

## Useful numbers during Covid restrictions

(Apologies if we have missed anyone. See our website for more.)

**Amble Health Centre:** 01665 710481. Coquet Medical Group asks anyone who thinks they may have Covid-19 symptoms NOT to visit the practice and to stay at home for 7 days. Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- Use the online 111 service (<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>)
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

### Pharmacies:

Cromies: 01665 710 896.  
Boots Amble Queen Street: 01665 710288

### Dentist:

Amble Dental Practice: 01665 710678

### Vets:

Alnnorthumbria Vets: 01665 713111  
Coquet Vets: 01665 252250

### Essential shops:

Roland's butchers: 01665 710210  
Amble Butchers: 01665 712700  
Queen St Post Office: 01665 713195  
Independent Fruit & Veg: 01665 721057  
Lawrences: 01665 710800

Farm Bakery: 01665 603333  
Trotters Bakery: 01665 710458  
Premier Convenience Store: 01665 710394  
Amble TSB: 01665 804999  
Hauxley Dairy Farm:  
[hauxleyfarmdairy@gmail.com](mailto:hauxleyfarmdairy@gmail.com)  
Mocha Mondo coffee: 01665 714767  
Amble Harbour Village/Seafood Centre: 01665 713580  
Queen St Co-op: 01665 710826.  
Tesco Express: 0345 675 7150  
Young's newsagent Newburgh St: 01665 710433  
Nisa Newburgh St: 01665 710895  
Best One Links Ave: 01665 714554  
Morrisons: 01665 639347

### Cafes/restaurants/takeaways

(Some venues may be closed. Please check ahead.)

Jasper's Bistro: 07853449465  
Sea & Soil: 01665 713569  
Old Boat House /Fish Shack: 01665 711232  
Taj Mahal: 01665 713777  
Bengal Spice: 01665 711722  
Taste of China: 01665 713389  
Golden Harbour: 01665 714889  
Euro Pizza: 01665 714040  
AFC Pizza: 01665 714145  
Queen's Plaice: 01665 799477  
Coquet Tea Rooms: 01665 712964  
Harbour Fish Bar: 01665 710442  
Quayside Chippy: 07526 126583  
The Sand Bar: 01665 799543  
Kayleigh's Kitchen: 07562915901  
1911 Coffee Co: 01665 710706  
Wellwood Arms: 01665 714646  
Rossini: 01665 713575  
La Famiglia: 01665 713159

Spurreli: 01665 710890  
Radcliffes Cafe Bar: 01665 712134  
Radcliffe Club: 01665 710406  
Lilly's Landing: 01665 713001  
Angie's Tavern: 01665 713160  
The Dock: 01665 710322  
The Schooner: 01665 712391  
Masons Arms: 01665 712134  
Bella Pizza: 01665 710206  
Circa: 01665 711735  
Artique: 01665 711611  
The Amble Inn: 01665 613333  
Old Storehouse: 01665 710500

### Advice helplines:

- Samaritans: 116123
- Childline: 0800 1111
- RSPCA: [www.rspca.org.uk/](http://www.rspca.org.uk/)
- Domestic Abuse Support services. Freephone 24 hour helpline: 0808 2000 247 . Call 999 if in immediate danger.
- Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services: 01434 608 030 10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri
- ChatHealth Messaging Service. Text your School Nurse. 11-19yrs can text: 07507 332 258. 9.30-4.30 Mon - Fri excl bank holidays.
- Grace Rape Crisis - counselling service for victims of sexual abuse: 0800 035 2794
- Tyneside and Northumberland Mind - counselling for those affected by suicide or traumatic death: 0191 477 4545
- Talking Matters Northumberland - Psychological therapies - counselling/CBT: 0300 3030 700
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - Children's mental health: 01661 684 588

## Harry McQuillen's



# Age of insecurity



Pen in hand and a blank sheet of A4 in front of me and I hardly know where to start. News of Track and Trace and the difficulty of testing millions of students before the Christmas break fills the news.

Control of Covid is in the minds of parliamentarians and health professionals, to say nothing of the general public. The problems will be with us for some time. Would anybody like to suggest a Magic Bullet approach?

Deaths and hospital admissions have soared after a delayed lockdown. The lesson is obvious; do as you're told, or people will die. There are glimmers of light, with the likelihood of a vaccination for Covid. It's worrying to think that there are so many anti-vaxxers in our society.

Vaccination only works if enough members of the population accept it. I know that I'll be happy to have it.

Unprecedented financial support is out there for those who know how to access it. Rancour and controversy will continue, as it always does in times of trouble.

Rishi Sunak, my tip as a future Prime Minister, shows strong nerve and sound judgement. Besides, he looks pretty fit, and that's always an asset for those who accept high office.

Dominc Cummings will soon leave for pastures new, ensuring our Prime Minister will have to appoint a new chief of staff. DC has proved to be a marmite character, so I prefer not to comment.

Across the Pond there's a

whole lot of presidential pique from the incumbent at the White House. The ultimate sore loser, DJ Trump may well retreat into his Trump Tower refuge, to pour vitriol on anybody who has helped oversee his downfall. Fortunately our transatlantic cousins ensure checks and balances through their constitution. Sadly DJT has power of Hire and Fire, even in the dying days of his administration. As I write, he is still questioning the election result. Over 70 million citizens of the USA voted for him!

Back home, in the background there's talks of infrastructure projects of all sizes. A Stonehenge underpass and HS2 are two of the main developments we're likely to see.

Nearer to home there's talk of a rail link for passengers

between Ashington and Newcastle. Feasibility, cost and priority will come into play. These things take time and, with luck, wise heads will prevail.

Decent weather and our wonderful beaches have attracted record numbers of visitors. Holiday lets have been used a lot, including the estimated 400 in Amble. We've been discovered by many people who usually head for the sun.

The number of lets gives rise to grumbles about the inability of young locals to find a home in the area. My feeling has always included the thought that one can't buck the market.

Once again I can confirm my love for my home area, and my home town. Here's to the FUTURE!

Harry

# Letter from JCSC's Executive Headteacher

It doesn't seem like almost five years since I took up the post of Executive Headteacher at James Calvert Spence College. I knew that this would be the perfect job for me. JCSC is in a part of the world I visited regularly and thought I knew quite well. Looking back, of course, I had hardly scratched the surface of what makes Amble a unique place. I've worked in schools across the northeast, but none have had the same 'feel' as JCSC.

In March, when we had to close to the majority of children, I took assemblies with the Year 11 and Year 13 students and told them that JCSC is not a 'normal school'. It's much better.

I wanted to impress upon them that, during their time at school with us, they had been treated as individuals with every member of staff giving them the care and understanding we would expect for our own children. Our school has a true community feel, with classes and year groups like families. The school gates and corridors are places where staff and students open doors to each other, are

*"This is our students' one shot at school."*

courteous and greet each other warmly, that's special. That's not, in my experience, the norm for a school, but it's what you get at JCSC.

The children and their community make James Calvert Spence College such a warm and welcoming place, and we are lucky to be in such a beautiful part of the world. On the flip side, the rurality of



Neil Rogers

the catchment area is a huge challenge and one that, even after five years, I'm still yet to come to terms with. Providing a wide selection of extra-curricular activities and after-school clubs whilst still ensuring all our students can travel home safely is a constant dilemma.

The question of a new or refurbished building is something that comes up regularly. We'd love to see our community have modern facilities for education and leisure, but plans and conversations around this have been put on the back burner.

The coronavirus pandemic has presented the biggest challenge I've faced in my time as a school leader, indeed, the biggest accomplishment for all schools is actually being able to provide an education for its students, whilst keeping them all safe. We all know that life has changed dramatically. This time last year, if you told someone that we'd all be wearing face masks to shop, it would be difficult to go to places like the cinema and you couldn't legally

visit the homes or gardens of friends and family, they wouldn't believe you. Yet, that's exactly where we find ourselves.

At JCSC we're trying to strike the right balance to ensure that our staff and students are kept safe, whilst being able to get on with our job of providing high-quality education. After all, this is our students' one shot at school. We need to make sure it's as good as possible, and our dedicated team are doing just that.

Our students have taken the necessary changes in their stride:

- zoned areas around the building
  - limited hot food choice (click and collect food for key stage 4)
  - teachers moving to them instead of vice versa
  - regular hand washing and sanitising before each lesson
  - masks for students in Year 7 and above on buses, in corridors and internal communal areas.
- They've been amazing.

We've developed positive relationships with our students and community. It's our unique selling point - we're big enough

to provide lots of opportunities for our students, yet small enough to know them all as individuals, to celebrate their strengths and assist with their weaknesses.

The school's autumn open evening is traditionally a time when prospective parents get the chance to come into school, meet us and experience the warm interactions we foster. They get the chance to see that, in many cases, the school they went to and remember has changed for the better. They get the chance to see that we're not just people in suits, but caring people and parents ourselves, who talk passionately about our vision for their children's education. The coronavirus pandemic has meant this could not happen. Whilst many schools hosted a virtual open evening, we wanted to meet our community and so in October, we ran a pared-down, socially distant and lockdown compliant open evening alongside a virtual event on Facebook. Meeting the parents and carers of prospective students was lovely and emphasised that though the world around us is quite different, it's incredibly important for us to keep talking and listening to our community in order to best serve its needs.

January 2021 will come around soon and that will mean five years at JCSC for me (and for Mr Nisbet our Head of School.) The weeks are flying by and we're looking forward to what 2021 will bring, both for JCSC and the wider community.

Wishing you all the very best for 2021,

Neil Rodgers,  
Executive Headteacher, JCSC

## Sullivan Associates

CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYORS

Offering professional property advice throughout Northumberland

Building Surveys, Defects Inspections  
Plans drawn for extension and new build  
Planning Applications, Building Regulations Approval  
Disabled Access Advice, Party Wall and Boundary Matters  
Design and Project Management

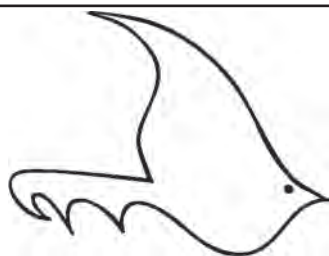
Tel: 01665 513010

Email: [info@sullivan-associates.co.uk](mailto:info@sullivan-associates.co.uk)

Fourways 2 6 Dilston Terrace Amble Northumberland NE65 0DT

TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME  
01665 710 442  
MONDAY TO SATURDAY: 11.30AM-9.00PM SUNDAYS: 11.30AM-2.30PM  
\*\*\*\*\* NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN





## The Ambler

Fourways 2  
6 Dilston Terrace  
Northumberland NE65 0DT  
Tel: 01665 712929  
www.theambler.co.uk  
editor@theambler.co.uk  
Twitter: AmbleByTheSea  
YouTube: AnnaAtTheAmbler1



### Editorial Team:

Vivienne Dalgliesh  
Cath Findlay - Chris Herzberg  
Norma Hinson  
Andrew Mounsey - Bartle Rippon

Editor: Anna Williams

### Thanks to:

Mark Beswick & The Artogracchi Crew  
Judith Hardisty

### Distribution:

Charlotte, Sadie, Rachel, Lorraine

### Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

Would you like to join  
The Ambler team? We are a friendly  
group who welcome contributions  
and help from anyone who would  
like to volunteer.

Thanks to all our contributors,  
sponsors and advertisers:

NCC Community Chest

Rotary Club of  
Amble and Warkworth

Inner Wheel Club of  
Amble and Warkworth



The Ambler is a proud member of  
the Independent Community News  
Network



The Ambler is a project of  
Amble Development Trust

The Ambler is printed six times per  
year. The views expressed in The  
Ambler and The Ambler Online are  
not necessarily those of  
the Editorial Team

Printed on paper from sustainable  
forestry in the UK

## Please don't give Covid to your granny

With some relaxation of the Covid restrictions allowed over Christmas, we are still being urged to be cautious with socialising. Maybe leave big family gatherings until Spring? Especially if then we have vaccines to combat this dreadful virus.

Our local businesses - particularly in the hospitality sector are going through such a difficult time and we hope they can survive the blows that lockdowns and tier restrictions have landed. Please support them however you can.

Our appreciation for individual acts of generosity continues - a special mention to Sharon Crisp of Crispys Cakes and Cookies, who made lunches and breakfasts for local children during half term, and once again to Rachel Cook, of the Isolation in Amble Facebook group, who is collecting toys for youngsters this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who is continuing to help others. Your kindness is appreciated by us all.

Have a good Christmas, The Ambler team



## WHAT YOU SAY...

### Why change the boundaries?

In reference to your article on page 4 and 14 Issue 124 Oct/Nov 2020 about the changes to the Parish Boundaries.

The last time I heard about boundary changes was at national level under David Cameron's administration. I heard this on BBC Radio2 and the newsreader said very clearly that all the changes were in favour of the Tories. To my recollection there was no objection from the opposition. Why? Well with this and a couple of other things it convinced me that the Leader of the Opposition was just a rebadged Tory.

As we now know the newsreader was spot on, as Labour have lost the last four elections, and they wonder why. Who would have thought that by moving boundaries would have such an impact on the shift of political power.

I would like to ask a few questions:

1. Who wants to move the boundaries, but more

importantly why?

2. Did they discuss the proposals with the parish councils before the voting took place?

3. Why were two done on a show of hands, yet Hauxley's went to a named vote. What is a named vote? I have to assume it is as it says, all councillors putting it in writing than just a show of hands.

My concern is like before, changing boundaries will have an impact on political power, as the Tories already know. So who is going to benefit the most from these changes? It certainly won't be Hauxley. Whatever reason they have for moving that boundary has to be a damn good legitimate reason. We know what's at stake both politically and financially. I hope that Hauxley will endeavour and get what is rightfully theirs.

KC, Via email

### Thanks from Amble Food Bank

We thank Councillor Jeff Watson for his very generous donation of £500, from his members small scheme allowance, to the Amble Food Bank as a contribution to the half term effort of providing food to those children in need in Amble and surrounding area.

This is a very demanding time for those who are finding it difficult to make ends meet and we only fear it is only going to get worse before

getting better.

We know this will go a long way to providing those who have found themselves in this situation, through no fault of their own, with the support they need.

Once again thank you for your support to the Amble Food Bank.

Bill Cruickshank, Coordinator Amble Food Bank

### Swimming at the Little Shore

As a regular swimmer at the Little Shore for the last eight years I thought I would contact you about the one incident which concerned me.

This is in light of more people using the area for recreation especially with the current interest in wild swimming.

Whilst swimming close to the beach huts I got whipped along by a strong current pulling me towards the pier. As I was not out of my depth I was able to get out but it was a strong pull and

frightening. A local coastguard informed me that it was due to the proximity of the river. The tide was coming in but this combines with downcoming river water to push a current into the Shore.

With the possibility of children in the vicinity of the huts it is a worry however. I am wondering whether a sign near the beach huts may be an idea to inform people.

Ruth Hawkins  
via email

### Thank you for helping me

I'd like to offer a huge thank you to all of the people who came to my assistance when I fell down in Amble main street on Friday (lunchtime) 25th September - in particular to the man who was first on the scene and stayed with me offering support in a calm, caring manner as well as giving me space until I pulled myself together (also asking all the 'right questions'!)

Apart from being dazed and shocked for a few hours after, only my pride and specs appear to have suffered any long term hurt (thankfully).

I'm sorry I wasn't in a fit state to say a proper thank you to you all at the time but I send my sincere and warmest wishes to you all. Stay well and stay safe. Thanks again.

Joan Robinson (Chester le Street) via email

## Queen Street Post Office, here for you

From the start of Lockdown 2 on Thursday 5 November the Queen St. Post Office has returned to normal hours, 9am to 6pm six days a week.

This was in response to talk of “New Normal” and “Big Reset,” terms I simply dislike, as I, and a lot of our customers are yearning for a return to normality.

I now have a full complement of five staff (we were down to one during Lockdown 1) and all necessary precautions are in place, so we all agreed our Post Office, which can do most people’s banking requirements, both personal and business, should stay open thus avoiding trips to Morpeth or Alnwick, and it allows for the sending of parcels between

separated families in the run up to Christmas. All very good reasons to go back to 9am – 6pm six days a week.

I have restarted the mobile Post Office and was overwhelmed by the gratitude expressed by villagers at having a local Post Office again.

I have received the Government Grants for the Self Employed and have told the team those monies will be used to avoid their being furloughed. Unfortunately, this means a 20% pay cut, but Beryl and I are committed to continuing this for the team as long as possible. However the old adage of ‘Use it or Lose it’ very much applies to Post Offices at this time.

*Brian Hewson*

## Raw sewage pumped onto Amble beach



Surfers Against Sewage reports that raw sewage has been pumped onto Amble Links beach 62 times in the last year. The full SAS report can be found at: [www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Water-Quality-Report-Digital-v1.pdf](http://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Water-Quality-Report-Digital-v1.pdf)

Readers may be aware of a recent report from Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) that Northumbrian Water has been pumping raw sewage onto local beaches.

In their 2020 Water Quality Report, SAS list Amble Links and Warkworth beaches among the worst affected areas in Northumberland.

There were four main areas listed: Warkworth - 56 discharges, Seaham Hall Beach - 60 discharges, Amble Links - 62 discharges, Spittal - 91 discharges

We contacted Northumbrian Water and asked them why this has happened so often, and what they intend to do about it to keep the public safe.

A spokesperson for Northumbrian Water, said: “A huge amount of investment has gone into the improving the bathing waters around the North East coast over the past 20 years.

“The result of our programme of investment is that 33 of our 34 bathing beaches in the North East reached good or excellent status

in 2019. This includes Warkworth and Amble, which have both received excellent status for a number of years. The ‘excellent’ status is awarded based on samples taken independently by the Environment Agency to assess the bathing waters against strict regulations.

“At times of heavy rainfall, storm overflows are used as a relief valve on our network, to protect customers’ homes. This happens with consent from the Environment Agency and the outfalls discharge what is largely rainwater, mixed with some of the contents of our network from the area affected. When this happens, we make an effort to get a team to clean up any debris as soon as possible.

“To make the public aware of what is happening, we have a section on our website called Beach Aware, where we provide updates on the overflow status of each area, as well as the bathing water quality requirements.”

*Anna Williams*

## Meet the police and council officers



l-r PC Louise Bowlt, Judith Davis Community Safety Officer NCC public protection, PC Darren Stapleton, Lindsay Jones Housing Officer Karon Jones, CSO Darin Fawcett.

In October, in the first of what is hoped to be a repeated event, members of the public were able to meet with local police and county council officers at Northumbria Police’s Community Engagement van. The event took place in the Town Square.

PC Bowlt explained that the van is a force-wide resource, used to encourage people to come and talk, ask questions, even ask about the joining the police. The other representatives are available to answer questions in their specialty fields. She hopes to be able to use the community engagement van in the future so members of the public can drop by and have a chat about local policing issues that may concern them.

## Expertise Wills and Wealth

### PROTECT YOUR FAMILY ASSETS

Long Term Care • Third Party Challenges • Divorce  
Business Failure • Sideways Disinheritance

### LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

in areas of Property and Affairs • Health and Welfare

**WILLS** Simple Wills • Trust Wills • Free Reviews

### PROBATE

Call us for Expert Help and Advice

### PENSIONS

Do you have pension pots scattered here and there? Now coming up to retirement?

We’re here to help you go through your options.

### A MEMBER OF THE WILL WRITING SOCIETY

Ring Enid: 07772 182 130 • 01670 855 768  
for a FREE CONSULTATION in your home



Email: [enid.eww@sky.com](mailto:enid.eww@sky.com)

Barrister Intermediary and  
Member of the Legal Services Guild





# Amble harbour inspires modern Guernsey knitting

Congratulations to Amble Pin Cushion who have received Highly Commended in the 2020 British Knitting and Crochet Awards, for their cushion cover inspired by Amble harbour.

Many local people will be familiar with the traditional Northumbrian Gansey or Guernsey knitted sweater, worn by fishermen up and down the coast. Villages such as Seahouses, Craster, Amble, Newbiggin and Cullercoats all had their own distinctive design of intricate stitches.

In fishing families, girls would be taught to knit from a young age, able to produce socks from five years old, and graduating to ganseys at about twelve. Patterns were committed to memory rather than paper.

The 5-ply pure wool combined with narrow gauge needles, made for a taut fabric giving the Gansey its ability to turn water. With the advent of man-made fibres and cheap mass-produced clothing, interest died out in the traditional close-fitting, usually seamless garment,



The cushion cover design won Highly Commended

often knitted in dark blue, and taking around 160 hours to make. Nowadays, the Heritage Crafts Association has Guernsey or Gansey knitting on their "Red List" of endangered crafts.

Amble Pin Cushion's Anne Baxter was asked to design an introductory Guernsey knitting project, using traditional 5-ply 100% British wool, thereby supporting a renewable home industry at a difficult time.

The brief was to develop a product which would appeal to those who are new to this style of knitting, as well as those interested in heritage knits. A home accessory instead of a garment, (with the investment of time and yarn quantity that entails), seemed to best fit the bill.

Anne developed two new products. Her cushion cover and tablet cover designs, while

being based on traditional fisherman's gansey stitches, such as the tree of life, take inspiration for their combination of stitch patterns from in and around Amble harbour, where ropes (represented by cable combinations), nets, anchors and ladders are often seen. The dolphin on the back of the cushion cover is "Freddie," famous in Amble from 1987 to 1992.

Both designs were made up as kits and entered into the 2020 British Knitting and Crochet Awards. The cushion cover received "Highly Commended," and the full results are in the December issue of "Let's Knit" magazine.

Amble Pin Cushion has added these Guernsey knitting kits to their Northumbria Knit and Stitch brand, which also includes a wide range of Northumbrian cross stitch designs, from their recent acquisition of the Picrosso range. These are all available from APC and on their website: <https://amblepincushion.co.uk>.

## Dentistry and the current COVID-19 pandemic

Like everyone else, it's been a challenging time for us in dental practice. We received notification on 23 March that we had to close our doors and stop treating our patients. At the time no one really knew what the risks were, or how the virus was transmitted.

Over subsequent weeks we manned the phones to deal with queries, provided advice, prescribed antibiotics and cancelled a lot of pre booked appointments! Our team ran errands, did shopping for

some of our shielding patients, collected prescriptions and generally provided an ear to listen to some of our patients who were left isolated during that initial lockdown.

Many of the team were left exasperated that they couldn't provide solutions to the dental problems that some of our community were experiencing.

Thankfully, at the start of May our application to become an urgent care centre was accepted by the NHS local team so we were able to start seeing patients to provide very limited treatments. Not ideal, but at least we could provide a solution to the most acute situations.

Gradually we were allowed to reopen more fully, providing more treatment options. Many of the treatments we provide in dentistry involve creating a spray which potentially can create an increased risk to the dental team, so a raft of new protocols were introduced including enhanced PPE. We had made the decision in early April to invest in technology to clear the air from the surgeries more effectively

which has allowed us to get back on track, but everything takes more time and involves more team members, so we still have a much lower capacity than pre COVID. Please bear with us!

As we have been able to see more patients, we have all noticed an increase in the number of suspicious lesions. Oral cancer is a disease that is increasing in prevalence but often is something that goes unnoticed by many patients in the early stages. Whilst it has nothing to do with the SARS-COV-2 virus, the fact that we haven't been able to see everyone as frequently as we would like this year we think has resulted in small early issues which we often refer for investigation not being identified as early as we would like.

November has been designated as Mouth cancer awareness month. We would like to use this opportunity to ask anyone who has an ulcer that isn't healing after 2 weeks, or an unexplained lump or bump that has developed in their mouths to get in touch so that we can



have a look, ideally providing reassurance, but if not make an early referral for appropriate care.

We are staying open during this new lockdown in November and will continue to provide care for everyone who needs it. To ensure the safety of everyone we ask that you only come to the practice if you have an appointment. Please call us if you need advice, have concerns or want to book a screening appointment.

Please stay safe, but rest assured that we are available if you need us.

*Amble Dental Practice*

**THE MAD JAM WOMAN**  
&  
**Pride of Northumbria**



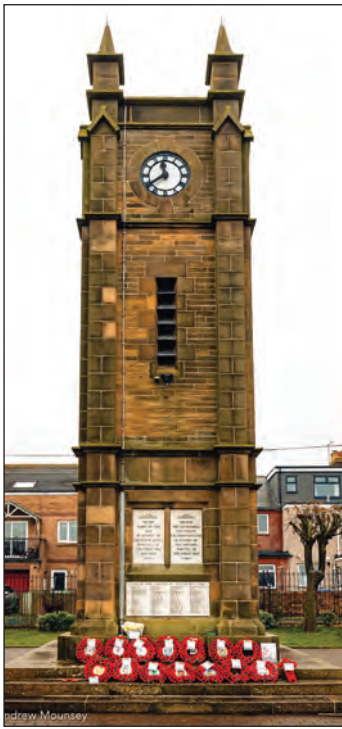
**Award winning Preserves & Relishes**

Fourways One  
Bridge St, Amble NE65 0DR  
07766 857680

Also available at the Seafood Centre  
[www.madjamwoman.com](http://www.madjamwoman.com)



## Remembrance Day 2020



Whilst official services were cancelled this year, individuals turned out on the morning of Sunday 8 November, for a very short, socially distanced Remembrance Sunday service. A two minute silence was followed by wreath laying.

Photos by Andrew Mounsey

# BE YOUR OWN BARISTA

Included in the Christmas Bundle:

- Fracino Piccino espresso machine
- Piccino on Demand grinder
- Mini professional knock box
- A tamper and tamper mat
- 350ml milk frothing jug and thermometer
- A shower plate brush and spatula
- FREE 228g bag of our Christmas Blend coffee
- 3 MONTHS worth of Roaster's Choice Subscription
- ++ Free delivery

Order from [mochamondo.co.uk](http://mochamondo.co.uk) or visit us at Unit 6C, Coquet Enterprise Park



**MOCHA MONDO**  
COFFEE



## What to do if you see a stranded seal



Recently there have been a few sightings of seals alone on our local beaches and coastlines. So I got in touch with Claire Arkle who is a volunteer at British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR). They have a website and a facebook page.

Claire has been a member of BDMLR for 6 years. It started for her when she found a seal pup on the beach and didn't know what to do. She was very interested in what BDMLR did when they came to help and she signed up for a course. BDMLR is a charity, and anyone over 18 years can volunteer to join and they have vets on call to help them if the seals are badly injured.



If a seal is injured the medic on-call will assess the seals appearance, eyes, mouth, skin/fur, size, injuries and take photos. If the seal needs further medical attention it will be uplifted and taken to the local vets for treatment and overnight observation. If they are of suitable weight and respond to treatment they are released the next day. If they need further help then they will go to the Blue Reef Aquarium in Tynemouth who help the BDMLR in their recovery.

Sometimes the seals are ok and JUST NEED TO REST until the next high tide; they can be relocated if the beach is busy as they NEED TO BE LEFT IN PEACE.

Claire told me that call-outs increase around pupping season; Common seals around June and Greys around November. Bad weather can also make seals come ashore. They can get very exhausted whilst being in the heavy sea along with illness and injury.

I asked Claire what is the main cause of injury to seals. She said, "With the little ones it's more underweight or exhausted or perhaps both. Once ashore they get hurt by dogs coming to them. Also they have their own diseases: lung worm, mouth problems, temperature, infections, lack of food and dehydration."

So - what should we do if we see a stranded seal?

As soon as you see a stranded Seal you need to call BDMLR on 01825 765 546. DO NOT GO NEAR IT OR TRY TO CHASE IT BACK INTO THE WATER. You should warn people about the seal especially people with dogs. If you have dogs keep them on leads.

Covid affected BDMLR Claire told me they were restricted to travel; their call-outs had to be carefully decided upon, as the safety of the medics came first. Up-lifts where they take seals to further care is generally done in pairs, as seals are heavy to carry, and people weren't allowed to mix, or travel, in case of accidents. They didn't want medics getting injured and to put further strain on the NHS. So it is carefully decided whether to send medics out or not. Also not a lot of vets were open so there was nowhere to treat the seals.

Thanks to Claire for talking to me and remember if you see any stranded seals call BDMLR at 01825765546 or look them up on their website or face book page. PLEASE PUT THE NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE #HELPTHESEALS

by Megan

## Halloween Fun

Despite Covid restrictions, many families were determined to make the most of Halloween. In Amble, a trail was organised around where families were encouraged to walk around their neighbourhood, and spot Halloween

items, some as simple as a drawing of a pumpkin in a window or something more elaborate. Sweets were left on garden gates so that no-one needed to knock on doors.

>> continued on p12



Olivia, 7 and Jac, 4 months



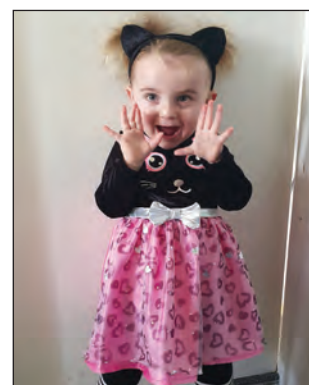
Patterson family



Cora, 5



Wilson family



Rhea, 2



Matthew, 7, Chloe, 3 and Lucy, 2



Kabe, 3



Yearnshire Mackarem family



Beatrix, 3

## Running through lockdown



Before March, Parkrun (the 5k run event held on Saturdays all over the world) was a huge part of my life. Every Saturday, besides a few, I would go to Druridge Bay, run 5k and spend time with like minded people. But then covid hit and it was torn away.

I kept running through lockdown, and discovered some beautiful new paths just outside my doorstep. It was great to explore new places, but it wasn't without the nagging feeling that it shouldn't be like this. Eventually it became habit, and Parkrun was forgotten, along with normalities like school.

But then everything started opening again and things returned to normal- or at least the 'new normal'- I started school in September, went out for celebratory meals and could meet up with my friends again.

There was even a point when Parkrun announced they were opening back up for socially distanced events, but, with new rules in place as cases rose, this was shut down and instead they continued their 'virtual parkrun' (run 5k at home, and upload it to the website).

I don't know when they'll be able to restart, I doubt it'll be before the year is over. Whenever it is, I know so many people who'll be excited to start again, and feel more inspired to run again.

by Ava



## Lunar water and moon mice

Lunar water is just a more scientific way of saying moon water (It also sounds better). Scientists found out there once was water on the moon, and if there wasn't I wouldn't be writing this. So if there was moon water, or Lunar water, that means there could have been life on the moon! Imagine moon fish and moon pandas.

It would be bad if there was moon mice because apparently mice eat cheese so if there were hundreds of starving mice which thought:

'Hey! This place is made out of cheese so why not eat it?' 'Sure it sounds nice,'

And then they would eat the moon - and they ate it to its core, which was just a rock and that's why it looks like what it looks like now. A rock - not just any rock - a space rock.

By Grace



## Should schools have stayed closed?



We are back into another lockdown with a lot of businesses closing and social gatherings severely restricted. However, the main places that haven't been shut down are schools, colleges and universities.

From March until September, schools were completely closed, leading to predicted A-Level and GCSE grades and a lot of online learning from home which didn't always work as well as teachers hoped.

When they opened again, they had restrictions just like everywhere else (lots of sanitising and mask wearing), but in an environment with so many people it's hard to distance effectively. Schools are full of large gatherings of people that, currently, would be unheard of in most other settings, so should they still be open?

Faith Bell is a year 12 student at JCSC, where masks are required in the corridors and different year groups are separated into bubbles. "[The restrictions] are there for us to be safe, but the kids don't always listen. The rules are working to some extent."

Speaking about schools going into lockdown, Faith said: "I personally don't want to, but I think if everyone else is we might as well, to try and help. But on the other hand, kids need their education." It's not just schools that are locked down.

Many students who have gone to university this year have been met with a very different experience to what they imagined.

Oliver Frater, a former pupil at JCSC, started studying at the University of Salford this year, but there's a no guest policy and different university flats aren't allowed to mix. As well as this, masks have to be worn in all face-to-face lectures, and the online lectures still have lots of technical difficulties.

For him, the most noticeable difference was there were no freshers events, as well as very few societies running. "I didn't really mind that as I'm not a massively sociable person, but it made it difficult to mix with people outside of my flat. We're not allowed to mix at all-that's been hard because I felt like if there's an issue in my flat I haven't got anyone outside of them because those opportunities haven't happened."

"In terms of actual learning I've found face-to-face alright. I've felt safe and comfortable in terms of social distancing and stuff like that. The online learning has been the most difficult. I'm a very hands-on learner and I don't find focusing for long times very easy, but luckily we have this resource called blackboard which is where we're taught. All of the lectures are recorded, but it's not the



same as being able to do it in person like you would in school which is what I'm used to."



"I think if the government cares about the safety of people, as a whole, not just a certain age group, then they should shut everything." He said, on



the issue of shutting schools and universities, "I know people who are going to school and sitting directly next to people. I know people going

to school and having to line up in massive groups to get into the building. Whether that's the school's fault or not, it's not going to help the cases. If they want to do something they should either do it properly and fully or not at all."

Schools and universities have been very different in the past few months, with some aspects working better than others. With infection rates steeply rising in secondary school children especially, it seems ineffective to leave education institutions open, but closing them again would severely damage the education of thousands of children across England. It feels as if nobody knows what to do which, as a student, is not a reassuring thing to hear.

by Lily

## Neville the dog's lockdown Christmas



Neville had never experienced lockdown before, and he never wanted to experience it

again. It wasn't fun only being able to go to the same short walks every day and especially not meeting his friend Ozzy for months. Without many people visiting, he started staring at the fish blowing bubbles, swimming around for hours. Much less fun than having his friends around.

It was snowing, white fluffy flakes falling from the sky. There was a cold chill going through the house, which didn't make sense since all of the windows and doors were closed. It was Christmas day, and

Neville rushed to the living room to see the presents. To his surprise, the door was closed! 'It's not like I would rip all the presents apart,' Neville thought. Just because he's a dog doesn't mean he'd tear the wrapping paper.

After some intense minutes of staring at the door, there was a sound of running down stairs. Hannah opened the door, with everyone sprinting in. The Christmas tree was decorated with a giant golden star, and lots of tinsel. There were so many presents! There was new bedding and treats, and later a special Christmas day meal. Best lockdown Christmas ever!

By Grace





## Thoughts on the US Election



The US presidential election has been happening over the past few months, and on November 7th it was finally announced that Biden won. It may seem insignificant to us in Britain, but the impacts will be felt for years to come.

Personally I support Biden, but only because he was the lesser of two evils. Over the past four years Trump has called black people 'thugs', taken away transgender rights, appointed Supreme Court judge Amy Coney Barrett (who is against abortion and gay marriage), not to mention the numerous rape allegations and more.

Biden may not be perfect, but he has better principles and can do more for minorities.

Additionally, he has the first female vice president in American history! It's so exciting to have Kamala Harris representing, and is definitely a step in the right direction. I think it's high time someone young and up to date took to politics, instead of these old white men who don't fully understand what today's world needs.

Trump's views were that of a traditionalist and someone who only thinks for themselves, as well as one who has not been exposed to the current world. Climate change has been increasingly getting worse but Trump continued to ignore it, saying "I don't think science knows, actually". Science does know, but ignorance is always bliss.

With Biden in office, he wants to U turn on climate policies (which will help globally) and support minorities by taxing the rich more. Lots of people are against this, but I think if you make more money you should give more back.

By Ava

### B & S DOMESTICS

0772 5305 491  
0771 9573 355



Sales and repairs of  
• washing machines  
• tumble dryers  
• electric cookers  
• built-in ovens etc

Over 20 years  
professional experience

### edie pebble

Pod 14 Amble Harbour Village



Beautiful handmade gifts,  
vintage treasures and  
nautical decorations

## Star Bakers

Food lessons are one element of JCSC school life that have been impacted by social distancing restrictions. Cooking lessons can't go ahead as usual, so many students are missing out.

However, JCSC food teacher, Mr Shiel, is determined that everyone still gets a chance to cook. Students in year 7 and 8 were set homework to cook a variety of dishes at home, with special prizes for the winning dishes donated by some of Amble and Warkworth's cafes and restaurants, including Coquet Tea Rooms, Masons Arms, 1911, Jaspers, Spurreli, The Harbour Fish Bar, Jackdaw Restaurant, Bertram's and The Sand Bar.

"I hoped that this competition would be fun for the parents as well as the children. Cooking can really bring everyone together and trying the food may inspire students to make some of the recipes again," said Mr Shiel.

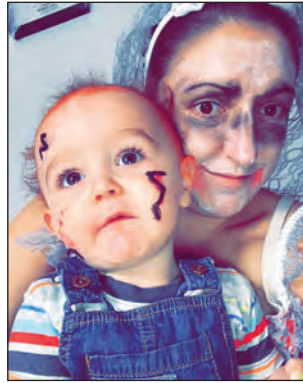
He also said that cooking at home gives young people valuable life skills for when they leave school.

By Lily

## Halloween Fun

continued from centre pages

The Amble Pumpkin Trail organisers, Lorraine Hudson, Louise Skirving and Christine Teesdale, hope to repeat it next year. Lorraine said "It went well, we are really hoping to build it for next year. It would be lovely next year, if there was an organised parade, with a gathering in the town square. We know nothing can be done until Covid is under control."



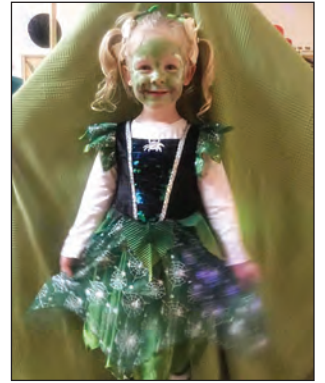
Henry, 11 months & Kerry



Lacie-Mae, 6



Robin, 2



Alyssa, 2



Lucas, 2



Emily, 4 and Harry, 1



Ayla, 3



Baxter family



## Christmas puppies and kittens

Christmas is frequently a popular time of year for families to get a new puppy or kitten. We thought we would revisit some pointers we at Coquet Vets feel is important to cover for your new family pet.



### 1. Come and meet us!

We love to see you and your new addition and offer free puppy/kitten health checks.

### 2. Vaccinations

It is important we ensure your pet receives their core course of vaccines at the correct intervals to ensure their protection is maintained as the antibodies from their mothers fall. Until your new pet has received their full vaccination course we strongly advise they are kept indoors.

### 3. Fleas and worming

Ensuring your pet is covered

against pesky parasites is important. Young animals can easily carry a parasitic burden so getting a fresh weight and the appropriate treatments on board is key.

### 4. Microchipping

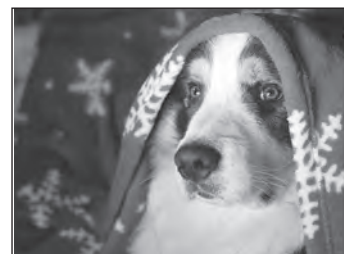
It is a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped in the UK. However this is not the case for cats. It is important that owners always keep details up to date in relation to your pet's microchip.

### 5. Insurance

There are many insurance companies and it can seem a daunting task going through them all. We strongly recommend insurance is taken out for your new pet. Through a provider we offer 4 weeks free insurance following a health check with one of our vets.

### 6. Socialisation

Your new pet is learning all the time so exposing them to different stimuli is very important. This can range from



meeting family members to playing with their feet and ears to brushing their teeth!

### 7. Christmas Hazards!

It is very important to be aware of hazards for your new pet. However at Christmas it is even more so due to the increased number of hazards around! Hazards include chocolate, tinsel, baubles, mince pies and so much more...

If you believe your pet has consumed anything then please call us immediately as many of these hazards can result in a life threatening illness.

Please call us on 01665 252250 for more information or go to our website [www.coquetvets.co.uk](http://www.coquetvets.co.uk).

*Have a Happy Christmas,  
from the team at Coquet Vets*

## Vicar's Christmas Challenge

Christmas is almost upon us. Despite the many difficulties we've all experienced this year this Christmas will be a season of hope, light and vitality. It is a time to make merry and share. A time to look forward with joy and happiness rather than back in regret and sadness.

Whether or not you see and appreciate the holiness and solemnity of the birth of the Saviour, the basic message of new birth presents us all with new possibilities and opportunities.

I suspect that those who invest most in making Christmas a time of joy will be the ones who gain the most out of it. At Christmas we may discover that it is in giving that we receive. If you see the glass is half full you will be more satisfied than if you look and see it as half empty.

So, this Christmas I am asking if you are up for a challenge?

I am suggesting that during the Christmas period you aim to contact by phone, messaging or even waving through a window two or three people that you have not contacted in recent times.

Make it a positive call and include

the idea that you are responding to the Amble Christmas Challenge. And ask them to join in too. If most people who read this participate there will be a cascade of positive interaction across the town and beyond. You do not have to attend church to do this. Anyone can join in sharing the spirit of Christmas with others.

Finally, can I remind you that all local churches will do their best to be open over Christmas in keeping to the law. We at St Cuthbert's will be putting our services online, so you can follow them at home via our church Facebook or webpages. The annual popular Christingle service will be online but you will need to sign up in advance. The Christmas Carol service will also be online on the Sunday before Christmas. Midnight Communion will go ahead all being well.

To everyone in Amble and surrounding districts I wish you and yours a very blessed and joyful Christmas regardless of your circumstances.

*Rev. John McDermott*

## Lionheart Cleaning

Commercial & Domestic Cleaning Services

### Your One Stop Cleaning Service Provider

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.

Carpets and upholstery	Conservatory	Pressure washing
Windows	Roofs	End of Tenancy
Gutters/Fascias	Commercial	Post Build
	Kitchens	General

01665 713448 [www.lionheartcleaning.co.uk](http://www.lionheartcleaning.co.uk)

## Co-op Funeralcare

Our caring staff are here  
to listen and advise you,  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Coquetdale Cottage, Queen Street, Amble  
Tel: 01665 710437





# Reports from our *County Councillors*



**C**ovid kills, it causes serious long term illness to some while it hardly affects others. It can overwhelm intensive care units and devastates elderly care homes.

My experience started in the middle of April, when I tested positive, despite feeling completely fine. Three days later I started to get terribly achy, tired and listless, and not wanting to do much more than sleep on and off.

All I could think about was all the people whose breathing was seriously affected and ending up in hospital on ventilators, a constant worry at this point.

Lying on the sofa I felt like I had been hit by a bus, feeling very tired all the time and constantly parched, with hardly any appetite.

By night I was completely soaked in sweat with a fever that was unrelenting, hot one minute and chills the next. My body was so achy it was painful to gather the energy to go to the bathroom.

I didn't have much of an appetite during this time just eating toast and drinking flat lemonade.

During all this time my wife

*Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk*

Mary who is a care worker was going through the same experience.

After three days of what I would class as mild symptoms, I improved dramatically, finally getting back in the garden and finish cutting the grass. After a week, all my symptoms had completely gone away and my appetite was slowly returning.

I would not wish Covid -19 upon anyone. This is not the common cold or regular flu, this virus is serious. You do not know how it may affect you.

As this goes out, NHS staff will probably be under a huge strain.

We can all help reduce that pressure by doing the right thing and keep taking small measures; washing our hands frequently, keeping our distance from others outside our households, and wearing face coverings in indoor settings.

We need everybody to do their part and follow guidelines to flatten the curve and prevent the growing spread. If we all do our bit, hopefully we can all enjoy Christmas with our family and loved ones. Eventually this virus will end and we will resume what our lives used to be. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

**T**he Covid crisis has dominated everything that the County Council has been doing for many months and it doesn't look as though it is going to end soon.

I have done what I could to help and am pleased to say that I arranged a grant of £500 to the Amble Food Bank to help those children over half term who were on free school meals as well as other families in difficulties. Central government have stepped in to help during future school holidays to ensure that no child goes hungry while schools are closed

I was also pleased to help Amble Youth Project who are struggling to keep up the good work they have been doing because of social distancing issues in the restrictive space that they operate from. At times like these you realise the amount of work that volunteers in Amble do to contribute to the community at large and how valuable that work is.

I am looking at replacing the existing interactive speed sign on Acklington Road with a new one and hopefully a one that works! Unfortunately, I can't go ahead just yet. I have to be sure that the existing site will still be in the best place when the road alterations connected with the new developments are finalised, but I am keen to get this sign in place to help slow down drivers as they approach the play areas on the welfare grounds.

I am aware that some residents are unhappy about parking on Edwin Street and am working with County Highways department to see if anything can be done to help.

Remembrance Day this year was another victim of Covid restrictions, but it was good to see the people who went to the war memorial properly social distancing and paying their respects to those who lost their lives in service to their country. I would like to say a special thank you to those volunteers who raised money for the Poppy Appeal in Morrisons as well as the staff who enabled the generous residents of Amble to contribute to the charity.

I hope you can have a merry Christmas despite Covid.

*Jeffery.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk 0780 238 5367*



## Councillor donates to hungry children

**C**ouncillor Jeff Watson has given money towards helping hungry children during the Christmas holidays.

He told The Ambler "I have made a donation to Amble Food Bank in order to help in the current pandemic situation.

"I understand that this excellent

organisation is delivering extra kids food for the half term holidays and that the £500

"I have donated from my members small schemes allowance which will hopefully help a lot.

"I am allowed to make this donation by NCC as it is seen as a special case in these difficult times."

## School shoes request

**N**orthumberland has offered a warm welcome to over fifty children, settled here with their families. However, providing sturdy shoes for them to go to school is well beyond the financial means of their parents.

Please help these children by giving to the School Shoes Fund. Cheques can be sent to the treasurer, Peter Edge, 2 Hobberlaw Farm Cottages, Rugley Road, Alnwick, NE66 2AQ.

Or via BACS to Northumberland County of Sanctuary Account no: 77748368 Sort code: 30-65-22 Charity no: 1185663



### Neighbourhood Planning - consultation

The engagement exercise on the draft vision, objectives, policy themes and community actions as part of the preparation of the Hauxley Neighbourhood Plan ended on 23rd October. We received 26 responses which is a great return so thank you to all who submitted feedback. The comments are currently being collated and will be used to inform further work and the preparation of a draft neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Steering Group meeting is planning a series of meetings between now and early 2021 to discuss the consultation results across the themes of the natural environment, the built environment and community action. It's really important to the Parish that we get continued engagement so we will be asking for further feedback on the draft neighbourhood plan following these discussions early in 2021.

### Highways matters

The Parish Council have invited a Northumberland County Highways Officer to visit the parish for a walk about to

enable them to better understand the highways issues facing the village e.g. speeding, options for traffic calming and parking on verges.

### Maintenance in the Village

The Parish Council will be arranging some routine maintenance of the public seats ahead of spring 2021 and are looking at the feasibility and costs of installing a new noticeboard at Kirkwell Cottages.

### Christmas 2020

The Christmas Tree should now be in position in Hauxley Village and we hope it will bring a welcome boost to the local community during these trying times.

On behalf of the Council we would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and we look forward to being able to see each other a bit more in 2021!

### Future meetings

An Ordinary meeting of the Parish would be held at 6.30pm on Monday 11th January 2021 via Zoom.

Parish Clerk: Elaine Brown Tel: 07588 659 600 Email: [hauxleypc@gmail.co.uk](mailto:hauxleypc@gmail.co.uk)

Website: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/hauxley>

## Morrisons helping the Amble community

It's been a busy few months in Morrisons, Amble! We have been fundraising in a COVID19 way – back in August raising over £1000 for Amble Lifeboat on a rather windy day and in the company of the Lifeboat fundraisers. September was Children's Cancer Awareness Month and the store took part in Jack's Challenge. Through fundraising in stores and sites, we raised an incredible £150,000 for CLIC Sargent and also helped Jack Thomson hit his £100,000 fundraising target.

In October we raffled our spooky friend Mr Bones, a 5ft Skeleton! He was won by Charlotte Whitfield. Our online pumpkin carving competition was won by Henry Cook and The Bell Family.

Halloween was a day of trick or treat mayhem in store. Colleagues dressed up and children were invited to dress up and get sweet treats from the spooks – and they did just that! A good day was had by all.

October also saw us donate 30 lunch packs per day during half term via the Food Bank, thank you to Terry and his team for helping us get the packs to the right people and to Sharon from Crispy's Cakes and Cookies for her donations too.

In November we have been concentrating on the Poppy Appeal. Poppy Appeal volunteers were able to sell merchandise in store and although we have not been able to finalise the fundraising amount just yet we are hoping it will be near £3,000. This is the first time our local volunteers have had the opportunity to use Morrisons and we wish them the best of luck and keep our fingers crossed for a good amount raised.

So as we head on through November and head long to the festive season you will see new signage on our Amble Food Bank Pick up Pack stations. We have changed the price structure for the Pick up Packs from only



Charlotte Whitfield, winner of 'Mr Bones' the skeleton

£2 and under to include £3 and £4. This is to give us more flexibility in the offerings we can make to the food bank and to give our Customers more choice in their donations. We work very closely with Amble Food Bank and speak regularly with them to know which items

they really need. Many thanks to all our Customers for their extreme generosity. Very soon we will have a toy donation station beside the food bank deposit cage. This will enable our Customers to buy a toy, leave it in the donation cage and to know their donation will be going to a family who are finding it tough this Christmas.

There will be lots happening in the store throughout December – absolutely more dressing up and, IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: the week before Christmas Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club will have their sleigh at the store, I know we will all miss them touring our streets with Santa and his helpers, raising lots of money for local charities and good causes, so hopefully their collection buckets will be jingling by Christmas Day.

*Marion McKenzie-Long  
Morrisons Amble Community  
Champion*

## Church celebrates 150 years

St Cuthbert's Parish Church has been at the centre of the town for 150 years. This year, the hope was to have a year of celebration events leading up to Sunday 18 October when a big celebration would mark the actual day 150 years ago when Amble finally got its own Parish Church. Of course, none of this happened.



The congregation were able to celebrate the day at a socially distant service in the company of Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle. Bishop Christine blessed the new font, part of the refurbishment of the back of the church, which includes a kitchen/servery and a toilet. The church has also had a replacement boiler for the heating system which assures you of a warm welcome when you can return!

At the time of writing the church building is closed again for everything except funerals, but hoping to open again for public worship on Sunday 6 December, depending on Government guidelines.

But the building being closed is not the church being closed. The members of the church are active in the community, many being involved in support in various areas of community life. The church is still praying. Prayers are offered for individuals, local and national situations, and your prayer requests are welcome. Each morning a prayer is posted on the Church Facebook page, Instagram accounts and on the web page. These are designed and written by the St Cuthbert's team.

Since March the team has also been producing an online service. These have proved very popular and produce positive feedback. Parts of the service have come from various venues in the town as well as the Church building. The town square, gardens, the beach huts and allotments have all featured as venues for worship. They can be seen on the Church YouTube channel. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN\\_BCgo2\\_s0pOK75EPO-5NQ/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN_BCgo2_s0pOK75EPO-5NQ/videos)

"It has been a lifeline for me during lock down" said one person who contacted the church. A Zoom Christingle is planned for Christmas Eve and booking is now open. (See p19)

St Cuthbert's is looking forward to the next 150 years of being "The Parish Church for Amble". Details of services and contacts can be found online: [www.stcuthbertsonline.com](http://www.stcuthbertsonline.com)

## Could your premises be a safe place for vulnerable people?

More locations are needed throughout Northumberland to provide a Safe Place for vulnerable people who may need a little extra help when they are out and about.

Safe Places is a national project which approves local High Street shops, cafes and community venues and similar areas to provide support where needed. An approved Safe Place will have completed training in how to help anyone feeling anxious, scared, or lost, and will show a sticker in the window with the Safe Places logo.

SpLinter group, based in Amble, has been working on signing up venues to provide a network in Northumberland, and already has several venues on board.

SpLinter is a user-led community group of young adults with learning differences. They run a range of social events and community projects and have used their personal experience to create a unique training offer. It's designed to improve understanding and promote personal safety in the community.

During the current Covid-19 lockdown it's even more important that vulnerable people have somewhere to go to feel safe, and SpLinter are continuing their training remotely during this time.

Local venues that are already on board include the Blyth Community Enterprise Centre, Costa Coffee in Alnwick, and Newbiggin Maritime Centre.

Suitable places will be close to the town centre and/or transport hubs such as bus stations, with a quiet area where someone could sit for a while and be prepared to complete the online training.

If this could be your premises, please get in touch through the contact details below

"Safe Places gave us peace of mind for both of us to know that help was there if needed or in the event of an emergency" said Mark Beresford of Pegswood.

Contact for further information: 07775 817544  
[splintergroupnorth@gmail.com](mailto:splintergroupnorth@gmail.com)  
Facebook: @SplinterGroupNorth  
*Julia Lyford*





# Amble Town COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm via Zoom until further notice - see our website  
Town: 10th December, 14th January 2021, 11th February 2021  
Amenities: 28th January 2021

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	

## REMEMBRANCE

Like many, we were very disappointed that the Covid guidelines meant the usual Remembrance Sunday service could not be held. Despite this, but aware that representatives from various organisations would like to lay wreaths, we had organised to enable them to do so at a safe social distance following the two minutes silence - then the regulations changed and we were advised it would not be prudent to go ahead. However THEY WERE REMEMBERED. It was wonderful to see the wreaths and commemorations placed there by individuals going in their own time determined to still pay tribute. Those laid on behalf of the town were placed there on Armistice Day itself.

## MAYOR'S RECEPTION

Sadly another event not taking place due to the current situation; a time when Council thanks all those who have helped not just with council projects but also with community support-many giving their time voluntarily. This year in particular there are many, many more wonderful people who have been working hard helping our community through the last months of change. We extend our heartfelt thanks to you all in whatever way you have helped- whether it be for a single individual or more; whether in a professional role or a neighbourly one; whether caring, shopping or just a call to say 'Need Any Help?' Whatever you have done has been much appreciated by all.

## MEMORIAL GARDENS

Work continues here to remove and replace some of the planting there with the hope that the 'ground' areas will be complete for next Spring. The remodelling of the raised beds at the front has been started with Amble and Warkworth Rotary undertaking to empty and replant one bed over the coming months. The other raised bed will be worked on in the coming year. Plans for the Seafarers Memorial were well advanced before being delayed by the current Covid restrictions put in place. Thanks to many peoples' generosity we now have all the elements and are eager, when it is possible, to see the work completed.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT!

What cheer those wonderful Christmas lights volunteers are bringing to us all, by managing to erect all the lights and brighten not only the town but all our lives. We are lucky to have so many wonderful people in our community; although we could not thank them by turning out for the annual switch on, we hope they know that we do all appreciate all the work they put in.

## SAFE DISPOSAL

In these troubled times most of us are trying to follow the guidelines so we all stay safe. It is disturbing to receive complaints about face masks being thrown onto our open areas and into the hedgerows. Please, take them home or dispose of them in the many litter bins located throughout the town.

## TREES

After a long wait for the best time to uplift them, the majestic 'live' nordmann fir trees have now been planted in the gardens at

the Memorials and High Street thanks to the hard work of Bill Dodd and Northwood Tree Surgery aided by many helpful

volunteers and operatives from NCC, Amble Boat Company, Amble Marina, Councillors and ATC staff.

It is hoped these slow growing evergreen species with minimal leaf drop will give pleasure for many years to come.

## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

As you read this, our country may be emerging from a second lockdown: a hard time for all, but especially for the vulnerable. My hope is that we did not forget our sense of community spirit with many organisations and individuals coming to the fore as local heroes.

Now more than ever we need to act responsibly to keep ourselves and others safe. Strive to be kind -helping those that might need a little extra support, interacting with local services and key workers who work tirelessly (often unacknowledged) to ensure that those in our local community who need help get this.

On a brighter note, despite restrictions making our Christmas procession impossible, Amble Events committee start a new tradition inspired by the need to socially distance. It is intended to bring light, community spirit and celebration to the streets and doorsteps of Amble. Individuals and groups are asked to fill the windows of their homes with illuminated illustrations, installations and lanterns depicting their favourite 'Myths or Legends' Check out Dry Water Arts web page for ideas on how to join in with this.

Cllr. Jane Dargue

## WEST CEMETERY

At long last Northumbria Water have connected the supply here, just in time for it to be switched off for the winter! We apologise for this long delay which has unfortunately been out of our hands. Despite understanding the delay in the beginning (that a cemetery was not a priority when staff numbers were reduced due to Covid 19,) we have been desperately contacting them over the last months. We have had inspections of the work which have not been fully reported; then further visits with connection dates which have not been met...but now we have water there. The new fountainhead is in place ready for Spring and the tarmac work on the drive, which had to be put on hold until the utility work was complete, is now done. The rest of the memorials have been tested for stability and where possible owners have been contacted to have work carried out to make them safe.

## PADDLERS PARK

The new rope bridge and net were installed at the end of October. We hope those using them will be age appropriate and that everyone will discourage any vandalism as play equipment is very expensive to replace. We are currently reassessing the water feature as we have never been pleased with how it works since it was installed under the joint project with NCC. Several attempts have been made to improve parts of it with little difference. We have also been meeting with NCC officers about the ever present flooding issue in the low lying part near the hill by the rear of Sea View. Currently a contractor is investigating the drainage which was put in place and from there it is hoped that a solution can be suggested and then finance found to implement it.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT Tel: 01665 714 695 [www.amble.gov.uk](http://www.amble.gov.uk)

Email [ask@amble.gov.uk](mailto:ask@amble.gov.uk) Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil](https://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, Sadly I begin with some very sad news. Many of you will know Terry Broughton who was chairman of the Trust from its inception until two years ago when he had to give up the position due to ill health and we have just heard that Terry lost his battle over the weekend.



Terry Broughton

For myself it has been a privilege to know Terry and work under his guidance and share his passion for the town where he grew up and spent all his life.

Terry was a font of knowledge and always happy to share this staff and trustees keeping us all on track. But there was nothing he loved more than his family who were his pride and joy, and to who we have sent our heartfelt condolences. For sure we will all miss Terry and his jovial smiling face around the town.

The last Ambler informed everyone about the opportunity

to join in celebrating the lead up to Christmas by making lanterns and window displays to light up the town. At the time of writing we know over 600 packs have gone out and there have been some fabulous displays made so the town should look wonderful leading up to Christmas. Thank you to everyone who takes part and a special thanks to Drywater Arts and the street co-ordinators who have put in so much effort to make this a success. Its amazing what teamwork can achieve and I look forward to hearing what myths or legends your imaginations have come up with.

Work on the sculpture Trail continues, with artists now contracted and progress information will be included on

the app so that each stage of sculpture development can be either viewed or heard once the trail is complete.

We are submitting an application to the Arts Council for community development work which will initially run alongside the trail delivery but also beyond that, so we can bring the community into the project.

One thing is for sure Christmas will happen regardless of covid or any other variant that gets thrown at us, so I will wish you all a merry Christmas however you are able to celebrate and hope 2021 brings a little more joy and happiness to us all.

*Julia and Trust staff*  
[julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk](mailto:julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk)

## Footpaths at risk

More than 2,000 miles of historic footpaths across the North East could 'disappear' if action is not taken.

Many routes across the region have been in use almost continually for hundreds of years, if not thousands in some cases.

But a catalogue of admin errors and oversights mean the right to use them could soon be lost forever, prompting campaigners to launch a new drive to see them registered before it is too late.

"[In the North East] there's a lot of old paths linked to old pits and other workplaces," said Neil Allender, of the Northumbria

Ramblers.

"If you look at 19th Century maps there's old paths which go to old pits, especially in places like Hexhamshire, but as the pits closed no one had reason to walk them anymore."

"After the Second World War, local authorities were supposed to add them to their maps, but while some parishes were very good, others were more lackadaisical."

According to the Ramblers, whose 'Don't Lose Your Way' campaign has mapped more than 49,000 miles of paths across the country at risk of being lost if they are not registered and added to the 'definitive map' every English

council is supposed to maintain.

The government has set a deadline of 2026 for these to be added to official records.

Simply identifying what appears to be a footpath is not enough however for a route to gain official recognition - documentary evidence also has to be provided demonstrating its former use, including historic records and maps, but also photographs and diaries.

In the North East, Northumberland accounts for 1,117 miles of unofficial footpath, followed by 537 in County Durham and 131 in Tyne and Wear.

Allender added: "A lot of

these paths have been walked for hundreds of years or more - we could lose those historic links to the past. If you couldn't afford a horse, you walked, which was pretty much everyone. The only comfort is we're not as bad as some parts of the south.

"It is a problem and we're going to lose a lot of footpaths unless we can make the case these footpaths were there before and were only left off the maps by mistake."

Visit [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) to find out more.

*James Harrison*  
*Local Democracy Reporter Service*

## Food Bank thanks - and a plea for more support

Amble Food Bank wish to thank the people, companies and institutions of Amble and the surrounding area for their kind donations, and hope they will continue with them in the run up to Christmas.

Currently more families are going to need our help despite the government's pledge to help children during the school holidays.

We wish to thank all the people who collected for the Harvest Festival, taking donations to Amble Links First School, Amble First School, Warkworth First School, Trinity Methodist Church, St Mark's URC and St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, and those who left food

donations directly to the food bank or to Morrison's, the Co-op and The Galley on Queen Street.

We aren't able to thank every person or organisation, although some have had a thank you letter. However there are a few who stand out including Rachel Cook, Julie Baxter, and the volunteers at the Amble Food Bank. We also thank Rachel for requesting toys for children in need in Amble and surrounding area this Christmas.



Terry Long of Amble Food Bank. Donate on their justgiving page: <https://bit.ly/335CEAy>

We were most grateful that during the recent half term holiday Morrison's Amble supplied packed lunches, Bertram's in Warkworth supplied packs, and Sharon Crisp from Crispy's Cakes and Cookies supplied packed lunches, cakes and cookies for the children in need.

We really appreciate the organisations and voluntary groups that have given advice and referrals from the community, these include

Northumbria Healthcare, Amble Town Council, Alnwick Social Services, Northumbria Police and Isolation Support

Finally, a huge thank you from all the families who have benefitted over the past few months, who would have suffered without this support.

Support is still much needed for those who require our service in the run up to Christmas, we hope the community will continue to donate, as we feel we are still a long way from normality.

Wishing all the best for Christmas and New Year.

*Bill Cruickshank*  
*Coordinator Amble Food Bank*





## Wednesday Runners

We are called Amble Wednesday Runners and the adults meet at 6.30 pm on Wednesdays. All abilities welcome. The juniors meet on a Tuesday now at 6.30 pm and both nights we meet in the carpark at Amble Links First School. I am a qualified level 2 athletics coach and our group is a splinter group of Morpeth Harriers. It is of course free to run with us although I do encourage the juniors to join Morpeth Harriers when they want to compete. We have a Facebook page called Amble Wednesday Runners and people can message me if they need any more information

*Josie Goodfellow*

## Sharing photography via Zoom

When the first lockdown occurred Amble Photographic Group had to look for alternative ways of continuing with their Friday morning meetings.

The Group's committee put their thinking caps on and came up with the idea of holding virtual meetings by Zoom. There was a steep learning curve but by members helping each other meetings have been going from strength to strength with good attendances. A varied and interesting programme has been maintained with a good mix of competitions, invited speakers, and member activities. The programme can be seen on the APG website.

If any photographers out there would like to join our Friday morning meetings please contact Helen Holmes for details ([helenholmes1947@gmail.com](mailto:helenholmes1947@gmail.com)).

*Helen Holmes*

*Membership Secretary, Amble Photographic Group*

## HospiceCare fundraising campaigns

Northumberland HospiceCare is running several fundraising campaigns over the winter, which you can see online:

- Virtual Light up a Life event. Please visit our website: <https://www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk/lightupalife>.
- For those wishing to dedicate a star in memory, visit: <https://visufund.com/dedicate-a-star>
- Our first-ever Virtual Christmas Craft Fair goes live on 1st November 2020 – readers can view/shop by visiting: <https://www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk/virtualchristmasfair>

## Learn secrets of selling on the internet

Unlock the secrets of selling on the Internet - a free workshop held over two weeks, on Wednesday 6 January 5.30 - 6.30 pm and Wednesday 13 January 5.30 - 6.30 pm.

Laura Mathieson from selling Online Support lives in Amble and wants to help local businesses who may be looking at selling online as a way to increase sales during the Covid-19 crisis.

"These are difficult times and now I'm back living in Amble, I'd like to do my bit for the community" says Laura, who has been helping online sellers for over ten years. "I'm running this same workshop for Digital Durham and I thought that Amble retailers could benefit too."

There is usually a charge for this workshop, but Laura is generously offering places to Amble businesses for free.

The workshop is aimed at local retailers who want to start selling online and gives a broad overview of how eCommerce works for sellers. Comparisons are made between the different options of marketplaces, eCommerce website and advertising sites such as Facebook and Gumtree, and a way to decide the next step is explored. For a free Zoom invite please email [info@selling-online-support.com](mailto:info@selling-online-support.com)

## Chloe joins her dream team

Morpeth resident Chloe Cook is Northumberland Wildlife Trust's new 'Catch My Drift' project assistant.

The project, which has just received a funding boost of £415,800 from players of the National Lottery via a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is working to improve biodiversity and reconnect people with nature at the wildlife charity's 185-hectare East Chevington reserve on Druridge Bay.

Chloe joins the 'Catch My Drift' team from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, where she recently graduated with a BSc (Hons) Degree in Ecology before studying for an MSc Degree in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the same university.

Although Chloe will be based at Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, working with the rest of the team, her project assistant role will see her learning practical skills such as reed bed, meadow and woodland management as well as survey training with a view to her leading volunteers on survey tasks on the East Chevington reserve.

Once restrictions have been lifted, she will also be out and



*Chloe Cook, photo by Sophie Webster*

about helping to host public information and awareness sessions in the area, talking to local groups and meeting visitors to the reserve.

Speaking about her appointment, Chloe said: "I'm so happy to have been given this opportunity so soon after finishing university. I have grown up around wildlife, so to be able to make a small contribution to wildlife so close to where I now live is wonderful."

## Bailiffgate museum reopening

Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery will be reopening on 3 December (subject to government rules). Their new exhibition, Extended, was installed just before Lockdown and features a range of beautiful, thought provoking, inspirational pieces of textile art created with great skill and imagination by Fusion Textile Artists.

In spite of the difficulties and closures, Bailiffgate has had a lot to celebrate this year and has been recognized and celebrated, winning three awards this year:

- 'highly commended' by the Museums & Heritage Awards 2020 for their fantastic '100 Years of Fashion' exhibition in the category of 'Limited Budget Project of the Year'
- 'highly commended' by the prestigious British Museum Marsh awards with a 'Volunteers for Museum Learning Award'
- 'Travellers' choice winner' for 2020 from Tripadvisor.

And a successful bid to the Garfield Weston Foundation has allowed them to recruit Catherine Neil to take up the role of Exhibitions Programme Manager. She will oversee Bailiffgate's exciting programme of Art, Culture and Heritage Exhibitions over the next two years.

Visit their website to see ideas for unique Christmas gifts including Friends Membership and Adopt an Object, both of which open up a range of exclusive benefits, including unlimited entry to all their exhibitions.

## FC Amble Juniors' new sponsors



**F**C Amble Juniors under 13s football team would like to give a big thank you to Spurreli as our continued team sponsor. Also, on match days the team would like to give a massive thank you for the free ice-cream vouchers they give out for our Man of the Match every game. Needless to say it's a great incentive for our players to give it their all every week.

*Ian Armstrong*

*FC Amble Juniors U13s*

FC Amble Juniors under 10s would also like to thank Phil and Diane from Lumiere Amble for their kind generosity of paying for our u10s rain jackets for the 20/21 season.

Lumiere is a great pod on the harbour. They sell a multitude of amazing beautiful gifts for everyone. Pictured above is Diane with one of our attacking midfielders.

*Gary Chambers*

*FC Amble Juniors U10s*

## Christingle service via Zoom

**T**his year we will not be able to hold our very popular Christingle service on Christmas Eve. The congregations have usually been around 200 people and at the present time our church can't hold that many and maintain social distancing.

Rather than turn anyone away we have decided to hold our Christingle on line via Zoom.

If we are to do this, we need to know how many people will be taking part. This means we can plan to send out some materials for you to use at home. It won't be quite the same as all being together in Church to begin our Christmas celebrations but it is the next best thing.

It will also mean that we can make a collection for the work of the Children's Society who brought the Christingle to Britain and who rely on the collections at Christingles up and down the land for their work.

The Children's Society work with vulnerable children to support

and protect them. They also have a role in speaking to Government about legislation and the needs of children. We shall be arranging for an online collection and envelopes.

We aim to stick to the same time of 6 o'clock on Christmas Eve. As many of you will want to go out at that time and ring a bell at your front door, we will ask people to log on at 5:50pm, then there will be a space for bells to ring which we should all be able to hear and the service will start at 6:05pm. All of the elements of storytelling, singing and prayers that we usually have at a Christingle will be there.

If your family is interested in taking part in the Zoom Christingle please let me know as soon as possible.

Booking will close on Wednesday 16 December and your Christingle bag will be delivered to you soon after that. (if you live in the Amble area). You can email me at pennyhorseman@gmail.com

*Penny Horseman*





Make it look pretty again!

Maintenance and Design

- weeding
- grass cutting, edging
- planting, flower potting
- hedge trimming
- pruning
- landscaping
- paving, fencing

STAINTON

Coast & Country Garden Service

01665 798543
AMBLE

Visit us on Facebook

## Hauxley Hounds

Professional Dog Walking Service



- **Friendly and reliable service**
- **£10 per hour\*** (See our website for details)
- **DBS checked • Fully Insured**
- **Pet Taxi service** (See our website for details)

**Contact Mark:**  
**07720 425 027**  
[hauxleyhounds@gmail.com](mailto:hauxleyhounds@gmail.com)  
[www.hauxleyhounds.co.uk](http://www.hauxleyhounds.co.uk)



## Cromie

PHARMACY

**Did you know we provide:**

Minor Ailments Advice, Travel Clinics,  
 Stop Smoking Clinics, Period Delay,  
 Emergency Contraception & Vaccinations.

**Convenient prescription medication supply:**

- **FREE** prescription collection and delivery service.
- We collect prescriptions daily
- Our delivery service covers Amble and surrounding areas



01665 710 896

158 Percy St, Amble, Morpeth NE65 0AG



## Media stars flock to the Friendliest Port

Amble was 'the place to be' this autumn when the crew of ITV's *Vera* arrived, with star Brenda Blethyn seen filming outside the Schooner pub. A few days later, the Hairy Bikers rode into town, filming at the harbour for their new BBC2 series. They met Amble chef Martin Charlton, and used the Fish Shack to create one of their recipes.



Above: Brenda Blethyn filming part of the new series of *Vera* outside the Schooner pub. *Photos by Andrew Mounsey*



Above: Si King and Dave Myers - aka the Hairy Bikers - visited Amble in October as part of filming a new BBC2 TV series. *Photos by Andrew Mounsey and Judith Hardisty*