



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 127 April/May 2021

Export headaches continue for shellfish company

An Amble company which exports shellfish to the EU say they are managing to deliver to France and Spain now, but staff are exhausted with the mountains of red tape now needed since Brexit took effect. They say the government has done nothing to help ease the situation.

Jane Pedersen, sales director for Coquet Island Shellfish, which employs around 70 people, said "Any progress we have made has been down to the hard work and determination of the staff and management at Coquet Island Shellfish.

"We are succeeding in making daily exports to Europe, but have a mountain of time-consuming, costly, and largely pointless paperwork to submit in order to do so. (Reams and reams, and who reads it?)"



Coquet Island Shellfish took part in the January protest in London

In January, Coquet Island Shellfish took part in a protest by seafood exporters in London. Lorries from the Scottish and English seafood industry drove around Westminster in a show of strength, protesting at the new export regulations and extra paperwork. Later, PM Boris Johnson pledged £23m to help businesses if they are affected by bureaucratic delays 'through no fault of their own'.

Jane said "The barriers to trade are horrendous, especially after so many years of frictionless trade."

We will leave no-one behind



Patients are being reassured they can still have their Covid jabs in Amble. Photo: Coquet Medical Group

Confusion over when and where people can access their Covid vaccinations has grown in recent weeks. The government has been keen to progress the roll out of invitations to the various age and at-risk groups, but local vaccination clinics are struggling to meet demand.

And now NHS England has said there will be a significant reduction in the supply of the vaccines during April, meaning the under 50s will have to wait until May for their jabs.

This will add to the pressure on staff at Amble Health Centre, who have already been frustrated by slow and irregular vaccine deliveries over past weeks.

"We will leave no one behind," said Dr Burville from Coquet Medical Group on Twitter. "We will happily vaccinate all our patients (in priority order) as soon as we get adequate vaccine supplies."

Coquet Medical Group says it needs 1400 doses of the vaccine every week in order to hit the government's target of inviting everybody aged 50 or over in the Amble area for their first dose, by 15 April.

Currently, vaccination centres in Northumberland are being asked to prioritise patients in

group six, while those in group five, and now people aged 50 and above, are invited to book appointments at the larger sites such as the Centre for Life in Newcastle, or the Nightingale hospital in Washington (Sunderland).

Understandably for many, travelling to Newcastle or Sunderland is difficult, but everyone is being reassured that they will still be able to get their jabs in Amble if they prefer. They may have to wait a little longer, but they will be seen as soon as possible.

Richard Hay, Head of Planning and Operations at Northumberland CCG, said: "We appreciate that it may be difficult for some Northumberland residents in group five, particularly those in more remote and rural areas, to get to the large vaccination centre at the Centre for Life in Newcastle. We would like to remind those in this group that they are able to get their vaccine locally.

"If people choose not to get their vaccine at the Centre for Life, they should wait until their GP practice contacts them to make an appointment. These appointments won't be offered as quickly as those from the

large vaccination centre, so we ask people to please be patient and they should not call their GP practice. We would like to assure people that they will not be missed."

More recently, those aged over 50 have been told they are now eligible for their vaccination, and asked to contact the NHS website to book their appointments. However there have been many reports of patients finding it difficult to secure appointments for both first and second vaccinations, or they are offered a place as far away as Brighton.

To add to the pressure, second vaccinations are also taking place from the middle of March.

This has resulted in a huge increase in people contacting the Amble clinic, asking when they can make an appointment. Coquet Medical Group are pleading with people NOT to contact the surgery asking for vaccination appointments. They want to reassure everyone that they will be contacted as soon as it is possible.

As of 16 March, residents in all three care home in the Amble area have been fully vaccinated with their second doses.

Anna Williams



taj mahal

Indian & Bangladeshi Cuisine

01665 713 777



Order via Whatsapp +44 7932 957289



@tajmahalamble



Order via Messenger

Open 6 days a week:

Tues - Fri: 5.30pm - 10.30pm

Sat & Sun: 5pm - 10.30pm

Closed Mondays

Open all Bank Holidays



www.tajmahalamble.com

2- 4 Queen Street, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0BZ

What will you find in Curiosity Corner?

For those who are missing browsing the delights in collectables and antiques venue Artique, we have some good news.

Linda Hawcock who was one of the main dealers in Artique, has set up Curiosity Corner, which can be found right in the centre of Amble.

She and some of the other dealers have set up shop in three units in the Old Fourways on Bridge Street, and are hoping to open their doors on 12 April, once Covid restrictions allow.

Linda (pictured) told The



Ambler, "I started in Artique back in 2018, selling on behalf of my Mum, and I ended up with eight units. I learned a lot, and made some lovely friends there. We kept in touch and so some of them are joining me."

Linda is no stranger to the area, her family are from Amble and Radcliffe, and she has been planning her new venture since the end of last year. The property which housed Artique, at the bottom of the Wynd, is due to be turned into houses.

"It saddens me to see the old Artique building being knocked

down. I really don't even want to look when I go past it. But I am very excited about the new business, and can't wait to be up and running."

Curiosity Corner@Amble will be stocked with vintage goods, collectables, furniture, fashion accessories, vintage jewellery, crystals and handmade soaps and bath bombs.

From 12 April, Curiosity Corner will be open from 10am – 5pm seven days a week. In the meantime, you can find them on Facebook: Curiosity-Corner-Amble

It's all about the community

Another example of kind hearted community action has proved a whirlwind success after just a matter of weeks.

Julie Baxter who is known for bringing delicious home-made baking to vulnerable people during the pandemic, has now set up a catering business and is running a community kitchen in Amble.

In February, Julie began her main business, Cottage Catering, making afternoon teas and buffets, but at the same time she has set up a community kitchen, in St Marks church hall. The community kitchen is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and provides a hot meal

for £3.25 and soup and a roll for £1.25.

Julie told The Ambler. "People can just ring up and order and we can deliver. A lot of our customers are those who were or still are shielding. Some people have lost their jobs. It's made me realise how many people need what I'm doing."

Julie is working alongside the Food Bank and fundraises for them, and she has also a team of volunteers who she has taken under her wing. "I'm helping some of them get qualifications, so they can get jobs. My aim after lockdown is to teach people to cook on a budget. I've got 15 people signed up already!"



Julie Baxter has set up a catering business and community kitchen

Everything is done by the book, I've already got my 5 star hygiene rating. All my produce is bought locally. At half term I had 137 children from Warkworth school here showing them what I do. I was telling them all about why people have to use food banks.

"It's amazingly busy. I'm loving it. Today I did 44 lunches and a full pan of soup. There are so many people struggling, I want to help them all."

To contact Cottage Catering or the community kitchen, ring Julie on 07447665629 or get in touch via the Cottage Catering Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Cottage-Catering

Celebrity praise for new Amble company

An Amble business that creates wall art prints for children's bedrooms, has received an overwhelming response and boost to sales after celebrity Sophie Hinchliffe, known more famously as Mrs Hinch, endorsed the company on Instagram.

The Instagram influencer Mrs Hinch took to social media, ahead of the birth of her second child, to share with fans the latest purchases and gifts for her baby's nursery.

Included in the items was a wall art print with hanger, created by Oak Studio based in Amble. In the video post Mrs Hinch describes the product as "A beautiful hanging picture from a very small business @oakstudioprints" and comments "How cute is this?"



Lindsey Edwards with the wall art praised on Instagram by Mrs Hinch

Oak Studio was setup by mother of two Lindsey Edwards in November 2020, driven by her love of creating personalised printed keepsakes for children.

"I'm absolutely overwhelmed by the response. I started the day with 165 Instagram followers and after Mrs Hinch shared my work I gained over 4,000."

"The traction from the new followers has generated hundreds of messages and comments about my wall art prints, as well as an influx of orders through my Etsy shop."

Lindsey, who is currently working from her kitchen table whilst caring for her young children continued: "Creating wall art and printed stationery for family and friends has been a love of mine for several years."

"I feel so humbled that people like my creations enough to want to buy them and display them in their homes."

"I would encourage any women who are thinking about

setting up their own small business from home to just go for it!"

Find Oak Studio on Instagram, Facebook and Etsy @oakstudioprints

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

'Wor Tomis the Polis'

In the last issue we inadvertently left the contact details for Tom Curry's new book off the article. We apologise to Tom and to anyone who wanted to purchase a copy. You can contact him via email; tomwcurry@gmail.com

Tom was born into a dying coal mining community in Amble, and was the first family member to break with tradition not to go 'doon tha pit'.



Read of his poverty-stricken childhood in the 50/60s and of his basic pit village education, leaving

without any academic qualifications at the age of 15.

He began his working life on the railway, but then joined the Sussex Police, and tells of his encounters with major criminals, his time as one of the first armed officers with the force, as a gaoler when the UK prisons were overwhelmed and how his loyalties were tested during the Miners' strike in the 80s.

Glad times and sad times but always buoyed by his love of humour, this book is full of fun and anecdotes.

Centenary of the Royal British Legion and our local branch

After WW1, The Comrades of the Great War Association was formed by veterans. On 27 June 1921, the Warkworth branch was wound up and the constitution of the Royal British Legion accepted in its place.

Members held their first Legion meeting on 29 June 1921, in the old School House, Warkworth. The membership fee was three pence and by 1921 there were 83 male members.

The School House was later deemed structurally unsound, so funds were raised for a new base. Member, Mr J Moore, suggested the property adjacent to the War Memorial Institute on Castle Street and the committee agreed.

On Monday, 5 November 1928, Warkworth Branch finally moved into their permanent base at the War Memorial Hall. The chairman of the hall committee, Mr George Green, officially handed over the new Legion Meeting Room at an annual peppercorn rent of one shilling.

Furnishings for the room were purchased from the Amble store of J. Ballantyne, including supplying, and laying linoleum at a cost of £17.16s.3d, thirty chairs at 5s.6d per chair, one large and two small tables at 30 shillings each. Two armchairs were donated by members and an electric light meter installed for £2.

In 1922 the Amble branch of the British Legion was also



Founder members of the Amble RBL

formed and survived until the Legion Club was demolished in the 1980's.

Many branches had a Women's Section, a semi-independent part of the charity for 95 years to support fundraising for the Poppy Appeal. Amble is known to have had a very popular section who supported the branch. 2016 saw a complete integration of Women's Sections into the main body of the British Legion.

Fast forward to 2004 and Warkworth branch was in danger of closure with only three members attending. With the refurbishment of the Legion Room a priority, the new Secretary, June Watson, obtained grants to refurbish the room with new furniture, and décor.

This makeover and the introduction of talks by guest speakers saw an increase of male and female new members from

the surrounding district.

Funds were sought to purchase a new Branch standard in 2012 and rename the branch Warkworth & Amble District Royal British Legion. Coach trips to military venues and three exhibitions on WW1 increased public awareness of the branch and membership rapidly increased.

The total membership to date is 84, more than at the foundation of the branch in 1921. Today the branch membership reflects a broader mix of ages with an equal split of men and women members aged between 20 to 85 years, not necessarily from a service background. The branch is proud of this significant milestone. It will continue to flourish as a base for the local Poppy Appeal and as a social venue for members when it is safe to do so.

June Watson

Harry McQuillen's

Age of insecurity

We've never seen the world like this. So many stories of bereavement and hardship, in all sorts of ways. With high levels of hospitalisation, death and physical and mental impairment, life is so difficult for patients, carers and those whose incomes have been slashed.

If ever there was a need for us all to sing from the same hymn sheet, that time is now! Pointing a finger at individuals and groups is a bit of a waste of time. We human beings are just that – human, and fallible, and insecure. If we were automata we might be able to coordinate everything that we do. Work-life balance is a bit of a joke when you're poor, sometimes

hungry and worried about the rent. When you have secure housing and secure income, you should count your lucky stars. It's hard to put yourself into somebody else's shoes when there are folk who haven't a decent pair of shoes.

So what can we do? I think that our government has handled things well, or as well as it can, with furlough, health service provision and, recently, clear communication of many of the issues. Most people are sensible and resilient, and so many do what they can to help our most vulnerable citizens.

As I've said before, consideration for others is the glue that binds society. A former Prime Minister appeared to

deny that society exists. Most of us would refute that attitude today. Education always causes political arguments. With any luck, the reopening, in turn, of schools, specialist colleges and universities will bring relief to young people who are supposed to study online. Getting together with people of the same age and interests has always been the essence of education. Lack of part-time work and the income it generates, has made life very difficult for young people and for the businesses which employ them. Our young folk are our future. Let's encourage them and help them all we can.

There is real hope in the government roadmap. The return of schools, opening of

shops, beer gardens and outdoor sports venues, with pubs, restaurants, cinemas, hotels, more sports venues and possibly international travel from May 17, and everything else from June 21. That's quite a list, so let's keep our fingers crossed. The virus, I fear, has limited regard for human argument, but I don't see a better way to come out of the nightmare we've come through.

The sun is shining, spring is in the air. Our home area looks as lovely as ever. Stand on the quayside and look out to sea, or up the Coquet towards Warkworth and you'll see what I mean. Happy summer holiday this year.

Harry

Remembering Janneil, who lived her life at double speed

The Ambler was saddened to learn of the death of Janneil Elliott. Janneil was a big character in the Amble business community, and she will be sadly missed.

Originally from Amble, Janneil and her business partner Joanne Stone took over Castle Mania in 2006. The pair had small children of their own and wanted to set up an indoor adventure playground in Alnwick. "It seemed like fate," said Joanne, "But at first we were outbid. I went on holiday and switched off my phone – when I came home Janneil had somehow got in touch with the prospective buyers and they dropped out, so it was ours!"

Janneil's best friend, Jayne Stafford shared some memories:

"Janneil was most definitely an all rounder. A person you could rely on and go to if you had a problem, needed advice or a shoulder to cry on.

"Her business mind was non stop. Always trying to think of the next big thing. Then there was the fun side, a side that



Janneil and husband Martin Elliott

anyone who was lucky enough to meet her would encounter as she was naturally funny without trying."

"She was very sociable and loved her darts, playing on her local team and managing to win trophies inspite of her disabilities. Nothing fazed her and certainly she would let nothing stop her. She lived her life at double speed to make sure she could fit in her social calander.

"Her unique, dry, quirky, witty sense of humour, not to mention that laugh was like no other I've ever encountered. Her love of cake was famous locally and certainly not a single day

ended without a slice."

Ann Burke from Amble Business Club wrote:

"Amble Business Club were saddened to learn of the passing of Janniell. Janniell was strong, courageous, energetic. She loved and lived life to the full and did not let her debilitating health problems stand in her way.

She worked hard at her business, Castle Mania, of which she was very proud.

Janneil loved having fun and enjoyed nothing more than being on a float at the lights parade encouraging everyone else to have fun too. She will be a great miss to the Business Community of Amble.

Janneil had a very long association with Amble Business Club and had been treasurer for many years."

Janneil married Martin Elliott in 1999. They had two children, Jacob and Bella. Her parents Yvonne and Paul Dixon, and her sister Linda are also from Amble. She was 45 when she passed away in January of this year.

Praise for Mary Amble Youth Project (AYP) are celebrating, as one of their supporters has been named joint winner in the Trustee of the Year category by North East Youth.

The judges praised Mary Davidson for her diligence over the past year and said both the trustees in the winning category, 'showed commitment and supported the organisations greatly. Both demonstrated great work in the trustee role.'

Ian Williams, Vice Chair of AYP said, "It is wonderful for both Mary and the organisation to receive this recognition. We are a small charity and rely heavily on the commitment of all our trustees to support the project and ensure it is run safely and effectively.

He continued, "We are always on the lookout for people who are willing to give a few hours to the local community and to help young people in Amble achieve a better future. We would welcome interest from anyone who might consider becoming a trustee. We are looking for a range of skills and backgrounds."

If you are interested, please contact Matthew Maloney, the Project's Senior Manager, at matthewm@ambleyouthproject.org

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

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

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

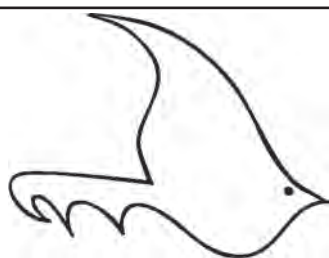


Email: enid.eww@sky.com

Barrister Intermediary and

Member of the Legal Services Guild





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

WHAT YOU SAY...

Women shop workers are being harassed

Much is being said about the safety of women and girls following the murder of Sarah Everard.

The attitude of some men and boys towards women is appalling and ranges from verbal abuse, threats of violence to actual physical assault and rape.

What is not being talked about or addressed is women shop workers being harassed, verbally abused and threatened in their workplace by male customers.

My wife works for Tesco in Amble and like her fellow female colleagues receives abuse on a daily basis. This can range from verbal abuse from men refusing to wear a face covering, under age boys demanding to be sold alcohol or groups

of boys, on bicycles, loitering outside the shop waiting for an opportunity to rush in and grab what they can.

The police are rarely called and even if they are it is a non-urgent call to 101. Men and boys are occasionally banned from the shop but as other staff are not aware, they get served anyway.

Complaints from female staff are greeted with, "That's how it is in retail. You just have to put up with it!"

This behaviour should stop now!

Amble brands itself as "England's Kindest Port." Please ask the women who work in retail in Amble and see if they agree.

Ian McAdam, Hadston

Teaching and learning

Congratulations to Lily Tibbitts for letting us share her thoughts on modern schooling. (See back page.)

Coming out of lockdown should make us all think outside the box. Facilities matter, but so does learning and teaching.

Historically, the pupil/teacher ratio has come down from up to 100 in a monitorial school, to about 30, and often lower today. Group learning for secondary students has gone on for a long time, usually with several groups of students in a classroom with a teacher, and more recently, with a teaching assistant. Access to a teacher has always been limited.

The refurbishment of school buildings

could well lead to change. Timetabling is VERY difficult at any time. And all that is apart from the social interactions that students want and need.

Group learning is fine when everybody has something to say that is relevant to the present subject. It works less well when the speakers are unprepared or ill-disciplined.

Coming out of lockdown can lead to valuable change. By the way, work in school won't prevent students from home study. You never know what you can achieve unless you give it your best shot! Good luck to all our young people.

Harry McQuillen,
High Street, Amble

Thank you for your support

My family and I thank everybody who sent flowers, cards and letters of condolence on the recent death of my husband, John Matthews. We include the staff at the R.V.I., Freeman and Cramlington hospitals and the palliative care department at Wansbeck.

Special thanks go to the district nurses (second to none) and Dr. Willey at the Amble Health Centre, for all their support. The carers who came daily really did care for John and he appreciated what they did for him.

Thank you very much.

Josephine Matthews, Lindisfarne Road, Amble

Planning projects

PLANS have been submitted for 12 bungalows on land adjoining Southmede. The detached bungalows will comprise:
5 x 3-bed dormer bungalows with garage
5x 2-bed bungalows
1 x 2-bed bungalow with garage
1 x 4-bed bungalow with detached garage
You can see the plans on NCC's planning website.
Ref: 21/00165/FUL

PLANS have been submitted to replace two disused portacabins, with a modular unit to be used as a gym for Amble Fire and Rescue staff. For more info see NCC's planning website: ref 21/00044/CDD

RETROSPECTIVE approval has been refused for a shop front on Queen Street. Members of NCC's planning committee voted against approving the shop frontage, which they said 'fails to preserve the character of the conservation area'. You can watch the planning meeting which was held on 8 Feb via NCC's Youtube channel. The discussion starts +/- 2:04:55.

TWO buildings to create four industrial/commercial units are proposed on Coquet Enterprise Park. See NCC's planning website. Ref 20/04398/FUL

PLANS for a dog grooming pod on land next to Coquet Vets has been proposed. See NCC's planning website. Ref: 21/00340/FUL



The Ambler asked Advance Northumberland why the fencing around land on Coquet Retail Park has been put up.

A spokesperson told us this was for a few reasons:

- to secure the site for health and safety reasons - residents have been taking shortcuts across the site to Morrisons
 - to improve the presentation of the site - graphics will be applied to part of the hoarding presenting the site and town.
- "We continue to engage with prospective retailers for the site."

Coquet Vets: our first year has been an adventure

2020 will certainly go down as one to remember for most of us, but for me, it won't be remembered for just Covid-19. I will also remember it for the year that I was part of a team that embarked on a new adventure and opened a new business.

Having worked in the veterinary industry for 20 years, setting up a new small animal independent practice seemed like the obvious next step.

Having the opportunity to get to know my clients and have continuity of care really helps to build the trust that we need to treat the animals presented to us.

Our small team of two nurses and two vets (plus an additional vet on some Saturdays) spent two months preparing and setting up Coquet Vets. We opened our doors on March 3rd, 2020. Our small but experienced team was immediately able to implement protocols that we knew worked well. The team work soon clicked into place and everything seemed to be going well - until a global pandemic hit.

To say this was a blow to our team is an understatement. As I am sure everyone did, we all went through a series of emotions. Disbelief, denial, fear, and eventually acceptance.

After a long discussion with my business partner and following guidance from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, we decided to keep the practice open. We furloughed both nurses, and my other vet and I went it alone. Unfortunately, we are not eligible for any grants or help.

Our plan was to see emergency appointments, give advice over the phone, register any new clients, and generally keep things ticking over until the lockdown ended.

I have two children under the age of nine, and my husband is a farmer, so homeschooling was down to me too. Thankfully, over the next three months I did manage to juggle work and homeschooling, calling on one of my lovely vet colleagues to come into work to act as my nurse when it was needed.

Over those months the workload slowly but surely increased and, thankfully, we managed to unfurlough our team and start getting back to the new normal.

We have many new clients, and we are able to provide the level of care that we aspire to give. Our clients have been fantastic. They are all so understanding of the protocols we have put in place and they



Emily Renton with vet Rebecca Mackay, vet nurses Rosie Anderson and Sue Joyce, and friends Iona and Winston

generally all come in with smiles on their faces (hidden under their masks, of course). Our reception area is so big it allows us to be able to let clients sit and wait for their appointment safely.

As a vet I have taken an oath to ensure that no animals suffer and that is something that's ingrained. Guidelines (including Covid-19 and RCVS) are very much open to interpretation. This leaves everyone a little confused. We would encourage all owners to phone us.

All our staff are trained to ask the right questions and we can

then decide who should be seen and when. What we do not want to have happen is that an animal's treatment is delayed when early intervention could prevent an issue from escalating.

For me, Covid-19 has made me realise with stark clarity what is important to me - my family, our health, my friends and their health, my vocation, and a belief that if we can get through this we can get through most things.

Emily Renton BVM&S MRCVS

Coquet Vets: 01665 252 250

CBSWorld

Complete Business Supplies



Printing Services

Leaflets • Booklets • Books • Newsletters • Posters
Carbonless sets and books • Fine art prints • Invites
PVC Banners • Foamex boards • Signage

www.cbsworld.co.uk

Unit 5 Elm Square, Lionheart Enterprise Park
Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2ES
Tel: 01665 660022 Email: sales@cbsworld.co.uk







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



Update from inshore fisheries authority



A NIFCA officer monitoring fisheries compliance in the district

Fishermen and fish processors in Amble and throughout Northumberland have been coming to terms with the new arrangements under the Brexit Trade Deal, which came into effect on 1 January.

During the COVID pandemic, times have not been straightforward, and officers from Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA) have been maintaining a presence in the district, complying with regulations to safeguard in

respect of COVID, including ensuring that social distance was kept and assisting with any fisheries related enquiries.

With most of the local shellfish being exported to the continent, it is particularly important that trade across the Channel is able to proceed smoothly.

Hopefully, the initial difficulties with the new paperwork required for export to the EU, will prove to be short lived.

NIFCA's team of officers

work to develop the scientific basis for future fisheries management and to monitor activity in the district, taking enforcement action where required. It is their duty to strike a balance between sustainability in inshore fisheries and protecting the marine environment.

NIFCA also works closely with DEFRA in London, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) (which has its local office in North Shields and its national headquarters in Newcastle), as well as other marine agencies.

In February NIFCA finalised permanent byelaw protection for egg bearing (known as "berried") female lobsters in the district, and made permanent the byelaw protection for marine fish and shellfish below legal minimum sizes, two very important measures for the long-term conservation and sustainability of local stocks.

NIFCA regulates recreational sea angling in the Authority District, with the Government allowing angling to continue during lockdown but under strict rules. Further details can be




found on the authority website in 'News'.

In 2021, NIFCA will be consulting with the fishing industry and wider public on a range of issues both formally and informally, including dredging in the NIFCA district which extends out six miles from the coastline, between the Scottish Borders and mid-point of the Tyne.

All views, comments or queries on NIFCA consultations will be welcomed and further details can be found on the authority website.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the quarterly meetings held by NIFCA will remain virtual for the foreseeable future, but anyone who has an interest in fisheries and the marine environment in Northumberland is welcome to join meetings online, with the forthcoming quarterly meeting dates in 2021 being on 26 April, 25 July and 25 October.

Further details of NIFCA's work can be found at www.nifca.gov.uk or by telephoning the NIFCA office (which remains closed to visitors during the pandemic) on 01670 797 676.




CALLING ALL BUSINESSES

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES | CALLING ALL BUSINESSES | CALLING ALL BUSINESSES

We're here to help! If you're looking for ways to help boost business, being able to offer a coffee takeaway service might be the answer.

We offer coffee machines for lease or purchase so you can be flexible with your commitment. If you'd like more information, please get in touch!
mochamondo.co.uk Unit 6C, Coquet Enterprise Park Amble, NE65 0PE



COMES WITH
**HALF PRICE
COFFEE
FOR LIFE**

T&Cs apply

Food Bank 'amazed' at continuing support

The Amble Food Bank has once again been amazed at the support the Community has given us, and continues to give us, over the past year.

The number of families requiring support, through no fault of their own, is still increasing and will continue to increase in the future.

You can apply for a referral for a food parcel through an agency such as CAB or NETs, GP's, Social Workers, Health Visitors and Churches or by contacting Northumberland Communities Together, on 01670 620015, 9am until 6pm seven days a week.

Becoming more environmentally friendly, we are now using reusable, eco-friendly, bright and colourful paper bags for the food parcels that we deliver. Feedback in the community has been positive.

Morrison's Amble very kindly donated several pizza kits that went out in food parcels over half term. Great fun for children to roll out the dough provided and assemble their own pizzas with the fillings in the kits.

Thanks also to

Northumberland Seafood Centre who have donated vouchers for fresh seafood.

Thank you to the community for your donations to the Food Bank. The volunteers have been amazed by the community's continued generosity.

Just to remind you that food items can be donated at either the Co-op or in the cage by the checkouts at Morrison's. Morrison's also do pick-up bags that are located by the main entrance.

These contain specific items that the Food Bank is short of, and cost roughly between £2 and £4. Pick up a bag and then pay for this at the checkouts along with your other shopping.

Thank you also to the many who have kindly made financial donations or set up standing orders that help to keep the Food Bank sustainable. We are incredibly grateful for these.

Thank you also those who have kindly donated via our Just Giving page. The response has been phenomenal.

If you wish to make a donation, please go the following web link: rebrand.ly/x7s4r9o or

search for Amble Food Bank at www.justgiving.com Thank you.

We have also recently placed a couple of collection tins in the Co-op for the Food Bank. These are located by the checkouts. The response has once again been incredible.

If you don't already follow it, please follow the Amble Foodbank page on Facebook for regular updates.

We have no firm plans for Easter as yet, but in preparation for this event, and generally through the school holiday, we know that Amble and the surrounding community will step up and provide what is required.

Thank you once again to the Amble and surrounding community for being so generous with food and monetary donations.

Thanks to the volunteers, who work tirelessly to ensure the food donated is collected, sorted, packed and delivered in a timely manner. Not forgetting the people taking the time to refer those families they find to be in need.

Bill Cruickshank
Coordinator Amble Food Bank

5000 deliveries for Premier store



Congratulations to Graham Street who was Queen Street Convenience Store (Premier)'s 5000th delivery customer.

The convenience store on Queen Street has been delivering groceries since the first lockdown in March 2020. Since then they have made thousands of deliveries, and recently presented the lucky 5000th customer with a gift basket.

Manager Jonathan May told The Ambler "I'm definitely pleased with the way things are going. The numbers have definitely dropped off compared to the beginning, but that's because people can now come into the shop too. I'm just happy that we can help people, and so grateful that they can help us at the same time."

Social history group donation

The Amble Food Bank wishes to thank the Amble Social History group for their incredibly generous donation of £1000 to the Amble Food Bank. This will help enormously in our endeavours to help families in the community who find themselves in need, through no fault of their own.

On behalf of these grateful families we the Amble Food Bank sends our heartfelt thanks for this exceedingly generous donation.



**HAUXLEY
PARISH
COUNCIL**

Local Council elections

The Council term is coming to an end and the new council is due to be elected on 6th May. Details of the election process for potential candidates was available on the Council website. Councillor Ken Graham announced that he will not be standing to be a councillor after 12 years of working with the

Parish Council. The Council thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the village during his time on the Council.

'Amble' Coastal Summit

The Clerk attended a meeting with senior officers of Northumberland County Council and outlined the issues faced in the village because of excessive traffic, obstructive and inconsiderate parking, increased danger to

pedestrians, and the increase of litter and dog fouling. NCC would be looking at what measures they could put in place to alleviate these issues for the summer season.

Highways Issues

As government restrictions were due to ease the Parish Council would be submitting a further request for a walkabout with a Highways Officer to look at short term and longer-term solutions solution to the deterioration of the verges at Hauxley Lane, the recurring potholes on the bridgeway at Low Hauxley and the parking on verges at Low Hauxley

Dog Fouling

The new bin has been installed at Kirkwell Cottages. To decrease dog fouling issues within the village, the council will be submitting a funding bid to our County Councillor to help with the costs of installing several dog bag dispensers, which will be located at strategic locations to

encourage all dog owners to 'bag it and bin it'.



Vandalism at Hauxley Wildlife Centre

The Parish Council was extremely disappointed to learn of the recent vandalism at Hauxley Wildlife Centre and urged resident to report any suspicious behaviour to the police to protect the reserve and the village from any vandalism.

Future meetings

The Annual meeting of the Parish Council would be held at 6.30pm on Monday 17th May 2021 via Zoom.



Amble Town

COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm via Zoom until further notice - see our website

Elections: 6th May

Town: 8th April, 13th May Amenities: 27th May (tbc)

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 OPH	Amble	Street,	Warkworth	Amble	Amble	Amble	
Warkworth.	07751 229 739	NE65 OHY	Amble	NE65 OUF	NE65 OBJ	NE65 OSE	NE65 OGB	
NE65 OTP		01665 712342	NE65 ORZ	07802 385367	07525713086	01665 711191	07795360513	

ELECTIONS

Latest updates from government are that local elections for County and Town will be held in May. By now every household should have been asked to verify those eligible; if you have not then please contact NCC Elections department to ensure you have a vote. All are being given the opportunity to apply for a postal vote rather than attend a polling station in person in the hope that numbers attending will be reduced so it will be easier to uphold Covid guidelines.

All present council membership ceases and those who wish to can then stand again. County Councillors receive attendance allowance but your town councillors are not paid and merely receive some small recompense towards paper and ink if they choose to claim this.

While you may not always agree with their decisions, a love of their town or county and what happens to it is the driving force behind those who stand. If you are considering joining either council, we encourage you to get as much information about the roles as soon as you can. All town councillors and staff will be pleased to answer any queries you have. The usual doorstep conversations will be discouraged but candidates can carry out a leaflet drop to introduce themselves to voters.

WEST CEMETERY

We are delighted to accept some saplings from Friends of the Earth and also hope to have some from NCC soon. These will be planted on the furthest border of the cemetery- and if the wildlife leave them alone- so that in future years they can mature to a magnificent tree line. All the trees already in the cemetery have been inspected by a specialist and any maintenance work will soon be completed.

Plans are now being made for the new section for future interments as it is anticipated this will be needed within the next 2-3 years. The recent heavy rains and snow have shown that the water does not drain well from here and therefore we have had contractors assessing the problem for solutions on how best to drain the land.

Due to an expected large cost, we will carry out the work in stages so that funds can be budgeted each year. As this section is not in use, no-one should be traversing it, but please be careful if you are in the vicinity while work is taking place.

NEXT AMBLER

Due to election regulations there will be no town council page in the next edition.

PADDLERS PARK

Another area where flooding is an issue! Despite voicing our concerns in the beginning and all the work which went into refurbishing this area, there remains a problem at the path near the picnic tables. Following investigations there, it has been decided to jointly fund (NCC and Amble Town Council) some trial work on new field drainage to try and alleviate the lying water. If the first phase is successful, then more work will be needed- but we will need to wait and see...

WWII

Check out Amble Remembers WWII on www.amble.gov.uk

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Soon NCC will be planting at Dilston Terrace and the Wynd. Two Dilston Terrace beds will represent the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion; the Wynd bed will be dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the foundation of a national fire service.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

I regret to say that I am getting very annoyed about the growing number of potholes that we seem to have in and around Amble. Whilst not a cyclist myself, I am a supporter of cycling and yet the state of the edges of our narrow roads where cyclists normally are forced to ride are dangerous, with uneven tarmac and potholes.

Cars fare no better as the holes over the recent months in Amble have been getting deeper and therefore more dangerous for vehicles. We constantly hear that the government has given county councils money to repair the potholes.

I wonder how much NCC has spent on making Amble roads safer? Hopefully Amble residents can expect NCC to give urgent attention to this problem before the end of lockdown and also our annual influx of holiday makers.
Cllr Kate Morrison

PRECEPT

All parish and town councils have to inform NCC of the precept - the amount the parish will require for the next financial year, by the end of January so it can be factored into the council tax figures for the next year. The individual household figure is always dependent on the number of properties eligible to pay. However while costs continue to rise and the town wants more, councillors were all aware of how difficult this year has been and how people's finances will still be affected next year and have therefore kept the figure as low as possible.

GRITTING

During the last icy weather there was a query about gritting of footpaths and grit bins. The central area footpaths, Queen Street/Leazes Street, are attended to first and then as time and manpower permit, NCC go on to areas such as school entrances and bus stops. Individual estate paths are rarely reached unless there is a prolonged spell of winter weather. NCC place grit bins in places they feel vital for safety but do operate a scheme whereby individuals can 'lease' a bin with grit should they feel their area needs one. Unfortunately your local council cannot subsidise these.

EAST CEMETERY WALL REPAIR

Unfortunately this is taking a little longer than we expected as it is the subject of an insurance claim due to the damage being caused by a vehicle. However by the time you read this, NCC should have a new lamppost in place and the repair, will be carried out as soon as possible.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT Tel: 01665 714 695 www.amble.gov.uk

Email ask@amble.gov.uk Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil

Office hours: 10.30am-12noon & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday Vicki Smith, Town Clerk Minutes available to view in Office or online



Welcome back to Trust Life. The snowdrops are out, the sun is shining and we can see a glimmer of light at the end of the covid tunnel – brighter days are on their way!

So with the brighter days, will Amble have an influx of visitors, legitimate ones?!

I ask because we know Amble has still been busy with people coming during lockdown, despite warnings not to travel.

It really will be a pleasure to see businesses reopening and hopefully thriving and making the most of the season.

We also hope that the sculpture trail will be complete and be an additional attraction to the town's offering. The only reason this may not happen is down to issues with planning, which I won't go into, but can honestly say is extremely frustrating. We have sculptures ready to be installed but have to wait for 'due process'

despite having followed this for approximately six months.

As this was to be complete by the end of March with a possible Royal opening in April, it is possibly the only positive thing to come out of Covid that the Royal family aren't currently carrying out these duties!



But on a more positive note we have been successful in securing funding from the Arts Council for community workshops and celebration event for the trail. More information will be available soon and workshops will be taking place

throughout the NE65 postcode area.

Frances Anderson of Drywater Arts will be working on the celebration event so you will hear more about that soon as well.

The Seafood Centre is now offering a home delivery service for those of you who cannot manage to get to the centre or you are self isolating. If you know someone who may like some fresh fish delivered to their door, just call 01665 713580 to make enquiries.

The Seafood Centre is also assisting the Food Bank by offering vouchers that will be included in food parcels.

At the welfare we are waiting for new backboards to be installed on the basketball nets. This has taken a while, once again due to Covid and weather, but hopefully they will be up there soon.

And on another positive

note, the Trust would like to thank the lady who has made a personal donation to the Trust. During a telephone conversation, the lady said she had a holiday home in the town and seeing all the projects and activities happening wanted to put something back into the community. It has been left to the Trust to decide what the contribution is to go towards, so trustees have decided it will go towards the work to be carried out on the town square gardens, so the community and visitors will be able to enjoy the benefit.

It is really nice to know the work done is being appreciated – thank you.

Hoping you all stay safe and well in the coming weeks.

Julia and all trust staff and trustees

julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Elections coming on 6 May

We haven't had an election in, oh ages, so make a date for 6 May, when you can exercise your vote to elect councillors for Amble Town council, plus Northumberland County Council, and our Police and Crime Commissioner. All in one day!

If you are not already registered to vote, you should do so by 19 April. Because of Covid restrictions, you may prefer to vote by post. If you haven't already had a postal vote application form, you have until 20 April to apply for one.

We always encourage everyone to vote - think of it as a civic duty. Or at the very least, if you don't vote, you can't really complain at the result! A full list of all candidates will be published by the County Council by 9 April.

Amble will be voting for nine town councillors in the three town wards; East, West and Central. You will be asked to choose for whichever ward you live in.

We will also be asked to choose two county councillors, one for each of the county wards: Amble, and Amble West with Warkworth

You can access more information on Northumberland County Council's website: www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections.aspx

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



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

Advice Column:

Coronavirus Scams

"I'm really worried about my elderly relatives being targeted by coronavirus scams. Are there any warning signs that I can tell them to look out for? What should they do if they think that something is a scam?"

Unfortunately, we've seen an increase in scams since the beginning of the pandemic, so it's good to be thinking about the steps you can take to help protect friends and family.

Common scams we're seeing are about bogus testing kits, coronavirus vaccinations and government refunds or fines. You should watch out for messages about coronavirus from unusual email addresses or phone numbers, and shouldn't click on any links.

Be aware that you won't be asked to pay for coronavirus vaccinations - they are provided for free by the NHS.

Here are some general warning signs to look out for:

- * **You suspect you're not dealing with a real company - for example, if there's no postal address**

- * **You've been asked to transfer money quickly or to pay in an unusual way - for example, by iTunes vouchers or through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union**

- * **You've been asked to give away personal information like passwords or PINs**

- * **You haven't had written confirmation of what's been agreed**

If you think something is a scam you should hang up the phone, close the website, or shut the front door.

Never feel pressured to make a decision straight away, and don't give out personal details or money unless you're certain that you can trust the person.

If you feel threatened or unsafe you can ring 999.

For help with online scams, contact a Citizens Advice Scams Action adviser by calling 0808 250 5050.

For more information about other types of scams, visit the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Coast path funding gets the green light

A grant of £100,000 has been formally accepted from Natural England to start work on the latest phase of the England Coast Path between Amble and Bamburgh.

The approval from the County Council's cabinet marks the latest phase of an ambitious government plan to create a continuous walking route around the entire coastline of England and Wales.

Known as the England Coast Path, work on the Northumberland coast section started five years ago and the stretch between Amble and Bamburgh was given national approval in July 2020.

While Natural England have done the research and consultation work, the county council will create the path and be responsible for ongoing maintenance, largely funded by the Natural England grant.



The North East section of the England Coast Path already stretches from Souter Point to Amble

Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Local Services, Councillor Glen Sanderson said: "We're so proud to have the most beautiful coastline in the country and this will be another magnificent addition to the Coast Path in Northumberland with the sections from Old Hartley up to Amble having already been established.

"This latest stretch will take walkers past some of the county's most iconic landmarks and is sure to be a great attraction both for local residents and visitors to Northumberland."

The next and final phase of the scheme in Northumberland will run from Bamburgh right through to the Scottish border, and is still to be fully agreed.

Puffin Festival cancelled again

Sadly this year's Puffin Festival has been cancelled. Organisers felt that although some restrictions were scheduled to be lifted in mid May, it was still possible that the government could put a last minute hold on public gatherings.

A spokesperson for Amble

Events Committee said "In the end, we had to err on the side of caution. We want everyone who comes to the festival to enjoy themselves and feel safe.

"And although the date for further opening up in May is quite close to our festival, as the government says, 'dates are

subject to change'.

So sadly we made the decision to postpone the Puffin Festival until May 2022 when hopefully we can all meet again without restrictions"



Warkworth primary school scoops mental health award

Warkworth C of E primary school has become one of just five schools out of 800 across the UK to be awarded a Gold standard for its outstanding mental health and wellbeing provision.

The school has made mental health and wellbeing awareness central to its PSHE and RSE curriculum and all staff have mental health training as well as access to dedicated Mental Health First Aiders - an offer which extends to pupils and parents.

However, it was their work to support the local community during lockdown that commended the school to the independent assessor from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence to receive the Gold standard award.

"The implementation of the third national lockdown has affected everybody's mental health and wellbeing in a big

way," said Laura Ritson, Head Teacher.

"While our school remained open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers, the majority of our pupils have been taking part in live daily lessons



Warkworth pupils with their hand made paper hearts

from home. To help maintain a sense of 'togetherness' while we had to stay apart, we organised a community heart campaign where our children designed and

delivered a series of paper hearts to residents for them to display in their windows. As part of Children's Mental Health Week in February, we completed a 'walk to wellbeing' around the village to see how many of our hearts we could find.

"We really do #strive together as one in all that we do".

"I am extremely proud of everything our staff, pupils and parents have achieved and to see their hard work rewarded through the School Mental Health Award scheme. We're now working with all schools within the Trust to celebrate the work that is happening across Northumberland Church of England Academy and develop an inclusive wellbeing strategy to support everyone."

For more information about Warkworth Primary School, visit www.warkworth.ncea.org.uk.

Photos do well in competition

Amble Photographic Group did well in NCPF Club Championships.

The Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF) Club Championships were held on 7 February via Zoom. Twenty-two clubs took part and Keswick Photographic Society came first with 236 points, followed by Gosforth Camera Club with 225 points and South Shields Photographic Society with 217 points.

Amble Photographic Group achieved a creditable 7th position with 210 points. Many thanks to all members who entered. Amble's two top images both received 12 points out of a possible 15. These were "Mating Common Blues" (pictured) by Richard Poyer and "Faith" by David Jones.

Any photographers who are interested in joining, please contact Helen Holmes on helenholmes1947@gmail.com. At present our meetings are held on Friday mornings via Zoom.

Helen Holmes, Membership Secretary



Easter activities at Morrisons

One of Morrisons very generous customers, has donated a beautiful Charlie Teddy Bear for our 'Easter Name The Bear' Competition. Also over Easter, fundraising in the store will be for CLIC Sargent and there will be a Decorate an Egg competition, Craft Table, Colouring Sheets and an in-store Easter Egg Hunt (Easter Saturday).

Name the Bear and the Craft Table will be available from 20 March to Easter Sunday (4 April). We wish our Customers Happy Easter and thank you for your support.

Marion McKenzie-Long, Morrisons Community Champion

Easter greetings from the Churches

Our doors may be closed at present - or the computer screens blazing, perhaps - but the Churches of Amble and Hauxley continue to hold everyone in the communities of Amble and Hauxley in their prayers.

The Easter story is one of Jesus rising to life, which we remember on Easter Sunday after his death on Good Friday. As we mourn for the people and the many things we were looking forward to that didn't happen, we pray for life in all its fullness that will spring forth after the devastation of this worldwide Pandemic. Every blessing to you all.

Father Malcom Cairns (Sacred Heart, Amble), Rev Lynda Coulthard, (Trinity Methodist, Amble & Hauxley Chapel), Rev John McDermott, (St Cuthbert's, Amble) & Rev Alison Mills (St Mark's URC, Amble) & church congregations.

Shorebase Trust looks to reopen

Coquet Shorebase Trust should be back in business by 1 April if all goes to plan. We'll be running our tours up the river for groups of up to five people (or one household) whenever the tides are suitable, as well as offering hiring on the lake at the Country Park.

Just get in touch (email info@coquetshorebase.org.uk) to find out more. Let's hope the weather will be good! Coquet Canoe Club is looking forward to starting its Sunday morning sessions after Easter as well.



Please join us online as we celebrate this season:

Good Friday 2nd April 11am.

Easter Day Sunday 4th April 10:30am.

harbourlightschurch.com/Easter2021

Where you will also find pages featuring:

Easter for Children—videos & songs.

Music for Easter—traditional & contemporary



Would you like prayer? Call our Prayerline:

07368 459411



Sadness at damage to Hauxley hides



Three hides have been vandalised at the Hauxley nature reserve

Staff were shocked and saddened to discover three of the hides at Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre had been vandalised at the end of February. Vandalism had broken into the hides and smashed seats, walls and windows, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Describing the damage to the Tern hide, Duncan Hutt said, "They've kicked in the walls and inside we've got devastation with benches on the ground, shelving smashed up and the windows all broken. Every single window in the hide has

been broken, and yet more parts of the wall have been kicked in as well. So, a huge amount of damage, huge amount of repairs to be done before we're in a position to reopen the site again. We are hoping that maybe in April sometime, but obviously a lot of work to do before then. I suppose 'disappointing' is putting it mildly."

If you would like to donate to help repair the hides, please go to :<https://www.nwt.org.uk/support-us/donate> and choose the Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre option.

Warkworth forest school destroyed

The return to school was not all good news for Warkworth Primary School, as teachers discovered their Forest School site had been burned and destroyed.

On the school's Facebook page, Headteacher Laura Ritson said "Unfortunately, no one has owned up to this and it has been investigated by the police. It

police have suggested that those who are responsible could help to clean up the site; however, no one has come forward. As a school community we really are completely shocked by this behaviour but we will not let the actions of a minority stop our pupils from the fantastic opportunities and life experiences that Forest School provides."



is now unsafe for our children to visit as there is smashed glass throughout the site and everything that has been built up over the years by parents, children and staff has been burned down; this includes, fire pit, dens and seating areas. The

They have set up a justgiving site: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/warkworthprimary>

Or if you would like to offer physical, practical help, please email Laura.ritson@warkworth.ncea.org.uk

Schools for thought: JCSC in the future

With £20.3M now promised by the County Council to upgrade Amble's James Calvert Spence College, and hot on the heels of months of home schooling, should we be looking seriously at how we educate our young people? Sixth form student Lily Tibbitts considers what schools could look like in the future.

When lockdown forced school to go online, it changed the way that young people all around the UK were learning, going from classes of often around thirty other students, to a Google Meet call and lots of work from home.

This wasn't ideal for many students who weren't used to this sudden change, but it's hard to deny that the move to online learning doesn't have potential. Looking at the money promised to JCSC to improve the building and facilities, this pandemic might show that it could be better spent elsewhere.

Some people have found in lockdown that they work better at home (an environment with fewer distractions) meaning that they can do the work set without talking to people or without the teacher having to deal with other students, and this could easily continue after the pandemic for secondary school pupils.

To get the support that's still necessary, small groups could come in for an hour or so each day to talk to a tutor and get advice on any work they are struggling with, as well as doing any subjects



Should school buildings cater for smaller groups in future? See also p6

which require being in school, such as aspects of art subjects, PE, etc. With fewer classrooms needed for hundreds of students, the money used to keep a large building functioning could go towards supporting students and making sure they have suitable technology to attend lessons.

The main problem with students in lockdown, is that it means a lack of social interaction. This has had a detrimental impact on the mental health of a lot of

young people, so efforts would have to be made to make sure that didn't continue, combining both online learning and group work to make sure people were still talking regularly online and in real life.

It's easy to imagine a world where young people can choose to work at home but also have increased access to libraries and youth centres where they can meet up to work on group projects or in study groups if working alone from home isn't for them.

Support in lessons should still be readily available with teachers able to help any students who need assistance in person, but with a bigger focus on independence so that young people can more easily develop independent study skills, which could become a bigger part of learning - more of a focus on independent or group research projects on topics that interest the student rather than assessments and exams.

This could help to develop necessary skills for in the future as schools move away from memory tests and more towards research, teamwork and long term projects.

These changes wouldn't be easy to implement and would make school very different from what everyone is used to, but they're not impossible.

The most important thing would be to listen to the opinions of all students and school staff and see what they thought about learning in lockdown, not just the thoughts of those in charge of making decisions about the education system. (See also p6)

Lily Tibbitts