



# The Ambler

## Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 120 Dec 2019/Jan 2020



### *Santa flies in to join the fun*

Santa took time out of his Christmas preparations to meet scores of children at the Christmas Lights and Torchlight Procession.

He is pictured here with siblings Christopher (7), Rosabella (4) and Jack Young (5).

Right: the Flights of Fancy theme for this year's parade was enhanced with a beautiful projection of birds on the old Barclay's bank.

*More on our back page >>*



## Narrow escape for Amble surfer

An Amble surfer has thanked the friends who saved his life after an accident at the harbour mouth on 5 November. Liam Shipperlee was surfing with his friends in the Little Shore, but ended up being swept into the Triangle, a notorious area between the pier and the breakwater, well known for its dangerous currents and hidden rocks.

He described his terrifying ordeal to The Ambler, "We were surfing in the Little Shore but I pushed outside to the harbour mouth. I was surfing the waves coming in as they were about 5ft. One of the waves wiped me out and my board snapped in half. Because of the strong current pushing for low tide, I got swept out. That current pushes back around into the

Triangle and forces you against the rocks."

An onlooker reported the incident to the coastguard, who notified Amble RNLI. Inshore lifeboat Mildred Holcroft was launched and the crew appeared on the scene within minutes of being called. In the meantime, two of Liam's friends ran to help.

Jon Nolan said "Darryn [Wade] and I were told Liam was in danger and we ran along the pier to see what we could do. That's when we grabbed the life ring and we climbed over the iron gate on the bridge. When I got to the end, I threw it, but the waves kept swamping him. We managed to direct him to the ring then pulled him in while big waves were smashing against the wall."

*>> continued on page10*



Darryn Wade and Jon Nolan throw a life belt to surfer Liam Shipperlee.

*Photo by Maureen Grainger*

## Food bank plea for Christmas

Organisers of Amble food bank have thanked the people of Amble and surrounding areas for their donations over the last two months and the collections from Harvest Festivals.

But they are also asking people to continue their generosity throughout the Christmas period, and take part in a 'reverse advent calendar' where a tin or food product is added to a box each day until Christmas Eve.

### *Food bank drop-off points:*

Both Amble Co-ops  
The Galley on Queen St

Bill Cruickshank, co-ordinator of the Amble food bank said "We ask that this trend continues up to and through Christmas and into the New Year. Please carry on adding an extra tin or packet, (or as in previous years use the reverse advent calendar) to their weekly shop, and drop it off at either Co-ops in Amble or at The Galley on Queen Street."

He added "I would personally like to thank my fellow volunteers

at the Amble Food Bank for their continuous hard work."

Bill also announced that they are planning another music event at the end of January 2020. He thanked all the performers at the music event organised on 12 October at the Masons Arms: Brian English; Johnny May; Kris Burnett; Beverley Palin; Bartle Ripon and Bob Angus.

"We also thank all those who donated raffle prizes: Allsorts Stationary and Fancy Goods, InSynch Therapies, Rossini's

Restaurant, Raggy Dolls Fashion, The Dock Public House, Tesco, Coquet Tea Rooms, Sweets and Treats, The Amble Butcher, The Farm Bakery, Destiny Hair, Beau Beauty, Kayleigh's Kitchen, 06 Marmaris Turkish Barber, Marti's Hair Salon, Dolly and Daisy's Gift Shop/Tea Room, Independent Fruit Shop, Bertram's, Cock and Bull, Caboose Chocolates and of course The Mason's Arms."

Amble food bank can be contacted via [amblefoodbank@aol.com](mailto:amblefoodbank@aol.com)



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## Coffee selected especially for Amble

**19**11 Coffee Co is a new family-run business, which opened on Queen Street in October. Owned and run by several members of the Yeoman family; Joe, James, Angela, Karl and Samantha are delighted with the support received already from the locals.

There's a great selection of breakfast, brunch and lunch to eat in or take away, all made by Karl, and their coffee blend has been chosen especially for Amble. Joe Macaulay-Yeoman told the Ambler, "Our 'Harbour Blend' coffee is specially selected for Amble combining beans from Brazil, El Salvador and India to create the perfect smooth blend for coffee lovers and even those who didn't realise they liked coffee."

"The cakes are all freshly baked by Angela and are an absolute treat. There is always at least one gluten free option, but don't let that put you off they're still moist and delicious."

The family feel it's important to support other local businesses; meat is supplied by Roland's Butchers, the milk and cream come from Hauxley Farm and the bread from Trotters Bakery.

"We also believe that we should be aware of the impact we have on the environment, so we use zero plastic; all the takeaway containers are recyclable cardboard, coffee cups, straws and cutlery are all biodegradable and made from vegetables," said Joe.

## New offices and retail plans for Harbour Commissioners



Plans have been submitted by Warkworth Harbour Commissioners for a new Harbour office, RSPB facilities and lettable retail units on land north east of the Fish Shack. You can see the full plans on Northumberland County Council's planning website. Reference 19/01966/FUL

## 200 jobs promised as Morrisons is starting to take shape

Up to 200 jobs are on the way as the new Morrisons store is set to open in Amble.

In a joint development between Advance Northumberland and Morrisons, the scheme will comprise an exciting new retail park, anchored by a 25,000 sq. ft. Morrisons food store, complemented by a number of other national retailers, a petrol

filling station and a drive thru facility.

Advance Northumberland believes this will attract further investment into Amble and take forward the delivery of a comprehensive new Retail Park development on behalf of NCC.

The store will be a ground-breaking "Neighbourhood Food Store" a first for the North East, providing amenities and services

for local residents including the many visitors that flock to Amble every year.

James Smith, Morrisons Senior Development Manager added: "The new Morrisons in Amble will offer customers fresh food made by our talented food makers as well as creating lots of new local jobs. We look forward to the site taking shape over the next few months."

The development, which will be rebranded Amble Retail Park, includes a petrol station and kiosk, four other retail units of varying sizes, a drive-thru coffee shop and 352 parking spaces.

It will create up to 200 new full and part-time jobs, plus around 90 during the construction phase. The site has been vacant since the former food factory closure in 2011.

## Crowds fill the town square to remember the fallen



Air cadet Callum Wallace with Chelsea Pensioner David Lines

Large crowds gathered once again for Amble's Remembrance Day service and wreath-laying ceremony. The service included

a two minute silence, marked by the playing of a bugle, poppy wreath laying from community organisations, veterans, public



services and members of the public, and a short service from Coquet Churches Together. *More on our website*

Photos by Andrew Mounsey, Judith Hardisty and Diane Knowles.



Veterans from 15/19 The King's Royal Hussars





**Coquet reflects**

The first image of the “weeping window” on the Tower of London had such a huge impact on me, the image lingers in my mind, not only in November but on days throughout the year. Last year, there was a realisation that those who fought in the War would all soon be no more and at that point, for me, I decided that to remember, for just two minutes in a year was not enough, I needed to reflect more.

With the “weeping window” in mind I thought that the best way for me to do this was to have a personal challenge, an undertaking that stretched me, and the idea of crocheting poppies every day throughout the year to make a poppy cascade seemed fitting.

To me, Coquet Island Lighthouse seemed a fitting backdrop; it is steeped in history and also the island is a very special place for me. I have enjoyed links to the Island through the RSPB for over 25 years.

I started my project in November last year and have been able to crochet over 1000 poppies. Each poppy is my reflection of my gratitude to and the pride in those I have never met and for those I will never meet... For those....I will remember.

*Hilary Brooker-Carey*

## Big Wild Debate a great success for wildlife charity

Northumberland Wildlife Trust’s Big Wild Debate has been hailed a resounding success by the wildlife charity. Spurred on by the need to act against climate change, the debate, held at Northumbria University was chaired by BBC Look North’s Adrian Pitches.

Panelists for the BBC Question Time style event were Alan Charlton from Extinction Rebellion Durham, North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll, Dr Mike Jeffries, Associate Professor in Ecology at Northumbria University, Mike Pratt, Chief Executive of Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Vicki Mordue, Managing Director of Biodiverse Consulting.

The panelists were united on several issues especially climate change which led North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll to comment that climate change will wreck the economy and that there needs to be a change to the law so companies can operate sustainably. This view was endorsed by Alan Charlton who said: “We need an economy which is ethical, ecological, regenerative and reconnected with nature.”

The panelists shared their concerns

for wildlife when Brexit finally happens. Northumberland Wildlife Trust’s Mike Pratt said: “Whatever happens, NWT will continue to fight for environmental protection.” Dr Mike Jeffries said: “There is no reason for a change following Brexit, but serious economic shock will result in cuts to environmental funding.”

There was unity on the subject of climate change with Mike Pratt announcing: “We played a big part in the industrial revolution; the north east has a duty to start a green industrial revolution.”

Jamie Driscoll followed by saying: “Coal mining in a climate emergency is wholly unjustifiable. We need serious government policy for a fair transition to clean energy and transport.”

Transport was a recurring theme throughout the evening with Vicki Mordue, declaring: “Businesses face difficult decisions on sustainability vs the price of transport - we need better investment in public transport.”

All panelists agreed to support one another as they work together to tackle global warming.



Youngsters from Amble Links school, Amble First school and Brambles nursery (pictured) paid their respects to the fallen, in a short Armistice Day ceremony at Amble memorial clock tower led by Rev Velda Nicholson. Beverley Palin played the Northumbrian Pipes. The youngsters laid their own hand-made wreaths and met veterans from the Royal Navy, 15/19 The Kings Royal Hussars, and Chelsea Pensioner David Lines. *Photo by Bart Rippon*

## Harry McQuillen's

# Age of insecurity



The piecrust promises of politicians are with us again. Gilbert and Sullivan would have enjoyed our modern age. The social media aspect would have been the source of a great deal of humour – some of it pretty incisive!

Data protection laws are a minefield, and what about the government report on Russian interference in our electoral process? I’d be wary of releasing that lot just before an election.

We all make gaffes from time to time and politicians often fall into the same traps that we do. One of our main parties wants to focus our attention on their spending

plans connected with the NHS, schools, infrastructure and lower tax. The other side advocates the nationalisation of several aspects of our infrastructure and considerable increase in the minimum wage.

Some of us wonder where all the money is coming from with Brexit looming. It’s just possible that one of our major parties will produce a referendum – induced Remain.

We don’t know who will win the election, or even whether we will have a hung parliament (no jokes please!), but whatever the result I look forward to an era of Balance and Good Sense.

My heart warms when I see our dauntless team of volunteers working on our Christmas lights on Queen Street. That helps to balance the feelings I have when I think about illegal immigration, people trafficking and recent events. Man’s inhumanity to Man seems to have no limits.

Going around the town and the local area I find a great deal of warmth and good humour among the people I meet. Gone are the days when people used to talk about “right Amble”. The reference was not complimentary.

I can see why people come here, many of them bringing

their canine companions. Fortunately, most of the dog owners clear up after their pets.

The increase in holiday lets and the activities of building construction firms have led to retail park developments. It remains to be seen how new shops will affect the local economy, especially the outlets on Queen Street. We have such a lot of cafes, restaurants and takeaways and the number is increasing. I wish them all continued prosperity.

Humble apologies for repetition and other facets of Old Age.

*Harry*



## General Election 12 December 2019

# Who will get your vote?



Tom Hancock  
*Lib Dems*

We have an ageing population and services moving further and further away. Centralisation might work for the big cities but it doesn't deliver for local people.

We have a different kind of housing crisis to London that prevents young people from getting on the housing ladder and leaves elderly people stranded in large houses unable to downsize. But once again the solution is one size fits all where the size is London and it doesn't fit Northumberland. Building masses of executive houses does nothing to help local people who are priced out.

We've had repeated broken

promises from the Conservatives on the A1 and are told it is not economically viable to dual the A1 all the way. This from a government that spends 5x more per person on infrastructure in London than the North East.

This election should be about who will stand up for Northumberland. I believe the current MP has failed. Not only has she broken her promises to dual the A1 and continue Alan Beith's surgery tour, but we only ever see her on TV.

An MP who does the basics might be good enough for some parts of the country, but in Northumberland

we need a champion (like Alan Beith) who will bang the drum as loudly as possible for our region.

This is the MP that I want to be. I've spent the last year touring up and down Northumberland speaking to people about the issues that matter to them and I would publish plans to bring back the surgery tour on day one. I'm determined to put our marginalised communities at heart of everything I do.



Thomas Stewart  
*Green Party*

We seem to be in an age of crisis. Since the financial crash of 2008 we have lived through continual austerity imposed by the Tories and their LibDems partners, and yet the condition of the country has declined further - more food banks, longer A&E waiting times, police stations closing, hospitals saved only through grass-roots campaigns, more zero-hours contracts, growing child poverty, less job security, record levels of household debt, more cuts.

All those, and more. And still, we are the sixth-richest country on the earth. How can our society be run so badly as to allow these things to

happen?

These were the same issues at the 2015 election, and at the 2017 election: but those elections have not helped. So maybe it's time for a new approach.

The one crucial issue that has hit the headlines since the 2017 election is the climate emergency. It had always been there in the background, and the Greens had always been banging on about it in their own small way: but it's not small any more. It's huge, and it's urgent. It is the one issue that must unite everyone - old and young, rich and poor, elite and ordinary.

So, at the coming election, I invite

you to vote for the local candidate who will put the climate emergency at the centre of every decision; for the party who propose a "Green New Deal" for Northumberland, investing in new technologies and secure employment, investing in public transport, cycling and walking; providing opportunities for our young people to thrive, ensuring appropriate local care and support for the elderly; renewing our democracy to reflect the modern world.

The Green Party provides opportunities where other parties have failed. In an age of crisis, the Green Party is the party for the future.



Anne-Marie Trevelyan  
*Conservative*

In my four years as your MP in North Northumberland, I have had the privilege to directly assist over 17,000 constituents with issues of concern to them and their families, from Amble to Berwick! I have campaigned on national issues from strengthening our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, to working to drive reductions in single use plastic, to reduce waste and supporting environmental policies which will leave our community in better shape for our kids.

I have campaigned successfully for more funding for rural schools, and better support and cash for our local healthcare services, which have unique challenges across our sparsely populated communities, and more trees to be planted. I have never stopped holding the Department of

Transport's feet to the fire to drive the Dualling of the A1 after I successfully negotiated £293 million for the first phase of expansion. Great news that Highways England have now completed all the consultation and appointed a contractor. We now wait for the national inspector to approve their plans then the diggers can start!

So as election day gets closer, I ask for your support in order to ensure that we can Get Brexit Done, so that Parliament can pass Boris' Withdrawal Agreement and get cracking on our new relationship with our European neighbours.

I ask for your support for my campaigning:

- \* to get broadband & mobile connectivity delivered across the patch so that every household can be fully digital, every business can trade online,

and that all our tourists can remain connected when visiting our wonderful county;

- \* to develop co-ordinated care packages for the families of dementia sufferers;

- \* to get planting our new Northumbrian forest as part of our commitment to Net Zero by 2050;

- \* to keep fighting to get our fair share of national resources to invest in future technologies for local infrastructure, from electric charging points to roads maintenance;

- \* and to campaign for the last stretch of the A1 to be dualled, all the way to the Scottish Border.

However, you decide to vote, please do use your vote and ensure that your voice is heard.



Trish Williams  
*Labour*

Northumberland born and bred, I remember coming to Amble and being taught to sail in Mirror dinghies, when I attended Cramlington High School in the early 70's. As Secretary of the local Berwick-upon-Tweed Constituency Labour Party I have worked alongside our committed activists, having conversations with residents and listening to their stories. We have found that similar issues come up time and time again. In Amble there is unease at over-development, with new housing schemes being approved.

Labour is committed to train more doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers and support staff, and will properly fund our NHS, schools and local councils. This will ease the strain on public services, in towns that have grown rapidly like Amble.

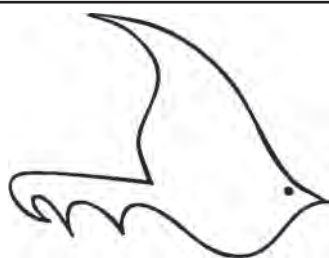
But Amble clearly needs sustainable, long term, strategic investment. Due to the hard work and support of local Labour councillors, there is a new Morrisons and The Amble Inn, both providing much needed well-paid, secure jobs and facilities for residents and visitors. But Amble also needs support for independent traders and improvements in car parking and bus services, to make the town accessible and inviting, for shopping and tourism.

The people of Amble know far better than I do what is needed in their town, and if elected, I would start by asking them for their views. I would hold local surgeries and even a 'travelling' office.

Amble is such an interesting place, with a strong sense of community - it

really is the "Friendliest Port"! I love to walk round the market and the 'pods', have fish and chips and take my grandchildren (and myself!) for an ice cream at Spurrell! Like many other towns, Amble has been neglected by successive governments. No wonder residents believe that that they have been abandoned.

No MP could commit to fixing everything immediately, but, if elected, I DO commit to being a listening, conscientious and hard-working constituency MP. I am honoured to be asked to represent you and other residents of Berwick-upon-Tweed Constituency. A vote for me, and for Labour on December 12 is a vote for hope and Real Change.



## The Ambler

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## Peace and goodwill to all



This edition shows just how busy everyone is. Busy with life, elections (p5), Christmas preparations (What's On), helping others (p1, p9), doing our best, caring for our families, our community and our environment (p4, p10, p15, p16, p17). Changes are all around us too, with the new edge of town retail park offering more choice and 200 new jobs, which is fantastic news (p3), but we hope it's not to the detriment of our wonderful independent businesses in the town centre. It's sad to see Ann Burke and Richard Wardman from 42 Queen Street are retiring (p7) they have been a huge part of the town for decades and will be sorely missed. Welcome to new coffee bar 1911 Coffee Co (p3) who have just opened on Queen Street, and happy birthday to P.E.C. Furniture who are celebrating their 50th anniversary of business on Amble's Industrial Estate (p16).

As usual, the town turned out in force to support Remembrance Day (p3 and p4) and both Queen Street and the Town Square were jam-packed with families and community groups taking part in, and watching the biggest Torchlight Procession we've ever had (back page). Well done to everyone who took part and proved once again how communities are built on goodwill and standing together.

The editorial team wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.



## WHAT YOU SAY...

### Good deed for the day

Whilst shopping in an Amble store at the end of September, I confusedly realised at the checkout that I had not got enough money with me to pay for all the goods that I was buying. A lady came up to me in the shop and insisted on handing me enough money to settle the bill, saying "This is my good deed for the day!" This was an act of great generosity and kindness that I shall always appreciate.

I hope that she will read this letter in 'The Ambler' by way of a most sincere 'thank you' letter from an O.A.P. Amble really is the Friendliest and Most Generous Port.

(Name and address supplied)

### Please microchip your cat

Cats are much-loved pets, yet many of your readers may be surprised to learn that they do not have the same level of protection as dogs when it comes to microchipping. While microchipping is compulsory for dogs, there are no such laws for cats, and this means many lost or injured cats are not able to be reunited with their owners. Being independent and curious, cats are more likely than dogs to roam and get lost far from home.

Cats Protection has launched a petition calling on the government to bring in laws to ensure that all owned cats across the UK are microchipped. Microchipping is a safe and permanent method of identification, unlike collars which are prone to coming off.

By ensuring all owned cats are microchipped, owners will have the peace of mind of knowing their cat has the best chance of being returned home should they become lost. In the sad event a cat has been killed on the roads, the details on their microchip can also ensure their owner can be informed.

Cat lovers can show their support for compulsory microchipping of owned cats, and help more cats be reunited with their owners, by signing Cats Protection's petition at [www.cats.org.uk/microchippingpetition](http://www.cats.org.uk/microchippingpetition)

Jacqui Cuff

Head of Advocacy & Government Relations  
Cats Protection

### Arthur Young exhibition



Detail of 'Competing Amble Marina 1987'

In August a wonderful exhibition of prints by the Amble artist Arthur Young was held in the Cock & Bull micropub. The exhibition featured watercolours of Amble, and views along the Northumberland coast, by my late father who lived in Amble from 1972 until his death in 1994.

I would like to thank the many people, that made the effort to visit the exhibition, the preview in particular was very well attended. I would also like to thank those who have contacted me to share fond memories of my father, and those who have invited me to their home to show me their original paintings, and still so proudly display them.

Following the success of this exhibition of Arthur's work, my family have made an initial donation of £150 to the RNLI from the sale of his prints, and we hope to make further donations to the RNLI in the future. Arthur was a keen yachtsman and always supported this valued institution at every opportunity.

Jake Castleman, the owner of the Cock & Bull, provided a fantastic exhibition space to showcase my father's work and was supportive throughout. The prints are now on display, and available for sale in The Old Boat House restaurant at the harbour, and in N&F Young's on Queen Street - this was always the main outlet for his paintings during his lifetime. Alternatively, for enquiries regarding Arthur Young's prints you can email [info@katherine-renton.co.uk](mailto:info@katherine-renton.co.uk)

Katherine Renton, Amble

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

>>> More letters on p18



## Sadness at end of an era for Queen Street business

It is the end of an era at 42 Queen Street. The business will close on 31 December. It is with a degree of sadness on our part, but retirement calls.

Richard bought Jean Furness Florist in 1989, a business I had worked in for eight years. Hard times followed for a few years.

We became The Flower Centre in 1999, and due to contract work with the floristry side of the business, we looked for larger premises. In 2003 we purchased the property then Nina Louise, and a unit on the Industrial Estate. Life was very busy and we found ourselves regularly working seven days a week 52 weeks a year for almost five years. It was somewhat of a semi retirement when we sold off the floristry side of the business and we concentrated on cards and gifts.

We have seen lots of changes on Queen Street over the last 30 years. Closure of large shops and multi nationals, banks and the introduction of traffic wardens,



Richard Wardman and Ann Burke are retiring

non of these being very positive for the community life in Amble.

We have seen a reduction in local residents shopping on the street and an increase in tourist trade, consequently stock had to change with this move in customer.

We have, over the years, tried to support as many organisations

as possible. It was a great

disappointment to me to be the instigator of the Puffin Festival, only to end up in hospital just before the opening of the first one, I did have a Puffin sat on the end of my bed though.

I have been Chair of Amble Business Club for several years and my biggest campaign has been a car park for the a Town Centre, which I think is key to the prosperity of the Town.

Unfortunately after hundreds of hours of meetings and a 3000 name petition I have not been

able to achieve that. I have found it very difficult dealing with local authorities who appear to have a resentment to local business, which to my mind is detrimental to the local community.

I have been on the group of the Market Towns Initiative, the Harbour Village project, and the proudest moment, Amble being awarded the best Coastal Community High Street in 2015. I have enjoyed working with Amble Development Trust, who, like it or loathe it, the projects are keeping the town alive.

We would like to thank everyone, the community, customers and colleagues, far and wide who have supported The Flower Centre and 42 Queen Street over the last 30 years.

We wish the business community of Amble much prosperity in the future and hope the Town goes from strength to strength with everyone working together for both community and tourism.

*Ann Burke and Richard Wardman, the happy pensioners!!!!*

## Bid for additional water fluoridation to help improve oral health

Northumberland County Council is putting a proposal to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to consider a scheme to extend the fluoridation of the water supply in Northumberland, to cover the areas currently missing out.

Community water fluoridation ensures that, where the natural fluoride concentration is too low to provide dental health benefits, it is raised to and maintained at the optimum level.

The current scheme covers areas in the former Alnwick district as well as parts in west Northumberland.

The report to councillors notes that some of Northumberland's least deprived communities are receiving fluoridated water, while some of the most deprived are not.

The proposed extension would cover an area in the south-east of the county, from Blyth out to Bedlington and Morpeth and up the coast to Amble.

The proposal would more

than double the number of Northumberland's households which have fluoridated water, leaving just 4.2% – or around 14,500 residents – without.

Northumberland has the highest rate in the North East of children under four being admitted to hospital for tooth decay, as well as the highest rate of general anaesthetics for this issue.

The statistics for the county do reveal positives too; the 2017 Oral Health Survey shows that 77.4 per cent of five-year-olds in the county were free from obvious dental decay – higher than the England and regional averages and an increase from 61.2 per cent 10 years before.

Oral health is important because it is a marker for wider health and wellbeing issues, given the risk factors such as an unhealthy diet, obesity and excessive alcohol consumption are shared with conditions like diabetes and heart disease.

*By Ben O'Connell,  
Local Democracy Reporter*



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## Remembering the full life of Johnny Johnston

**B**elow: Pictures from the funeral of WW2 veteran, Johnny Johnston with the coffin being flanked by military flag bearers.

Johnny took part in the D-Day landings as a Pathfinder parachutist, one of the first groups to land. Johnny was awarded the Legion D'Honneur in 2016. He was killed in a car accident in September.



**J**ames M Johnston (known to nearly everybody as Johnny) was born in 1922 in the Scottish borders. His father was a farm worker, working on a number of farms during the childhood of his five children.

Johnny always knew that he wanted a life away from the drudgery of farm work, so he became a boy soldier at the age of 14. During the next twenty odd years he was in turn, a piper, a pipe major, a paratrooper, a parachute instructor, a PTIC (physical training instructor), a member of a tank crew, and a tank driving instructor. Johnny's

service life took him to various UK postings, to the D-Day landings as a Pathfinder, on through France and Germany, to the Far East, the Middle East and on to Germany.

Coming out of the Army, as so many NCOs did, with the end of national service in the late 1950s, he joined the WDC (War Department Constabulary, now the MOD Police.) Work kept him busy, but so did his enthusiasm for football refereeing and running.

Johnny had always been fit, hence his selection as a para, so he took to running like a duck to

water. He ran all over the world in a range of events from 5,000 and 10,000 metres to marathons, with a good sprinkling of cross country races. The bronze medal he won in veterans' athletics events in Melbourne must be a highlight.

Johnny and his wife Vera loved travelling, but it seemed right that they came to live here in Amble, Vera's home town. They lived here for 30 years, having a full and widely travelled retirement.

Johnny's range of military and sporting medals and trophies now includes the

Legion D'Honneur, given to D-Day veterans by the French government in a recent and very moving presentation ceremony at RAF Eltrington in Yorkshire.

It's more than 72 years since Johnny landed as a Pathfinder, and then made his way through Europe with a "borrowed" American carbine, with its complement of ammunition. How's that for a full life?

*Harry McQuillen*

*A longer version of this article was published in The Ambler in 2016, after Johnny received the Legion D'honneur*

## Fond memories of John (Jack) Arthur William Straker

**A** few words in memory of Jack who sadly passed away on 19 October 2019.

Born 17 April 1940 at Ashington, he lived with his family at Broomhill, while his father served in the SAS in Europe during the second world war. After the war he moved to Alnwick (birthplace of his father) he left school at fifteen and worked at Shilbottle colliery, working on the coalface as a coal filler. When he was sixteen Jack met his wife Sarah at the Amble dance hall, got married and started the family.

In 1962 he left the colliery and joined Lancashire police constabulary as a police constable. In 1965 he transferred to Northumbria police stationed at Whitley Bay, Blyth, Shilbottle, and ended up at Amble. He finished his term with the police force in 1980.



Jack Straker, a well known Amble bobby

He went on to work on a gas pipe line in Algeria as a chief security officer, then to Saudi Arabia as a safety officer at King Faisal hospital, to look after members of the Saudi royal family when they were admitted to hospital.

He left there after two years and worked for Mobil Oil in Sumatra (Indonesia) on a major gas blow-out in an oil field as a security expeditor in the camp. They had the famous trouble shooter Red Adair and his team put out the fire with help from Halliburton. His last job was at Acklington prison.

Jack spent a very happy retirement with his wife Sarah, two sons and four daughters. He was a very proud brother, father, grandfather, great grandfather and will be sadly missed by all of his family. R.I.P DAD

*Michael Straker*

## Brambles' fireworks



**W**e had such a great turn out for Brambles' firework party. Many thanks to The Amble Inn for sponsoring this event for us. Fantastic turn out and support from all the parents/carers and our fab staff team.  
*Pauline Donoghue  
Brambles' Nursery*



## Ashley raises money for good causes

Ashley Sims, more commonly known as 'the Body Shop man' undertook his biannual party fundraising event on 23 October in the newly refurbished upstairs area of the Bede Street Club.

Ashley decided the money raised this year should go to Amble Christmas Lights.

"I'd considered the Amble Lights in the past and decided they should benefit this time around!" he said.

The party fundraising events also donate to the Body Shop Foundations 'Children on the Edge' appeal which supports education and funding to very vulnerable youngsters both abroad and in the UK.

The Body Shop provides products for raffling if consultants make an annual pledge to support Children on the Edge and raise money for local causes and charities.

"It's a great situation for me



Ashley Sims (centre) with members of Amble Christmas Lights team

to be in" said Ashley. "At almost 11 years as a consultant, to know I have the customers who will come along and support me!"

Ashley added "I always need lots of bums on seats at every event, as this is the only way of raising funds at the actual event - this is why I'm always banging on at everyone to attend!"

Ashley thanked Trevor Colbourne of Amble Christmas Lights who gave a short talk about their history and cause.

The raffle raised £192, of which £100 was donated to the Lights, and the rest going to Children on the Edge.

Ashley would like to thank all the lovely folk who attended the event, his gorgeous assistants Mrs Lynne Morelli and Miss Little Laura, and The Bede Club for their facilities.

Anyone interested in holding a fundraising event with Ashley as host should contact [ashleysims@live.co.uk](mailto:ashleysims@live.co.uk)

## Amble fisherman slams 'ill thought out' lobster project

The public body responsible for fisheries conservation on the Northumberland coast, Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, has turned down a funding offer from an energy giant, after months of discussions.

At previous meetings, a number of members aired their worries about being a publicly-funded body and taking money from a private company, not least due to the potential for conflicts of interest.

Utility company EDF had offered the authority £30,000 to carry out a v-notching programme, using around 3,000 male lobsters bought from wholesalers.

V-notching is a way of marking lobsters which cannot be landed by fishermen, with the aim of ensuring the breeding population is protected.

It is more commonly done to female lobsters and NIFCA had its own v-notching programme until recently when the English ban on landing berried hens (egg-bearing females) meant it was no longer required in the district, which runs from the Tyne to the Scottish Border and six nautical miles out to sea.

At the meeting, an EDF

company representative attended to answer questions, but a majority of members remained dissatisfied. Among other responses, he explained that the money for the v-notching project had been set aside before EDF even took on the Blyth offshore demonstrator windfarm project – the origins of the proposed contribution.



V-notching a lobster  
Photo courtesy of NIFCA

Another suggestion was that engaging with the fishing community should be the next step and consultation has taken place, but a representative of the industry was clear in his

opposition.

Amble lobster fisherman Michael Bould said: "This money was originally for v-notching females, then an ill-thought-out berried hens ban came in, so to now use it for males to try to balance out an artificially-produced imbalance is abhorrent to me.

"I'm worried about the precedent. It's a vibrant industry which has just had a 20% hit in its income (through no longer being able to land berried hens).

"There's no scientific rationale, the money was originally for what is a widely-acknowledged success story and while the numbers are small, I worry that a precedent is set.

"I don't want to get into the situation where I'm tempted to break the law to maintain my income."

NIFCA chairman Les Weller said: "For the record, this authority was against the berried hens ban, but that's what the national Government decided to do."

In 2018, the district's commercial lobster fishery had a first point of sale value exceeding £3.25million.

By Ben O'Connell,  
Local Democracy Reporter

## Canine Connections Barking Mad

Everyone's heard the phrase "man's best friend" and will instantly think of a pet dog. But not everyone has the luxury of a canine companion, perhaps due to other commitments, extended travel plans or the simple cost of owning and caring for a dog.

Many studies show that caring for a dog is beneficial to our health and wellbeing and improves the frequency of social interactions.

With that in mind, a local dog sitting service thinks they have come up with the answer. Barking Mad, 'dog holiday experts', are offering their service to people from across Northumberland who are looking to share their lives, on a temporary basis, to host a pet dog while its owners are away on holiday or business.

Barbara Frater and Caroline Bradshaw of Barking Mad Northumberland say: "We have a family of wonderful hosts and we regularly meet up socially at organized events."

Hosts have varied life styles but all experience the benefits of dog companionship without any of the emotional or financial responsibilities of full-time pet ownership.

Retired professionals, Joyce and Conrad have been hosting for Barking Mad for over two years. Their reason is that they are dog lovers, but spend long periods with family members who live on the other side of the world. Barking Mad enables Joyce and Conrad to enjoy all the great things about having a dog, with none of the worries.

Sarah, an artist who works from home and hosts for Barking Mad, said: "I've enjoyed the companionship, exercise and everything else that comes with dog sitting. Caring for a friendly dog not only provides canine cuddles but also the motivation to step away from your e-mails and take a walk at lunchtime. It's brought bundles of furry joy into my home, and I always want to give them the best holiday full of walks and playtime"

To find out more about becoming a Barking Mad host, you can call *Barbara or Caroline* on 01665 575981 or visit [barkingmad.uk.com](http://barkingmad.uk.com)



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## Surfer rescued by friends in notorious blackspot

>> continued from front page

The two surfers managed to drag their friend out of the water, which Liam says was not a moment too soon.

"If I was in for another minute I would have been a gonner as I had been fighting the rips for 15 minutes. I am a very experienced surfer and I was told by Jon and Darryn it's a good thing I am experienced in the water, because anyone else in that situation would have died. I can't thank them enough. I want to say thank you to him and to all my friends for supporting me."

Bystander Maureen Grainger told the Ambler, "He was in a very precarious situation, the

waves were crashing over him and he could easily have been swept under or into the rocks. I was originally taking photos of the waves without realising that he was there. The other surfers reacted very quickly and the lifeboat response time was fantastic. The RNLI arrived just as he was pulled to safety. Thank goodness there was a life ring and rope on the pier. So pleased it had a happy ending it could so easily have ended in tragedy."

Jon said "As a surf instructor myself, I'd warn others the Triangle isn't a surf area, there's no safe entry or exit point, he just got swept in. So I'd say to all those that jump in the harbour that the outgoing tide means

this could easily happen. It also shows just how important the life rings are."

The Triangle has been the site of two fatalities in living memory, one in the late 1970s and another in 2003, which resulted in the RNLI lifeboat capsizing during a rescue attempt.

A spokesperson from Amble RNLI crew said "The coastguards checked the casualty over to make sure he was ok and gave him some safety advice before heading back to station. Remember if you see someone in trouble in or near the sea call 999 and ask for the coastguard."

Anna Williams

## Happy birthday Eva: 100 years young



**C**ongratulations to Eva Harding who celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at Dolphin View on 26 October.

## Building resilience at Amble Youth Project

**M**ental health is being talked about more than ever, and as one in four of us is affected at some point, so the impact of mental health problems on individuals, families and communities is widespread.

What's more, statistics taken in 2017 show that one in eight 5-19 year olds assessed showed mental health problems. This includes depression, anxiety and conduct disorder.

The emotional wellbeing of children is just as important as their physical health. Good mental health allows children and young people to develop resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them and grow into well-rounded, healthy adults.

Building resilience, promoting safety, mental, emotional and physical health for children and

young people is what Amble Youth Project (AYP) is all about.

The charity's aims have always been to support young people through the various transitions of development so that they do become well-rounded healthy adults. More recently since our Sunflower Campaign we use the terms "supporting local children and young people to grow well and shine".

AYP is not just about "giving something for 8-18s to do" but all that we do is deep rooted in the importance of ensuring the younger members of our community are safe, healthy, happy and mentally well-supported to be able to progress and achieve in their lives.

This summer we had the joy to acknowledge the personal progression and achievements of

some of our children, but we are continually working to encourage more children and young people to come along to see what is on offer and ensure there is support available for them.

2020 will see some exciting changes in how we can improve so that we can be more effective in supporting children and young people's health, wellbeing, progression and achievements.

For more info about what we provide for local children and young people, please visit our revamped website. You can also check out our new initiatives and info on our fundraising event where local businesses went head to head in a Go Karting challenge.

Lara Millar  
www.ambleyouthproject.org  
Instagram - Ambleyouth123  
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## Traffic safety in Amble



Crossing everyday roads can be very dangerous. Here are some facts to help you cross your next road safely.

- Nearly 1.25 million people die in road crashes each year, on average 3,287 deaths a day. An additional 20-50 million are left injured or disabled.

- More than half of road accidents happen to young adults aged 15-44. Road traffic crashes rank as the 9th leading cause of death and account for 2.2% of all deaths globally.



Unless action is taken, road traffic injuries are predicted to become the fifth leading cause of death by 2030. These are some facts. Let's hope the next person sent to hospital from being hit by a car isn't you...

To stay safe in Amble use the crossings, check left and right and NEVER run across the road. The best places to cross in Amble are: Church street, Albert street (at the Mason's Arms) and at the bottom of South Avenue.

Is it safe to cross the road? Well crossing a road can be safe, but if you don't follow these instructions, it can be deadly.....

By William

## Left hand blues



Ever wondered what it is like to be left handed? Oh, and one thing- don't go saying left handed writers are the same as right handed writers.

Think again because there are actually lots of differences. In fact let me take you back in time. In the medieval times if women were to write with their left hand they could be classed as witches and burnt at the stake! In the 18th and the 19th century teachers and other people tried to stop children from writing with their left hand by tying

the child's left hand behind his or her chair. Sometimes they used corporal punishment (being whacked with a cane or with a ruler).

Also I am going to tell you about the good and bad things about it from my experience.

One of the bad things includes getting ink on your left hand just under your pinkie, because your hand smudges your writing.

The good thing is some people say left handed people are smarter.

By Hannah

## Ozzy the Rescue Dog- Christmas chaos



Snow fell on the roof, keeping Ozzy awake. The dog could hear Bethany snoring on. She had said it was Christmas tomorrow, Ozzy knew it was Christmas because of the snow and anticipation of gifts. You can't forget gifts.

Ozzy was about to finally drift off, but he sprang to his feet and hit his head on the stairs (and yes it hurt), because a loud THUD echoed through the chimney. The sound was loudest in the living room, so with a slipper in his mouth and his sore head, he went to check it out.

The sound repeated several times, and once Ozzy was in the living room, two big leather boots were in the firebox. Ozzy was confused, but the confusion turned into awe, as a plump, short man fell out, spreading soot across the

floor.

"What a waste of cleaning the floor yesterday," Ozzy thought. "Hello Ozzy! Ho ho ho!" said the fat man. "I'm Santa! Do you want to come with me and help me deliver my presents?" And that was a yes, but not just because of Bethany snoring.

Santa got on his feet and gently picked up Ozzy, and then crawled up the claustrophobic firebox, but magically, purple mist surrounded them, and they got teleported onto a sleigh, with reindeers instead of horses. Santa stated that their names were Dancer, Donner, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Prancer, Blitzen, and most importantly Rudolph. He had a very iconic red nose.

After an hour, Ozzy was soaring through the snowy sky in Santa's sleigh. He flew over chimney tops,

and stopped inside the sleigh while Santa put the gifts in the houses of sleeping children. This continued as Santa flew all over the world, while Ozzy admired the perfect view, even though most of the things he could see were blurry! Ozzy also loved how in every stop he got a DELICIOUS MINCE PIE!

This all finished surprisingly fast. They went back down the chimney and landed in the living room. Ozzy was sad to leave, but happy to get to sleep in his bed in the kitchen.

Next morning Ozzy woke up to Bethany and her family pounding down the stairs. "Why are you so dirty Ozzy?" Bethany asked curiously. Ozzy looked on his used-to-be-golden fur, and it was covered head-to-toe with soot. He smiled and ran into the living room, leaving black footprints in his wake.

By Grace

## Bo's magical Christmas



It was Christmas Eve and Bo (who is a dog that is cute) was getting ready with Megan (her owner) for a Christmas movie night, where they were watching

Frozen 2. Everyone was so cuddly and snuggly. However, Bo and Megan were so super bouncy. In the morning, she wakes up really excited for Christmas, especially for the Christmas dinner, and goes outside on a walk to the beach. Bo eventually realises that it had snowed as she feels something freezing on her paw. It had been snowing all night long and was still snowing. The fluffy white coldness was trapped in between the sand. A snowflake landed on Bo's nose and she licked it off. Bo said, 'Bark bark 'Megan said 'So cute !!!'



When they come in feeling like there frozen, they went straight for the food. However, it was gone!!!!

Bo (with her super hearing) heard a clatter noise outside she rushed to go see and everyone chased after her. Appearing out of the door they found 2 girls (that were called Lily and Ava) trapped under piles of food that they tried to steal. After a while of staring at each other they explained that they had no food and were homeless.

Bo and Megan invited them in for Christmas dinner and they had the best Christmas ever. Bo and Megan found them a home and they were never homeless again.

By Megan

## The snuggle is real



Winter is coming so along comes the warm jumpers, hot chocolates and chilly nights. But, if you are like me and you can't bear to sit still for weeks on end, here are a few ideas for what to do.

1. Shop for Christmas- everyone knows winter means Christmas is near, so save yourself from last minute buying by shopping early.
2. Go for a walk- even just trotting down to the market in cool winter air can improve your mood. Chuck on your thickest coat and brave the icy winds.
3. Jump in puddles- stomping around in your wellies finding the deepest puddles you can is

always fun- and after you can have a nice long bath.

4. Build a snowman- on the rare occasion that we are blessed with snow, snowmen are a must-do. Remember to decorate it with hats, scarves and gloves so it doesn't get cold.

5. Stargaze- on a cloudless night all the stars can be seen, and trust me, it is breath-taking. Drive out to an isolated spot and lay under the stars. So, there you have it, many things to do in the coming months. Enjoy your winter and remember to stay warm.

By Ava



## A Plethora of Pantomines

Puffin Theatre Club are putting on a panto, it's called Aladdin. You can see it in the Dovecote Centre on the 7th and 8th of December; William is going to be in it as the genie. Jack and the Beanstalk is being played at the Radcliffe Club on the 22nd of December. Come see it for a wonderful time! The Warkworth Theatre Group are performing Treasure Island made by Ben Crocker. It is being performed on the 12th, 13th and 14th of December in the War Memorial Hall in Warkworth; Megan is in it as Miss Snook, one of the WI women. Northumberland Theatre Company are performing Beauty and the Beast at the Dovecote Centre throughout December. It is going to be magical!

By William, Megan and Ava

## Cross country



On the 8th of November I went to a cross country qualifying race for the County in Berwick with JCSC and I had to run 1.75k. To qualify for the next stage you had to come sixteenth or below and I came sixteenth so I get to go to the next round which is county in South Shields on January 14th. I'm really looking forward to it.

By Ethan

## New Year, everyday



Every year, on the first of January, people decide what they want to do in the year to make themselves a better person. Even though I do the same, I disagree with this; I think people should want to be a better person all year round- not just until February. We need to strive for perfection every day.

However, I enjoy the tradition of realising our flaws and trying to make ourselves better. Personally, I try to make my goals reachable. I know I'm not going to eat healthy everyday or keep my room tidy, but I can exercise regularly and listen to a song I love every day. It's the little things that make us better.

By Ava



What did one snowman say to the other? "Do you smell carrots?"

What do elves learn in school? The Elf-abet

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas quacker!

Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elvis Presley

## It's Rewind Time: five more history facts about Amble



Once again the Artograffi gang walked around Amble, sucking up history knowledge like a Hoover from our friend Andy Sim. We have been enlightened and now you shall be too. Here are five facts about the history of Amble:

1. The post box on the outside of the Queen Street post office is unique. It is one of only two in the country that does not have the collection times on the box, they are instead presented in the window.
2. The houses at the top of the Wynd (opposite the dentist) used to be Amble House. This was a house where Captain Wellwood (a captain in the army) lived, and his father bought the Wellwood Arms- which is how the pub got its name. Sadly, the house was pulled down in the 1950s to build the smaller houses there now.
3. The corner at the top of the Wynd, known as Togston Square, was the original Amble. In the 1100s there were only four farmhouse cottages. Amble expanded from there.



Local historian Andy Sim gave us another history tour of Amble

4. There used to be a Priory here in 1100, which would've had a view down to the river and the harbour. It would've had a beacon on top to show boats where to come, as the monks collected a tithe from all boats with cargo. Some of the Priory window still remains in the garden by the Sacred Heart church..

5. Next to Sacred Heart church is Hallbank well, which was one of the main water supplies in Amble. In the

1800s the water was taken round in a horse and cart and people would have to collect it from them in buckets outside their house!

In the late 1980s the well was deep enough that around 600 gallons of water a minute was being pumped out for three hours and the well didn't run out of water. These are some cool facts about Amble- watch this page for more!

By Ava and Lily.

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paid!” And this guides his entrepreneurial spirit so much that the Queen Street branch won best PO branch in the country in 2016.

One of the most recent changes has been the upsurge in business and personal banking activities provided by the Post Office. Not only can customers of other banks use the facilities for paying in and withdrawing cash, but as Bryan says: “We have a voice activated cash withdrawal system. You tell me how much you want, and I count it out for you!” And Barclays customers can relax; the bank has reversed its decision to stop customers using post offices, so they can continue to use the facilities as before.



Staff member Nicola has had specialist training aimed at saving customers on their car and home insurance premiums as well as home phone and broadband from only £15.90 per month. Pop into branch and make an appointment to see how much Nicola can save you in the New Year.



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and ABTA guaranteed holidays – and the Bureau de Change can give you a great rate on your holiday money. Help with travel insurance and any documents you might need after Brexit can also be discussed.



**Amble Post Office, 43 Queen Street**  
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# Reports from our *County Councillors*



Due to the forthcoming General Election, county councillors are not allowed to promote any of their activities (purdah). We will bring you their reports in the next edition.

**T**o all residents in Amble, Hauxley, North Broomhill, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk*

**C**llr Jeff Watson would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Still available on 07802385367

*Jeffrey.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk*



## Coquet's Corner

**Captain** This year was a mixed season on Coquet Island but another positive one. The weather was far from predictable, with glorious sunshine and unseasonably high temperatures towards the end of February followed by a relatively cool, windy (and occasionally very wet!) summer. Arrival and first egg dates for most breeding seabird species appeared to be similar to previous years but slightly earlier.

Most species seemed largely unaffected by the poorer summer and food supply (sandeels) – all four species of tern were regularly being recorded bringing multiple sandeels (puffin-like) in at once! There were some notable highlights including a record-breaking number of breeding roseate terns (122 nesting pairs) and the second highest total of youngsters fledging from the island.

Other species which had strong seasons in terms of breeding pairs included our



An otter was discovered on Coquet Island - bad news for the puffins

puffins, sandwich terns and kittiwakes.

On a sombre note, unseasonably stormy weather in June meant that eider crèches were decimated meaning few youngsters made it to adulthood. Fortunately, survival in 2018 was high which will lessen the impact.

Perhaps the story of this season was the presence of an otter (*Lutra lutra*) on the island. This is the first confirmed record of an otter on Coquet since the RSPB took over management in 1970. Footprints were first discovered on the beach in

January and over the next few weeks, images of the animal were caught on trail cameras positioned at strategic points around the island where spraints and feeding remains had been found. Due to the regularity of camera sightings of the otter it was decided to install an electric fence around the roseate tern colony.

On 19 May, the largest latrine was discovered at the pond along with a scattering of between 30-40 adult puffin corpses, all of which had been characteristically turned inside out.

A trail camera was placed by the pond immediately and on the very first night, the otter was observed bringing an adult puffin back to the pond and feeding on it. After the camera had been out for several nights, it was estimated that the otter was taking two puffins a night.

As the birds started to leave the island, sightings became infrequent and the animal wasn't seen after the end of July.

*Paul Morrison*

## Amble creates

**I**'m a photographer based in Newcastle and I'd like to introduce you to - Amble Creates, a series of environmental portraits of people from Amble, my hometown.

So, what am I asking? Environmental photography is a genre focused on people, especially on who a person is rather than what they look like.

It's about showing real people, relaxed, in their element and in a way that tells something about who they are and what's important to them. I'm not looking for professional models, but I would love to hear from any actors, artists, singers, musicians, craftspeople, artisans, or anyone else creative who is interested in being part of the project.

There will be no intimidating photo studio, costumes or fancy lighting, just some pictures made in a place you're comfortable and a chat with me about your passion, hobby or your creative skill to go along with the pictures we make.

At the end of the project, the final images will be published online and, fingers crossed, compiled into a book and exhibition. If you're interested I can be contacted at [barry@barryangus.com](mailto:barry@barryangus.com)  
**Barry Angus**

## Coquet Churches Together

**W**hen you come to the Harbour Village Christmas event on Sunday 15th December, listen out for Coquet Churches Together singing Christmas Carols, and come and join in with your favourites.

In the New Year, all are welcome to our ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which will be held in St Mark's United Reformed Church Amble on Sunday 26th January at 11am (refreshments from 10.30am). It's a wonderful opportunity for different traditions to meet and worship together.



The church featured in this Ambler is the Parish Church of St Lawrence in Warkworth, linked with Amble through membership of Coquet Churches

Together. (Warkworth and parts of Amble also share Parish Council boundaries).

St Lawrence's is a Norman church, with the record of a wooden Saxon church on the site as early as 737 AD. Old churches may present practical challenges, but the ancient stones of St Lawrence stand as a beautiful witness to countless generations of Christian worship



**Rev Helen O'Sullivan**

and village life; with the joys and sorrows of real people brought to church in baptisms, weddings and funerals.

When Norman soldiers were defending the castle, and

through troubled times such as the Jacobite Rising in 1715, right up to the present day; the church has been caring for villagers, and sharing prayers, hymns and sermons (including a sermon from John Wesley in 1761).

Visitors and new residents alike receive a kind and friendly welcome from a congregation who are feeling especially cheerful now that their new Vicar has arrived. Helen O'Sullivan was welcomed to the joint Benefice of Warkworth, Acklington and Shilbottle on 30th September. We wish her every success and happiness as she leads St Lawrence's into their next exciting chapter.

## Thumbs up for opening of fishermen's crew room



L-R Alan Punton, Harbour Master, WHC, Simon Baxter, FLAG Programme Officer and Hon Agent Fishermen's Mission Amble, Stuart Handyside and Albert.

A new room providing washing facilities and a relaxation area for fishing crews has been built on the quayside. The official opening of the Fishermen's Crew Room took place on Sunday 22 September as part of the Coble Day event.

The ceremony was led by Superintendent

Peter Dade, Mission Area Officer. Present were Angela Woodburn, Commercial Manager Warkworth Harbour Commissioners; Alan Punton, Harbour Master Warkworth Harbour Commissioners; Simon Baxter, Programme Officer North of Tyne FLAG, and Honorary Agent Fishermen's Mission Amble; Stuart Handyside, skipper Amble fishing trawler Fidelity and two of his crew, Angelito Liego Eleseo and Maty Damzz, along with Albert, mascot of the Fishermen's Mission.

Peter welcomed everybody and then Angela said a few words on how the Crew Room came to be. She said "The Commissioners are very grateful to their team and the local fishing community who have contributed time and ideas to the design and build of the new units and crew room, particular

thanks to Simon Baxter who has given great support throughout the FLAG grant application, to the Fishermen's Mission and to the Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB) whose grant has kindly paid for the internal fit out, which we hope will be well used and of real benefit to fishermen."



Opening the crew room: l- r Angelito and Maty, both crew on Amble trawler Fidelity, with mascot Albert.

Peter thanked Sophie Davies, Trusts and Legacy Manager at Fishermen's Mission Head Office and David Dickens, Chief Executive of the Fishermen's Mission for applying for the grant of £4912.00.

The crew room was then officially opened by Angelito and Maty, two of the crew of the Amble fishing trawler Fidelity, with support from Albert who gave the new facility a thumbs up! "It is very good, excellent" said Angelito.

The facilities include an industrial washing machine, and dryer,

shower unit, and WC, seating area and a small table. The grant from the MNWB covered all the main equipment. The ceremony concluded with a blessing on the room and all who will use it. Those present then raised a toast to its success.

*Peter Dade, MAO North Shields*

## Rise in fly tipping

Northumberland County Council is clamping down on fly-tippers using a combination of education, engagement and enforcement.

In the last six months the number of recorded fly tips has increased, mainly due to some 'hot spot' urban areas in the south east of the county. As the rise is predominantly focused in two residential areas the council will be deploying its resources to those areas to quickly tackle this growing problem.

Whilst part of the rise is due to improvements in recording methods and street cleansing arrangements, the activity of a small minority is causing a growing concern.

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services, said: "Over the last two years, through partnerships with a number of town councils, the numbers of staff dealing with fly tipping has increased. We have more enforcement officers and more front-line clean up staff to remove rubbish quickly and to try and tackle the people who are causing the problem. Despite this fly tipping in some areas is still increasing.

"Almost all this is down to household waste being dumped in back alleys or on the road or pavement, so we will work with the communities where the hotspots are to enlist their support in tackling the minority of individuals who blight their neighbourhoods, to ensure they are clear this is totally unacceptable and won't be tolerated."

"Following the launch of our litter campaign, where we are encouraging people to love where they live, we're working with those communities to tackle this blight.

"As well as supporting people to dispose of their waste responsibly and reminding them of the ways they can do this, the council will be increasing its efforts to identify and hold to account those small number of people who continue to dump their rubbish."

People found fly-tipping can face an on-the-spot fine of £400 or up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court.

## Happy Birthday P.E.C. Furniture

P.E.C. Furniture is a specialist bespoke upholstery manufacturer based in Amble, Northumberland with a long history in furniture making. Formed in January 1970 by Peter and Eileen Cutts, now retired, PEC is a privately owned and family run company.

They worked hard, starting making furniture for retail outlets but public demand for their designs saw them open the showroom and selling direct to the public.

If you visit the showroom you are likely to be met by a member of the Cutts family - either Alan or his

wife Helen, Lillie their granddaughter and Mabel the dog. You can even see some of Peter's original designs hanging in the showroom.

Our wider family are our highly skilled workforce many of which have served the company for over 20 years and some since the company started. They put their heart and soul into every piece of furniture and every stitch they make.

They have survived 2 recessions and the increase of cheap imported furniture. But they have worked hard and are now celebrating 50 years of business.





- Councillor Iwan Thomas has now left the Parish Council and we would like to thank him for his service over the years and wish him all the very best for the future.
- The Parish Council would like to welcome Andy Brown as our new Parish Councillor.
- We would like to wish the residents of Hauxley Parish a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Contact details: Parish Clerk: Mrs J Reynolds Tel: 07786 255 649

Email: [hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk) Website: [www.theambler.co.uk/category/local-councils/hauxley-parish-council/](http://www.theambler.co.uk/category/local-councils/hauxley-parish-council/)

## Coast Care working along our shores

Over the past few years our impact on the environment has moved more and more into the spotlight.

Whether it is David Attenborough's documentaries showing us the natural wonders of our world, the government declaring a climate emergency or Greta Thunberg's school strike, we're all increasingly aware of the damage being done.

The statistics are shocking: half of the wildlife that called Britain home when the Beatles were around has been lost. Every year 6.4 million tonnes of plastic are dumped into the ocean, which works out to 3,200 kilometres of rubbish trucks.

The most recent report on climate change has given us just 12 years to cut emissions to a level that will avoid catastrophe. In the face of such dire warnings, it's hard not to feel powerless. Lots of us are keen to help, but it can be difficult to know where to start.

Coast Care was created to train and support volunteers to contribute to environmental work along the Northumbrian coastline. We are a partnership between the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



(AONB) and the Seahouses Development Trust. The project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We work from Amble all the way up to Berwick and have projects to suit a wide range of interests and capabilities.

Our volunteers care for the sandy beaches, rolling dunes, historic buildings, village greens and other community spaces which make up our coastal environment.

Volunteering for us could mean taking part in practical tasks like laying hedgerows or removing invasive plants to allow many other species to grow in their place, learning to survey wildlife to add to our knowledge of the natural world or taking part in one of our beach cleans to help remove plastic from our oceans.

It's not just the environment that benefits from the work of Coast Care volunteers: those who get involved do too!

Taking part gets you outdoors and is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and learn new skills.

You'll be getting exercise and being out in nature is fantastic for your physical and mental health. You don't need to commit to a specific amount of time and all training and equipment is provided.

All we ask is that you let us know in advance if you would like to attend an event so that we can be prepared for everyone. To find out more, head to: [www.coast-care.co.uk](http://www.coast-care.co.uk).



This portrait of ex Amble veteran George Skipper was painted by fellow Chelsea Pensioner Rick Graham. The portrait now hangs proudly in George's room in the Chelsea Hospital.

## Charity swim helps homeless

On 9 November 24 hardcore acclimatised winter swimmers took to the cold waters at Little Shore for a charity swim in aid of Crisis. As usual the lovely generous people of Amble rallied together and supported with donations of clothing and gifts for the Crisis Christmas event in Newcastle – enough to fill a whole van.

Amble really is the friendliest port  
*Jane Hardy*

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\*\*\*\*\* NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN



Welcome back to Trust Life where we are already looking forward to Christmas – or at least Anna as Editor of The Ambler tells us we are!

So to ensure we comply we have been planning the Torchlight Procession to celebrate switching on the town Christmas lights. Obviously when you receive your Ambler this will already have happened so we hope you enjoyed the celebrations.

On behalf of the Events Committee our thanks go to Frances Anderson of Dry Water Arts who has put so much time and effort into making this year's event extra special.

Of course none of the events would happen without community involvement which comes in many forms, not least by you choosing the Torchlight Procession as a recipient of

Co-op Community Funding – a great big thank you.

This fund has allowed Frances to carry out light up bird mask workshops with our local first schools, Heatherdale Nursing Home, Brambles, Puffin Lounge, Curiosity Café, Jelly Beanz, Kick Start Sports and refugee group. We have also purchased lights and materials that will serve several years and allowed us to bring extra music to the parade.

So however you have helped or participated, thank you.

## Bird sculpture trail

Next – progress on the Sculpture Trail. We now have the curator in position: Jane Shaw of CreateNorth was the successful candidate. Jane and business partner Lucy have many years of experience in both curating and commissioning art

projects including major works in Durham and Newcastle.

They have already walked the trail route to gain an understanding of the various locations and terrain and are currently compiling a list of potential artists. So progress is being made at last.

Sadly while I would love to be able to tell you progress has been made on parking, each time we meet with NCC, we are told there has been none. So unless we can identify an alternative site all we can do is wait – just hopefully not for another six years!

Finally on behalf of Trust staff and trustees we would like to thank Ann Burke and Richard Wardman for all the hard work, energy and enthusiasm they have dedicated to assisting ourselves and the town to achieve much over the last 20+ years.

Richard has been quietly supportive, working in the background while Ann, being more vocal has been heavily involved in workshops, meetings and project planning. Both have given their time unstintingly, especially when progress appears to be slow.

They have shown understanding and tenacity, seeing the bigger picture and how best to achieve it. We owe them much and they will be sorely missed but we hope they both enjoy a long and happy retirement.

So with that I will wish you all a happy election day (is there such a thing?). Much happier Christmas and a very, very healthy and happy New Year.

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

## Best ever parade



Organisers of the Torchlight Procession have declared this year's event the "best parade we've ever had."

The parade included community groups of all ages including Curiosity Café which is run for people with dementia, and Heatherdale. Youngsters included Brambles and Jelly Beanz Nurseries Amble East End Juniors, local first schools, JCSC, and the Amble Youth Project.

The mask and lantern workshops were held by Frances Anderson from Dry Water Arts and were funded by the Northumberland Cultural Fund and the Co-op Local Community Fund.

A spokesperson for Amble Events Committee said, "It was definitely the biggest procession we've ever had, and we want to thank Frances Anderson for her amazing vision and hard work running the workshops and producing the masks and banners, thanks to the wonderful Christmas Lights team and thanks of course for the support of the community for making this the best procession ever."

£711.82 was collected on the night and was divided equally between Amble and Warkworth Rotary, Amble Christmas Lights, and Amble Events Committee. The Amble Events Committee money goes towards putting on the annual Puffin Festival and future Torchlight Processions.

See also back page.

## WHAT YOU SAY...

### Anger at group's inclusion

I enjoyed as usual the excellent procession last Sunday at the annual switching on of the Christmas lights. I feel it was marred however by the presence of a Labour party banner. What a disgrace.

*Ron Peel via email*

I attended the Christmas Light turn on procession tonight, as I have for the last 15 years since moving to Amble. It is an event I have always attended and supported through regular donations throughout the year care of local shops and have actively participated in with my children through school events over the years. I was disgusted tonight to see a "Labour" banner paraded at the event. Regardless of the political party, it is a disgrace to politicise such an event and I will not in future provide any donations.

Whoever agreed to such an inclusion should hang their head in shame at such a low and cheap opportunity to politicise what is in essence a religious event. What's going to happen next year? Is this going to turn our towns annual festive event into a political rally? It was bad taste and wrong but not surprising from a political party to strike cheap blows at any public event these days it seems. It screams of desperation and is sickening to the core. Shame on everyone involved!!

*Name withheld. Via email*

### Response to complaints

The decision to allow a local community group to enter the parade was made by myself Julia Aston of Amble Events Committee. I have organised the procession since its inception 22 years ago. The parade was originally instigated to allow local groups and organisations to highlight what they did in the community and linked to the switching on of the town lights to make it more of an event.

The request to participate came from a newly formed branch of the Amble, Druridge Bay and Lynemouth Labour Group, asking if they could take part in the parade. As a community group they were told yes, however they could not politicise the event in any way – they responded saying they absolutely understood. If their actions on the night offended anyone then I apologise, but the decision was made in good faith as has every request received from any other community group.

I would point out that the parade is not organised by the Christmas Lights – they took no part in this decision whatsoever, so your anger should not be directed at them.

The parade has never been political or religious, always about community and inclusion.

Was the decision made naively? – apparently so, it seems my trust may have been misplaced.

*Julia Aston*

We welcome your letters, email, Facebook and Twitter comments for publication. Your name and address must be supplied, but will be withheld on request. Letters/Facebook comments may be edited. More letters on p6



## Lumiere sponsor Amble Masons FC

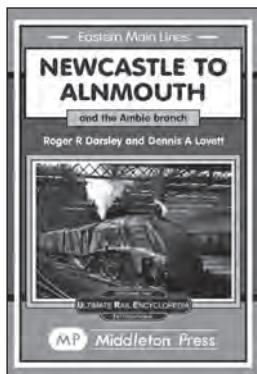


**L**umiere Amble is extremely happy to be match day sponsors for Amble Masons FC. When we started Lumiere Amble nearly ten months ago our vision was to stock locally made products and to support the community.

When the opportunity arose to help sponsor Amble Masons FC we of course were very excited and happy to help. We love waiting for the scores every week and are so proud of the team and how they are playing this season.

## New book on local railways

**A** new book was published by Middleton Press on 23 November. In the series Eastern Main Lines, the title Newcastle to Alnmouth (including the Amble Branch line) is by Roger R Dorsley and Dennis A Lovett. It is a hardback and features 96 pages with 120 photographs, almost entirely unpublished.



This book makes an important contribution to local transport history and will be available from local bookshops at £18.95 or post-free from the publishers.

For further information, contact Vic Mitchell on 01730 813169 or

email: [v.mitchell@middletonpress.co.uk](mailto:v.mitchell@middletonpress.co.uk) showing your telephone number for a reply.

## East Coquet Local History Society

January 16: A history of Howick garden: Peter Regan  
 February 20: Social evening with talk/slides: Atholl Swanston  
 April 16: The Bainbridges - Newcastle store to Eshott Hall:  
 Eleanor George  
 St. Mark's Church hall, 7.30pm

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## Successful Amble kickboxers

**T**wo North East Kickboxers turned their skills to boxing at the end of October and appeared on the massive Fighting for Hope charity boxing event held at Blyth Sports Centre. Neither lad had ever taken part in a boxing event but were only too pleased to help out.

Robert Howey from Rothbury was up against an older, stronger and internet famous Aron Toddzilla. This was a first for the North East as both guys have dwarfism. An amazing fight took place with Robert surviving the storm in the first round, and successfully stopping Aron in the second, so winning the first ever VCC belt (first ever dwarf title in boxing in the North East.)

Ben Pattinson took on the very tough and experienced Adam Cockerham. This turned into a war, as both guys did not want to lose. Adam gained the win via a split decision after



Ben Pattinson, Adam White and Robert Howey

three gruelling rounds of boxing.

Both lads thanked their coaches at Hybrid Kickboxing Amble: Adam White, Allan White and Sean O'Connell for all the training and advice.

This event raised lots of money for local charities, and a special thanks goes to Lee Welsh and his team for making this great event happen.

*Adam White*  
*Amble Hybrid Kickboxing*



## Funeralcare

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 Tel: 01665 710437





# Amble Town COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm unless stated otherwise

**Town:** 12th Dec 9th Jan, 13th Feb **Amenities:** 30th Jan

Council Office closes 3pm Fri 20th Dec; re-opens 10am Thurs 2nd Jan

<b>EAST WARD:</b>	Helen Lewis,	Craig Weir	<b>WEST WARD:</b>	Jeff Watson	David Bewley	<b>CEN. WARD:</b>	Jane Dargue	Clive Foxley
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	

## MEMORIAL GARDENS

If you have not yet walked towards Radcliffe Memorial and seen the newly installed plaque on the right hand side, courtesy of the Social History Group, please take a moment to do so. By the time you read this, the trees should have been pollarded so that they will grow stronger in years to come. The two end panels should soon be in place on the back fence, ready for it and the ramp hand rail to be painted. The two new information boards will hopefully be installed before Christmas. These give readers details of the memorials and Amble's commemoration events during the WWI centenary. In the New Year, Council will be inviting tenders for some landscaping works and also a grounds work contract to maintain the area as befits this special place in the town.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2019

How wonderful to see so many people at this annual event remembering all those who served so that we have the freedom to live the lives we do. It is also important not to forget the many who cannot physically attend but whose thoughts are with us at that time. We thank each and every one of you for joining together, showing Amble will always be grateful and never forget those who leave family and friends behind in the attempt to gain peace and freedom for all.

## BUS SHELTERS

Work is underway to improve the bed areas at Church Street. This is not only to make them easier for NCC to maintain but also to prevent access to the shelter roof and the old vicarage wall. NCC will place less friendly shrubs in the beds and Town Council will put larger spikes on the roof as we do not want anyone to be hurt trying to climb where they should not.

Arriva have informed us that they intend to keep the bus services travelling along the same roads for the foreseeable future. Therefore soon a shelter outside the Health Centre and another at the stop near Dolphin Court will be installed; unfortunately path widths do not allow room for ones on the opposite side of the road.

After consultation with NCC Highways regarding position, sight lines and acceptable styles, there will also be shelters at either side of the Wynd. It is hoped in the spring/summer we can look at painting the inside of the stone shelters where this is needed.

We will then look to building up a fund towards any future shelters which may be needed as even a simple roof and front type, with installation, can cost in the region of £5,000.

**WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL FESTIVE HOLIDAY AND GOOD TIMES IN 2020.**

## GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The response period for this was extended until 15th November. County Council officers are now preparing a report to submit to the full Council early in January for a decision on whether the parish boundary will be extended and whether Amble Town Council will increase their number to 11 from 9. Any changes will then be effective at the next elections.

## WEBSITE

Have you looked at the website recently? There is a new section 'Amble Remembers'. Those of you who do not have a copy of 'In Memory of the Fallen', the book produced in 2014 for the start of the WWI commemorations, can now read it online, as well as 'Amble Remembers WWI' which has more information about WWI and those who served.

## LITTER

The refurbishment programme of litter bins is now complete so that all the bins are fit for purpose. Wherever possible the old small dog bins have been replaced with litter bins as all waste- including doggie bags- can be put into these. There are a few places where we have had to retain the post style type mostly due to lack of space for a litter bin. Please report any which you see in disrepair or vandalised. We are continuing to lobby NCC for better recycling facilities for the town as we feel the current area on the Braid is out of the town, too far for some to walk, but also too rough to be properly cleansed.

## WEST CEMETERY

Take care if you are going to the cemetery over the winter months- we are carrying out works to improve the utility connections as it seemed wisest to do so before the tarmac surface is relaid. We are installing new water and electrical connections and hope to have improvements made to the fountain flow.

It is quite difficult to obtain specialist advice about how to have a better display from the fountain as most companies deal with household garden water features or larger scale projects such as

at Alnwick Gardens - but we will persevere as we feel this iconic feature should have as magnificent a display as was no doubt intended when it was first installed in memory of William Gibson.

Making safe memorials which have been found to be unsteady is the responsibility of those who bought them and had them installed. However where no family member is contactable, or unwilling to repair a memorial, we are currently making them safe by staking and banding as we feel this is preferable to laying them down.

Please remember that whilst we

take every reasonable step to make the cemetery a safe place, you do enter at your own risk. Most cemeteries have uneven ground, tree roots etc. of which you need to beware.

We are dismayed to find that the recently installed new boundary fence with the Gloster Hill development has been spoilt by someone cutting out a small section of plank; you may well ask why? to what purpose? but money will be spent on a repair which would not have been needed but for someone's thoughtless behaviour. Please respect the cemetery.

## PERCY DRIVE ALLOTMENTS

In agreement with the Allotment Holders Society (AAHS), all walkway entrances here will have bollards installed in order to minimise the deterioration of the surface being caused by the increasing use of vehicles. A key to remove them will be kept by the Emergency services in case their vehicles need access and by the AAHS Committee to be used in exceptional circumstances at their discretion.

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



## Film and events at the Dovecote

At the NTC Dovecote Centre NE65 0DX

**Friday 6 Dec 7.30pm.** Sorry We Missed You (15) Fundraiser for the Women's Workshop. Tickets £6 available via Eventbrite. The latest Ken Loach film – a powerful exploration of the gig economy.

**Sat 7 Dec 7.30pm** Alistair Anderson's Amazing One Man Ceilidh. £8/£5 (see separate listing)

**20 -31 Dec** Beauty and the Beast Panto (see separate listing)

**Friday 10 Jan 7.30pm** Blinded By The Light (12A) Set in 1987, during Thatcher's Britain, this is a joyous, coming-of-age story about a teenager who learns to live life, understand his family and find his own voice through the words and music of Bruce Springsteen.

**Sun 19 Jan 6pm** The Snow Queen. Come and enjoy the adventures of Kai and Gerta one last time. The kids may have seen it with the school but have you? Four exceptional actor musicians create some magic.

**Fri 24 Jan 7.30pm** Strange Tales For A Winter's Night. Actor and Playwright Stewart Howson, with his mixture of Victorian and modern ghost stories. £8

**Fri 31 Jan 7.30pm** Bait (15) Stunningly shot on a vintage 16mm camera using monochrome Kodak stock, Mark Jenkin's Bait is a timely and funny, yet poignant new film that gets to the heart of a community facing unwelcome change. (89 mins)

## NTC Panto: Beauty and the Beast

Join Belle in this classic story as she eventually finds her perfect prince. Packed with humour and with a cast of colourful characters that will delight young and old alike, this is a perfect Christmas treat that will have the whole family laughing and enchanted. Performances at the Dovecote Centre on Dec 21-24 and Dec 28-31. Prices £10, family £35. Ring 01665 713655 to book. Tickets are selling fast.

## Amble East End Juniors



Amble East End Juniors club has been given £4,631.35 from the Co-op Local Community Fund. Co-op Members chose the club as their good cause to give their 1% to when they spend on selected own-brand products and services. The funding period ran for 12 months from 31st October 2018 to 26th October 2019.

We are absolutely astounded to announce that this amount has been raised by the community of Amble for our club. Everyone involved at Amble East End Juniors would like to thank you all for your generosity and support. It is appreciated by us all as it goes a long way to help running costs.

Amble East End Juniors pictured in their new Stanno Training Kit, sponsored by The Amble Butcher!.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Ambler readers, our sponsors and supporters. We hope 2020 is a good one.

## Celebration for 125 years at St. Mark's

This year has marked 125 years since St. Mark's United Reformed Church opened its doors in Wellwood Street, Amble. It was still then the Congregational Church and had moved from Gloster Terrace. We became the URC in 1972.

To celebrate our 125th anniversary we held a Biblical Scarecrow Festival during the first week of October. Bible stories brought to life through scarecrows. Several organisations came on board, chose a Bible story and made scarecrows. We had plenty of variety from Noah's Ark to the Prodigal Son. We had great fun putting it together and we hope all our visitors enjoyed our celebration as much. One visitor asked if we would do it again next year — watch this space.



Charlie May with Jonah in the whale

### CAKE AND A CUPPA

Don't feel lonely on a Sunday afternoon — come along to St. Mark's (Wellwood Street) any Sunday from November 17th from 2.00-3.30pm, and have cake, a cuppa and a chat. All are welcome.

### ADVANCE WARNING

Amble Variety Show 2020 Sat May 16th at 6.30pm in St. Mark's.

## New Year ... new sound

Wanting something upbeat now that the chocolate's finished? Come and Sing!

Warkworth Village Choir looks forward to welcoming you to our first open singing sessions of 2020. We are very pleased that Deborah Barry has agreed to lead these informal workshops.

Deborah is an experienced musical director who will help us discover our voices and enjoy singing together.

Maybe you have sung previously. Maybe you never dared but wondered why people who sing keep saying how much they love it. Either way, do come and give it a try.

**WHEN:** Mondays 13th and 20th January 7.30 – 9pm (come to either session or both). **WHERE :** Warkworth Memorial Hall.

You need to bring: £5 per session and your voice. We provide: a cup of tea, a biscuit (possibly two), musical leadership from an experienced singer, fun!

It would help our arrangements if you could please let [sheila2pearson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheila2pearson@yahoo.co.uk) know that you intend to come.

## RNLI Christmas coffee morning

Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers welcome everyone to join us for our Christmas Coffee Morning on Sunday 15th December 2020 upstairs in the boathouse from 10am to 1pm. Enjoy lots of lovely home-made sweet and savoury bakes, good company and support a fantastic cause.

Date for your diary: Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers (ALF) AGM 8th January 2020. Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers are holding their Annual General Meeting upstairs in the Lifeboat Station on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 6pm.

New volunteers will be made very welcome. Please come along and find out more or you can email [jill.faulconbridge@gmail.com](mailto:jill.faulconbridge@gmail.com) (There will be no coffee morning in January.)



# SPOTLIGHT ON CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Rotary Amble and Warkworth

*When/where do you meet?*

We meet at The Hermitage Inn, Warkworth at 7.30pm every Tuesday, except after a Bank Holiday.

*What do you do in your club?*

Each week we have a speaker after a meal; we fundraise; we litter pick on Rotary Way; we take part in a range of activities, both social and fundraising. We were out with the sleigh at the lights switch on at Amble and then Warkworth and Hadston. (See schedule below).

*Is there an age range?* No.

*Is there a charge?* Yes; an annual subscription of £90, and £15 each week for the meal and raffle.



*How long has the club been running?*

The club was established in 1948, as part of Rotary International. There are currently 37 members.

*Who might be interested in joining?*

It would be of interest to people of both sexes – working or retired, who wish to give something back to the community.

*What's the best thing about your club?* Fellowship and friendship.

*How do I contact you?*

Our secretary is Alan Davies. Email: [davies.mag@gmail.com](mailto:davies.mag@gmail.com) or see our website: [ambleandwarkworthrotary.org](http://ambleandwarkworthrotary.org) or find us on Facebook 'Rotary Amble and Warkworth'

## Rotary Christmas collection routes

Mon 9 Dec Acklington N Broomhill

Tues 10 Dec Hadston N

Wed 11 Dec Hadston S

Thurs 12 Amble W

Fri 13 Dec Amble SW

Mon 16 Dec Amble C

Wed 18 Dec Amble E

Thurs 19 Dec Amble S

Fri 20 Dec Warkworth

Sat 21 Dec Amble Queen St

## Celtic Christmas strings

Chris Newman and Máire Ní Chathasaigh's Christmas show features a blend of traditional Irish music, swing jazz and bluegrass, plus festive favourites with arrangements that are moving and beautiful. The show organised by Highlights, is on Sunday 15 December in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00). Adults £10, concessions £8, children £5. Tickets from N&F Young (8 Queen Street) and online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights>, or on the door. Licensed bar and a raffle.

## Ahoy there me hearties

Join Warkworth Drama Group as this year we take to the high seas with this year's pantomime Treasure Island. Long John Silver and his fearsome crew may think that treasure is within their grasp, but they've reckoned without the ladies of the Smuggler's Cove Women's Institute! Filled with mischief, custard pies, songs and laughter, this is a voyage into panto mayhem that you definitely do not want to miss!

At: Warkworth War Memorial Hall on: 12/13/14 December 7:30pm (Sat Matinee 2:30) Tickets: £8 adults £5 children (10% discount for groups of 10 people or more - postal applications only see website for more details). Available from: N&F Young Amble Warkworth Village Store. See also [www.warkworthdrama.org.uk](http://www.warkworthdrama.org.uk) We're also on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/warkworthdrama](http://www.facebook.com/warkworthdrama)

## Warkworth Community Cinema

At the Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

**Friday 3 Jan** Le Havre (2011) Aki Kaurisnaki. 1hr 33 min. French - English sub-titles. Comedy Drama. Starring Andre Wilms, Blondin Miguel and Jean-Paul Daroussian.

**Friday 7 Feb** Rocketman (2019) Dexter Fletcher. R. 2hr 1 min. English. Biography/Drama/Music. Starring Tom Egerton, Jamie Bell and Richard Madden.

**Friday 6 Mar** On the Waterfront (1954) Elia Kazan. PG. 1hr 48 min. Crime/Drama/Thriller. American. Starring Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, Lee J Cobb and Rod Steiger.

## Donation to Bobby Robson Foundation

Amble and Warkworth Rotary have donated £2,000 to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation which funds research into detecting and treating cancer. Raised from their Charity Golf Day, this is the latest of several such donations.



Pictured are Lady Elsie Robson, who received the cheque from Rotary President John Geggie, Mrs, Jennifer Geggie, Golf Day organiser Rotarian Dick Wailes and Mrs. Yvonne Wailes.

## Amble and District Education Association

### Events and eventualities

Incidents and lives of Northumbrians who transformed the region, the nation and the world.

Tutor; Andrew Griffin

8 Thursdays 10am - 12noon. Starts Jan.30

Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Street.

## One man ceilidh comes to Amble

Alistair Anderson's Amazing One-Man Ceilidh in Amble will play at the Dovecote Centre, Amble on Saturday 7 December at 7.30pm. An evening of dancing, music and lively chat. Alistair will play the Concertina and the Northumbrian Pipes during the show.

Tickets are £8 (£5 under 18s) For more details, <https://www.facebook.com/NTCtheatre> Tel: 01665 713655



# Christmas at The Wellwood Arms

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www.wellwoodarms.pub

**Christmas**  
WHAT'S ON

**BREAKFAST  
WITH  
SANTA**

**Saturday 14th Dec 11am to 1pm**  
£2. Per child

Includes breakfast and gift  
Party Games and Christmas Music

WELLWOOD ARMS 01665 714646

**Christmas**  
WHAT'S ON

**Christmas Party Nights**  
From 29th November

Every Friday & Saturday Night  
From 7pm

Tickets £21.99  
3 course meal  
followed by  
Live Entertainment and Dance Music

**Christmas**  
WHAT'S ON

**Sunday 15th December**

Christmas Carol Singers  
With  
THE HARBOUR LIGHTS  
AMBLE COMMUNITY CHOIR

From 6pm in the restaurant

Mulled Wine and Sweet Mince Pies  
Come and join us for a festive evening

**Christmas**  
WHAT'S ON

**SAVE THE CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**  
Friday 13th Dec 2019

With Live Entertainment From 9pm

**BETH MACARI**

PRIZES FOR THE BEST CHRISTMAS JUMPER  
TO DONATE  
Text TEAMWELLWOOD- 70050

**Christmas**  
WHAT'S ON

**CELEBRATE WITH  
THE WELLWOOD ARMS**

**NEW YEARS EVE**  
Tuesday 31 Dec 2019

Festivities start at 8pm  
Hot Buffet  
Live Entertainment From  
SAM REA  
Countdown To The New Year

(Ticket Only) £7.50 Per Head  
From The Wellwood Arms or contact us on 01665 714646

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PRESENT AND FUTURE A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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## Biggest ever Christmas lights procession

Well done to everyone who took part and made such beautiful masks, banners and lanterns in the biggest parade yet. Workshops were organised by Frances Anderson of Dry Water Arts. And outstanding work by Amble Coastal Rowing Club who made a replica of Coquet Island and a giant lobster with mini chefs for his tea! (Below right and right). Amble's good young citizen 2019 Ollie Dryden switched on the lights, and music was provided by street band Meze Mundo and singer Jodie Elliott. It all made for a magical evening. *See the video on our Facebook page*



Top left: Ollie Dryden switched on the lights. Above: Community groups and some of the hundreds of hand-made masks, banners and lanterns. Right: singer Jodie Elliott. Below: Meze Mundo street band. See also p18.

*Photos by Andrew Mounsey and Anna Williams*



Make it look pretty again!

Maintenance and Design

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

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