



# The Ambler

## Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 128 June/July 2021

### Councillors retain their seats

There's no change in who represents Amble in either the Town or County Council.

In the May elections, both Jeff Watson and Terry Clark retained their seats with Northumberland County Council.

The Amble Town Councillors all stood again and as there is still a vacancy, an election was not required.

The County Council results were as follows:

<b>Amble</b>	
Terry Clark (Lab)	635
June Watson (Con)	540
David Woodard (LibDem)	62
Turnout: 31.2%	

#### Amble West with Warkworth

Mike Joyce (Lab)	284
Jeff Watson (Con)	766
John Wilson (LibDem)	438
Turnout: 42.5%	

### Thanks to voters



Cllrs Jeff Watson and Terry Clark

Terry Clark said, "I would like to thank everyone who voted for me. Thank you for your support and faith you have shown, it really is a privilege to represent Amble, Hauxley and North Broomhill. I will continue to do my best for all within this ward, it's certainly a honour to serve such a wonderful community and area."

Jeff Watson said, "A big thank you to the people of Amble in my ward for continuing to have confidence in me and voting for me at the election. I represent roughly a third of Amble on the west side and I promise those residents that I will be available to them at all times and will endeavour to represent them at all meetings and discussions."

### The kindest port once again



l-r: Community Champions Marion McKenzie Long and Bekka Johnson

Amble shoppers are being praised for their amazing kindness to a local food bank, after it was discovered they were the most generous in the country.

Kind-hearted customers of Amble Morrisons donated £650 worth of food to the Amble Food Bank in one week, making them the top Morrisons store for food bank donations in the whole of Great Britain.

Community Champion Marion McKenzie Long said "Very early in the first lockdown, Morrisons embarked on a £10m food donation programme where the Community Champion of each store received groceries of various types each week to donate. This came at a really important time for Amble Food Bank as the numbers of their service users was increasing at an

alarming rate."

To help make donations easier to collect, a warehouse cage was placed at the front of the store, with bags containing goods suitable for the food bank. Each bag is priced between £2 and £4.

Marion said, "I was given the most amazing support by our store management. Until a couple of weeks ago we could only make an educated guess at how much our generous customers were buying for their food bank donations, but a new system put in place by our head office has helped us quantify this. I had always thought our customers donated around £450 per week, so when we read the listings we had to check it a few times as we found it hard to believe - it was half as much again!"

This meant that not only was Amble Morrisons top of the region which includes Eastern Scotland, North East England and Cumbria, but when the figures were checked nationally, they were actually top of the whole of Great Britain.

"We have always known our customers were very generous and that Amble Food Bank is a very popular community service so this just emphasizes how wonderful they are and how much they care about the community," said Marion.

Bill Cruickshank of Amble Food Bank told The Ambler, "We are absolutely amazed and delighted at the generosity of Amble Morrisons' shoppers and can't thank them enough. There is still so much need for Amble Food Bank and this will help tremendously."

Marion added, "I would not like to think that this may stop people from donating. Every tin and packet of food is gratefully accepted by the food bank and their service users. We have recently started to support Widdrington Food Bank too."

See also p13

Amble is of course known as the Friendliest Port - a derivation of the accolade sent to Amble by RMS Mauretania as she sailed past on her final voyage in 1935. The clerk of Amble Urban Council sent the captain of the Mauretania a message of greeting:

*"Amble to Mauretania. Greetings from Amble, last port in England, to still the finest ship on the seas."*

Back came the reply: *"Mauretania to Urban Council, Amble, to the last and kindest port in England, greetings and thanks. Mauretania."*





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## Memories of Rachel Parks

9th May 1969 – 29th April 2021

The first time I met Rachel was in Autumn 1994 when I returned to Coquet High School to be a supply teacher, having completed my own education there four years earlier. I knew from that moment she was special, and a relationship started which was to last until her premature death in April.



Photo by Dru Dodd

Her favourite time of year was the Warkworth Show of which she was an active committee member for many years. In true Rachel style, she took the reigns in the Children's Section. Rachel

Rachel was a teacher who cared about her students. On the day of her death I posted a picture of her on Facebook to inform everyone of her passing. I was astounded by the comments: "amazing lady", "favourite teacher", "supportive" and "great sense of humour". This is how she is remembered by those she has worked with over the 27 years she taught, firstly at Coquet High School, then James Calvert Spence College. She devoted her career to the children of JCSC, never desiring to work anywhere else.

Although originally from Walsall in the West Midlands, she had a deep fondness for the town and the surrounding area, making her home and raising a family within the community in which she taught. She passionately believed in this community.

was a member of Warkworth WI, serving as committee member and Joint President. She was also an honorary member of The Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth.

During her final weeks we were assisted by the team at Hospice Care North Northumberland. Their work is invaluable and our family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to them, and donations are being asked in lieu of flowers.

Rachel was a much-loved wife, mother, daughter and friend. I, along with our son, Toby and his wife Tasha, our daughter, Lily and Rachel's parents Alan and Elaine and the whole of our family would like to thank the community for their kind words and thoughts.

The hurt may start to heal, but a space remains in our lives.  
*Ian Parks*



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## Remembering the vision of "a man of Amble"

A plaque to remember the vision of 'a man of Amble' has been placed on Amble harbour. The commemoration is for Terry Broughton, who instigated the refurbishment and reopening of the pier in May 2000.

Warkworth Harbour Commissioner Maurice Burnett told *The Ambler*, "We were asked if a plaque could be put near the pier to remember Terry. We agreed because as the first elected chair of Amble Development Trust, Terry was so closely involved with the pier's refurbishment. It was his vision to reopen the pier. We agreed a proposed version of words with Terry's family, and we hope it won't be long before they will all be able to come and see it."

Terry Broughton had been Amble Development Trust's chairman since 1994, and remained at the helm for 25 years. He died in November 2020.

During his time with the Trust, he oversaw the regeneration of many parts of Amble, including the pier refurbishment, which was officially reopened by Jackie Charlton.



l-r: Warkworth Harbour Commissioners Jeff Watson, Maurice Burnett and Jack Hoskin. Centre: Harbour Master Alan Punton. Seated: Val Broughton.

Other Development Trust projects included the creation of Amble Town Square, refurbishment of the old Station Hotel into the Fourways Centre, turning the disused old Co-op department store into a restaurant and affordable housing, building Fourways 2 on the site of the old Norseman, and the creation of the Northumberland Seafood Centre and Amble Harbour Village.

His time at Amble Development Trust saw strong partnership working with Warkworth Harbour Commissioners,

Northumberland County Council and Amble Town Council amongst others.

The plaque reads: TERRY BROUGHTON A man whose vision saw the reopening of this pier in May 2000. It is ours to enjoy. Reflect and appreciate his life, in gratitude to a man of Amble. WHC

Terry's widow Val said "I'm thrilled to bits with the plaque, it's lovely that Terry's work has been acknowledged, and I really like it in the boulder. The pier was his favourite part of Amble."

*Anna Williams*

## Twelve hundred vaccinated in 36 hrs

May 6 wasn't just a dramatic day for our local politicians, by that day Coquet Medical Group had vaccinated 1,200 people in 36 hours.

Over 3,500 people in Amble, Shilbottle and Swarland have now had both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, with a cumulative total of over 12,500

for both first and second vaccinations.

At the end of April over 75% of all adults in the Berwick constituency had had at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. 28% of adults had had both doses. MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan said, "This is great news and shows first doses

continue to be administered at pace despite the focus being on ensuring the most vulnerable are receiving their second doses.

"My continued thanks go to our incredibly hard-working GPs and their teams and all the wonderful volunteers who are all working so hard to keep this mammoth rollout going."

## Local young writer leads the region

Amble school student Lily Tibbitts has continued her remarkable talent for creative writing in the national competition which International Rotary organises for budding young writers with local and regional heats leading to a national evaluation.

This year Lily Tibbitts, a student at James Calvert Spence College, entered her project and won the Seniors category in the Rotary District 1030 stage. This covers entrants from across the northern counties. She was backed by Rotary Club of Amble & Warkworth. From this, she

will go on to the national finals.

Local Rotary Club president, Eddie Critchlow said, "Rotary is very keen to support and encourage the next generation and in Lily Tibbitts we have a shining example of talent and attitude. Her parents, family and school have every reason to be very proud of her achievements and Rotary Amble & Warkworth wish Lily every possible success."

Rotary secretary Alan Davies commented "It is important our community recognises young people with ability and determination to succeed. Lily exemplifies that and we are all



very proud of her"

Lily (pictured above) told *The Ambler* "I was really happy to win - over lockdown I've got to do even more writing, so it was great to be able to put that into practice. It took me a long while to think of something for this one and I'm glad people liked it!"

## Harbour Post Office move

Amble Postmaster Susan Swinhoe is retiring after 28 years of service to the community.

The Harbour Post Office on Percy Street will therefore relocate to Nisa just along the road in Newburgh Street. It will operate as a local style branch with Post Office services provided from a Post Office counter alongside the retail counter.

Opening hours will be Monday to Friday: 8am-7pm; Saturday and Sunday: 9am-4pm. It will also mark an end to lunchtime closing. The branch will also open significantly earlier and it will close much later. All these changes will make it far easier to visit the Post Office.

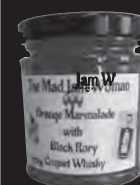
Kenny Lamont, Post Office Network Provision Manager, said: "We are confident that this vibrant new-style Post Office at the heart of the local community will meet customer needs. We really thank Susan for her loyal commitment to her community for the past 28 years."

Susan's branch will close on Tuesday 8 June at 5pm, with the new branch opening on Wednesday 9 June at 1pm.

Susan said: "I want to thank each and every one of my fabulous customers who have supported me over the years. Some of them I knew when they were babies and now they have babies of their own. I will treasure my memories of my time as Postmaster at Harbour Post Office."

And she hopes to turn the space back into her sitting room, so she can spend more time with her daughter and granddaughter.

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## Amble funeral director rebrands



Amble funeral director Peter Townsend with funeral operative Conor Miller.

Alistair Turner funeral directors will now be known as William Purves, after a restructure and major investment by its parent company.

Five Northumberland funeral firms are rebranding and seeing the benefits of a £1.5million investment in their Ashington hub. Gary Staker, Jacob Conroy & Sons, Alistair Turner, Tom Woodhouse and Peter Grenfell will now all trade under the William Purves banner.

North East regional manager Gary Staker said:

“Our firms have supported grieving families in the North East for decades, and near on

100 years at some branches. Our coming together only makes us stronger, as we serve local communities shoulder to shoulder under one banner.

“While local people may notice a new name and identity for the five firms, you will see the same friendly faces and can pop in to local branches to make arrangements and discuss plans when restrictions have eased.”

Staff at the Amble funeral directors will remain the same, and the Alistair Turner Funeral Directors facebook page will now reflect the new logo and branding. <https://www.facebook.com/AlistairTurnerFD>

## New fish and chip shop on Queen Street

Welcome to Lewis's Fish and Chip shop, the newest arrival on Queen Street. Owner Scott Priestley told The Ambler that the opportunity to open in Amble was “too good to miss”.

Scott's family have run Lewis's Fish Restaurant in Seahouses for decades, so he is no stranger to the business. Lewis's is taking over Trotter's bakery premises and will be keeping the business in the

family. “My Dad took over from the original Mr Lewis about 30 years ago, and it's been in our family ever since,” said Scott.

The business will operate as a take away throughout the summer and at the time of writing, are looking for five or six staff.

Contact Scott via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lewissfishrestaurant> or call in at the shop on Queen Street.

### VACANCY

Elpha Lodge Residential Care Home in South Broomhill require a Permanent Senior Carer.

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•Full induction training will be provided.

Please email [admnelpa@gmail.com](mailto:admnelpa@gmail.com) if interested in applying

## Brambles carbon footprint project

At Brambles we are trying to reduce our carbon footprint and learn about ways we can look after our world.

With the help of Morrisons Amble and their donations of compost, seeds and child friendly gardening equipment we have started our own “seed to plate” project.

We hope to use any produce we grow for meals and food tasting activities and encourage and promote wildlife.

Sally Bryson,  
Operations Manager, Brambles



## Harry McQuillen's

# Age of insecurity



The controversy about superleague football illustrates quite beautifully the dilemmas of our time. Cash nexus isn't the be-all-and-end-all of modern society.

Opening up following the worst pandemic in a century is a difficult business. Shops, buses, trains, holiday lets, caravan parks, schools and everything else that we depend on, also depend on us feeling safe. Timing is all, whatever aspects of life we focus on.

The sun is shining and we expect swallows to return, just as they do every year. Smaller numbers of course, due to what people have done to the planet. We all remember our beautiful

hedgerows, and the rough looking edges of fields (much smaller fields) when we were young.

We can't go back to those times, but we can help to mitigate the damage to the environment. The powers that be point to the sunlit uplands of sustainable growth in the years ahead. Of course others will be in charge by 2050. Let's not be cynical.

Many people from the science community are working very hard to give us a brighter, more sustainable future. Other groups, including politicians are pointing in the same direction.

Only yesterday people

who know about these things forecast that peak population will be about 12 billion. As I keep saying, it was 2 billion when I was born in 1933. We've discovered quite a lot since then. The usual rules apply - people working together can achieve great things.

Many of our visitors have come back or come for the first time, even before the swallows. I meet a lot of people, socially distanced of course, on my daily walks. I've never met anyone who doesn't praise our coastline and countryside.

Of course, I hear lots of comments on how busy we are, and how difficult it is to park

one's car. My usual reply is to say that I use buses, or accept (gratefully) a lift with a car-owning friend to some beauty spot or other, in our lovely county. The last year and more has made me focus on things local. I like what I see, apart from litter and minor vandalism.

I marvel at the reduction in Covid cases. The deaths and health impairments are all tragic, but I think them unavoidable in most cases.

Earlier today I was talking to a girl I knew from school. Like me, she's an optimist, hoping for regular work in a growing economy. That's the spirit.

Harry



## Dougie takes the helm at the Mason's

Welcome to the new landlord of the Mason's Arms in Amble. Dougie Queenan had plans to buy a pub before the Covid-19 outbreak, but understandably was stopped in his tracks as the pandemic took hold. But as he told the Ambler, now there is light at the end of the tunnel he decided to go for it.

"I was looking for a town centre pub with scope to expand and improve and after looking at several pubs, the Masons Arms had what I was looking for.

I have visited Amble many times, as I grew up on the Northumberland coast in Seaton Sluice and I have always loved the atmosphere and community spirit Amble brings."

Dougie's background was in the British Army and this is his first venture into the hospitality sector. But he has big plans for the Mason's Arms.

He plans to cater to locals and tourists alike, serving traditional pub food cooked with fresh local ingredients. And at the time of writing, he is looking



Dougie Queenan is the new owner of Amble's Mason's Arms

for five staff, including a chef, kitchen porter, bar staff and cleaner.

Renovations have already begun on the old function room, to turn it into a new lounge, and Dougie hopes to add a beer garden, upgrade the kitchen and bedrooms and add some minor upgrades to the bar.

The pub plans to reopen on 17 May and Dougie hopes to welcome pool and darts teams

once again.

"We are hoping to keep the current pool teams, providing the leagues restart, and we would also like to introduce Men and Women's Darts Teams, so I would ask anyone interested, to please get in touch."

Find them on  
Facebook: Masons-Arms-  
Amble-619066091554056

Anna Williams

## New film shows inspiration for knitting patterns

Amble Pin Cushion's award winning modern Guernsey knitting kits have recently been featured in magazines both regionally (The Northumbrian April / May edition) and nationally (Let's Knit May edition).

Having found a new supplier of British 5-ply Guernsey yarn, they will soon be expanding their range of available colours.

A short film by Ivor Rackham has been made showing how Amble harbour was the inspiration behind the new stitch patterns.

Anne Baxter from APC incorporated ladders, nets, flags, beach huts and even Freddie the Dolphin into her designs, and after the scenes at the harbour, she then demonstrates some of the techniques used in the kits.

The film can be viewed at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_liFVXImiH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_liFVXImiH8)

The kits are available from Amble Pin Cushion's shop and website.

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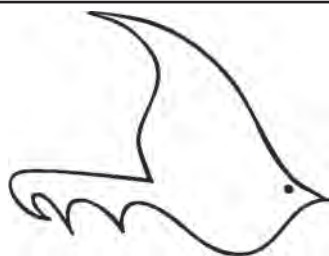


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## Welcome back, we've missed you

Spring has been reluctant and cold this year, meaning the long wait for warmer days was as eagerly anticipated as the easing of lockdown.

April 12 marked the reopening of non-essential shops in England. And for Amble, it was as if Queen Street was stretching after a long snooze. Slowly the town was reawakening, blinking into the bright sunshine. Individuals emerged from shop doorways that had been closed for months, a small group chatted on the Post Office corner, a trio of tourists browsed the gift shop windows.

A snake of long-haired men queued patiently outside the barbers. Businesses were sparkling inside

and out, and a sense of optimism had returned to the Friendliest Port.

Then, bam, reminding us who's in charge, Mother Nature threw in some late spring chills and hailstorms, putting a massive downer on outdoor socialising. So what a relief now the pubs and restaurants can open properly, and the town is gradually starting to bustle again. Fingers crossed new Covid variants don't spoil the party.

To our local businesses, we hope for a bumper year for you all, and to our visitors and the community, please support them, they are the backbone of our town.

## WHAT YOU SAY...

### Thank you!

To all the residents in the Amble Ward who voted for me in the recent election a big thank you for putting your faith in me to deal with the local issues that are important to you.

I managed during the campaign to investigate and resolve some of those issues you shared with me on the doorstep.

It was a very close call and we increased our share of the vote. It was a good result in Northumberland overall and the Conservative county council now has an overall majority and will continue to make sound investment decisions to support jobs, schools and infrastructure.

June Watson, Warkworth

### Information wanted on George Huntley Dixon

I have spent many years working on my family history and I am looking for information on my father George Huntley Dixon, a boot maker who was born in 1863 at Amble Harbour. My father was 62 when I was born of a second marriage, and I will be 95 next month. I discovered Amble Harbour via Google Earth.

In case there are any traces of a boot maker in local history, my father's parents were John

Johnson Dixon (a boot maker) and his wife, Jane Hannah Huntley. Dad migrated to Australia in 1886 having completed his apprenticeship as a joiner.

I have a web site: users.tpg.com.au/dixon2 which has more information which may be of interest.

Regards, and many thanks, from Sydney.  
David Dixon, dixon2@tpg.com.au

### Memories of RAF tragedy

With reference to the article posted 21st Aug. 2018. (Issue #112 p8.) At that time I was a clearance diver based at Rosyth Scotland as a member of Scottish Northern Ireland clearance diving team (S.N.I.C.D.T.). On that night we were urgently deployed to the incident. Myself and my diving buddy Kevin Reynolds were the two divers who broke into the hull, searched inside, found and recovered a young, terrified airman trapped in an air pocket which was filled with seawater and diesel.

I have never come across any literature about the incident until now. My buddy and I were awarded the Royal Humane Society award.

John Pennington. B.E.M. jpy67@gmail.com

### So many changes in the last few years

What a five years I have had. I have been to every medical centre and hospital and I did not know half the people there. I did not know the doctors, GPs or nurses.

Since 2017 a lot of people have died in Northumberland

2017 -2018 NB Clarke bought the land across the road from me. A fence was put up in a field and so you could not see across to West Avenue. Then house building started.

2019 The main road and road up to Mariners Court flooded. There has been a load of disturbance around here.

2020 Hardy's went into lockdown

The old Duke's School where John, James, Lawrence, Robert and Harold and all the other members who set up Hardy's, was derelict

2017 -2019 I fished on the River Coquet at Warkworth and never really saw anybody. The road to the Coquet Lodge permit collapsed.

The Grandsland pumps have a lot of fencing

on it.

From 23 March last year I had to go into lockdown.

2016 - 2021 I don't have a doctor or a GP. Dr. Fraser, Dr. Pettifer, Prof. Scott Wilkes and Dr. Watkins have all left. There are a lot of strangers in the Amble practice now.

Recently I have been to Cromies for my pills as I have a strict diet regime. No pills there.

The pubs and clubs are in lockdown.

The Artique is being knocked down to make way for more NB Clarke houses, or is it another builder?

Who is going to live in these houses, or is it going to become the same as the field across the road from me?

Will we be able to walk to Warkworth on the path in front of where the Artique was?

Yours sincerely

R. Bramham Amble



## Good luck to The Galley



I-r: Courtney Collins, Eileen Potts, Natalie Morrison, James Leighton, Sally Scott, Sandy Scott

Fingers crossed for The Galley who have been shortlisted for an award in the 2021 Town & County Business Champions.

James Leighton told The Ambler that he was flattered at The Galley being nominated by some of their customers, so agreed to take part.

"I submitted my entry in December to be considered for the award of Town champion by the panel. After a couple of months, I got word from the awards committee saying that the panel has picked us as a finalist in the county championship as a successful business growing in Northumberland. We have been invited to the awards ceremony down in Liverpool in July. I was overwhelmed yesterday when I got the news, it's a credit to all of us to even make the final.

The family run sandwich and deli shop is run by Sandy and Sally Scott, and Sally's son James Leighton. They recently opened a second shop in Alnwick, thereby doubling their workforce.

The Town & County Business Champion awards celebrate the best of small local businesses, and there are five regional finals, Northern England, Southern England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. See more about the awards at [www.tcbchamps.co.uk/](http://www.tcbchamps.co.uk/)

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## 50 year service medal award

Congratulations to Rodney Burge who has been awarded a medal by the RNLI, for 50 years of service.

Rodney joined the Amble Lifeboat in 1969 after leaving the Royal Navy. He told The Ambler, "Even when I was a little laddie I always wanted to join the lifeboat. I went in to the Navy



when I was 15, left when I was 24 and volunteered straight away. It's always been part of my life."

Rodney has served as a crew member, coxwain, manager and training officer on the Amble lifeboats, and now he is Amble

RNLI's press officer.

Recently he wrote a book "Amble and Hauxley Lifeboat Station" published by the RNLI.

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## NEW NAME, SAME TEAM, SAME PROMISE

*Alistair Turner branches in Alnwick, Amble and Rothbury have changed name to William Purves Funeral Directors.*

*The same team continue to deliver compassion dedication integrity and respect 24/7 every day of the year.*

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## williampurves.co.uk



## Can we go back to the way things were?



With lockdown restrictions beginning to be lifted (again), I keep finding myself thinking back to the lockdown last year, even rereading some of the corona diary articles I did at the time. Even though we're still in some form of lockdown now, it feels much different to those few months with no school and almost no leaving the house. There were lots of negatives, but there were also positives which I'm now almost missing.

Now that I'm back in school with lots and lots of sixth form work, I'm struggling to fit in much writing, whereas in lockdown I was able to finish the project I was working on by writing for several hours every day. I can still remember how happy me and my friends were when we first found out that our exams had been cancelled- confused and upset that we wouldn't be able to see each other, but happy that we wouldn't have to go through the stress of tests. During lockdown, as well, I ended up appreciating the local area much more. Each walk or run was much more special knowing that we then couldn't go out again for the rest of the day, and walking around the river and the beach with hardly any people around was peaceful.

However, it's easy to look back with rose tinted glasses. Not being able to go anywhere, do anything or see anyone over lockdown was hard, and like everyone I'm looking forward to things slowly returning to some semblance of normality. The idea of being able to go to the cinema or even just a café with my friends in only a month or so is exciting, but even being able to see my friends outside school and feeling safe while doing it seems almost impossible at the minute. I would love to go back to climate protests, concerts and other crowded events but it's going to be a while before those ever feel fully safe and normal again.



The coronavirus has changed the way we see things and the way we do things and I don't think we're going to be able to just flick a switch and go back to the way things were before the lockdown, but that might not be a wholly bad thing. Like me learning to appreciate the local area more, we've all learned things over the past year. When we go back to 'normal', we'll go back with a new mindset.

By Lily

## Summer and winter solstices



A day has 24 hours so you would think that there are 12 hours day and 12 hours night. But did you know that the length of the day changes throughout the year? This is why the days are so long in summer and so short in winter! The longest or shortest days in a year are called solstices.

### What does "solstice" mean?

The word solstice is derived from two Latin words: "sol" meaning sun, and "sistere" meaning to stand still. This can be translated literally as "the sun standing still". Interestingly, it has been observed that the sun appears to stand still in the sky for a few days before and after the solstice.

### When is the summer or winter solstice?

Depending on the calendar, the summer solstice occurs sometime between June 20 and June 22 (June solstice) in the northern hemisphere, and between December 20 and

December 23 each year in the southern hemisphere. It is when the sun reaches its minimum or maximum declination.

Six months later, when the Earth has revolved half-way around the sun, days are starting to get shorter and the temperature is cooler. We see that winter slowly sets in and the winter solstice occurs.

### Why do the solstices occur?

The answer lies in the way the Earth tilts! The Earth orbits around the sun at an angle of just about 23.5 degrees. So, when a particular hemisphere is facing the sun, it experiences the summer solstice.

As a result, when the northern part of the Earth is tilted towards the sun, days in the northern hemisphere of the Earth get longer. The temperature is warmer. And we see that summer has set in for that half of the planet.



The day of the solstice is known to represent the start of the summer for the hemisphere which faces the sun.

### Summer Solstice Facts

- The June solstice dates vary. For example, it was on June 21 in 2015, but on June 20 in 2016. This year it will be on 21 June.
- A June 22 solstice will not occur until 2203. The last time there was a June 22

solstice was in 1971.

- Summer solstice celebrations have been taking place for thousands of years. People from many different cultures have held solstice celebrations.
  - For our distant ancestors who were dependent on hunting, gathering, and growing, the solstice played a central role in their lives.
  - As of date, the summer solstice marks a time of celebration for Christians and Pagans.
- By Hannah

## WHY WE SHOULD LOVE WASPS



Wasps are annoying and completely worthless to the world - or are they?

Wasps are predators - which means they hunt and eat meat (they also

can eat sugar, but that's not what I'm talking about). But what do they eat and why does it help the environment - I'll tell you now. The bugs that they eat are mostly whiteflies, aphids and caterpillars - which feed on crops. Without wasps there certainly would be more pests in the

world. According to research, they also pollinate around 960 types of flowers!

Maybe if more people knew about this, wasps would be less underrated/more loved, like bees! I mean, they kind of do the same job, if so even more - why not give them a chance?

### COOL WASP FACTS:

- Some wasps can grow up to 5cm long!
- They are related to bees AND ants!



- Female wasps can sting more times than a male wasp - that's what I would call girl power!

- The only continent that wasps don't live on is Antarctica, which isn't surprising!

- Not all wasps are yellow and black!

So, would you rather have more pests eating plants or be stung once?

By Grace

## ENGLISH TEENS DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE

At the beginning of May, the UK's local elections were held, but there was a key group missing from the polls in England: 16 and 17 year olds.

In Scotland and Wales the voting age for non-Westminster elections is 16, whereas in England it remains 18, denying around 1.5 million young people the chance to have their say on matters that will arguably shape their future more than any other age group. 75% of Scottish 16-17 year olds voted in Scottish independence

referendum, so why can't English young people get the opportunity to vote on important matters too?

The common argument is that 16 and 17 year olds are not mature enough to vote, not responsible enough to consider the wider effects that their vote would have, but recent movements such as the school strikes for climate change have proved that young people are not only incredibly socially aware, but also know what they believe in and are politically minded.

By lowering the voting age young people could become more interested in politics, learning more about how the system works and what they believe in.

However, results show that young people are far more likely to vote Labour not Conservative, so with a Conservative government it could be a while before the voting age gets lowered to allow us to have our say.

By Lily



## What I'm looking forward to



I'm very excited for the restaurants to be reopened because we spent so much time without them. This meant we didn't get to spend time with family and friends around a nice dinner table. We have only been able to have family household meals.

However, with the restaurants reopening, we can have family and friend meals at a restaurant.

I for one am probably most excited for getting to go for fish and chips with my friends, but I'm also excited to go to some fancy places with my friends and family.

By Megan



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## What are pronouns and why should I care?



Pronouns, by definition, are words that substitute a noun or noun phrase. Currently, however, they are a subject for debate, especially regarding trans and non binary people.

It is argued that non-binary people can't use they/them pronouns because that refers to plural, but this is entirely inaccurate as gender non specific pronouns have been used since as early as the 1300s. But, around the 1500s, author William Lily declared in his Latin textbook that 'the masculine gender is more worthy than the feminine' (referring to in grammatical context, not biological sex or gender roles). This book was then used for centuries as the Latin grammar guide, so 'he' became more common than 'they'. This is also why, in lots of situations, 'he' is used as a gender neutral term.

Lots of non-binary people now prefer they/them pronouns because they don't identify with the feminine she/her or the masculine he/him. I personally use she/they. Understandably, pronouns can cause confusion, especially with older generations. However, if you were speaking about a dog and called it she, the owner would correct you and you would apologise and continue using he/him pronouns. Why can't it be the same for people?

Using the correct pronouns for a trans or non-binary person, whilst being the bare minimum, is so validating. However, because of misunderstandings and lack of education on the subject, lots of people are targeted for using they/them pronouns, or pronouns that don't 'match' their appearance (although, of course, gender expression does NOT equal gender identity).

So what can you do? Firstly, if you get someone's pronouns wrong apologise and correct yourself. Similarly, if you catch someone else using the wrong pronouns all you have to do is correct them and continue- it's not a big deal.

Secondly, use gender non specific pronouns in everyday conversations. Consider using 'people' instead of 'ladies and gentlemen', or 'they' instead of 'he or she'. Also, tell people your pronouns! When you meet someone new, tell them and ask them for their's, put it in your social media bios, and sign off emails with your pronouns.

All of this normalises it for trans and non-binary people and just makes everyone a little more accepting.

By Ava (she/they)





# Leave space for shorebirds

Space for Shorebirds is the name for Northumberland County Council's Coastal Mitigation Service. The project is responsible for conserving shorebirds along the coastline from Seaton Sluice to Berwick upon Tweed. Its main objective is to protect our important bird populations.

The Northumberland coast is a stunning area. Shorebirds gather on the coast in significant numbers after travelling thousands of miles from their Arctic breeding grounds.

It is vital that shorebirds can feed to gain energy to help them survive. If they are constantly being disturbed, they are using up their energy flying away from danger, and reducing their chances to survive. They need about 40-50m space. Some species in particular are in need of our help, such as curlew, purple sandpiper and ringed plover, as their numbers have declined over the past 25 years.

In March and April, a large proportion of our shorebirds leave the coastline to travel to their breeding grounds, whether that is the UK uplands in the case of curlew and lapwing, or



Ringed Plover. Photo by Tom Cadwallender

as far as the High Arctic for turnstone and purple sandpiper. However, some birds stay on the Northumberland coast to breed, and one species that really needs our help are ringed plovers.

They are territorial nesters, meaning that their nests (also known as scrapes) could appear at any location along the coast. Scrapes look exactly how they sound – a small hollow in the sand dug by the birds just big enough to hold up to four perfectly camouflaged eggs.

Dogs can help us to protect our shorebirds too! Just like humans, it's important that dogs give shorebirds space, and never chase the birds. Therefore we

are encouraging dogs to become shorebird champions – to take the pledge to help us protect coastal wildlife and join our team of Dog Rangers.

Please see our website for more information if you are interested in joining. Visit: <http://spaceforshorebirds.co.uk/>

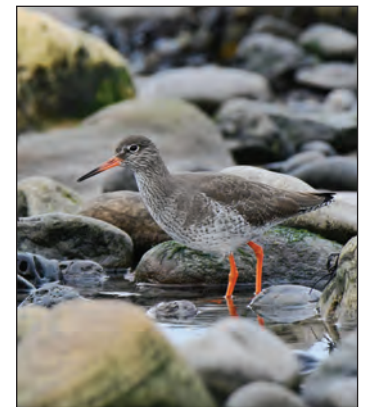
Throughout the summer please look out for signage and areas of beach that are fenced off to give these birds a fighting chance of successfully rearing chicks.

As well as coastal wildlife, we have a vital role in conserving the flower rich dune systems and grasslands. Sticking to the main paths through the dunes will

help to keep the flora and fauna thriving and minimise the risk of trampling on the delicate plants.

There are currently two Wildlife Rangers employed through the service, who are here to talk to residents and visitors to share information about the birds. We also monitor the bird numbers and recreational activities along the coast and assess where this may be impacting wildlife. If you see us out on the coast, please say hello!

We really hope you enjoy your visit to the coast, but please always remember to give Space for Shorebirds!



Redshank. Photo by Richard Willis

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In the last issue (#127 Artograffi) teenage writer Ava Tibbitts wrote about Intersectional Feminism, maintaining that feminism should celebrate all women, including marginalised women. Here, reader Kevin McCann argues that intersectionality is essentially about seeing people only as part of a wider group.

## What is intersectionality?

Intersectionality is an ideology recently developed in US universities and based on French post-modernist philosophy, which in essence asserts that every human is only significant in relation to the particular identity group that they inhabit.

It therefore denies the sanctity of the individual human or their particular role in and contribution to, wider society. Both the 'individual' and wider society as a whole are not important to intersectionalist ideology, and on the contrary, they are actively denied by it.

Furthermore, for the intersectionalist, only the perceptions or "lived experience of marginalised identities" are important.

In practice intersectionalism works as follows: imagine an invisible grid outlining a hierarchy of various identity groups. At the bottom of this grid are the "oppressors", the lowest of the low – white, heterosexual men. Slightly above them would come white heterosexual women, who are "oppressed" but not as much as black heterosexual men who would therefore be placed a notch above. Above this group would be black heterosexual women and above them black gay women and so on.

Right at the top of the grid would be that marginalised group containing the most elements of the "marginalised and oppressed" (fat, trans, gender queer, non-binary, etc).



Social and economic class structures do not exist at all in this view so for example, a black, gay, female billionaire living in a mansion would be more "marginalised and oppressed" than a white male homeless person because she occupies a higher place on the intersectional grid.

One of the most malign aspects of intersectionalism, is that it fundamentally dehumanises people. Each magnificent human being, with all of his/her qualities, abilities, strengths, character, personality and outlook is nothing in comparison to their "identity" and where they are placed on the grid.

In this view, all white people are classed as having "white privilege" – even the homeless guy mentioned above. Even those heroic men and women, who years ago worked 14 hours a day in the pits of Northumberland or the cotton mills of Lancashire for very little pay – they too unknowingly enjoyed "white privilege" according to the intersectionalist.

As history has sadly shown us, those debased "isms" that have unleashed unimaginable barbarism on the world, have all tended to deny the dignity of the individual human being, preferring instead to aggregate us all together into de-personalised identity groups.

Such groups are singularly vulnerable to groupthink brutality. Think of the Jews in Nazi Germany, the Kulaks in the USSR, the Yazidis in the Middle East or the Uighurs in contemporary China. This is what can happen when we see only the group identity and not the individual human face.

This is essentially what intersectionality does – this is what it is. George Orwell warned us all of the real consequences of anti-human "isms" such as fascism, communism or now intersectionalism.

*Kevin McCann*

## Thinking outside the box

A Warkworth mum who gave up her high-profile job in advertising in 2012 to pursue her passion for art and creativity has developed her business to help employers ease furloughed staff back into the team.

Lorna Watkinson set up Rainbow Pottery Painting and her workshops have encouraged creativity in young people and businesses by focusing on goals and visions through the medium of pottery.

Now, she is using those skills to develop interpersonal and COVID resilient skills through her new company, Vibrant Thinking.

Lorna's creative workshops identify challenges and solutions and improve team dynamics, boost morale and increase productivity. She uses the logistical problems she had to overcome from her pottery workshops, to enable clients to think outside of the box.

"I'm passionate about using creativity to overcome challenges and I use pottery painting as a tool in my workshops as a vehicle, with the added benefit of being a rewarding and absorbing activity for everyone. It's an ideal way to relax your mind and energise your thinking," said Lorna.

See more at [www.vibrant-thinking.com/](http://www.vibrant-thinking.com/)

## Social history group to disband

I would like if I may to use your magazine to tell you that Amble Social History group has decided to disband. There are only five members left and they are not getting any younger.

When we started out in 2000 we had 23 members. Northumberland College started a class on local history. One of the group had been researching what had happened to three local villages that had disappeared.

We decided with the backing of our tutor and the college to form a breakaway group to help her research this and so began the Social History Group.

What followed was the publication of several books. We decided that any money made from anything we did would go back into the community.

We have donated almost

£10,000 into local community projects. We asked the people in the area for information and photographs, and not once were we let down.

We amassed so many photographs that we decided to put them onto a disc. Frank Swinhoe undertook this task and managed to put together four discs which are still available to buy. While we were researching Radcliffe someone told us about a stone behind the old pit baths at Broomhill. It turned to be a dedication tablet from the first houses built there.

We brought it away and decided to try and get it installed near the Radcliffe War Memorial. And so with thanks to John Kelly that this has now been done. When a lad from the holy city gives his word, he means



it! Thank you John. We would also like to thank Nigel Gilholm for doing the lettering and making it look smart.

One lasting legacy is the coach made by Tom Crocker and George Edminson for the Queens Golden jubilee which we gave to Christmas Lights Committee. It is still going strong in the Christmas lights parade.

Finally I would like to thank Amble Development Trust for all the help and encouragement they gave us when we started up.

*Andy Sim  
Chair, Amble Social  
History Group*





# Amble Town

# COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm - details on our website

Town: 10th June, 8th July, 12th August (tbc)

Amenities: 27th May (tbc)

EAST WARD:	Helen Lewis,	Craig Weir	WEST WARD:	Jeff Watson	David Bewley	CEN. WARD:	Jane Dargue	VACANCY
Ian Parks,	5 Meadowburn,	(Chair/Mayor)	Tracey Hinton,	14 Magdalene	11 Brinkburn	Kate Morrison,	10 Sylvia's	
33 Warkworth	Amble	76 Priory Park,	13 George	Fields	Place	3 Island View,	Close,	
Avenue,	NE65 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	

## ELECTIONS

All those who were Council members stood for re-election and were elected again unopposed. There remains a vacancy in the Central ward and after confirmation is received from NCC Elections Officers, it is likely Council will begin the Co-option procedure so that the town has its full complement as soon as possible. If you are interested in being considered contact the Clerk for information about the process and please do attend a council meeting to familiarise yourself with proceedings.

## MEMORIAL

On behalf of the town, whilst Council was able to lay a small floral tribute and observe the national minute's silence for His Royal Highness The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh sadly due to the Covid regulations regarding 'gatherings' this could not be advertised. Neither could the book of condolences be placed in the town for those who wished to record some words of sympathy in memory of him. Council will however be considering whether to place a type of lasting memorial in his memory.

## FLORAL DISPLAYS

The new planting for the main beds has been delayed until June but meanwhile the wallflowers continue to bloom and delight passers-by.

## EAST CEMETERY

The damaged wall has now been repaired. Larger trees have been pollarded and smaller shrubs will be cut back to tidy the area further.

## SEAT

You may have noticed that the seat by the new Persimmons development is no longer there. It was removed to facilitate utility works and is being stored by them meanwhile. Council have suggested it should be reinstated nearer the Right of Way to Hauxley as a better resting point for walkers.

## PARKING

Places will be even more restricted whilst work takes place to expand the central car park in the town. We are also likely to experience a higher volume of visitors due to 'staycations' this year. Remember that we are all being urged to use the car less and exercise more if we can. Please try to restrict your usage of a vehicle whenever possible; but do park considerably if you must drive into the town- particularly in the central area.

## WWII

Check out Amble Remembers WWII on [www.amble.gov.uk](http://www.amble.gov.uk)

## MEETINGS

It is hoped that Council can soon begin physical 'face to face' meetings again rather than the virtual ones we have held during the Covid restrictions. Our office has limited space for public participation within full council meetings and we may therefore have to hold meetings elsewhere so we can adhere to social distancing. We are currently exploring the options of venues available and perhaps possibly asking you to register beforehand if you wish to attend. Please look at the website for the most up to date information about meetings.

## WEST CEMETERY

We were delighted to accept some small saplings from Friends of the Earth which have been planted on the far western boundary of the cemetery where it is hoped they will thrive and grow to full maturity to add to the magnificent ones already within the cemetery. We are applying also to the NCC initiative so that over time we can add more to that boundary.

Work will start soon on placing some drainage in the new section of the cemetery before it comes into use. We hope you will bear with us whilst this is carried out and we appreciate the contractor's understanding in pausing work during interments.

Brambles and straggly undergrowth have been removed and laurels have been planted by the newer fence in the cremated remains area to form a pleasanter background there. A memorial seat has been placed in the cemetery; Council are very grateful for the family's generosity and thoughtfulness.

## WAR MEMORIAL & GARDENS

The pointing around the base of the clock tower will be renewed soon by a conservation specialist; the new floodlights have been installed and the clock is working correctly again. Like all our gardens, the plants and the new tree have been suffering in the unseasonably dry and sunny weather but hopefully will soon thrive again. Warkworth and Amble Rotary Club will be planting the raised bed which they have asked to maintain. With the lifting of some of the Covid restrictions it is hoped that work can commence soon on the Seafarers' memorial which has eventually been granted planning permission.

## PADDLERS PARK

A new prototype has been developed for the water feature and will be installed soon. It is hoped it will overcome the problems experienced since this was installed. Due to the climate here and the sea spray, the graphics are deteriorating- but are being made worse by those who are chipping away at the edges to make the holes even larger! As an interim measure specialist paint has been tried but unfortunately that was not very successful. We continue to try to source a manufacturer who is willing to lift and redo these at a reasonable cost; however if this is not possible, or they suffer too much vandalism, they may have to be removed.

## TREES

Recently people have been walking more and noticing the wonderful trees throughout the town. Surprise is expressed when it is learnt that Amble has few trees with Preservation orders (TPO) - these restrict what can be done to them. Apart from those in West Avenue, there are only two trees with TPOs. Council have submitted a request to NCC to have more of our trees accepted for TPOs and await a response.

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](http://www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil)

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





Welcome back to Trust Life – actually welcome back to life! Perhaps not as we knew it but slightly more normal.

It's good to see businesses open again and better still to see increased footfall which they need to help them stay afloat. To say its been a hard year is an understatement and I doubt anyone can possibly know the full impact covid has had on every aspect of human life!

Having said all that we have been surprised by the number of new businesses looking for accommodation in Amble. We have welcomed four new businesses starting up in Trust premises, and have received further enquiries that

we have directed elsewhere. While the nature of our high street is changing, it is obvious that Amble is attracting much interest. I know there are a lot of comments and concerns about how many food outlets, hairdressers, nail bars and tanning studios that are appearing on high streets, but if anything covid has determined the way we are likely to shop in the future, so we have to be grateful that Amble is seeing interest and has few vacant properties.

Sadly I have little to update everyone on with the sculpture trail. While we had full planning permission prior to submitting the funding application there

were some conditions to meet before we could begin the installations. This information was submitted in 2020 and we are still waiting for final approval. We keep our fingers crossed this wont take much longer, but it is extremely frustrating.

At the welfare, new back boards and hoops are being erected to the basketball courts and we have enquiries from a team wanting to use the pitch as their home ground, which is very promising.

In the Town Square we have set up a contract with a company to maintain the Coquet Street and white rose gardens as well as weed spraying the paved area. So

we should have it looking tidy and colourful for the summer.

Our thanks go to Pride in Amble volunteers who have worked so hard over the years to maintain the square – this has been greatly appreciated.

Currently our office is remaining closed to the public. Anyone wanting to contact The Ambler, or requiring a CV can do so by ringing: 01665 712929 or emailing [editor@theambler.co.uk](mailto:editor@theambler.co.uk) or [julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk](mailto:julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk)

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

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

## Amble Food Bank thanks the community

The Amble Food Bank continues to be amazed at the support the community has given and continues to give us. Not to mention the donations from shoppers at Amble Morrisons, which has been phenomenal.

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

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

Thank you to the following: Warkworth Primary School, Morrison's Amble, Danielle Nolan at Utterly Scrumptious and Sharon Crisp of Crispy Cakes and Cookies.

And of course, to the

community for its donations of food items to the Food Bank.

Thanks also to those who have donated financially or via our Just Giving page, the response has been phenomenal.

Just to remind you that food items can be donated at either the Co-op or The Galley on Queen Street, or in the cage by the checkouts at Morrison's.

We still have collection tins in the Co-op. These are located by the checkouts. Thank you to those of you who have already donated.

Please follow the Amble Foodbank page on Facebook for regular updates.

We have been awarded a Good Will Gesture food payment of £2000 from Northumberland County Council to help meet the need in our area within Northumberland, for which we are extremely grateful.

Thank you once again to the volunteers, who work tirelessly

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

*Bill Cruickshank*  
*Coordinator Amble Food Bank*

*To donate, search for Amble Food Bank under crowdfunders on [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)*

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## Mauretania Day postponed

Organisers of Amble's Mauretania Day have announced it will be postponed until July 2022. The popular annual event held at Amble Harbour Village commemorates the day in 1935 when RMS Mauretania sent a message to Amble Urban Council calling Amble "the kindest port" - which is where Amble's nickname of the "Friendliest Port" derives.

## Warkworth village choir

Warkworth Village Choir held their belated AGM on 12 April. It was a Zoom meeting of course (and apologies to anyone who tried to join the meeting and was thwarted. It was my technical glitch, not yours!). It was by necessity a brief formality. We agreed that once the choir is meeting properly again we'll have another General Meeting. That will allow everybody to agree a proper committee structure to replace the temporary steering group which has been leading the choir through the past eighteen months, and to make any adjustments to our temporary constitution.

Reviewing the past year-and-a-bit was quite strange, but it felt so good to return to discussing a future. The timing and format of that future could not be predicted on 12 April, so no specific plans were made. However, we agreed that we are now emerging from lockdown with a real hope of singing together properly at some point. We'll no longer have to limit our plans to desperate compromises with tambourines, so we won't start rehearsals until we can start actual singing. We know that all of us, and some more than others, might be tentative about our return to activities like singing, so we intend to be patient and just feel our way in gradually. Before we do any singing, we'll have at least one meeting just to get together, socialise and share our ideas. As soon as we have a date for that, we'll let you know.

Email us: [thechoir@btinternet.com](mailto:thechoir@btinternet.com)

## Second virtual Warkworth Show

Last year when the pandemic hit, Warkworth Show, rather than cancel the show completely, took the brave decision to go virtual. After intensive hard work by many people, on 22 August 2020, Warkworth's first virtual show went live. That show can still be seen on [www.warkworthshow.co.uk](http://www.warkworthshow.co.uk) - follow the links. Because of the unknown challenges this virtual show encountered, entry was limited to Warkworth Parish, local allotment holders, and local W.I.'s.

Now the 2nd Virtual Warkworth Show 2021, is underway. Having learnt so much from last year's show, and with a revision of some classes, entry will now be accepted from a 5 mile radius of Warkworth Castle. Schedules are being compiled and printed, the facebook page, Warkworth Show, and the web site [www.warkworthshow.co.uk](http://www.warkworthshow.co.uk), will all be kept up to date and will include the schedule. For anyone without access to the internet, depending on pandemic regulations, schedules will be available in local shops etc. or you can contact me, on 07773024528 and a schedule will be delivered to you.

During the month of June, we will have some very exciting challenges, they will be for four weeks, and have to be submitted in the week stated. Watch facebook and the website for these challenges. Any queries please contact [annburke@mail.com](mailto:annburke@mail.com) or [secretary@warkworthshow.co.uk](mailto:secretary@warkworthshow.co.uk) Looking forward to seeing everyone's entries.

*Ann Burke, Chair, Warkworth Show*

## Amble Youth Project events

Summer is coming and soon we will be releasing the plan for Summer 2021. This year promises to be a good one so please keep an eye on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AmbleYouthProjectGetInvolved>) or feel free to contact Matthew Mahoney for more information [matthewm@ambleyouthproject.org](mailto:matthewm@ambleyouthproject.org)

## Landscape artist Luke has first show

Amble landscape painter Luke McTaggart has his first show at Alnwick Playhouse later this year, but you can see his work on their website from 8 June to 12 July.

Luke is studying for a BA in Fine Art at Northumbria University and he is often to be found with his easel in the midst of the Amble fields and local environs.

Luke says, "I paint places and views that are disregarded by most. Again and again I am drawn back to the edgelands around my hometown of Amble. These rolling fields, quiet woods and open skies offer up the most spectacular of vistas. But they do not conform to the traditional conception of the English countryside. These vistas were once open cast coal mines, land that has been continually shaped by man. Yet, it is in these places that I have found such an exceedingly rich sense of place."

"As Amble becomes ever more popular, housing developers seek to spread outwards onto these fields, concreting over these views. So, to some extent my work is of an archival nature, documenting and preserving these views before the inevitable occurs. If my work can go some way towards making people value this kind of landscape then I will be able to say with conviction that my work has succeeded."

See [www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/gallery/exhibitions/](http://www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk/gallery/exhibitions/) for more details, or see Luke's Facebook page.



## Photo group planning for the future

Amble Photographic Group is looking forward to restarting meetings in its normal venue in Trinity Methodist Church Hall from January 2022. In the meantime Friday meetings will continue on Zoom.

So far this year Zoom has been a great success with guest speakers on topics such as: Corona Lockdown - showing the effects of the pandemic on a range of people and professions; Photography A Personal Perception - illustrating links between science and photography; Inca Tapestries - a journey through Peru and its peoples and civilisations.

Our own members have given presentations on subjects as diverse as Ethiopia, Cyprus, South America, and personal interpretations on a theme, as well as expert advice on processing images.

For the rest of this year a varied and interesting programme has been put together. It includes competitions, quizzes, external speakers, and tutorials. There will also be some photography trips which will hopefully encourage members who are not comfortable with Zoom to take part.

Anyone interested in joining the Group should contact Helen Holmes on [helenholmes1947@gmail.com](mailto:helenholmes1947@gmail.com).

## Discover the Norse people in Alnwick

Postponed from last year and now opening on 22 May is Bailiffgate's big summer event. Separate the fact from the fiction in this myth-busting exhibition in a unique collaboration with the JORVIK Group, the people behind JORVIK Viking Centre in York.

When most people think of Vikings they imagine bearded warriors wreaking havoc, or legendary gods with magic hammers. But the Norse people who settled in northern England in the 9th and 10th centuries also had a fascinating culture. In Vikings: Fact and Fiction, visitors will be able to explore who they really were: from the clothes they wore to the activities they did for fun. The exhibition will bring visitors up close to 1,000 year old artefacts and learn how the Vikings impacted the world, not just through raiding and conquering but through craft-making and trading.

The Vikings: Fact and Fiction exhibition opens on 22 May and runs until 3 October 2021.



## Harbour Lights Amble community choir

Our choir continues to meet each week, on Thursday evenings at 7pm online, via Zoom, with around thirty members regularly joining us.

We were delighted to be successful in a recent bid to the Local Connections Fund supported by the National Lottery. We used our grant of £1750, to buy several tablets, a printer and upgraded our Dropbox facility. The tablets have been loaned out to choir members to enable those who were unable to access choir online, and to members to enhance their experience of doing so.

The Local Connections Fund gives grants to groups who demonstrate that they are connecting people and reducing isolation. We showed that our Harbour Lights Choir does that, and has done so brilliantly during this last year of the pandemic. Our members tell us how much being able to still sing and keep in contact with each other has helped them during this past year making them feel better all round. We are so lucky to have our Choir Leader, Sarah Gray, who leads us with such enthusiasm that we all come away feeling great.

Research has shown that singing can be good for you on many levels. "It may help lower stress, boosts immunity and lung function, enhances memory, improves mental health, and can help you cope with physical and emotional pain. One of the best things about singing is that you don't have to be good at it to reap the rewards!" We are a friendly community choir, who welcomes everyone. You do not need to be able to sing or read music. You simply need to enjoy singing. Along with all that, singing, especially in our Harbour Lights Community Choir, is such great fun!

Find out more about us: <https://www.harbourlightscommunitychoir.org>, email: [hello@harbourlightscommunitychoir.org](mailto:hello@harbourlightscommunitychoir.org) We can be found on Facebook, or contact our Secretary - 07948 521463

Mary Davidson,

Chairperson, Harbour Lights Community Choir




Above: The newly formed Amble Links FC in their home strips sponsored by Amble Links Coastal Holiday Park. Pictured with the children is the general manager of Amble Links Coastal Holiday Park, Brian Docherty. For more information contact David Whenray on 07885546163.

## Theatre returns to Amble

Amble will welcome audiences to Neil Gore's adaptation of the famous working class novel by Robert Tressell. The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists brings this witty, humorous and absorbing classic book to life in a one-man magic lantern show. Featuring political conjuring, music and songs echoing the lives of painters and decorators struggling to maintain themselves in times of Edwardian austerity.

The show is on Thursday 10 June in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, NE65 0DX at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00). Tickets are adults £10, concessions £8, children £5, they can be bought from N&F Young, 8 Queen Street and online at <https://highlightsnorth.co.uk>, or on the door. There is also a "2 for 1" special offer for 16-35-year-olds who can get 2 tickets for £10. Audience numbers will be limited to ensure a Covid safe environment.

From St Cuthberts Church, Highlights Rural Touring Scheme and Townsend Theatre Productions




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## Antiques Road Trip comes to Amble



Presenter Roo Irvine, Seafood Centre Manager Andrew Gooding, and the film crew. Photo by Bart Rippon

At the end of March the BBC's Antiques Road Trip team visited Amble as they filmed for their new series.

Local historian and Harbour Village Co-ordinator Bart Rippon took part in the filming. He said "They were spending time at the Seafood Centre filming our fabulous selection of fish. I was interviewed about the history of the harbour by Roo Irvine who presents the programme. A lovely lady. The interview took place on board John Wingfield's coble, 'Amy & Holly.'"

The episode will be the first of series 24, but The Ambler has been told there's no set date for broadcast yet.

## Coquet Island sanctuary: a plea to paddlers and rowers



Thousands of puffins and terns are greeted by a rainbow, heralding the beginning of May on Coquet Island. Photo by Hilary Brooker Carey

As lockdown restrictions ease, everyone is eager to get out and enjoy the newfound freedom, and fresh air.

There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of kayakers and paddle boarders enjoying the waters around Coquet Island.

Sadly some have been getting too close to the island and lifting the birds off their roosts and nests, while a few try to use the island as a convenient place to take a rest, seeming unaware that Coquet Island is a sanctuary for seabirds and protected by law

and such actions could lead to a hefty fine!

The plea from the RSPB to kayakers and other craft that head for the waters around Coquet Island is simple and clear: please keep your distance and help safeguard this special place.

The island and associated rocks exposed at low tide is protected by law under several conservation designations, all year round.

Coquet is home to over 70,000 nesting seabirds each year and includes puffins, eiders,

fulmar, kittiwake and is home to the sole UK colony of roseate terns, Britain's rarest nesting seabird.

The wardens have been working closely with the Coquet Shorebase Trust who have always supported the need to safeguard the reserve's birds and are helping to find ways to better inform visiting kayakers and commercial enterprises to be aware of the birds and respect the law whilst enjoying their sport.

With fines of up to £5000 and six months imprisonment

for the more serious offences, the police provide backup to the warden staff and have in place Operational Orders as means of responding effectively to incidents.

This is backed up with a sophisticated CCTV system which is in place to record offenders that ignore advice.

Hopefully goodwill can prevail and people on the water can enjoy their sports and the birds can thrive undisturbed.

*Paul Morrison  
RSPB Coquet Island*