



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 129 Aug/Sept 2021

Famous faces put Amble on the map

Harrison Ford: image by John Griffiths



The Friendliest Port is the place to be - whether you're an A-list film star, or a heart-throb on the UK's biggest reality TV show.

Taking some time out from filming the latest Indiana Jones movie, Harrison Ford stopped off at Amble's Fish Shack for lunch.

Waitress Carly Jones told The Ambler, "He turned up on his bike, with two other men. They sat at one of the tables and no-one really noticed who he was, until Ellie [Goodfellow] came running in and said 'Indiana Jones is outside!'"

He sampled the sardines and a local beer before cycling off up the coast back towards Bamburgh castle where the majority of filming was taking place.

Love Island, Amble

A few weeks later, Amble was briefly trending on social media - thanks in no small part



to Love Island contestant Brad McClelland, who seemingly couldn't stop talking about his home town.

26 year old Brad went to (then) Coquet High School and lives with his grandmother in Amble. He joined the ITV reality show at the beginning of series seven, and soon gained hundreds of thousands of fans on social media.

Friends of Brad told The Ambler: "He is one of the loveliest people you could ever meet. Such a humble and kind soul - a beautiful person inside and out."

On the show, Brad became known for his frequent references to Amble.

Fans joked "Where's he from again?" and the Love Island social media team even changed their location to Amble, in tribute to Brad's numerous references to the town.

But his stay at the villa was sadly shortlived and he left the show in week three. In a shock plot twist, Brad and his love interest Lucinda Strafford were told only one of them could stay, and the pair had to choose between them who would go.

In emotional scenes, gallant Brad volunteered to leave and let his love interest stay in the show.



Brad McClelland: image courtesy ITV

Vaccination numbers best in Northumberland

Amble, Swarland and Shilbottle have given the most numbers of vaccinations in Northumberland, with nearly 20,000 jabs administered.

As of 22 July, medical staff in the area, which includes the Coquet Medical Group team, had administered a whopping 19,952 first and second vaccinations, making them top of the table for the whole county, according to NHS England data.

As the nationwide Covid vaccination programme draws to an end, doctors are anxious to point out that anyone who hasn't had a jab can still have one.

Amble's Dr Ben Burville tweeted: Even if you have currently declined a Covid vaccine the offer is "evergreen" and you can either ring 119 to book if over 18yrs old or go online [nhs.uk] if you change your mind.

He said CMG plans to deliver both flu and Covid booster jabs together, during an Autumn vaccine campaign, and everyone over 50 will be offered a booster, along with those over 16 years who are extremely vulnerable.

Winner winner chicken dinner



James Leighton, co-owner of The Galley

Many congratulations to The Galley, who are the 2021 Northumberland Business Champions. James Leighton

from the Amble deli and catering business, was presented with the award at a prize-giving ceremony in London in July.

The family-run business on Amble's Queen Street, recently opened a second premises in Alnwick. They sell sandwiches and hot food, and recently began catering for Warkworth Golf Club.

James told The Ambler he was delighted when they announced The Galley had won.

"It's a huge feather in the cap for The Galley. Starting a new business is hard, keeping a business going through a pandemic is even harder, but this has made it all worth while.

"The staff are over the moon with the result and it means so much to them too!"

Anna Williams



STEPHEN BROWN FUNERALS

Stephen Brown has set up his family run funeral directors at 5 Wellwood Street, Amble NE65 0EP.

The family business will be run by Stephen's wife Nicola, daughter Kylie and Stephen himself. This will be the only family run independent funeral director in Amble.

We want to look after your family when you need us.

"I love helping and supporting families when they lose a loved one through a very difficult time. The satisfaction I feel when a family says

'thank you, we don't know how we have coped without your support,' is fantastic."

We will save families on average around £1500 in comparison to the big companies.

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We really do care down to the last detail.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

We are opening our chapels in Amble to provide a service to the people of Amble and surrounding areas. We are passionate about our work and do it in a very caring and loving way. We really do care, down to the very last detail and we are by your side every step of the way.

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Our care and attention means that whatever time of day or night, we will always be there for you.



l-r: Nicola, Stephen and daughter Kylie Brown

The Margaret Gumbley Chapel

Our new Chapel of Rest in Amble is to be named The Margaret Gumbley Chapel. This is in memory of a lovely lady who welcomed us to Amble just before she sadly passed away.

We were honoured to be able to take care of her funeral arrangements, and with the permission of her family, we decided it would be fitting to name our new Chapel of Rest after her.

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Stephen Brown Funerals

Contact Stephen for more information

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Amble: 01665 710755

27 Bridge Street, Blyth, NE24 2AA

Blyth: 01670 356418 27

email: info@blythfamilyfunerals.co.uk www.blythfamilyfunerals.co.uk

Boogie Bounce is back in Amble

Fitness fans will be delighted to know that Boogie Bounce is back in Amble. The madly popular trampoline-based fitness class has returned after a Covid lockdown pause, and is now in much bigger surroundings.

Director Leanne Sales explained that the previous venue was small, making it difficult to work with under Covid restrictions, so she looked for a bigger space, and found a unit on Amble's Industrial Estate.

The popularity of Boogie Bounce is phenomenal. The brand is now popular all over the world and they licence specialist instructors in 13 areas. Leanne started leading her first class in 2017 in what was then Coquet High School.

She told The Ambler, "I started in Amble while I was a manager for BT. I was really into fitness, so I gave myself a choice: BT in an office all day, or bounce on a trampoline!"

Leanne now runs 11 Boogie Bounce venues in total. Her empire stretches from Alnwick



Leanne Sales (right) with instructor Lucy Hankin Find them on Facebook: LBBBoogieBounce or www.boogiebounce.com

to Whitburn.

The new unit will have classes every weeknight (except Tuesdays) and on Saturday mornings, and they are looking to put on a kids' class during the summer holidays. During lockdown, Leanne loaned trampolines to people exercising at home, and she says she intends to carry on running home classes.

"I also offer LBB Nutrition and Healthy Meals, to help people keep happy healthy and

motivated," said Leanne.

The new venue is able to offer a small room to entertain children while parents are taking a class, and they will be opening a semi-private gym, and offering Les Mills On Demand programme (workout classes). Classes are open to men and women, and newbies are very welcome. The fitness studio is based at Unit 7 Amble Industrial Estate (just a couple of doors away from Brewis Beer's tap room).

Rotary's planting is blooming marvellous

All the hard work by Rotary club's planting of wildflowers has begun to pay off, with the road between Amble and Warkworth looking blooming marvellous.

Rotarian Dr. Paul Creighton, in charge of the scheme said, "We have now completed the planting of wildflowers on Rotary Way verges and there are approximately 400 metres of wildflowers at each end of the Rotary Way main road. They take quite a bit of expensive maintenance, but local Rotarians think it is very worthwhile."



The Rotary Club of Amble & Warkworth Rotary is now turning their attention to one of the planters in Amble town square - watch this space.

In addition to providing fellowship for both men and women, Rotary raises substantial sums for local charities and undertakes local practical community work. Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club is open to everyone - all are welcome.

More info: www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org and/or Facebook page - Rotary Amble & Warkworth

Sandy wins gold at national marmalade awards



Congratulations to Sandy Higson aka the Mad Jam Woman who has scooped six prizes at this year's World Artisan Marmalade Awards. Sandy won a prestigious gold for her Lemon, Ginger and Chilli marmalade, as well as taking four silver medals and a commendation.

She told The Ambler: "I'm over the moon to have won these awards, especially the gold. I couldn't believe it when I saw the results, it was 7.30am and I was still in bed. I rang my friend

to tell her - it was just as well she was up!"

Lemon, Ginger and Chilli won gold

Lemon and Cointreau, Orange and Carrot, Seville and Cranberry, and Bucks Fizz won silver.

Tequila Sunrise was commended.

Despite the pandemic and multiple UK lockdowns, the Marmalade Awards received a record-breaking number of entries this year, with over 3000 jars from more than 30 countries

worldwide including Japan, Canada, Australia, Kuwait and the Dominican Republic.

The Artisan Awards are judged by an expert panel including food writer Dan Lepard and Fortnum & Mason Grocery Buyer Sarah Metcalf, and this accolade denotes a marmalade of exceptional quality.

The Awards are sponsored by Fortnum & Mason and Rathbones and are proud to raise money for palliative care around the world and so far have raised over £270,000.

Sandy's marmalades can also be purchased in Amble at Fourways1, Northumberland Seafood Centre and The Galley on Queen St. You can also buy her preserves at Turnbells in Alnwick, Robsons in Craster and Sea Breeze in Beadnell.

"People from all over the world take part in these awards, so it's a marvellous feeling to be told your marmalades are world class," said Sandy.

For more information on the Marmalade awards, see www.dalemain.com

Anna Williams

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New boutique hostel and luxury holiday apartments open

At last, the wait is over. We have been watching the construction of Amble's new waterfront building for many months, and now all can be revealed. The new boutique hostel and luxury holiday apartments have opened, and The Ambler was lucky enough to be shown around.

Radcliffes Lodge is the last of the big builds on the quayside, next to the distinctive Coble Quays apartments. The lodge offers nine individual bedrooms, set out for families, couples or individuals wanting a posh hostel experience. The emphasis is on luxury, and is ideal for those wanting to stay a few nights and get to know the Friendliest Port. The rooms are beautifully decorated to a high standard,



with bespoke handmade bunk beds, cosy bedlinen, hot showers, and Wi-Fi and charging stations in each room.

The large communal lounge can be used for relaxing with a coffee, reading, pouring over maps, or simply enjoying watching the boats glide into the marina, and the activity in

the boatyard. Two of the hostel rooms are pet-friendly, although they are not allowed in the communal kitchen or dining area.

Cycle racks with some maintenance equipment, and washing machines/dryers are available for the more muddy visitors. And given the lodge

is right on the National Cycle Route, this makes it the perfect location for those wanting to explore the area by bike or on foot.

In addition to the hostel, there are two three-bedroom holiday lets; Hemingways and Quay West. These gorgeous apartments also boast spectacular views, and are suitable for up to six people. One of the apartments is dog friendly.

The crowning glory – although we could not visit it as it was already booked out – is The Penthouse, a four-bedroom apartment with two balconies and magnificent views of Warkworth all the way round to Coquet Island. It also features a games room and sleeps up to eight. See www.coblequay.co.uk

Holiday results in new business

Welcome to Gashbir and his wife Sozy who are running Gifted Barber on Queen Street. The business opened in July in the former Phoenix Barber's premises.

Gashbir and his wife are from south-east London and discovered Amble while on holiday. He told The Ambler: "We had nice time on holiday in Northumberland in June, I found out people are friendly and very nice, also Amble was amazing location. Suddenly I saw the estate agent's sign above the shop, and now I have opened."

Gashbir has over 10 years experience as a barber. The shop is open seven days a week.



Sozy and Gashbir discovered Amble while on holiday

Colours of Amble

Local artist Wendy Avery-Stuckey and Amble Pin Cushion held a book signing for the latest in her series of "Colours of Northumberland" colouring books at Amble Pin Cushion.

Customers were able to chat to Wendy and get her to sign their copies of her new book, "The Colours of Amble", as well as her existing book, "The Colours of Warkworth."

Both books are available at APC, along with Wendy's



Warkworth and Amble cards, and Warkworth Castle notecards.

Harry McQuillen's

Age of insecurity



Recently I've been doing, or not doing things in a way that is entirely out of character. I'll agree that I'm old, and that the 87 year old body can't do what it did. But some of my behaviour, I fear, is odd in the extreme.

I've just walked into my house after walking out in front of a car that I just didn't see. I hereby offer my heartfelt apology to the driver and occupants of the car. Am I the only person in that age bracket (85-90) who hasn't been quite on the ball? Has covid anything to do with the condition.

We listen to news (or read it, or watch it) hoping for light in the darkness. Sometimes we're suspicious of government, business, the World Order, mask

wearers, and the whole variety of events, attitudes and complexities that we see today.

The nervous tension is tangible. Many of us seem to be twanging like an over tightened violin string – or a guitar string. No doubt we expected trouble of all sorts when the pandemic ran wild. It seems that we now have it in spades.

There's talk of travel, sports events, holidays abroad, holidays at home called STAYCATIONS. People are so used to freedom and to making choices in most departments of their lives. Gone are the days when nearly everybody found a job and settled down in "The daily

round, the common task will furnish all we need to ask". The certainties of religion aren't so popular in our very secular world. The paradox of a divided world is that nothing will really work unless we work together.

There is controversy locally, largely about numbers of non-mask-wearing visitors, and the prevalence of holiday lets. Parking is a nightmare for both residents and visitors. Let's see how things work out in the High Holiday Season. Funnily enough, I'm not at all gloomy in my outlook. People are pretty adaptable.

The quadrupling of population in my lifetime wasn't

inevitable, but it's happened. The world has enough resource to sustain us all, with a bit of give and take. Remember the old adage "It is better to give than to receive". That one isn't always easy to follow. Perhaps we will just have to rub along much as we have always done. But preferably with less angst!

Amble thrives with its markets, scenery, business, locals and visitors and the atmosphere we generate. With any luck we will still be a Canny Toon into the 22nd century.

With apologies for eccentricity and other manifestations of Old Age.
Harry

Free fishing courses

Situated in the marina in Amble is the Anglo Scottish Seafish Industry Training Association (ASSTA) whose job is to ensure that Commercial Fishermen have all the necessary safety courses and skippers tickets to carry out the most dangerous job in the world.

Dennis Osborne the centre manager explained that his area of operation was from Berwick down to Hartlepool and Carlisle to Fleetwood. Fishermen by law have to have Sea Survival before they can go to sea and Fire Fighting along with First Aid within six months of actual sea time.

ASSTA also runs a three-week Introduction To Commercial Fishing course in Amble which is free to anyone 15 years and above considering making the sea their career. We also do Skippers tickets which include navigation, bridge watch keeping, engineering, stability and radio tickets.

Dennis has been manager of ASSTA for 21 years and previous to that he was a Navigation

Officer in the Merchant Navy and spent several years in the Royal Navy Reserve where he was a Lieutenant Commander looking after Sea Cadets in Northern England and Scotland

Dennis said 'When I joined ASSTA in 1998 we averaged 35 fatalities a year within the UK fishing industry and now we average about six, which is still too many.

The fishing industry is a very hard industry to work in and I constantly admire the men who are daily fighting the elements to make sure that they can put fish on our plates.

When I first started, because I was used to large ships, I needed to experience smaller fishing vessels to see what it was like to handle them.

After a couple of trips out of Eyemouth, it made me realise how difficult this job really was and in my opinion, the price of fish is way below market value and the amount of effort that is required in catching it certainly isn't reflected in the price.

Over the years Amble has



Dennis Osborne

become one of my biggest fishing ports out of the fifteen I look after. Having an office in the marina is a bonus as it keeps me in the hub of Amble's fishing fleet

If anyone is interested in the Introduction to Commercial Fishing Course which is free, it starts on 6 September. Please give Dennis a ring on 07702042551

Amble 8 go climbing!

Eight colleagues from Morrisons Amble are going to scale Ben Nevis on 14 August to raise charity funds for Young Lives vs Cancer.

The team consists of Kevin Smith (store manager) Marion McKenzie-Long and Rebbeka Johnson (Community Champions), Cat Glen, Rachael Briggs, Debs Curtis, Cameron Brown and Gemma Bell.

Kevin Smith says "We've all been getting some miles of training behind us which will help us enjoy the trek and we hope to be able to raise around £1000 for Young Lives vs Cancer"

Young Lives vs Cancer is Morrisons nationally supported charity partner and £15million has been raised across the Morrisons Estate since 2017.

If you wish to sponsor the Amble 8 please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marion-mckenzie-long2>

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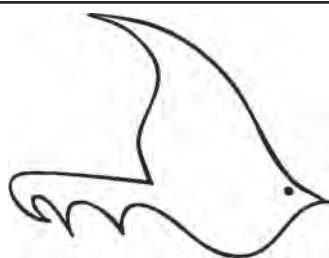


Email: enid.eww@sky.com

Barrister Intermediary and

Member of the Legal Services Guild





The Ambler

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



Editorial Team:

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

Editor: Anna Williams

Thanks to:

Mark Beswick & The Artogracchi Crew
Judith Hardisty

Distribution:

Charlotte, Sadie, Rachel, Lorraine

Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

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Thanks to all our contributors, sponsors and advertisers:

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

The Ambler is a project of
Amble Development Trust



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

2021 Submissions dates:
#130 - 3 Sept
#131 - 5 Nov

Here's to a summer of hope and optimism

Suddenly it feels like we're moving again. This edition is bursting with action and the promise of future events (pp17-19). If the last year was like being stuck in quicksand, then these early summer months have seen us pull ourselves free and slowly but surely move (stagger?) forward. Let us hope that the opening up we are enjoying now, does not suddenly come to a juddering halt with future lockdowns or major restrictions.

This edition is full of congratulations: to The Galley (p1) and the Mad Jam Woman (p3) for their well-deserved awards, to Coquet

Medical Group for their outstanding work in the vaccination rollout (p1).

New businesses have been opening their doors, so welcome to Radcliffes Lodge, Gifted Barber and Puffin Crafts, while others are re-opening, (p3) or retiring/relocating (p7) or looking for a new home (p17).

What hasn't changed is the astonishing generosity of Amble people; (p5, p6, p13, p14, p17 and back page).

Have a great summer everyone, and please stay safe.

WHAT YOU SAY...

Save Druridge donates to RNLI

As many of you will know the Save Druridge campaign fought against the Opencast Coal Mine proposed at Highthorn, Druridge Bay. We eventually won our fight last year when Secretary of State Robert Jenrick rejected the mine for a second time.

As a Campaign Group we had to raise many thousands of pounds to pay for expert reports and also to pay our legal fees for both a Solicitor and Barrister. We are grateful to all of those people who helped us raise funds through events and a crowdfunder. Many local people were extremely supportive and generous.

After paying all of our bills we were left with a small amount of money which we as a group wanted to give back to the local community.

So on 15 June 2021 we handed over cheques of £125 to each of the following Charities: Amble Lifeboat Station, the British Divers Marine Life Rescue, Blyth Wildlife Rescue and a cheque was sent to South Lakes Action on Climate Change to help with legal fees on the proposed Cumbrian Deep Mine campaign.

Lynne said "Amble RNLI do a fantastic job to help save both local people and visitors to Amble and the surrounding area. It is also good to know we have experienced local animal and marine rescues who are out there every day saving our wildlife along the Northumberland Coast."

Lynne Tate,
Save Druridge Campaign



Margaret and Richard Kelley from Amble RNLI accept the cheque from Lynne Tate and Duncan Lawrence of the Save Druridge campaign

Togston forgotten!

In the June/July issue of the Ambler Councillor Terry Clark reported "it was a privilege to represent Amble, Hauxley and North Broomhill" in the May election. Unfortunately, he did not mention Togston village that is very much a part of his Amble ward. Togston village was also forgotten in his campaign leaflets. Can I extend an invitation for him to attend Togston Parish Council meetings to become involved with residents? We look forward to his support on infrastructure and reports on the local area plans that affect the village.

Councillor June Watson
Chair Togston Parish Council

Mind your language

I write once again about an issue published in the Ambler, namely the use of personal pronouns. The purpose of language is to help articulate our thoughts to other people. The use of grammar provides the rules by which such communication may be understood by others. We may use the metaphor of roads and road signs to help explain this. Language provides the roads or conduits for our thoughts and grammar provides the road signs in order for them to be better understood. Just as we can imagine the utter chaos of a road network without road signs, so we cannot imagine language without grammar.

When we refer to "he or she or it", the rules of grammar tell us that we are speaking of an individual person or item. When we refer to "they or them" we understand that it is a group of more than one. The rules help us to correctly understand and that is the whole point.

Today, even the concepts of "woman" or "mother" are being written out of the language

by politically correct institutions. Various parts of our medical establishment have substituted the words "women" "mother" and "breastfeeding" with the words "persons with a cervix/persons who menstruate" "birthing person" and "chest feeding" respectively. The very concept of womanhood could be completely obliterated by this new authoritarian form of newspeak.

The use of personal pronouns is just another example of this utter lunacy.

To those young people attracted to this new masterclass in self-deception, this new woke orthodoxy, I would respectfully suggest just one thing: please retain the inclination to think for yourselves and to do so critically about absolutely everything even or especially this letter. Please don't blindly follow the crowd's latest fad just because it's fashionable to do so.

Kevin McCann via email

>> more letters on p8

Amble postmistress retires after 28 years' loyal service

Amble Postmistress Susan Swinhoe has retired from running The Harbour Post Office after over 28 years' loyal service to the community.

Having spent many happy summer holidays in Amble staying in her parent's caravan, the long serving community stalwart couldn't resist a local advertisement asking for applications to run The Harbour Post Office.

Following a successful application, Susan's Post Office career began in earnest. She moved with her husband and two young children from her hometown of Wideopen and became Postmistress on 12 November 1992, she has remained at the helm ever since, serving her local community for over 28 years.

Post Office Area Manager Neil Barnard commented: "We are extremely grateful for Susan's commitment to the area; she has been a great asset to the business and has served her community for an amazing length of time. I thank Susan for her service and wish her every happiness for the future."

When Susan started back in 1992, she recalls memorising names from pension books to

help build relationships with her customers, many of these customers, who are now on first name terms, have continued to visit the branch throughout. Amazingly, due to the length of Susan's service, many customers who first visited her branch as babies now visit the branch with their own children.

Postmistress Susan commented: "I am really proud to have worked for the Post Office for nearly 29 years. I have absolutely loved serving this wonderful community. I would like to thank all my fantastic customers, they have made my time at The Harbour Post Office so enjoyable, I will miss them all so much. It would also be remiss of me not to extend my grateful thanks to my colleague Gill who has helped me run the branch for 13 years."

Although her time at The Harbour Post Office is coming to an end, Susan still wants to continue doing the job she has loved for such a long time, she has already agreed to work part-time at the nearby Warkworth Post Office.

Susan admits she couldn't have achieved this incredible feat without the support of her husband James, children Vicky



Sue Swinhoe has retired after 28 years with the Post Office

and Scott and his wife Sami. She now hopes to spend more time with her granddaughter Esme.

The community will be pleased to know that Post Office services have been maintained in the area. Susan has passed the baton over to Mr Sugarnan Ramachandran, who will operate a Post Office at his Nisa store in Newburgh Street. A Post Office counter will run alongside the retail counter. Opening hours are Monday to Friday: 8am – 7pm; Saturday and Sunday: 9am – 4pm – offering 80 hours of Post Office service a week. Facilities are now available all-day Friday and Sunday, plus Saturday afternoon, with an end to lunchtime closing.

Northumberland IFCA seeks new members

Marine Management Organisation are seeking to appoint three new general members to the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

Applications are invited from all sectors but are particularly encouraged from those with a background in commercial fishing and those from the recreational sea angling / fishing sector.

NIFCA CEO Mike Hardy said: "We would be delighted to see as many people as possible apply for these important positions."

"The successful applicants will have a really important role to play in helping NIFCA to fulfil its remit of sustainable inshore fisheries and a sustainable marine environment in our District which includes the waters off the coast of Northumberland and North Tyneside."

The NIFCA office in Blyth has been closed recently due to the pandemic but if you wish to telephone or send an email then somebody will get in touch as soon as possible.

Alternatively, please feel free to approach an NIFCA officer in the District who will be happy to assist.

The NIFCA telephone number is 01670 797676 and the email address is nifca@nifca.gov.uk.

Northumbrians join forces to help fight climate change



The group What a Wonderful World is based in Northumberland

Artists, scientists, farmers and people from all walks of life have banded together to launch a new Northumberland-based group to help fight climate change.

The group, What a Wonderful World (WaWW), aims to encourage local people of all ages to help save the planet by taking action in their own homes

and communities.

"We're launching What a Wonderful World because we want people to celebrate our planet through the arts and to develop an understanding of the science behind the serious threats we are facing," says Alistair Anderson, one of the organisers.

"We intend to push our decision-makers - locally and

nationally - to take real action in the face of the huge challenges ahead. We're also planning events to give people hope and practical ideas, so that individuals and communities can play a part in stopping the destruction of the planet."

WaWW is starting by organising Alnwick's first Climate Action Day on Saturday October 23 - a few weeks before COP 26, the crucial international conference on climate change in November, which is being hosted by the UK in Glasgow.

Local MP and Energy Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan will be interviewed about her role at COP 26 and there will be talks on transport, heating the home, food and waste and green jobs in the region. Speakers include Paul Brannen, forestry expert and former MEP for North East England. Students from the Duchess High School will lead a session on Top Tips to Save the Planet, as well as

providing music and drama performances.

"We plan to follow our Climate Action Day with a Festival Weekend in June 2022 at Alnwick Playhouse," says Alistair.

"It will feature talks by national climate experts, music, drama, dance and spoken word. Events will be designed to help us understand how we can stop the erosion of our beautiful Northumbrian countryside and loss of wildlife, save money on heating our homes and getting around while saving the planet at the same time. We're inviting people of all ages to come to both events."

The climate action day will be held in the Northumberland Hall, Alnwick from 10.30 to 17.00. This event is free. People can register their interest in the day and What a Wonderful World via info@whataww.org or phone Liz Anderson 01665 574631.



John Angus in 2014

We were so sorry to hear of the death of veteran England and Burnley footballer John Angus at the beginning of June, aged 82.

John played as a defender for Burnley FC all his professional career. He was called up a total of 10 times for England's youth team and under 23s; and his full cap came in 1961 when he made his debut for England against Austria in Vienna.

Born in Amble in 1938, John started out playing for Amble Boys' FC, but his talent was quickly spotted by the professionals.



John played for Burnley in over 500 matches

In 2012 he spoke to *The Ambler* about his early career. He told us: "I played a couple of games for Amble Town and Alnwick Town before the scouts found me. I was 15½ and I went straight to Burnley. Alan Brown, the manager, was keen on promoting the younger kids. I had just turned 18 when I was signed."

"I started on £9 per week. A win got you a £2 bonus, £1 for a draw. Top pay for all footballers was £15 per week. Players stopped in one club. In the 1960s that was abolished and teams changed. When I was 20, I was earning £15 per week and living in digs. I always came home to Amble for three months in the summer. That's when I met Florence." (They married in 1961).

John played in over 500 matches for Burnley in the 1960s and 70s, as a defender, scoring four goals. An achilles injury put paid to his professional career, so in 1973 he returned to Amble.

Over the years, he and Florence ran a number of businesses, most latterly JK Crafts on Queen Street. They had three daughters and two grandchildren, and eventually retired to Warkworth.

A quiet, kind and charitable man, John was not one to dwell in the past. In 2012 he told us: "I've always had lots of interests: photography, hill walking and golf, even when I played football. I don't think about my football career much now – I don't even watch it any more. I think it's best not to live in the past."

Nevertheless, his old club never forgot their hero, describing John as "a major player in a golden era for the Clarets... One of the most accomplished and unflappable defenders in the club's rich history."

Florence told us: "There were quite a few at the funeral to represent Burnley. They've been a fantastic, super club."

Anna Williams

The Queen's green canopy

I recently read an article in the Woodland Trust's *Broadleaf* magazine about the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, a tree planting project to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The overall aim is to create 70 new broadleaf woods across Britain and encourages schools and community groups to apply for free tree packs to help the scheme along and mark the occasion.

It struck me that Amble generally has a paucity of trees, despite its growing size, and developers seem not to be incorporating many trees into their developments as an obvious way to help offset the carbon waste created by new housing. And, whilst Amble may not be the ideal site for a new wood per se, this opportunity seems too good to waste and would be a chance to support wildlife habitats in the town and introduce greater variety of broadleaf trees, which at present seem limited largely to sycamore, pine and alder. Where are the oaks, the limes, the beeches which add colour and character to a town and valuable habitat to birds, small mammals and insects as we strip their natural territories from them with our voracious appetite for land. Variable tree pack sizes are available and any contribution to planting, no matter how small, would surely help.

I would be interested to know if any community groups are already involved in this initiative or at the very least are there already plans for a commemorative tree in the town? If not, I would like to encourage people to consider the idea.

More information is available at queensgreencanopy.org or woodlandtrust.org.uk/QGC.

Hilary Shutt via email

We need a crossing at the Wynd

Why can't we have a safe way to cross the road between traffic, of all types. Such as the top of the Wynd in Amble, more people live here visit, or holiday, it's about time something was done. After all the previous roadworks still no pedestrian crossing. So it must be a good and safe way to cross in between busy oncoming cars, lorry's and other oncoming vehicles? It's a choice, but we can only walk over the road, hoping to reach the opposite pavement.

P. Thompson via email

Conservation issues

As a relative newcomer to Amble, I would like to say how much I enjoy reading each new edition of the *Ambler*. I think that the articles by the younger contributors deserve special mention as they tackle important social and environmental issues which deserve much wider discussion. I am particularly interested in the environment and was pleased to see a good number of related topics in the June/July issue.

With there being such a strong interest in the natural environment I was surprised to notice earlier in the year that large quantities of weedkiller had been applied to the ground under and around the trees which line the A1068 between Brambles Nursery and Penny's Petroleum. The natural vegetation turned orange and then brown as it died off. The vegetation is barely beginning to recover but why was it killed off in the first place?

At the very end of April just as birds were beginning to nest, as area of undergrowth under a group of willows next to Penny's was also destroyed for no apparent reason. The timing of this work coincided with the return of migrating birds such as whitethroat and chiffchaff which nested in the undergrowth there last year but not this year.

Further spraying took place behind Brambles which targeted nettles (food plants for the caterpillars of small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies) growing under the shrubs alongside the footpath. At the beginning of June someone on a quad bike was randomly spraying herbicide in the Priory Park area and spraying a small area containing ornamental plants outside my house killing all but one.

Given that there is some concern about the carcinogenic properties of weedkiller why are these chemicals being used so frequently in public spaces particularly in residential areas? Perhaps whoever plans these actions might be well advised to read the *Ambler* to see how important the natural environment is to so many people.

Hugh Tindle, Priory Park, Amble

Getting crafty with Puffin Crafts

A new craft shop has opened in Amble with all manner of crafty kits to keep your creativity buzzing.

Puffin Crafts opened at the beginning of June, selling wood craft kits, pom poms, macrame rainbow kits by Macramallama, decopatch kits and more.

The shop is situated next to the Esso garage and Londis shop on the A1068; Circa is at the other side of the building.

Owner Alison Hardy has plans to use the upstairs space as a craft workshop, and hopes to run classes and workshops in the near future. On Facebook, Alison said "The idea is you pick and buy your crafty supplies from the shop and then for a small fee, you can sit upstairs in



Alison Hardy, owner of Puffin Crafts

the workshop and make your project. We provide paint, glue, brushes, glitter etc and we'll even clear up the mess!"

If you're interested in the workshops, give Alison a shout. You can find Puffin Crafts on Facebook.

The shop is open 10am – 4pm Wednesdays – Sundays

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VACCINES FOR TEENS



In the UK we are fortunate to have first grabs at vaccines. This means that currently approximately 85% of adults are vaccinated against Covid 19; but what about the teenagers? When will we get immunity to the coronavirus?

The answer is possibly never. The Pfizer vaccine has been tested and approved for 12-18 year olds, but is not being widely used because scientists and professionals alike cannot determine if it is necessary and if the pros outweigh the cons. On one hand, having more people vaccinated protects a wider population (at the minute around 50% of the whole UK population is vaccinated, and this needs to be 65% or above to create herd immunity). On the other hand more vaccines will cost more money, and there is debate about how teenagers play into the spreading of the virus.

Having the vaccine is great, but will be useless if other measures are not taken to ensure everyone's safety. If new mutations of the virus occur then the vaccine will be useless, and having the vaccine doesn't mean you can't transmit the virus. So whilst we should be focussing on vaccinations, we can't forget about social distancing, sanitising and wearing a mask.

I would love to have the vaccine because it would make me feel safer. However, I think it is wildly unfair that our country has ready access to the vaccine whilst developing countries, who don't have as efficient hospital/care systems in the first place, are being left behind (even when many are making the vaccines for us!). So yes, we should get it, but protect the poor, disabled and elderly first.

Ava

Generous support for Amble Youth Project

A local youth charity in Amble has received a significant donation from holiday park operator Park Leisure, boosting its offering over summer for the local community.

Park Leisure, owner of the Amble Links Coastal Holiday park, has made a £5,000 donation to the Amble Youth Project alongside a pledge of further long-term support for the charity.

The Amble Youth Project charity has been providing important leisure and education facilities to local young people for almost two decades and relies solely on donations to fund its operations. The project currently works with 52 young people but expects to expand to 80 this summer as it welcomes extra funding to support its offering.

This summer, Amble Links is launching a photography competition in partnership with the charity to encourage young people to experiment with different camera equipment and capture the best of the stunning

scenery surrounding Amble. Running from 19 July until 6 August, young people will be encouraged to go out and enjoy the local area and capture the breath-taking scenery around the town. The charity has used some of the donation from Amble Links to invest in a GoPro, a high-end bridge camera, a point and shoot camera and an Instant Print polaroid camera. These are all available for charity members to use to experiment with their photography skills.

The holiday park is donating prizes for the competition. The winner will receive a family holiday at one of Park Leisure's five stunning UK parks. Second and third runners up will receive a £100 and £50 Amazon gift voucher respectively.

Amble Links is also supporting a local football team, Amble Links FC, by sponsoring its kits. The newly formed football team is looking forward to its first season starting in September.

DOG SAFETY DURING THE SUMMER



During the summer in a lot of places it will get very hot, this causes concrete pavements to get up to a heat of 79 C. This will burn our dogs feet. Before taking your dog out on a hot day, place your hand on the ground and if it hurts your hand after a while of it being there then don't take your dog out because it will hurt their feet. If you think about walking the whole day when it was really hot and you had no shoes on, that's how it would feel for the dogs feet.

Fake grass vs real grass

Fake grass may look better than real grass and it might be less dirty, but during the summer it is a lot more dangerous for your dog than real grass.

On a hot day fake grass heats up a lot more than natural grass. Fake grass can be like concrete

and heat up quickly and burn your dogs' feet. Whereas natural grass won't heat up as much and will be more enjoyable for you and your dogs.

Dogs being left in cars

During the summer dogs get left in the car a lot which shouldn't be happening. Dogs get overheated very easily so if you know they will be left in the car then don't bring them. If you do bring them keep the windows open or have a bar that can go on the boot of your car to let the air through to your dogs.



National dog day

National dog day is 26 August. It is made to encourage dog ownership and to celebrate the love and partnership we have with our dogs. We also celebrate it to show the amount of dogs that need to be rescued or rehomed. By Megan

MIXED EMOTIONS OVER TOURISM



Now that it's summer, the number tourists to Amble have risen again. It happens every year, with increasing numbers of people travelling from all over the country to drink in the vibrant seaside atmosphere and the beautiful views, but for the locals there's mixed emotions, especially this year. Lots of businesses rely on tourists to keep them going, but with covid cases on the rise is it a good idea to encourage people to travel to Amble?

Amble has been an up and coming tourist location for a while now, and many cafes, restaurants and shops earn a lot of their profits from summer tourism, but these things don't only benefit tourists. Places like the harbour village are in Amble all year round and create a great place for locals to visit, as well as providing jobs for a lot of people. Tourism is also great for introducing people to how great the Northumberland coast is, an area that's often missed out when considering beautiful parts of the UK.

However, things are different this year- covid cases have been rising rapidly in Amble and the surrounding area, making it a hotspot for the virus as well as for tourism. Some restaurants have already had to close because too many of their staff are self-isolating due to close contacts with customers who've tested positive, and having local people getting ill with the virus is the last thing anyone wants to happen. For this year, while there's still a high risk, it might be better for everyone to stay local.

There's a chance that my motives for wanting people to stay away are more along the lines of wanting Amble to stay quiet and calm like it has been over lockdown, making going on walks or visiting the harbour much more relaxing, but there's still plenty of room for both tourists and locals. However, I would hate for anyone who lives here to get ill because of an unnecessary holiday. By Lily

CAMPING DURING THE HOLIDAYS



Since Covid has hit England we can't really travel anywhere by plane or ferry so what can we do...? Camping of course!! Camping is a great holiday experience as you can explore so many different places like: theme parks, forests, beaches, lakes and more.

Camping is so much fun as long as you know some good places to do it. I recommend (out of my experience).

1. Lake district
2. Places near attractions like theme parks and funfairs
3. Somewhere quite isolated so you can have quiet time

Those are my preferences but it is totally fine if you want to go camping right on the outskirts of London if it makes you happy! Camping is such a fun experience for everyone!

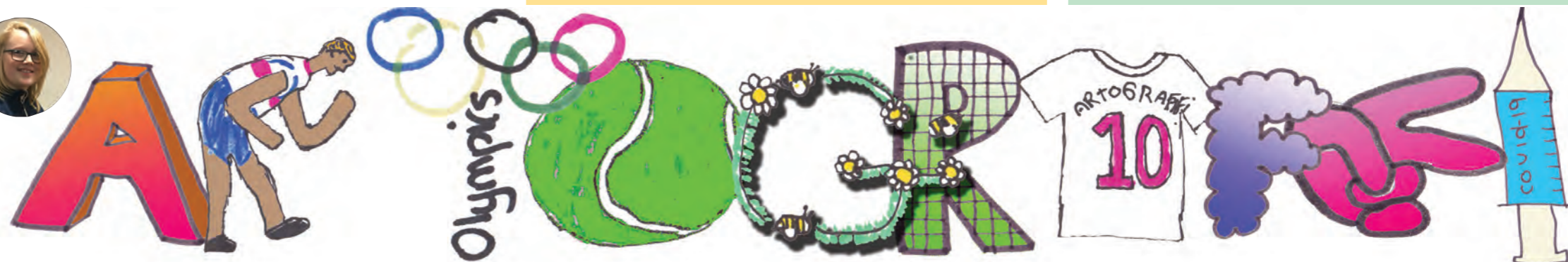
Equipment to bring (necessities)

Ok for starters you're obviously going to need a tent or van to sleep in and most likely a sleeping bag and mat or air mattress unless you have a proper bed or camping cot. Then you're probably going to want a gas stove and kettle if you like tea and barbecues and bacon for breakfast (yummy). You're going to want to pick a campsite with showers / toilets or a toilet block because you're going to want to use the toilet at some point! And that's about all the necessities you need except for everyday stuff like food and drink. Oh and a toothbrush too!

I went camping recently and it was magical. It was in quite a desolate place with some nice neighbour campers but best of all the campsite was only an hour away from Blackpool pleasure beach and 10 minutes away from a huge lake around Carlisle.

Most importantly though when you're going camping is to be safe and be careful of bears.... I'm just kidding unless....

But just remember to have fun and live life the way you want to! By Hannah



SPACE TRAVEL NEWS



Richard Branson - the founder of Virgin Media - beat Jeff Bezos in a race to space. The first trek into the galaxy took place on 11 July and was 1.5 hours long. During this time the passengers on board experienced five minutes of weightlessness.

Branson first announced his intentions of becoming a space tourist in 2004 (I wasn't alive then) but due to technical difficulties and a fatal crash in 2014, it took 14 years to develop a vehicle capable of this journey.

After returning to Earth, Branson announced that from next year, paying customers could come aboard his rocket plane - VSS Unity.



Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, launched into space on his rocket called 'New Shepard' on 20 July.

He was with his brother Mark, 82 year old aviator Mary Wallace 'Wally' Funk, and 18 year old student Oliver Daemen. They were in space for 11 minutes and felt weightless for about four minutes. The rocket is 60ft tall, and can fit up to six people.

The third space Musk-eteer, Tesla Boss and founder of SpaceX Elon Musk, is working on developing a starship, which can carry up to 100 passengers to Mars and back. His aim is to launch his first, unmanned vehicle in 2024.

by Grace



DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill is close to being passed at the time of writing this, and if it does go ahead the way people in England and Wales protest will be changed forever. Whereas at the moment police have to prove that a protest causes serious damage or disruption in order to put restrictions on it, this new law will allow them to stop anyone "intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance".

The right to protest is a part of the Human Rights Act and, although the claim is that it won't impact our human rights, the police will have the ability to stop anyone protesting. Following the rise of Extinction Rebellion taking

action against climate change and the Black Lives Matter protests last summer, actions such as the ones taken by these groups will become illegal. People won't be able to fight for their views in a way that gets people's attention. Peaceful demonstrations will become criminalised.

The right to protest is a crucial part of a good democracy, so policing demonstrations is an oppressive move in the wrong direction. In a world where there are lots of serious issues where change is needed, how are we supposed to make a difference without risking becoming a criminal?

by Lily



Have you got an idea for a community group but don't know where to start?

Do you want to meet people who share your interests and passion to support the community and bring people together?

Maybe you're already part of a local group and want to learn more about fundraising

GABSS will be holding a series of **FREE** workshops throughout August exploring:

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'Flamingo Friday' Fundraiser

James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) staff and students held a day of flamingo-themed fun on Friday, 28 May in aid of HospiceCare North Northumberland.

The day was organised in celebration of the contribution to JCSC of Rachel Parks, who taught at the school from 1993 until 2020.

Mrs Parks held several roles during her time teaching business, health and social care, PHSE and food technology. She particularly enjoyed the time she spent working as the pastoral support for Year 11 and Sixth Form.

She sadly died peacefully at home on 29 April 2021, aged 51.

The Parks family were supported by HospiceCare North Northumberland and the staff and students at JCSC were keen to raise funds for the charity.

It was important to all that the humorous and vivacious character of Mrs Parks was also celebrated.

On 'Flamingo Friday' the school community came together to stand proud and raise money for the hospice.

The day was filled with fun and laughter thanks to activities

including a flamingo derby, flamingo-bingo, a quiz, and flamingo-themed arts, crafts and PE.

At the end of the day, Mr Parks was presented with the gift of a Flamingo Willow tree and a matching tree will be planted on the school grounds.

In total, £1,375.83 was raised for HospiceCare North Northumberland.

Janice Bailey, Director of Science and chief organiser of Flamingo Friday, said: "It has been a glorious day. It was fantastic to see the students smiling after what's been a difficult year for everyone. There has been silliness but also creativity, lots of energy and it's been a day that Rachel would have loved and would have made her laugh. I'd like to thank everyone for making today happen and showing what JCSC is all about – the level of generosity and care shown by our wonderful students was heart-warming."

Mr Parks said: "It was lovely to see the staff and students getting into the spirit of today. My wife dedicated her teaching career to JCSC and both of our children have attended the school. It's been a day she would have truly appreciated. I plan to find a special place for the tree in



Staff and pupils celebrated the life of Rachel Parks

our garden, and it's nice to know the other tree will remain at JCSC to mark her time here."

Mr Parks is completing a charity run, organised by HospiceCare North in September and would love others to join him in "Team Flamingo".

The run will take place on Sunday 5 September around Druridge Bay Country Park and on the beach. There will be a 10k race and a shorter junior run.

Food Bank needs a new home

The Foodbank has been happily housed by St Mark's URC for over five years now and since lockdown, has had full use of their Church Hall.

Since February this year, we were joined at the hall by the Community Kitchen under the direction of Julie Baxter. Since then, we have complimented each other's remit and worked well together.

However, sadly St Mark's URC building is having to close its doors on 31 December this year. So we and the Community Kitchen are seeking new premises either separately or together.

We are in discussion along with Town Councillors, Northumberland County Councillors, Amble Development Trust and other members of community organisations to see if by putting our heads together we can come up with a solution.

If you know of anyone who has a large space and maybe a kitchen too, preferably on the ground floor if possible, can you please email amblefoodbank@aol.com, message our Foodbank page, or call in to St Mark's church hall on any weekday morning and speak to a member of the Foodbank team or to Julie Baxter at the Community Kitchen.

Thank you again to the community for their kind donations of food items to the Amble Food Bank. The volunteers are bowled over by the community's continued generosity.

Around the beginning of May this year we did see a slight decrease in the number of people in need of food parcels, as some people were able to return into work or find employment.

Families and individuals requiring support, through no fault of their own, is still very much an ongoing occurrence and will sadly continue to be so. We receive new referrals each week.

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

Morrison's also do pick-up bags that are located by the main entrance. These contain specific items that the Food Bank is short of and cost roughly between £2 and £4. Pick up a bag and then pay for this at the checkouts along with your other shopping.

Thank you also to many of you who have kindly made financial donations or set up standing orders that help to keep the Food Bank sustainable. To make a donation, please go to: rebrand.ly/x7s4r9o or search for Amble Food Bank at www.justgiving.com. Thank you.

Patter of tiny feet at East Chevington

There are now 400 tiny feet pattering around Northumberland Wildlife Trust's East Chevington nature reserve as a hundred tiny harvest mice, which weigh the same as a 10p coin, have been released at the wildlife charity's reserve at Druridge Bay.

Their release, made possible by a large private donation, will reinforce what is one of the few harvest mouse colonies north of the River Tyne.

In August another 200 mice will be freed on the 185-hectare reserve, which is a haven for birds and other mammals, and, which it is hoped, will prove a successful breeding ground for the cute animals.

In 2004, Newcastle University PhD student Wendy Fall actively bred 240 harvest mice with the help of volunteers, schools and community groups. They were released on the East Chevington site as the extensive



Harvest mouse. Photo Joel Ireland

reed beds provided a suitable habitat for the mice, which build distinctive circular grass nests on tall plants 3ft from the ground.

In the following months, surveys and searches didn't show any signs of mice or nests, which led conservationists to think the reintroduction, may not have been successful.

Fast forward to 2019 and Wendy took a call from Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Catch My Drift project team

with news that volunteers had found sets of two nests on two separate locations on the reserve - built by descendants from the originally released mice.

Sophie Webster is project manager of the Catch My Drift venture at East Chevington. She said: "To find the nests was really exciting for everybody as it's such a big area to search and we didn't think we'd ever find any."

"When we knew that the harvest mice were there with the discovery of the nests, we decided on a captive breeding programme and new releases to boost their numbers and increase their genetic diversity."

"The aim of the Catch My Drift project is to make the reserve a stronghold in Northumberland for the harvest mouse again." Although part of the wider Catch My Drift project, the release itself has been funded by a generous private donation.



Reports from our *County Councillors*



I hope that you are well and keeping safe. If I were to describe this past year I would say it's been challenging with pockets of wonderful. Challenging in that we all have had to adapt to a new way of living, working and communicating with each other and loved ones. Pockets of wonderful coming from Amble Medical Centre Team, all doing an amazing, efficient job vaccinating our community. Thank you for everything you do. You are very much appreciated.

Hopefully vaccines are doing their job and we can start living life as normal as possible again.

It is challenging when we have sporadic outbursts of Anti Social Behaviour within Amble and surrounding areas. Residents need to contact the Police on 101 and make them aware of incidents to assist in any Police action dealing with the ASB.

From a community safety point of view Public Protection Officers can be contacted :NCC Team phone 0345 600 6400 Ask for Public Protection. Email-Public.protection@northumberland.gov.uk

P.P. Officers will be working with the police to identify any young people who are regularly involved in ASB and who would benefit from extra support to divert them away from this behaviour and prevent them going on to offend.

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk

Support would also be offered to their families. While it will not solve the current issues, experience shows that it does help Public Protection Officers in tackling issues long term, and this can have an effect on things in the future.

- Church Street new tarmac footpaths: another excellent, swift job with minimum disruption. A great job by all involved. (New bus stop metal barrier in place also new lighting column).

- Small Scheme Budget: I had a balance of over £2000 which I had to spend before May's election, I had permission to share these funds between Hauxley Nature Reserve. Assisting with repairs caused by vandalism.

Amble Lifeboat Station. Assisting with the day- to- day running: over the last year not being able to hold regular coffee mornings and missing out with Lifeboat day have cut down on income.

I was pleased to be able to help these organisations They are both very grateful.

A Massive thank you to all the residents in Amble, North Broomhill and Hauxley who contacted me with congratulations upon my re-election as County Councillor. This certainly is a fantastic ward to represent.

I am certainly honoured and grateful for your continued support.

Any issues please let me know.

Cllr Terry Clark

Amble, Hauxley, North Broomhill

I am sure we all realise that the Covid Pandemic has had a great effect on visitor numbers to Amble. It is not surprising that under the current conditions people are reluctant to travel abroad and more and more people are looking for UK holiday breaks. I guess that's the same for residents of Amble too.

Tourism and its associated activities without doubt is the biggest employer in our town and provides employment for a cross section of our residents and provides opportunities for our young people that otherwise wouldn't exist.

However, the influx of visitors makes it difficult for residents especially at the peak times. Parking continues to be an issue that we must cope with. NCC are about to start physical work on the extension to the Turner Street Car Park (all the required tests etc have now been carried out) and when complete the well over a million pounds expenditure on it should improve town centre parking.

I have arranged with the co-operation of Warkworth Parish Council for an overflow car park on the Braid (which is in Warkworth Parish). It has been in use for a few weeks, and it certainly helps at peak times.

I am pleased that we have been able to assist families who qualify for free school meals with a voucher that can be used over the summer holidays to assist them over this period. These vouchers for £100 are available for use up to the 30th September and can be used at local shops.

Enjoy the Summer!

I am available on Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk
07802385367

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

New coffee blend launched to help RNLI

In 2020 the Amble Lifeboat Day was cancelled, putting a hold on fundraising for the Amble RNLI. So Mocha Mondo decided to 'launch' a new blend of coffee and donate the profit from sales to Amble lifeboat station.

We chose to use an Old Brown Java as part of the blend. The story goes that a large shipment of Java coffee beans were once left abandoned on the docks in Indonesia for years. Ships used to use the sacks of beans as ballast and they became further washed with seawater. Someone had the bright idea of roasting these brownish beans to see what they were like and found that they had developed a distinctive flavour of their own. Today, there is a whole industry devoted to what is now known as 'fermented' coffees. So to include them in a coffee blend for the lifeboat seemed like a good idea.

Using a picture of the Amble lifeboat, kindly licenced by Andrew Mounsey, we sold the packets to raise money for the Lifeboat



l-r Richard and Margaret Kelly accept the cheque for £1000 from Martin Homer (far right) and the Mocha Mondo team

by donating the profit from each packet.

We thought that we might make a hundred pounds or so. The blend was described as 'Rougher than the North Sea, Tougher than the Lifeboat crew', (although some thought it should read the other way round).

Things did not go to plan however and instead of a hundred pounds, it has generated

£1000 so far! The coffee proved to be a hit and we had sales from the pod, and the website, and we have sent 'Lifeboat blend' to all parts of the UK. It is also stocked in some local shops. We are hoping that the RNLI will stock it permanently in their visitor shop, and that you will also be able to try it at their coffee mornings.

Martin Homer, Mocha Mondo



Welcome back to Trust Life on yet another sunny day. As I write this column the country is preparing itself for a summer of sport. We've had rounds of Euro 2020, with England through to the final, Andy Murray's heart stopping matches, and Emma Raducanu showing some of the higher ranking tennis stars what she is made of. We'll soon have the Olympics, rugby, golf, F1 and all manner of sporting activities.

And so the world begins to wake up at last. But what about our smaller events?

Many volunteers are still in limbo wondering 'should we or shouldn't we' organise an event for our community. It is very hard for them to know whether they should take the risk of booking and paying for activities, performers and overheads like insurance, when it could all be cancelled and money lost. So those decisions will have to wait until we have the government's

decision on which regulations will be removed and which will remain, leaving serious doubts about whether any events could be organised in the very near future.

Or perhaps during lockdown have we all become accustomed to 'doing our own thing' and rediscovered how to entertain ourselves? So many more people have taken up walking, cycling, gardening and camping or other outdoor activities – even litter picking has seemed like a good option to get outside and enjoy the weather and exercise.

Future events

If you think community events should be back on the menu asap, why not join the Events Committee and give a helping hand. Everyone has something to offer and as their main events are the Puffin Festival and Torchlight Procession, you will be outside enjoying the weather (whatever

it brings) and doing something positive in the community. Email me if you're interested.

Safety first

As the world is slowly awakening from its covid induced slumber and business returns to (our new) normal, its good to see the town open up again which creates a more upbeat vibe, especially when the sun shines. Let us hope everyone – whether community or visitor, keep their sensible heads on and consider others. While it took us a while to take to wearing masks, has it proved to be such a hardship, especially if it saves lives!

The Welfare

At the Welfare, work to the pitches is ongoing and we now have interest from two teams to play there next season. It's taken a long time to get to this stage and will be wonderful to have sporting activities played there

once again.

You may have noticed the outside of the pavilion has been painted, for which we offer our thanks to the team volunteers who have given their time and enthusiasm (not to mention the paint) and are taking pride in their new home base.

Development Trust office

For the time being our office will remain 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 or Julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Hoping you all stay safe and well and enjoy the summer of sport.

Julia and all trust staff and trustees
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Tackling crime in Amble

Northumbria Police is working in partnership with Northumberland County Council to tackle local issues including anti social behaviour.

One area of concern in Amble is Church Street, which has seen large groups of youths gathering at the bus stop and behaving in a manner that is having a detrimental effect on those in the area. There have also been numerous incidents of speeding and vehicles being driven in a disorderly and sometimes dangerous way at the same location.

Police have responded robustly, identifying where possible those involved and

speaking to them in front of parents where appropriate.

They have also dealt with a number of vehicle related offences. Both police and the local authority are continuing to monitor the area including by CCTV and will continue to take action. This will include legal action if appropriate and tenancy action may be considered where those involved live in local authority or social housing.

Incidents can be reported by calling 101 or by completing an online form here: <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/our-services/report-it/anti-social-behaviour/> or email NCC: public.protection@northumberland.gov.uk

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Amble Town

COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm - details on our website

Town: 2th August, 9th Sept both at Masonic Hall, Gloster Terrace;

14th October- Venue:T.B.C.

Amenities: 30th Sept - 6pm Council Offices

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	

MEMORIAL

So many people have stepped forward to help and support others through these last difficult months. Many have continued to fulfil their essential roles, others have changed what and how they offer their services, whilst lots have volunteered their time to help more vulnerable members of the community. It would be impossible to thank everyone but our community is so very grateful to have such thoughtful, dedicated, kind individuals who have helped in a multitude of ways in these troubled times. As a small gesture of thanks, Council will be installing a new town seat with a dedication plaque; a place to sit and give thanks or to reminisce on happy moments to help us all through any hardship ahead.

WEST CEMETERY

The drainage is now in place in the next section of the cemetery and we thank people for their understanding whilst the work was carried out. The 'whip' trees from Friends of the Earth are looking healthy and there was a visit from the NCC Woodland Officer to push forward 'specimen' trees to complete the western boundary and continue back towards the natural burial area. The rest of the boundary with the Gloster Hill development cannot have trees as it could impact the field drainage there. Although it will be a long time before the trees mature, it will be something for our present schoolchildren to show their children in the future. The fountain is switched off at the end of September to try and stop the autumn leaf fall blocking the circulation system; remember- water is turned off at the end of October.

CIVIC AWARDS

After a pause last year, these will go ahead again this year but a little later. Alnwick Gardens will again send someone along to judge the shortlisted gardens. The judge is expected the week of 23rd August with councillors walking round in the two weeks beforehand. Due to the Covid restriction limiting numbers inside, only the top two entries will be invited to come and be presented with their prize by the Mayor. All other certificates will be delivered. The Adult and Junior Civic Award winners will be invited that evening too.

PADDLERS PARK

In mid - June the new water feature pump prototype was fitted and has been greatly enjoyed by the youngsters playing there. We hope this solves the issues which have plagued it since installation. Although the original work was carried out under contract to NCC, with contributions from your local NCC councillors and this council, the cost of replacement has been borne equally by NCC and your council as the original contractor is no longer operating and therefore it was not possible to get them to undertake remedial work.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Despite the warm dry weather the floral displays have been beautiful. Dilston Terrace beds bloomed and formed a fitting tribute to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal British Legion. The Wynd bed depicted the merging of local and auxiliary fire service units into one National Fire Service 80 years ago.

EARMARKED FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

COMMUNITY

SCHOOL PRIZE FUND towards next batch	£800
SEATING refurbishment/replacement	£1890
TOWN PROJECTS towards projects/enhancements	£9835
COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL public meetings/ environment works etc.	£7400
COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS	£1500
MATCHED FUNDS towards projects attracting grants	£1300
ALLOTMENT FUND boundaries, walkways, maintenance	£12466
RECREATION maintenance/future replacement	£15989
WEBSITE & COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION	£820
LITTER BINS refurbishment/replacement	£2200
BUS SHELTERS refurbishment/replacement	£4034
NOTICEBOARDS repairs/replacement	£3000
ACTIVE AMBLE	£4450
CCTV	£2000

TOWN

MEMORIAL CLOCK maintenance/service	£2200
MEMORIALS upkeep/repairs	£56
MEMORIAL GARDENS maintenance	£1800
WYND WALL repairs	£4720

ASSET MANAGEMENT

CEMETERIES

EAST CEMETERY MAINTENANCE walls/ boards etc.	£800
MEMORIAL SAFETY checks and stabilisation	£2500
WEST CEMETERY PREMISES maintenance	£3000
WEST CEMETERY MAINTENANCE walls/drive/fence/trees etc.	£9200
WEST CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT signage/mapping/new	£35000
CEMETERY REGISTERS legal requirement	£610

COUNCIL, COMMITMENTS & STAFFING

COMPUTERS & I.T. new and replacement hard/soft ware	£4450
QUALITY STATUS registration fee	£500
ELECTION COSTS for elections/ by election	£8510
OFFICE FURNISHINGS ETC.	£1863
LEGAL/ REGULATORY PROCEDURES advice etc.	£17250
TRAINING staff & councillors	£3000
PPE	£457
LOYALTY FUND retirement gift/ civic & community	£3390
CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS	£45200
CONTINGENCY emergency cover	£10000
GENERAL FUND	£40690
EQUALS TOTAL BANK BALANCE	£270220

PLEASE CALL IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31/04/2020

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

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

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

Sad news from 'Community Corner'

Built as The Congregational Church in 1894, this building on the corner of Bede and Wellwood Streets has been a part of many people's lives from and around Amble for 127 years. Since 1972, it has been known as St. Mark's United Reformed Church. Almost every 'older' resident has a connection - attending Sunday School, a baptism, a wedding, a funeral.

Prior to the events of the past year, in addition to worship, many organisations made use of the building for meetings, parties, quizzes, concerts for Christian Aid, even a 'Berets and Beaujolais' evening. Since 2017, St. Mark's has been proud to be fully inclusive in its Ministry, being registered for Equal Marriage, one of only three churches in Northumberland



to be so. As a congregation, we truly welcome everyone, and wherever we are, that will continue.

We all recognise the treasure we have in Mr. George 'Tradecraft' Hall - as a Fair-trade Church we have been providing Fair-trade goods for everyone for many years. As time has moved on, the congregation has become

fewer in number and the costs of keeping an old, Victorian building going have become unviable.

After much soul-searching, the members decided in June to close the building at the end of December 2021. It will then be the responsibility of the URC's Northern Synod to sell the property.

St. Mark's family wishes to remain as a church fellowship, serving its community of Amble and is currently looking at a number of possible options to take this plan forward. The 60s group, The Local History group, The Puffin Lounge, Weightwatchers, Amble Foodbank, and the Community Kitchen will all be reassessing their futures, and hopefully relocating. (Cue for someone

in the community to offer some premises, or perhaps a community buy-out of the building??)

It has been wonderful that we were able to give the use of the whole building to the Foodbank during the lockdown period. Julie Baxter has been running The Community Kitchen from St. Mark's since the beginning of February and this works really well alongside the Foodbank. In fact, the corner where the church is situated has affectionately become known as 'Community Corner.'

We look forward with hope, and will always have the community of Amble at our heart.

*Sue Swanston,
Church Secretary*

Round the island race 2021



Report and photo: Dave Burke

After a race-free year due to Covid, it was good to see all the paddlers back for this year's race. Social distancing precluded the use of changing rooms and showers, but the weather was clement and outside meetings a pleasure! A poor forecast had some paddlers doubtful, but in the end it was dry and warm with light winds and enough swell to catch one paddler out on the SE corner of the island, but not too much of a problem.

Competitors had been briefed to keep a good distance from the island to avoid disturbing the birds, but the surf can easily carry you on shore even from a good way off. Luckily there was minimal disturbance caused. Safety boats were supplemented by the Amble lifeboat crew, who stood by a capsized paddler until he got back afloat.

There was a strong turnout of nine Surfski paddlers (from Scotland), including one double, and conditions favoured them. First home was Lizzie Polgreen, (pictured above) only a few seconds in front of the 2-man boat. Her time was 43 mins 2

secs - only 6 seconds short of the fastest time The first seakayak back (52 mins 28 secs) was Richard Clarke.

There was a better balance of ages this year - the median age being 55 - and of the 37 competitors nine were over 65.

Our youngest competitor was local boy Daniel Collins (age 12), paddling an extremely short boat (about a 1/3rd of the length of the winning Skis). Due to conditions round the island, he (and his support group) were advised to shorten the course and return once they had reached the island. Daniel reached the finish line after nearly 1hr 40 mins to a round of applause.

At the prize giving, Daniel was presented with the Rab Beal trophy, which goes to the Coquet Canoe Club Junior with the best result in the race. We hope he will be there next year in a sea kayak to show us what he is capable of in a faster boat.

Thanks to the Amble RNLI and RSPB for assistance with safety cover. We are planning to run the race in June next year and hope to see a big entry again.

Amble Now: exhibition by Luke McTaggart

Amble Now is an exhibition of new work by Amble artist Luke Mc Taggart, at The Old Storehouse, Amble Links Holiday Park. August 20 - 27. Preview evening 20 August 6-8pm. All welcome.

Luke said "For this exhibition, which has been generously facilitated by the Amble Links Holiday Park, I want to confront what Amble means in the here and now. Not what it may have been or what it will become but the Amble of the present. Typically I have addressed my sense of place here by painting the landscape surrounding the town, land with the looming cloud of development hanging over it. Landscape that is ripe with inspiration. In some of the newer work I will show alongside these paintings I want to capture something of the real shift that is happening in the town now. A prime example

is the harbour, it has become a radically different place to the Amble Harbour of five years ago, it is a meeting point between the



old and new. I would appreciate anyone local taking the time to visit my exhibition as I feel that the people to whom the work can speak to most directly are the residents of this enigmatic town."

Cyclist raising money for charity

Local cyclist Marc Waddell is raising money for the Melanoma-Me Foundation. In September, Marc and two of his friends are cycling from Skegness to Boulmer - a total of 240 miles, to raise awareness and funds for the charity, and to honour the life of Julie Goring who sadly died recently.

Melanoma-Me founder Kerry Rafferty said: "Marc and his team are currently training for this event and are looking for sponsorship to support them with completing the event. Any help is greatly appreciated."

For more information see their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MelanomaMe>

Youth Project summer fun

Activities take place behind the Dovecote Centre
Week 2 to 6 August.

Monday and Wednesday

11am - 1pm Chilled Games - Arts and Craft - Paint by numbers.

Sports Session only on Monday 2 - 4pm

Wednesday - 1 - 5pm - Canoeing and Paddleboarding

For the full programme see: www.AmbleYouthProject.org

Amble Links new strip



Amble Links squad with Ben Goodfellow from BenWeld who kindly sponsored the side's away strips and training jackets.

NTC events in Amble

The Wind in the Willows. Sat 21 Aug. 5.30pm

Outdoor event. Tickets £8-10 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1171014156655995/?ref=newsfeed>

The Importance of Being Earnest. Sat 2 Oct. 7.30pm

Dracula the Travesty. Thursday 28 October

PANTO: Cinderella. Dates and times throughout December

Harbour Lights Amble's Community Choir

Since lockdown our choir has been singing online via Zoom. We have learned new songs, enjoyed singing our well known songs, had choir videos made, had parties and lots of fun. All on line! We have kept in touch with each other and have gained some lovely new members too.

The good news is we are looking forward to meeting up as a choir in person again in the autumn. We aim to start on Thursday September 2 at 7pm, at our new venue, the upstairs concert room of the Bede Street Club, 16 Bede Street, Amble. NE65 0EA.

We also plan to continue with occasional Zoom online choir, or other means of maybe streaming our practices, to keep in touch with members who live at a distance. We are a very friendly choir who welcome new members. You do not need to be able to sing or read music to join us.

I thought these next words were so great, seen on a friend's Facebook page,

"Singing in a choir is an absolutely unique experience. It is just one of the best things in the world. Where else do you have everyone doing the same thing at the same time, without the use of special equipment and for a greater purpose, and no one is sitting on the bench"

If you would like more information, please email us at hello@harbourlightscommunitychoir.org or see our website: www.harbourlightscommunitychoir.org And our Facebook page: Harbour Lights-Amble Community Choir.

Mary Davidson
Chairperson

Dry Water Arts Centre

The Dry Water team are thrilled to announce that we will finally be opening our doors in September. We are really looking forward to welcoming friends old and new.

We have been busy over the lockdown periods renovating and improving our building.

We have a brand new light filled yoga/dance space and a new programme of creative classes and workshops all beginning in September.

For the August in between time, whilst we are all staycationing and coming to terms with the new, new normal, Dry Water will be offering a Summer programme - full information can be found on the website: www.drywaterarts.uk

There will be Family kite making, Mindful Moodle workshops and some new creative sessions for carers. September will see the full new weekly programme so make sure you check out the website.

There will be a host of new events, workshops, community projects and exhibitions. All the details including the answer to the question "What on earth is a Mindful Moodle?" can be found on www.drywaterarts.uk. Now you can book everything online! info@drywaterarts.uk Tel: 07542 141411

Head to Hauxley this summer

Visitors to Hauxley Nature Reserve are being enthralled by the sightings of rabbits and stoats speeding across the paths and through the meadows searching for prey. Tiny bank voles have been spotted searching for fruit, nuts and small insects. Open from 10am - 5pm and with parking, the reserve is offering a takeaway service from The Lookout Café serving drinks, snacks and ice creams which can be enjoyed al fresco around the reserve.

Their calendar has been filled with events every Tuesday during the summer holidays.

Shelter building: Tuesday 31 August, 10:30am - 11:45am

Members of the family are put to the test seeing how many of the challenge criteria they can meet. Move over Bear Grylls! Time needs to be allowed to walk to and from the event location.

Minibest safari: Tuesday 17 August, 10:30am - 11:45am

Join the wildlife charity's events team on a special safari to find the insects and bugs that make Hauxley their home.

Brilliant birds: Tuesday 3 August, 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Learn about the adaptations of birds and put your bird spotting skills into action. The reserve is currently packed with spectacular species, including tree sparrows, tits, finches and beautiful bullfinches that are engaging visitors at the feeding stations.

Animal tracks and trails: Tuesday 3 August, 10:30am - 11:45 am and Tuesday 17 August, 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Learn more about the clues left behind by animal and have fun being a nature detective spotting signs of wildlife

Photography Group update

Amble Photographic Group was one of the 32 clubs to enter digital photos in this year's Northern Counties Photographic Federation Annuals.

Amble entered six images in the Myles Audas Trophy main competition, and one in the Jane Black Trophy for beginners. There were a total of 1,192 entries in the main competition and 95 in the beginners section.

Judging took place in May. In the Myles Audas Trophy the winning score was 79 points with Amble achieving 76 points, only three points behind the winner. It was a great achievement to be in the top five teams.

In the Jane Black Trophy Amble's Peter Burnham was awarded the maximum score of 15 points, but came second as there was another maximum score which was awarded the trophy.

Anyone wishing to join the Group should contact Helen Holmes on helenholmes1947@gmail.com or via our website at www.amblephotogroup.com

Marking the centenary of the RBL

Sunday 15 May 1921, a wet and dreary day, saw a small number of ex-servicemen walk to the Cenotaph War Memorial in London's Whitehall. As Big Ben struck nine, four men representing the societies, that for three years had been rivals, laid a wreath at the base of the memorial. On that wreath were the badges of the four organisations that would officially amalgamate to form the British Legion.

This was the starting gun for the Royal British Legion as we know it today. By Christmas of 1921, the ranks of the organisation had swelled to include 2,500 branches across the country, as well as overseas. These were groups around which the armed forces community rallied after the First World War. They made change happen, fundraised through the Poppy Appeal, provided welfare locally and became the foundation for what has now become the UK's largest armed forces charity.

One hundred years later, the

Royal British Legion are proud to still have 2,500 branches, some with history reaching back to 1921 and others established within the last decade. To mark the founding, the organisation recreated the activity held on 15 May 1921. The Royal British Legion's National President and serving personnel laid a wreath at the Cenotaph at 9am on 15 May 2021 – the same moment and place as 100 years ago, which sparked the beginning of something much larger.

Chairman Allan Wade, of The Warkworth and Amble District Branch, whose members will also be celebrating their 100th anniversary this year, laid a wreath on Amble's War Memorial. He was accompanied by branch president Jeff Watson, secretary June Watson, committee member Vivian Wade, branch standard bearer Reg Bond and trumpeter Ron Creasy.

Later to complete the celebration, the standard was paraded at the memorial as the

photo: Andrew Mounsey



tower was illuminated in the national colours; red, white and blue at 9pm. At the same time St. Mary's Lighthouse in Whitley Bay was illuminated in red.

On 11 July, invited attendees gathered at the clock memorial to be filmed for a special video celebrating the Royal British Legion's Centenary.

Future of East Coquet Local History Society

There will be a social evening on Thursday 16 September at 6-30pm to discuss the future of Amble East Coquet Local History Society.

Everyone is welcome – refreshments will be provided. Venue: Hallgarth, High Street, Amble, next to Rossini restaurant.

Contact: ec-regan@yahoo.co.uk

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COMES WITH
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Swimmers warned to take care as tragedy narrowly averted

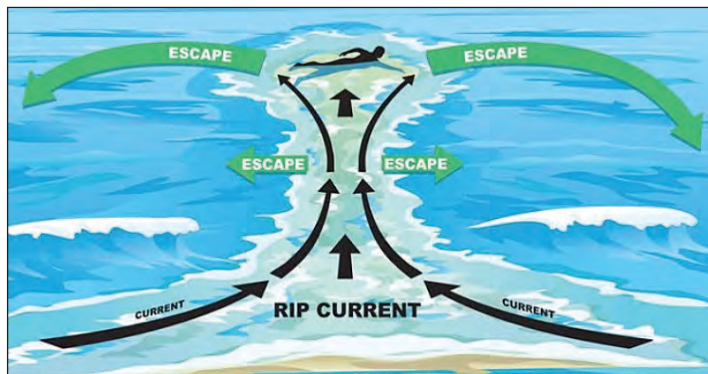
An Amble surfer has warned swimmers to take care, after saving three people who got into trouble at Cresswell beach.

Jon Nolan who runs Northside Surf School was teaching a group of surfers when he noticed three bathers nearby, struggling in a rip current.

Jon told the Ambler: "There were two women and a boy. They shouted 'Help we can't swim.' I could see one of the women was exhausted. I whistled to Jacob [Poulton] to bring the surf lesson group out of the water, and three of us went to help. I was able to use my board to bring the young lad to shore, while Jacob and Michael [Thompson] went to aid the women. It was difficult, because we were in the channel, but eventually we were able to bring them back in using our boards."

On his Facebook page Jon posted this message: "Please can we share this to show awareness of rip [currents]. Here's some pointers for you to remember if you find yourself or others caught in one:

- Stay calm
- If there's people on the beach, try to get their attention
- Float on your back, don't try to swim straight for the shore (even



How to escape a rip current. Image: US National Weather Service

though that is the first thing you'll try to do when panicking)

- Don't try to fight it, save your energy.
- If you can touch the bottom, try to wade out parallel to the shore
- If you can't wade, keep floating till the rip loses power, then swim across away from the rip and head for the shore.

Stay safe and let's enjoy our summer safely."

One of those rescued sent a message of thanks to Jon, Jacob and Michael: "Hello, I was one of the people your guys rescued two days ago - was myself, my aunt and wee cousin. I can't thank you guys enough, I have never been more terrified in my life and was the first time I feared

for my life. I'm so thankful you guys were there! Heroes."

Respect the Water

The RNLI has lots of advice on beach safety on its website, and draws particular attention to rip currents:

Rip currents can travel up to the same speed as an Olympic swimmer (4.5mph) and can pull even the strongest swimmers out to sea. And unexpected waves can quickly knock you off your feet.

- If you find yourself in difficulty in the water, float to increase your chances of survival.
- If you see someone else in trouble in the water, call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard.

Civic and Garden awards 2021

Amble Town Council has announced that judging for this year's garden awards will take place between 9 and 23 August and will be carried out with nominations and a walk around.

Alnwick gardens have kindly offered a member of their garden team to be our judge for this year.



Categories are:-

- Good Garden - All wards -
- Allotments - East and West
- Business and Community - Best floral display
- Civic Award - Adult and Junior

Please visit: www.amble.gov.uk or email ask@amble.gov.uk for more information and to submit nominations.

Generous 'Fairy Godmother' saves Amble panto

A generous donation of £10,000 from an anonymous Fairy Godmother has ensured that the people of Amble and beyond will get a Pantomime this Christmas.

The Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) based in Amble's Dovecote Centre is a self-funding professional small-scale touring theatre company and like every other entertainment business they have been severely financially impacted by COVID restrictions.

With only one outdoor show last year and no chance to tour, the company's financial situation made it difficult to plan for the traditional Christmas Panto. Then, as if by magic, a letter was posted to the company together with a £10,000 cheque as Artistic Director Lewis Matthews explains:

"The lady asked us to keep her identity a secret and we don't know her personally. All we know is that she has enjoyed our work in the past and has decided to help us out by donating this fantastic amount of

money that will be used to pay for the Christmas Panto which this year is Cinderella. It's quite appropriate that Cinders had a Fairy Godmother and now so do we. We are all very grateful."

Lewis started his new role as Artistic Director just as the first lockdown started, and his role has been a baptism of fire. His first task was to manage furloughed staff at the same time as handling the day to day running of the company - all without any shows or regular income. Now however, the Dovecote Centre hosts other community groups within its building which helps the theatre financially as well as providing mutual support and shared projects.

It is anticipated that following risk assessments and Covid-proofing, the Centre will reopen to the public in early August. Forthcoming events include regular cinema showings and a production of "The Importance of Being Earnest."

"We have been well supported by the people of Amble during the pandemic



Artistic Director Lewis Matthews and Natalie Barnes, Tours and Office Administrator in Panto mood

by donations, well wishes and pledges to return to see our shows but this anonymous gift has really lifted our spirits and given us the funds to guarantee

that the theatre will be filled with laughter and joy this Christmas time," said Lewis.

The Panto will take place between 17 and 31 December.