



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 130 Oct/Nov 2021

Plans lodged for £16m quayside development



Plans to build more apartments on Amble's quayside, have been met with concern and a request for a sizeable contribution to the town's GP practice.

The proposal to build four apartment blocks comprising 54 apartments on Amble's quayside were announced in early September, and have

for a Section 106 contribution of almost £25,000 in order to expand the Amble surgery.

In their response to the proposal NCCG said, "we consider an expansion of healthcare infrastructure will be required. We have had written confirmation from the GPs who practise from Amble Health centre that they are already facing

housing does not get riverside locations, as the land is too expensive. On the other hand, we do need affordable housing, with properly enforced rules on not letting it out. Amble is lovely, and this investment will improve it further. But I feel so sorry for the young families who will stop the town becoming a hollow community-less place, like so many on the coast."

In their proposal, the applicants emphasised the level of investment and job creation which would be created:

"The current proposal is a £16million private investment that will bring about significant economic benefits. The development of the site would bring about a major development creating a large number of jobs during the construction stages.

"The development would also bring about 'spin-off' employment in respect of generating opportunities for existing, local businesses involved with construction and related industries."

On the subject of affordable housing, a financial contribution is proposed, rather than the provision of affordable units.

"The Applicant accepts that the scale of development proposed warrants an affordable housing element. Given the nature of the current proposals for luxury apartments it is considered that an off-site payment in lieu of on-site provision is the most appropriate mechanism to deliver affordable housing."

To see the full plans and/or make a comment, see <https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/>

The planning reference is: 21/03144/FUL
Anna Williams



54 new apartments are proposed on the current boatyard site

already created quite a stir on social media, with many objection comments being left on Northumberland County Council's website.

The £16m development would be built on the site of the current boatyard at Coble Quay.

As with other developments in recent years, many comments centred around the lack of infrastructure in the town, especially regarding Amble's overstretched GP practice.

Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (NCCG) said that if the proposal were to go ahead, they would ask

severe lack of capacity to service their existing workload in the best interest of their patients."

Many social media comments also voiced concern that the apartments would end up being holiday homes, which they say are already pricing locals, and young people in particular, out of the housing market in the town.

"Any affordable housing for local people? Or just for landlords from down South to buy up and rent out to tourists?" asked one person on the Ambler's Facebook page.

Another replied: "Affordable



Did Michael Portillo meet his match?

See page 12



Step inn to Christmas

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Loss of children's swimming lessons leads to petition



Image: Pixabay

Several people have contacted The Ambler after children's swimming lessons were cancelled at the Amble pool.

One parent wrote to The Ambler: "We are both angry and sad at the decision of Park Leisure to stop all school and private swimming lessons. Our son attended lessons at Amble swimming pool for several years after making little progress at

Alnwick. He had just started to gain confidence when Covid struck. Sadly, we are not only back to square one, but are now having to go to Alnwick for lessons again." See letters page 8.

Others also expressed their anger online, drawing attention to the lack of a leisure centre in Amble. The Ambler also asked this in issue 124: (www.theambler.co.uk/2020/10/26/

why-does-amble-not-have-a-sports-centre/) and now an online petition has been set up.

The petition is directed to Glen Sanderson, Leader of NCC, saying that Amble needs a leisure centre. You can find the petition here: <https://chnng.it/sFyHZpq5Xb>

In response to the loss of children's swimming lessons, Bryan Docherty, General Manager of Park Leisure told The Ambler:

"As part of an ongoing review of our Amble Health & Leisure Club facility, throughout the pandemic, we made the decision to cancel swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre for several reasons.

"During the early 2020 lockdown the leisure centre was unable to welcome customers, and since then further restrictions have meant that fewer customers were able to enjoy our leisure

facilities. Throughout the year, our leisure facilities schedules have been under continuous review to ensure that we adhere to guidelines and appreciate the ongoing rising Covid-19 cases, whilst maintaining staffing levels and a focus on keeping our facility open with a schedule that benefits the majority of our owners on park and local residents.

"Throughout the summer and autumn months, we have taken the decision to run as many varied sessions as possible, so that our local residents and owners are able to enjoy our wide range of swim activities, from relaxing adult only swims to family fun sessions. The current schedule will run until the end of the year, as we continue to navigate through the pandemic and ensure we're managing both our facilities and people as safely as possible.

Festival of light returns, along with a special festive visitor

Amble's festival of lights celebration event will be a little bit different this year, with the addition of a light and sound installation at the Little Shore.

Lockdowns and social distancing throughout last year meant that the traditional Christmas torchlight procession couldn't go ahead. Instead we had a beautiful Festival of Lights which saw windows and front doorsteps lit up with home made artwork and candle holders. The event was a huge success throughout Amble and beyond and brought out a creative energy many of us never knew we had – or thought we'd lost.

This year, although strict social distancing measures are no longer in force, organisers of Amble Events Committee decided that for everyone to feel safe, they would not reinstate the procession this year. So they and Dry Water Arts are calling on residents to repeat last year's creativity, on or around Sunday 21 November. A video with tips on how to create your own window display will be available on Dry Water Arts' website.



Window display at last year's Lights Festival

In addition, a water-themed lights installation will be held at the Little Shore, and people will be able to stroll along the shore and pier and take in the magical atmosphere.

And younger residents can rest assured; Santa has promised to visit Amble during the afternoon of 21 November. Details and exact venue will be confirmed nearer the time.

Third chop for Felicity raises more money



Ten year old Felicity Simpson has had a haircut, raising £675 for The Little Princess Trust. This is the third time the generous youngster has gone for the chop, as Mum Katt Simpson told The Ambler:

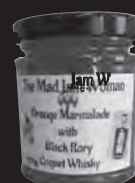
"Her first cut for the Little Princess Trust was in 2017, when she donated just her hair, her second one was 2019 and she raised over £550, and now her third cut today means £675 up to now. I'm so unbelievably proud of her for doing it, she is so loving and selfless and is always putting everyone else before herself."

Felicity said "Thank you to everyone who's sponsored me, thank you to Viki (Bainbridge) for cutting it as well."



Felicity has donated three times to the Little Princess Trust, raising £1225 in all.

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Change in day for advice drop in session

Citizens Advice Northumberland has changed its drop in day at Amble Fourways Centre from a Tuesday to a Wednesday.

Residents of Amble will be able to drop in for advice and information on a wide range of subjects from 10.00am – 12.00pm every Wednesday, with appointments available for more complicated queries.

Alternatively, the advice providing charity can be contacted using the following details:

Online advice:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Telephone 0808 278 7944

Mon to Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm

Email advice via online form at

www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

Universal Credit Help to Claim service:

Telephone 0800 144 8444

Mon to Fri 8.00am - 6.00pm

Or 01670 339985

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Debt and money advice:

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text "DEBT" to 81400 for a call back

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Email:

energy@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

Macmillan benefits advice:

Telephone 01670 339985

Email

macmillan@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

Bridge referrals: 01670 339960

Email:

bridge@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

If you are interested in volunteering for us, email volunteer@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

Give us your F.A.B. ideas

St Mark's United Reformed Church buildings, on the corner of Bede and Wellwood Streets, will close at the end of December, as Ambler readers will have read. BUT the Bede Street corner will continue to be a home for St Mark's folk - as a 'pop up church' in the front room of the neighbouring undertakers, at least for the immediate future!

The 127 year old buildings, which

have been the part of the lives of so many Amble families, are in serious need of expensive renovation, but none of our small but faithful congregation are able to organise the complete overhaul that this task will demand. Worshippers and hall users alike have been asked what their dreams and visions are for both

buildings, the work and fellowship that still radiates from this corner of Amble.

But transforming dreams and visions into reality presents other challenges - especially when the necessary fundraising and organisational skills are in short supply.

Some in Amble have named this area of town 'Community Corner' and indeed it is not just URC worship that continues from here in the months before St Mark's buildings close in December; Amble's Food Bank and the Community Takeaway serve residents well from this location.

The phrase, For Amble's Benefit has become both a mantra and challenge to a group of community-minded

individuals that have met twice during the summer. They will meet again in October continuing the discussions and actions which they would dearly like to be For Amble's Benefit. As a group of Councillors, charity and community linked individuals, they would REALLY like to hear from you, soon, about what YOU think could benefit to the age group and life stage that you represent. This may be the first, or

the only time you have ever responded to such a request as this one, but this is an opportunity to ask questions of and make suggestions about issues and topics of relevance to the town into which you were born, or have chosen to live.

What activities and amenities for example, would benefit you and

people like you as we emerge into a very different world from 18 months ago?

What would you like work, free time, your street and town to look and feel like - for EVERYONE'S benefit, in Amble.

If you would like to have YOUR questions heard by others, and to share ideas you may have that are For Amble's Benefit, please correspond via The Ambler, as soon as possible, (editor@theambler.co.uk) (or to revdalnmills@gmail.com) because the F.A.B. group wants to hear what's on YOUR mind, for our Community of Amble.

Revd Alison Mills



Harry McQuillen's

Age of insecurity



The last few months have given us a lot to think about. I'll begin with a tribute to Emma Raducanu, her wonderful tennis victory at so young an age, and her very mature attitude and performance in the U.S. Open Championship. It would be encouraging if world leaders, like Biden, Macron, Johnson and others could show equal maturity in their relationships with others.

We all understand why M. Macron is huffed that he has been left out of the loop by others who hope to bring some order to the South China Sea. Europe is not without its own conflict zones, with hotheads in positions of power to fan the flames.

Gene edited foods could appear on our supermarket shelves within five years.

The North East's brain drain is set to continue, despite

government promises to go local wherever they can.

Holiday lets continue to proliferate, bringing the increasing need for our young folk to live (and work) elsewhere. People have to live somewhere, and that includes the 4.5 million E.U. residents who have been given settled status. The fly in the ointment could be health care and care in old age. That's another knotty problem.

The withdrawal of the £20 per week benefit to cover problems of Covid is about to be enacted. We will soon know what effect that one has! If many tenants can't pay the rent, and landlords can't pay their mortgages, we have another difficulty. It's all very well to talk of the Fine Balance when one is dealing with

other people's money.

Speaking of investment, a press release includes an artist's view of development at Amble's harbour village. I wonder if the application, and the objections raised could just be part of a developers ploy to soften resistance by ending in an application for a less-intrusive development?

Permission to go back to pounds and ounces will help us all to feel truly British again. Remember the chaos we saw when Imperial and S.I measurements coincided?

Houses are being built in areas where maximum profit accrues to large construction firms. Protests could be bypassed by legislation. We need a whole lot of houses, but the main questions remain:

How many should be built, what should they look like, and who has the final say? The cynic inside me says that Money Talks. Speaking of money, our T.S.B. branch sports an ominous notice indicating a return to the Three Day Week.

On the positive side, we see things and people who give us a lift. Brown legs, trainers and a multiplicity of dogs are everywhere. Our beaches are crowded, or comparatively busy. No doubt the opening up of international tourism will thin the crowds, delighting Europeans and American alike. As ever, I see people socialising, helping one another and spending money. All's well with our part of the world.

Lobster hatchery welcomes back visitors

Amble lobster hatchery welcomes back visitors with funding from Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. (NIFCA.)

The lobster hatchery, located in the Northumberland Seafood Centre has reopened its doors to welcome visitors with an engaging and interactive experience, following a refurbishment during lockdown.

A popular attraction, it is dedicated to enhancing lobster stocks on the Northumberland coast, whilst educating people of all ages on the process of rearing lobsters, from the eggs hatching to the young lobsters being ready for release.

Following a funding boost of more £2,000 from NIFCA, the hatchery has revamped its information centre. Entry is free of charge but it does encourage donations to support its work.

Visitors can see a lobster's lifecycle first-hand. From female lobsters 'hens' carrying thousands of eggs before they hatch, and once born, how they move to larvae tanks, then into juvenile tanks in preparation for release back into the North Sea.

The hatchery is helping to sustain the local lobster populations and also gives visitors opportunities to participate in lobster release events.

Hatchery manager, Andrew Gooding,

said: "It's great to be able to welcome back visitors and show them the important work we do. The funding from NIFCA has been instrumental in helping us to update the centre and ensure it provides people with a safe and enjoyable experience.

"The centre is designed to be as interactive and engaging as possible. It's packed full of information on the importance of sea fisheries sustainability and I highly recommend a visit."

NIFCA, based in Blyth, is dedicated to looking after the marine environment and promoting sustainable fishing practices. Its district covers the area from the mid-point of the River Tyne to the Scottish border and extends six nautical miles out to sea along the Northumberland and North Tyneside coastline.

NIFCA provided an interpretation board and a monetary grant of £2,035 to support the Seafood Centre and hatchery's important work in facilitating the replenishment of local lobster stock.

NIFCA chief executive, Mike Hardy, said: "The Authority is delighted to support Amble Hatchery. Potting for lobsters is an important fishery in the Northumberland district; the hatchery is highlighting the significance of protecting and ensuring the longevity of this fascinating marine animal and the importance of sustainable fisheries."



Young lobster at Amble Hatchery

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#131 - 5 Nov

Can we disagree without hating each other?

One of the founding reasons for the creation of The Ambler was to encourage debate about local issues and for people to feel they had an outlet for expressing their opinions, particularly on matters that concerned them.

This was way before social media of course, and in early days (2000s) our letters page was often full of folks thanking others, reminiscing on days gone by, or complaining about litter and dog poo.

Then came comments on the big development projects - Tesco potentially building on part of

the Braid, being one of the first, then housing developments arrived, both large and small. As Amble has grown over the last fifteen years or so, it seems the people of the town have found their voice, and hopefully The Ambler has aided that.

The one downside is that nowadays expressing an opinion seems to often polarise people, rather than draw debate and acknowledge others' point of view. This issue has several articles which may raise your hackles. Increasingly the question is: can we disagree without hating each other?

WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p8

Taxpayers' money

I read the County Councillors reports in the last issue of The Ambler with great interest and was quite surprised to find that Councillor Clark had donated a surplus of over £2,000 of taxpayers' money to two charities. Both charities are very popular and presumably very well supported already so why donate such a large amount where it will make only a little difference. Aren't there any smaller concerns where £2,000 would make a much greater difference?

If there aren't any such deserving organisations, then how about spending any future spare funds on the people who helped to provide it namely the residents of the ward who Councillor Clark represents.

The public right of way opposite Priory Park/ Tynedale junction with Percy Drive is well used by people with pushchairs, shopping trolleys, parents and toddlers, school children, cyclists and people going to work on Coquet Industrial Estate. Unfortunately, it floods quickly whenever it rains, making it all but impassable. Last winter

the melting snow froze turning it into a skating rink and at the moment you just about need to take a machete with you to go shopping at Morrisons.

I expect that £2,000 would not cover the cost of any remedial work needed to make this path passable in all weathers, but it would surely help to improve the present situation.

Other possibilities for spending such a sum of money might be to contribute to the cost of providing a safe crossing point on Percy Drive for the above mentioned residents. A couple of dropped kerbs on opposite sides of Percy Drive would probably be appreciated, particularly by people on mobility scooter.

I am sure that if Councillor Clark consulted the residents in other parts of his ward, he would find that these funds could be spent on a great many other worthwhile projects.

Hugh Tindle

Priory Park Amble

More praise for surfers

A follow up to your recent piece regarding Northside Surf. (Issue 129, p20)

I was lucky enough to book a surfing session today for my nephew with them. The lesson was brilliant and they were so patient.

The beach at Bamburgh was busy. The instructors were very aware of everything going on around them to make the lesson as fun and safe as possible. This included saving a young girl who started to panic in the sea. They guided her onto the shore, passing her back to her parents with no fuss. When the girl's mum tried to thank them they actually looked bashful!

True heroes.

Heather Gillett via email

Family search

I am doing some ancestral research for my family and have come to a bit of a blockage. I was hoping you might be able to help me out a little.

I have found that my great grandad's (Harold James Graham) father was called Norman William Graham according to his marriage certificate. Norman was working at the Station Hotel in Amble as a Hotel Proprietor around 1939? I was wondering if you had any more information on this or anything more about the hotel.

The reason I ask is that we were told there

was possible immigration from Harold and that Harold adopted the Graham surname but we have no record of Harold's birth anywhere and we can only gain information on his father according to his marriage certificate.

I found the 1939 census where he was registered at the Station Hotel and it says there was a Hannah M Graham living there too but I can't find any records on either of them.

Dean_678@hotmail.co.uk



Surfers Jon Nolan and Jacob Poulton

Morrison's Ben Nevis challenge



The finishers: Kev Smith, Marion McKenzie-Long, Gemma Bell, Rachael Briggs and Cam Brown

On Saturday 14 August eight colleagues from Morrisons Amble took part in the Morrisons Ben Nevis Challenge in aid of Young Lives vs Cancer (formerly CLIC Sargent), which is Morrisons National Charity Partner. Around 250 employees from all over the country took part on the day. Ben Nevis is the highest point in the UK and the climb isn't something to be taken lightly.

The team of climbers consisted of Kevin Smith

(General Manager), Gemma Bell and Deb Curtis (both Department Managers), Cameron Brown (no longer at Morrisons but still wanted to help us raise funds), Rebbeka Johnson and Marion McKenzie Long (Community Champions), Rachael Briggs and Cat Glen.

Our sponsorship so far has raised around £2,000 but the final figure is yet to be confirmed.

Marion McKenzie-Long, Community Champion for

Morrisons Amble said "It was an incredible experience and we are all very pleased to have raised so much for Young Lives vs Cancer.

"There was thick fog at the top of Ben Nevis so we didn't get the chance to see the amazing scenery but at least we can see the fruits of our labour as The Morrisons Foundation offer Colleagues the chance to apply for matching grants, so hopefully if we are successful with our application we should raise around £4,000, fingers crossed".

Citizens' Advice column

I'm a single parent and lost my job during the pandemic. My local Citizens Advice helped me apply for Universal Credit which has been really helpful to cover some of the income I've lost. But I'm very worried about the upcoming £20-a-week cut to Universal Credit - I don't know how I'll be able to pay for the school uniforms and shoes, especially as they grow so fast! Is there any other support out there to help plug the gap?

If you're on a low income or employed, you might be able to get help with some of the costs of sending your child to school, including school meals, transport and uniform. It's always worth talking to your local education authority to see what support is available as some of their resources and offerings can differ. The following information is for England.

Free school meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically get free school meals. If you have older

children you can apply for free school meals if you get certain benefits. In your case as you're on Universal Credit and you applied after 1 April 2018 you would be eligible if you earn less than £7,400 a year without benefits. You can see the full list of eligibility requirements on the Citizens Advice website.

To apply for free school meals you need to contact your local authority: you can check the details at Gov.uk by typing your postcode in.

Transport

If your children are aged between five to 16, your local education authority might offer free or lower cost transport if you don't live near school or your child's unable to walk there. You need to apply to your local education authority for help.

Uniforms and other costs

Your local education authority might also be able to help with some other costs, like

uniforms, music lessons or trips and activities. There may also be local charitable schemes to help with these costs. It's worth checking with the school to see if it knows of any. Schools can also sometimes also advise on finding secondhand uniforms.

What's next

If your child is staying in education after year 11, you must tell HMRC's Child Benefit Office if you want to continue receiving child benefit and any extra support for children within means-tested benefits. When your child turns 16, HMRC will send you a letter asking whether your child will stay in education or training. You must reply to this letter to keep getting Child Benefit.

for more information see Citizens' Advice Northumberland's website: <https://citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk>
See also page 4

Lifeboat shouts

A Mayday call to Humber Coastguard prompted a request for assistance from Amble All Weather Lifeboat.

At 1.10 pm on Saturday 4 September a 27 foot yacht had broken down and was drifting towards rocks on Coquet Island. The All Weather lifeboat Elizabeth and Leonard was launched.

A crew member was placed on board the casualty which was carrying a crew of two persons. and the vessel was towed to Amble Marina.

A second call for assistance was made at 6.30pm on 6 September to assist Craster lifeboat with a 30 foot yacht which was fast to lobster pots off the coast at Craster. The tow was swapped to the All Weather Lifeboat and the casualty was taken to Amble.

The lifeboat was refuelled and made ready for service at 9.00pm.

August 28

At 13:50hrs both boats were requested to launch by UK coastguard to five children being took out to sea off the beach at Druridge Bay behind the Country Park building.

Our boats launched and made best speed south from the harbour, our Inshore lifeboat was first on scene and managed to get four casualties aboard while Amble Coastguards and members of the public got the fifth casualty ashore.

Once on scene our Inshore lifeboat crew and coastguard team made sure the casualties were safe and well as the All Weather Lifeboat stood by in case further casualty care was requested while an ambulance was en-route to the scene to check the casualties over.

Once everyone was safe both boats headed back to the harbour and made ready for service again.

Fundraising event

Lifeboat Day was unable to go ahead again this year, but a small fundraising event took place at Morrisons on August Bank Holiday Sunday.

Fundraiser Jill Faulconbridge said: "Thank you to everyone that came along to support the Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers on Bank Holiday. We raised a great total of £1418.01 plus £114.31 donated from Amble Pin Cushion for their Ronnie the RNLI Panda raffle. This makes a grand total of £1532.32!

Thank you also to Marion McKenzie-Long and all the staff at Morrisons, to the local businesses and individuals who donated prizes, and last but not least, to the community of Amble."

Remembering a WW2 hero



Duncan and Lizzie Morton ran Morton's cafe on Links Road

Duncan Edward Morton was 65 when he passed away in 1981. His life story is a classic schoolboy's adventure from fairground fighter to a war hero. From the age of 10, the Amble lad known as Duggie was a showman and boxer. At 14 he entered the ring as a professional under the name of Freddie Douglas.

During WW2 he became a sergeant in the Black Watch Regiment and lost a leg at Dunkirk. He was wounded 5 times and shell-shocked twice. He received several decorations including the Military Medal and 5 oak leaves.

After the war, he rejoined his father on the fairground circuit and started training boxers. Winters would be spent in Amble on the old fair site, and in the summer they would tour between Yorkshire and Scotland. Duncan settled in Amble in 1956 and opened a gift shop and general dealers, the above-mentioned Morton's Café. Several years later he had to retire because of ill health. He died, leaving his wife, a daughter and grandchildren.

I knew Duncan and his wife Lizzie as polite, courteous and hard-working shopkeepers. I am proud to have met them both.

Duncan was a fine, decent man and a true war hero. His life story is worthy of any film/documentary or book. His story could be straight out of a Catherine Cookson novel but with one significant difference: his tale is true.

Duncan Edward Morton, I salute you. RIP.

Tom Curry

There is more of Duncan Morton in Tom Curry's book: *Wor Tom's the Polis*, which is available from Lumiere Pod in the Harbour Village, or directly from Tom himself. Email him twc34@btinternet.com

WHAT YOU SAY...

>> continued from p6

A wonderful act of kindness

I was amazed today to come across a lady who for both my wife and I has demonstrated the most amazing amount of kindness and compassion to somebody less fortunate.

In a time when mental well-being is uppermost in many peoples thoughts we were waiting at High Street bus station to go over to Warkworth, the Masons Arms being a very engaging and hospitable bar and

a must whenever we are here.

The lady in question joined us in the queue and told us how she is currently renting property in Warkworth as she looks to purchase a property before moving from Preston.

On the way to Warkworth the lady told us how she had cycled earlier from her home to Amble, the purpose of this was to handover her £500 bike to a well known gentleman that

has fallen on hard times. This gentleman is well known to many in Amble often seen on Queen Street. People may also be aware of how youths took and vandalised the bike he used to get around on.

Acts like this not only demonstrate a real community spirit but also show the very best in people.

Neil and Joanne Calder via email

No more swimming lessons in Amble

We are both angry and sad at the decision of Park Leisure to stop all school and private swimming lessons. Our son attended lessons at Amble swimming pool for several years after making little progress at Alnwick. He had just started to gain confidence when Covid struck. Sadly, we are not only back to square one, but are now having to go to Alnwick for lessons again.

Growing up in the 70's and 80's in Amble, a local boy drowned. I can still recall that day, as I'm sure many others can. It brought home how important it was for local kids to learn to swim, as many of us couldn't swim an inch and played by the harbour daily. Many of us were sent for swimming lessons after that incident, supported by the boy's family. The lucky ones learnt to swim. For others, like myself, large group lessons simply didn't work and I went through my entire childhood being unable to swim.

When the Amble site was leased to Northumbria Leisure Resorts Ltd in 2002, a part of the

long term agreement included a condition that the company build a pool on site which could be used by the whole community. When the pool was built and opened early in 2005, Councillor at that time, Sue Bolam, said

'We are thrilled that Amble residents now have the swimming pool they have wanted for so long, right on their very doorstep. No one is too young or too old to enjoy this excellent new facility and I hope the local community get many, many years of enjoyment from it. The shallow waters of the learner pool will provide a great opportunity to build the confidence of young children who are learning to swim whilst the larger pool will provide more experienced swimmers with great scope for improvement and enjoyment. It is also planned that local schools will also use the facility for swimming lessons'.

I have no idea what the written agreement was between the company and the Council back in 2002, and I have no idea whether it raises any legal

challenges. However, it is quite clear that the agreement has gone sour and Park Leisure are alienating a large part of the community where its business is sited. Many residents already feel that tourists voices have more say than their own. The decision by Park Leisure adds fuel to the fire. Many families will not have the time or money to relocate to Alnwick, and their children will never learn to swim.

I know some of you have written to Park Leisure, and some are still waiting for a response. In the meantime, I have added my signature to the Change.org petition 'Amble needs a leisure centre'. Well done Karen Simpson for starting it. I hope it highlights the lack of local facilities for children, in particular learning to swim, in a seaside town. There appears to be no lack of facilities in Amble for tourists, so let's put the residents first for a change.

Lynne Russell via email See also p3

Dog breeding advice from Coquet Vets

Within the last year, there has been a surge in puppy breeding. Many people love to breed their pets, but it is important to ensure that you have done everything possible to keep your pet and future puppies as healthy as possible.

Ensure your pet's regular vaccinations are up to date, and flea and tick prevention is sorted. All females need to be wormed from day 40 of pregnancy. It is very important to consider the specific health tests needed for each breed. It is vital to note that both parents require health testing to ensure you have done everything you possibly can to produce healthy puppies.

Pregnancy Scan - An

ultrasound pregnancy scan can be carried out at approximately four weeks post mating. This is mainly to confirm a pregnancy. It is important to note you will not be given firm numbers as to how many pups you might be expecting.

Diet - A pregnant female, will require a change in her diet at approximately week six.

Whelping box - This is really important to have ordered well in advance as mum needs to get used to it. You also need suitable bedding for the whelping box.

Heat lamp - Newborn puppies require a much higher ambient temperature as they cannot regulate their own temperature.



Bottles and replacement milk – sometimes a puppy may need a helping hand. It is essential that you weigh each individual puppy daily in the first two weeks.

Breeding your dog is hopefully a very enjoyable experience, but it is also a very involved procedure; carrying out your research and being prepared certainly will help you.

From the team at Coquet Vets: 01665 252 250

Put the apt in your final chapter

Each life is unique and at William Purves, no two funerals are the same. Putting the apt in your final chapter is something we heartily encourage people to do by thinking about their own funeral and setting out their wishes.

Not only does that guarantee the event you want, importantly it removes the burden of decision making from loved ones at an already difficult time.

To help, we've got free planning ahead resources. A checklist of considerations you can download and use to trigger awkward discussions with loved ones. Or simply use it to note down your choices whether that's a tick here and there, to a comprehensive set of instructions. Checklists can be downloaded from williampurves.co.uk/thinking-ahead.

Free plans of wishes can be created from the checklists or you can do it yourself from our website williampurves.co.uk/plan-of-wishes and we'll email you a copy, with further copies available by request for family or loved ones.

These can be printed up and amended at any time with no charge for any changes.

Now you know how, what might you choose? In our experience, the healthiest of funerals are those that accurately reflect a life lived. In some ways it's really only limited by imagination or creativity. We've seen everything from motorbike hearses to full brass bands, personalised picture coffins to cardboard ones decorated by the grandchildren. Then there can be different locations: under the trees at a woodland burial site to the seaside.

Paying ahead is possible too with a range of prepayment funeral plan options to ensure that our professional fees are guaranteed no matter how much prices may have risen. It's a smart way of beating rising costs and removes the financial burden from those we leave behind.

Our focus is arranging a funeral that's "just right" for you. From St Andrews, the Lothians & Borders to Northumberland, we'll help you put the apt in your final chapter.

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COOL WOMEN BEING COOL



Left: Sky Brown (13) won bronze for skateboarding in the Olympics
Right: Emma Raducanu (18) won the US Open tennis championships
Below: Nandi Bushell (11) played drums live with the Foo Fighters



Recently, due to social media and a general increase in the awesomeness of women, there have been tonnes of female role models becoming known. Especially in sports, but also music, science and the arts. Here are a few of our favourites.



Emma Raducanu- she started playing tennis at age 5 and now, at 18, has won the US open. She credits her parents for part of her success, as they were tough on her in her childhood. By 12 she was playing international tournaments so it's really no surprise she has reached such dizzying heights by 18. She also had to qualify to get in to the US open to be able to complete. Now a millionaire, she has inspired many young children round the world.



Nandi Bushell- an 11 year old who recently played drums with the Foo Fighters. She has been playing drums since her father taught her at 5, and began posting covers to YouTube at age 6. In August 2020 she challenged her hero Dave Grohl (of Nirvana, Foo Fighters, Them Crooked Vultures, etc) to a drum off; the internet went crazy for it. Incredibly, Nandi won. She was rewarded with the chance to close the Foo Fighter's show. She dreams of starting a band and continues to pursue music outside of drumming.

Sky Brown- Sky recently competed in the Olympics for park skating. At only thirteen years old, she won bronze! She is the youngest professional skateboarder, and competed among many other influential young women. And she did all this despite a horrific fall in May 2020 where she fractured her skull and broke her left wrist and hand. Her perseverance and passion for her sport is inspiring. Also, her smile is everything.

Here at Artograffi we haven't done anything quite as cool, but these incredible women are a constant reminder to keep on trying and be generally cooler

By Ava and Megan

SHOULD WE BAN VIDEO GAMES FOR PEOPLE UNDER 18?



In China a law has passed that says you can't play video games for more than three hours a week this is to stop video game addictions.

Is this law a good or bad thing?

Well it's good because it stops children playing video games every hour of the day. As in some reports it has said that children refuse to eat, drink and sleep as they are too addicted to video games. In one report it said a person head-butted his mum because she told him to turn it off.

It's a bad thing because some people rely on video games to make friends and socialise so without those socialising skills online people can't rely on video games to make friends they will fail to understand how to make friends in real life as it is harder.

I think yes social games should have a time limit but things like candy crush, manor matters etc. should be allowed as no socialising skills are involved so they won't affect people's social life. But people should be careful on how long they play games like that.

by Hannah

Wildlife v weeds



When people think of wild areas they often think of woodlands and forests, or even rolling fields and meadows, but when it comes to certain plants people turn their noses up. Areas with weeds are seen as untidy and against our perfect pictures of nature, but they can actually be very wild too.

Many of those native 'weed' flowers that appear in your garden early on in spring are great for the bees and butterflies, growing easily and providing pollen and nectar to get them through which otherwise would be hard to get. Weeds help the ecosystem, are easy to maintain and are able to adapt to their surroundings, but they're also the first plants to 'colonise' a particular area to make it suitable to growing.

This is what's happened in a particular place in Amble. The strip of land at the rear of Broomhill Street used to be used for boat storage and had a hard core put down on it but, despite the challenges, nature has thrived over lockdown.



"The area has been covered with a wide range of wild and native flowers," says Sue Rzepczynski, who lives near the area and is advocating to keep it wild, "It's a haven for insects, butterflies and bees, not to mention the rabbits and birds who have made it their home."

Recently, weed killer has been put down and there are plans to cut back the weeds after people have complained that it looks untidy, but this could be the perfect opportunity to let nature

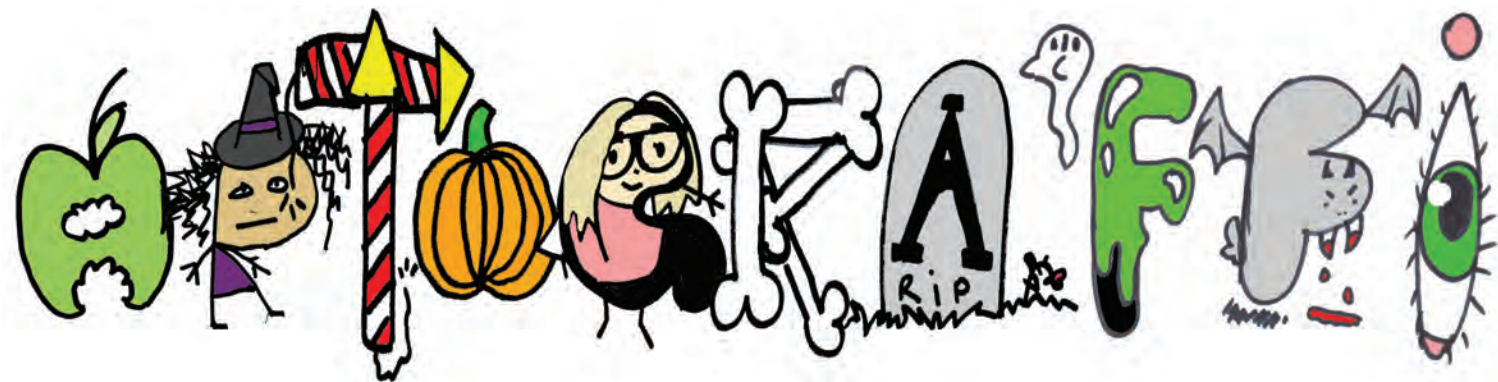
reclaim some of the land.

"Recent climate events are a loud call to us to try and repair some of the damage the human race has done."

If this area and places like it could be made even better and developed into a protected, wild habitat then it could be something for Amble to be proud of. With some informative signs explaining the wildlife diversity and the purpose of the place, people might begin to appreciate that weeds aren't the untidy nuisances we think they are.

The best course, as always, is letting nature take the lead.

By Lily



OSZY DOESN'T LIKE FIREWORKS



It was the November 5th, bonfire night. Bethany looked at Ozzy and said; 'I know how much you don't like this...

Sorry, but I can't stop it,'

Ozzy had dreaded this day ever since he was a little puppy. He hid under furniture, cuddled with Bo, and stared outside the window – waiting for anyone to come – he wouldn't mind if this was Megan, Bethany, Grace, Hannah... anyone! He knew at night everyone would leave and he would be left alone with Bo. Then, he would start hearing loud and scary bangs coming from every direction.

'Ozzy! Bo! Come here!' Megan shouted

ecstatically. Ozzy and Bo both sprinted to the kitchen, to see Megan and Bethany holding their favourite treats. Bethany threw the treat to Ozzy, and he caught it in the air – he then happily ate it. 'I'm sorry, Ozzy.. Bye!' Bethany sighed.

'See you! Bye!' Megan shouted joyfully, 'I can't wait to see these fireworks.' Then they left, locking the door behind them, but leaving the garden door open just in case any of the dogs needed the toilet.

A few minutes after they left, the banging started. Bang! Crack! Boom! Pop! Ozzy ran frantically around the dining table. What would he do? He has to protect his family, but the a fence was in the way!

Ozzy managed to spot some crates, stacked like a staircase, so he sprinted at top speed to climb up the crates. He managed to jump over the the tall wooden fence, and then started sprinting towards the loud bangs. It was a guess, but his instinct told him to.

After a while of running across the Amble streets, Ozzy could see his family making their way to the fireworks, so he alerted them by barking loudly. 'Ozzy! How did you get here?' Bethany sighed 'At least I brought noise-cancelling headphones. You can use them!'

Ozzy wore the headpones, happy to not be alone anymore.

By Grace

FRANKIE WINS A FAMILY HOLIDAY



Frankie Simpson, aged 11 has won a family holiday at a Park Leisure resort after taking this picture of Amble Marina. Second place winner was Shannay Ugwu (8), and third place was won by Nina Baxter (9) and Issy Dunn (8) We asked Frankie all about it.

Congratulations Frankie, well done. We hear you won a holiday! Tell us about what happened

We were at Amble youth club and we done a day where we walked around Amble and took lots of photographs, I was having so much fun with the camera. I took hundreds of pictures and I had to get another memory card for my camera and afterwards they entered the pictures in to a computation

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

My name is Frankie Antonio Simpson. I am 11 years old. I live in Essex with my mam, Mel Davito. I go to West Hatch High School in Chigwell Essex, I love cars and motorbikes.

Do you come up to Amble very often?

I spend all the school holidays in Amble with my Dad and Step mum and stayed all through the lockdowns because my school was closed. I love to come to Amble because I have my brother Theo-Jay and two sisters Felicity & Billie-Jo to play with.

Did you enjoy attending Amble Youth Project and what was your favourite part?

I loved it because I made lots of new friends. We got to go round Amble and take pictures of anything we liked.

Do you take photos very often?

Yes but only with my phone and tablet but I have hundreds of pictures saved on my phone because I take so many.

What inspired you to take this photo of the Marina?

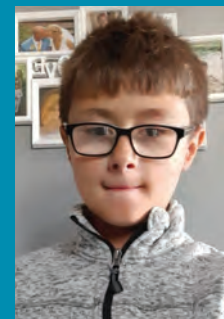
I like engines and from the marina I could see lots of engines on the boats

Is this a photo of your favourite part of Amble?

I like all of amble because there is so much to do and loads of nice beaches and castles close by and not like where I live. My favourite place is the little shore

Are you looking forward to going on your holiday?

I am super excited I can't wait and think we are going to have so much fun.



Frankie Simpson

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Filming in Amble

Known for his colourful jackets, Michael Portillo got a bit of a run for his money when he met Bart Rippon at the Seafood Centre

Star of TV series Great British Railway Journeys, Michael Portillo, was filming in and around Amble at the beginning of August.

After filming with Martin Charlton at the Old Boat House, Michael spoke to Bart Rippon at the Seafood Centre.

Bart told The Ambler: "He was especially interested in the less common types of fish that we sell. He was impressed that we sold Hake and Squid,

and he said that Hake is very popular abroad, but less so in the UK. He was very pleasant and professional and I enjoyed talking to him."

Afterwards, Bart produced his own brightly coloured jacket, which very much amused Michael and the camera crew.

Great Coastal Railway Journeys with Michael Portillo will be broadcast in February or March 2022.

Anna Williams

Make it look pretty again!



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Michael's marathon cycle!

Amble fisherman Michael Bould has just completed a 200-mile cycle ride in aid of The Fishermen's Mission North East, raising an astounding 2,745.00.

Michael was joined by five fellow riders in the trek from Tynemouth to Edinburgh, following Coasts and Castles. The intrepid cyclists covered the route in just three days and Michael was backed by many supporters on his JustGiving page – including colleagues from within the Fishing Industry.

As he rested his tired legs, Michael explained why he supports the Fishermen's Mission:

"I have witnessed the care and support given to a local fishing family at a time of tragedy and loss by the Fishermen's Mission. I am hoping to help the Fishermen's Mission continue this vital work in what is their 140th year of



r-l: Michael Bould and Peter Dade of the Fisherman's Mission NE

giving assistance."

Superintendent Peter Dade, Mission Area Officer for North Shields, which covers the area of Amble to Redcar commented:

"I am overwhelmed by the support Michael has received from the people of Amble, the Fishing Industry and local businesses. Michael has been amazing and it is very appropriate that he has taken on this challenge during the

140 years of The Fishermen's Mission. Michael's heroic efforts will help ensure The Fishermen's Mission is here "to provide a lifeline of welfare and support" today and for the next 140 years.

Michael wished to thank all for those who supported him, but especially Coquet Island Shellfish Ltd, D R Collins Seafoods, Amble Marina and Jaspers Bistro Amble for extremely generous donations.

Job search help at Amble Employment Hub

Would you like help searching for and applying for jobs?

Every Tues and Thurs, 9.30am – 2.30pm (appointments only).

At Amble Youth Project, Dilston Terrace, Amble, NE65 0DT

Our friendly job coaches offer

free support to anyone looking for work and wanting help including:

*Access to online job search

*Careers advice

*Help with writing CVs, interview preparation and core work skills

*IT mentoring for those with no

computer experience

*Support finding further training, volunteering opportunities and work experience

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Every six minutes someone is told they're going blind

It's easy to neglect your eyes because they often don't hurt when there's a problem', says Eamonn Dunne, sight-loss charity Thomas Pocklington Trust's Alnwick-based Engagement Manager.

Having an eye test will not just tell you if you need new glasses or a change of prescription – it's also an important eye health check. An optician can spot many general health problems and early signs of eye conditions before you're aware of any symptoms, many of which can be treated if found early enough.

The NHS recommends that you should get your eyes tested every two years (more often if advised by your ophthalmic practitioner or optometrist).

In Northumberland alone, there are around 13,000 people living with sight-loss, according to the Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB). To raise awareness of the needs of people with Sight loss and campaign for change where



The Sight Loss council are looking for visually impaired volunteers

it's needed, we're launching a county-wide Sight-Loss Council.

Sight Loss Councils are led by blind and partially sighted members. We tackle local issues and work with businesses and service providers to improve the accessibility of their services.

We're currently looking for blind and partially sighted volunteers who live in Northumberland to join us. You'll receive training and support, have the opportunity to meet other people and play a real part in raising awareness of the daily challenges of life in a world

designed for the sighted.

Emma Hogg, the first member of our Northumberland Sight Loss Council said:

"As someone who lives with sight-loss, I wanted to use my insights and experience to help other visually impaired people in the North-East to live the life they want to live"

To find out more about Northumberland Sight Loss Council, email info@sightlosscouncils.org.uk, call 020 8996 1937 or visit: www.sightlosscouncils.org.uk/contact-us/

Youth project photography competition

A special summer photography competition by the Amble Youth Project, celebrating the best of Amble, has crowned its winner, beating over 25 brilliant entries.

As part of its summer programme, the Amble Youth Project launched a photography competition in partnership with the Amble Links Coastal Holiday Park, owned by holiday home park operator, Park Leisure to encourage young people to experiment with a variety of camera equipment and capture the idyllic scenery surrounding Amble.

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, as it welcomes extra funding to support its offering.

Taking the top spot from the competition was Frankie Simpson, aged 11, whose photo showcased an array of boats reflecting off the water in the Amble Harbour Village. The composition of the image really stood out amongst the other entries, meaning Frankie was named the lucky winner of a family holiday at one of Park Leisure's five stunning UK parks.

Second place went to eight year old Shannay Ugwu who won a £100 Amazon voucher. Third place went to Nina Baxter aged 9, and Issy Dunn aged 8, who each won a £50 Amazon voucher.

Brian Docherty, general manager at Park Leisure's Amble Links Park, said: "We were thrilled to have so many fantastic entries to the Amble Youth Project photography competition and seeing how creative all the young people are.

"Huge congratulations to our winner, Frankie. What a stunning photograph! We loved those reflections on the water! We can't wait to welcome you and your family along to one of our holiday parks, where hopefully you'll get the chance to take some more amazing photographs."

See Artogرافي's page for an interview with winner Frankie Simpson



Reports from our *County Councillors*



Concerns are constantly raised regarding road improvement schemes, traffic safety issues, parking, calming measures, road markings, foot/cycling maintenance.

The public can assist identifying priorities in any area, sending submissions to NCC Highways, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.

This is called Local Transport Plan Programme, the top three Highways and transport priority issues are considered for inclusion in the LTP programme consultation annual review.

Directory of requests records all highways and transport related requests received from the Public, Parish / Town Council, County Councillor, and other organisations, this record of requests is listed with priorities submitted from all above will be scored against LTP criteria and those three with the highest score overall will be considered for inclusion in future LTP programme.

My yearly small members funding cannot contribute towards all schemes, some totally outweigh my balance.

Proposed road safety scheme this year - C109 between Low and High Hauxley road markings, new signage, lowering of speed limits, no physical measures proposed, just signage & markings, anticipated cost 25K. My contribution towards this scheme will be 10K.

Also through my SMS budget 2K contribution towards 5k cost of dropped kerbing along Wellwood Street into Industrial Estate. 2K towards realigning kerbing along Bay View 4k scheme.

Please consider future improvements and send your submission to be considered through the LTP.

After lock down:

My first time back to a club in eighteen months, first boozer the Toggy club North Broomhill. The Toggy welcomed back customers with a great evening of live music and bingo. Meeting up with family and friends also mixing with the good people of North Broomhill, so glad to meet residents in good spirits enjoying themselves in the Toggy. (We did actually win the full house playing bingo). Already looking forward to calling again in September for a few pints, live music and especially the bingo.

Thank you to all staff for keeping us safe and comfortable.

Cllr Terry Clark North Broomhill, Hauxley, Amble.

07779 983768

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk 07779 983768

The proposed pilot scheme for overnight parking of Campervans on the hard standing on the Braid has progressed further. Warkworth P.C. and Amble T.C have both approved the application so it will now go to planning. It is, I understand, for six vehicles and results will be analysed to see how it performs after six months.

There has been a lot of discussion re second homes and holiday homes in Amble, so I thought I would give you the latest up to date figures obtained from Northumberland County Council revenue department.

There are:

102 second homes listed

129 self-catering dwellings

3260 total properties currently registered in Amble

This means just over 7% are not primary dwellings.

Any new development over 10 houses has to have at least 15% of the homes allocated for affordable use.

I am trying to get the temporary overflow car park on the Braid made into a permanent parking area, it has worked well this Summer and has helped reduce the pressure on parking in the town.

With the nights drawing in its probably a good idea to make sure that bicycles have lights that work and if you have young children be aware of where they are in the evening.

Jeff Watson County Councillor for Amble West

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

Adult classes restart: face to face

The Amble and District Education association (ADEA) met again on September 22 to be educated by Peter Regan on statues and monuments of 'Horses and Men', with slides to illustrate. Those present were entertained while being educated, and lively discussions followed.

Classes are planned for the autumn term on Wednesdays at 10am till noon, in the Masonic hall, Gloster Terrace top of the Wynd. There will be more from Peter, but also Graeme Young (Bamburgh Castle archaeology project) and member Ian Baulch-Jones. All are welcome.



**HAUXLEY
PARISH
COUNCIL**

Neighbourhood Plan update

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be meeting on 27th September 2021 via Zoom to drive forward the development plan for Hauxley.

We have been successful in obtaining a further grant of £5,931.00 from Locality to support us through progressing the

Neighbourhood Plan through to draft form. Hauxley Parish Council have agreed to change the designated neighbourhood area to reflect the change of parish boundary as a result of the Amble Community Governance Review.

Local Transport Plan Priorities 2022/23

Hauxley Parish Council has agreed to repeat its priorities for the Local Transport Plan from 2021-22 – while we have received

feedback from Northumberland County Council to say they are being considered; we believe these are high priority matters that must be addressed.

Priority

The introduction of a lower speed limit/traffic calming for the entire extent of Highway between High Hauxley and Low Hauxley,

The introduction of a safe and formal pedestrian route between High Hauxley and Low Hauxley,

Improvements to access via the introduction of parking restrictions at Links Road, Low Hauxley.

Free Trees

Hauxley Parish Council has agreed to apply for a free pack of trees from Northumberland County Council. The trees will be planted within the Parish with the locations yet to be determined. The trees are part of the County Council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

The offer of free trees is open to residents too with over 10,000 trees ringfenced for residents at a rate of one per household. To apply for your free tree visit: <https://tree-scheme.northumberland.gov.uk/SelfService/>

Vacancy – Parish Clerk

We are looking to recruit a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to join Hauxley Parish Council. The role of Parish Clerk is interesting, rewarding and varied, playing a vital part in ensuring the duties of the council are conducted properly. The vacancy is for 12 hours per month. If you think you are the right person for the job, please email hauxleypc@gmail.com for an application form and further details.

Future meetings

The Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be held at 6.30pm on Monday 8th November at Hauxley Village Hall. All in attendance are requested to adhere to social distancing.

Parish Clerk: Elaine Brown Tel: 07588 659 600 Email: hauxleypc@gmail.com Website: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/hauxley>



Welcome back to Trust Life

Today the world is changing! I say this because school holidays have come to a close, with children carrying out testing, office workers are returning to work after working from home, mask wearing is becoming a choice rather than a requirement, covid restrictions are lifted – and just about every condition we have grown used to in the last 18 months, or ‘the new normal’ will now be an ‘old normal’ as yet again we adjust to ever changing circumstances. If you’re following me I’m sure you will agree, its amazing what we humans can adjust to when necessary.

Office opening hours

Trying to bring some normality back to our working environment we have the office doors open again to the public. However we ask that a face mask

is worn. Our tenants have asked that access restrictions to their offices are retained. Therefore if you need to see anyone please contact them beforehand to make an appointment and they will meet you at the main entrance on the first floor at the allotted time.



Christmas Lights Festival

With the possibility of any covid restrictions coming back into force, the events committee are working on how

best to organise the Torchlight Procession, or perhaps we should now call it our Christmas Lights Festival!

The committee would like to build on the community spirit and momentum from last year to make the event even better and in a way that can be participatory.

This may seem a little vague but as soon as plans are further developed and permissions have been granted we will be able to tell you more, so look out for this exciting news in The Ambler.

Football at the Welfare

At the welfare, work to the pitches is ongoing and we now have two teams who will be using the welfare pitches and pavilion in the coming season. This is great news and something we have been working towards for a very long time.

We wish both clubs well and we are looking forward to seeing

activities there once again.

Bird sculpture Trail

Sadly we have very little news on the progress of the bird sculpture trail as we are still waiting for planning conditions to be discharged. BUT we will get there eventually!

Job search facilities

Trustees will be discussing opening the office for job search and use of computers by the public but currently if you want to contact the Ambler or requiring a CV you can do so by ringing: 01665 712929 or emailing editor@theambler.co.uk or Julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Hoping you stay safe and well.
Julia and all trust staff and trustees

julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Are you feeling lonely?

According to recent studies almost a quarter of the population admits to feeling isolated or lonely sometimes. RuralUS recognise that poor access to services and the sparse population of North Northumberland make social inclusion even more difficult.

If this is something that affects you, or someone you know, why not get in touch for a chat. Maybe we could find a group or activity that you are interested in, or if you have an idea or interest that isn't served in your area, we can offer practical support to help you set up your own group and a grant of £100 to assist with the cost of room hire, materials or tutor time. It would be lovely to hear from you.

Telephone: 07493 971706 Email: jancowan.ruralusproject@gmail.com



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Coquetdale Cottage, Queen Street, Amble
Tel: 01665 710437



Amble Town

COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm - details on our website

Town: 14th Oct, 11th Nov, 9th Dec Check website for venue

Amenities: 30th Sept, 25th Nov Council Offices

Remembrance Sunday Service: 14th Nov 10.55am Memorial Gardens

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

VANDALISM

Just as it seemed a solution had been found for the problems befalling the water feature pumping station at Paddlers Park, it was vandalised twice in as many weeks - the last time completely dislodging it! Unfortunately it could not be repaired and replaced for the August Bank Holiday weekend, however it is now being refurbished for next season. When the original area fell into disrepair, new health and safety regulations combined with utility requirements meant the pools could not be reinstated and many other types of water play were not possible, but the community still wanted water play of some type, so this feature was placed there under the NCC regeneration design. On completion, responsibility was handed over to your council. The replacement for the original pumping mechanism cost £1,500 and now this thoughtless vandalism means a minimum of another £600 will be needed - money which could be used for other things. No doubt these same destructive vandals will bemoan the lack of facilities for their own children in the future! A flagpole at the Town Square was also damaged but will be repaired. Unfortunately our police cannot be on the spot 24/7 so don't blame them for lack of action - do your bit by reporting anyone you see behaving irresponsibly so that they can investigate and discourage these mindless expensive acts.

COVID COMMEMORATIVE SEAT

This is on order and will be installed near Cliff House so those who wish to can sit and look out over the breakwater, the pier and the harbour entrance. A visible appreciation of everyone who supported our community through these last difficult months. There were so many who just quietly went about their daily work despite the restrictions in place as well as many more who voluntarily carried out tasks to help those more vulnerable people, or even just took a few minutes to chat and brighten the day. Thank you All.

PLATINUM JUBILEE

The second event Council have planned to celebrate this is a Fireworks display on the Braid area. There were many wonderful words of praise for the one at the end of the 2014-2018 WWI anniversary and although plans are in the early stages, the same firm has been engaged again. The Jubilee Bank Holiday is in June and it would therefore be very late before darkness fell- sometimes it is not truly dark if we have been blessed with a sunny day! So it has been decided to hold this on the Queen's birthday- Thursday 21st April- which also happens to be during school break when perhaps a later night is allowable. More details next year. It is hoped that another event will take place on the actual weekend. If you are planning an event to mark this then please let us know so our website diary can show what is taking place in the town.

NEW COUNCILLOR

Tony Regan was co-opted at the August meeting as a Councillor for the Central Ward of the town. We welcome him and look forward to working with him as the newest member of our team who voluntarily give up their time to work for and promote this wonderful town we live in.

GARDEN AWARDS

Previously this has been judged in July but we have often heard 'too soon, the annuals need a bit longer.' This year it was left another month but all Councillors felt the standard was not as good and it was better when done in July! The weather does play a major part in the displays and this year has certainly seen spells of long dry days and then heavy rain. Well done to all of you who produced such delightful sights for everyone to enjoy. The Alnwick Garden judge remarked on the high standard of gardens and thoroughly enjoyed his look around. Results are on the website.

CIVIC AWARDS

The Adult award was presented to Rachel Cook for her tremendous efforts co-ordinating support throughout the Covid pandemic. She voluntarily worked tirelessly to get as much information to as many people as possible as well as ensuring those who needed physical help received it. The Junior award was given to Lily Tibbitts for her exceptional writing skills and the promotion of our young people as they strive to reach high standards.

DEFIBRILLATORS

There are a number of these placed throughout the town but recently it was wondered who was looking after them. Council has agreed to take responsibility for the one located at the centre of Queen Street and negotiations are being carried out to see if other organisations can take over those situated at the Sports Development Centre (Boy's Club) and the Harbour. These can be a life-saving aid in times of collapse- training is available on their use but a telephone helpline guides anyone who accesses it in an emergency.

WEST CEMETERY

Interments are now beginning in the new section - N- at the top of the cemetery. In common with many other cemeteries these will now be 'back to back' as this gives a larger grass area between memorials for the newer machinery which is much wider than in days past. 420 'whip' type of trees are arriving in November - a successful bid to the Woodlands Trust - and planting these will be the first of the town's celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It is hoped young people will help to put them in along the fence border of this new section - but others are welcome to volunteer- where they will grow to form a haven for insects and bird life in the years to come.

COUNCILLORS CORNER

Finally, we are seeing a glimmer of hope after the awful past 18 months of doubt about the Covid crisis. Our Medical Practice should receive the highest praise for the number of vaccines administered - these numbers are outstanding. Thank you is not enough. What this means is that Amble is looking almost like its normal self with many locals and tourists enjoying all that we have to offer. Businesses are getting back to normal; the floral displays lift our spirits and we have enjoyed the best August for some time now. However as always, a note of caution, be aware that this pandemic will not go away and will be with us for some time to come. Enjoy our Town but be careful and continue to take any precautions that are relevant! Cllr. Craig Weir

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

Actors lose the plot

After pandemic-enforced idleness Warkworth drama group actors are to return to the stage with a farce involving a love rat, his scheming ex-wives and a murderous Russian.

"Old Actors Never Die...They Simply Lose The Plot" by Lynn Brittney will be staged in November.

Directed by Ralph Firth, the play is set in a retirement home for actors, and features star struck nurses, a grieving widower in search of a dominatrix, a serial womaniser, his three ex-wives and Russian Mafia figure intent on kidnap and murder.

"During the Covid lockdown our members had weekly Zoom comedy play readings courtesy of Northumberland Libraries," said Ralph. "And it was generally agreed that Lynn's play was the funniest. 'It is classic farce in a far from ordinary residential care home.'" The play will be performed at the Warkworth Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 25, 26 and 27 November. Admission is £7 and tickets will be available soon from Warkworth Post Office, N&F Young of Amble and through www.warkworthdrama.org.uk

Seating will be around tables and a licensed bar will serve refreshments.

Amble kickboxers return to action



Hybrid Team. L to R Sharon Chrisp, Alex Golder, Lexi Smailes Hanna Rutherford (back) Matty Proctor, Aiden Arries and Keowen Eaton.

Competitors from Hybrid Kickboxing Amble returned to action over the last 3 weekends.

First up was Keowen Eaton having his first ever bout in a ring a boxing match in North Shields. Keowen started extremely fast not allowing his opponent to get into a rhythm, with a continued bombardment of excellent combinations to both head and body, his opponent's corner stopping the fight in the first round.

Next up was Josh Anderson who took part in the WKO open European Championships held at the Metrodome in Barnsley. Josh was up against some very talented European fighters, although inexperienced Josh returned home with a silver and two bronze medals a fantastic feat for his first competition.

The following day some of the Hybrid Team took part in their first ever Inter club (none decision bouts) at Millennium Martial Arts in Blyth.

A great day was had by all with all seven competitors thoroughly enjoying their first taste of competing in a ring and young Alex Golder taking on two fights to help out. Also taking part was Hybrid stalwart and mentor (qualified second/coach) Sharon Chrisp who really enjoyed her bout against the WKO women's European champ.

The Summer of Adam Jobson

Warkworth Cricket Club icon Adam Jobson had a summer to remember as he topped the clubs run chart this season with 380 runs, an average of 42.22, two 50s and a high score of 108 not out.

Additionally he picked up 15 wickets. Second XI Batter of the Season, Warkworth CC Performance of the Year, Second XI Player of the Season.

Adam who started in the club's junior ranks stated 'this is only the beginning' as he will look to continue his fine form



next season as Warkworth CC look to mount a promotion push. Well done Adam!

Parkinson's UK

Do you have Parkinson's or a connection to it? Come and meet us, enjoy a free cuppa, find out what is on. We want your thoughts to develop options.

St. Michael's Church Hall, Walkergate, Alnwick NE66 1NB.

Information Drop-in Event Tuesday October 12 1pm – 3pm

Viv Rogerson, Area Manager,

vrogerson@parkinsons.org.uk or telephone me: 07917210900

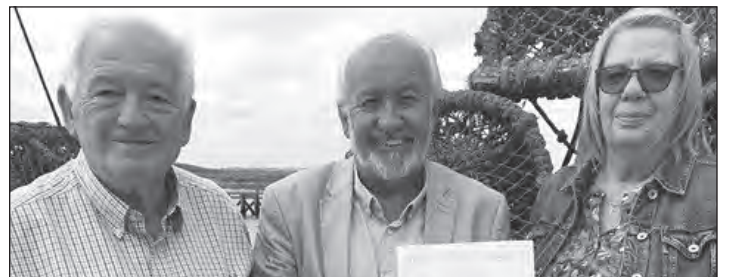
Youth Project receive cheque

Below l-r: Jeff Watson, previous Chair of Amble Youth Project (AYP), Maurice Sewell, Director of Cheviot Holdings (Amble) Ltd and Tracey Hinton, Trustee of AYP receiving a cheque for £5,000 for AYP.

Cheviot Holdings (Amble) Ltd is a regional residential and commercial developer with a local presence in Amble where it has brought forward two new housing schemes. The first is already under construction for circa 300 high quality homes by Persimmon Homes at Hauxley Grange whilst final details of the second site for circa 200 homes are currently being processed with a view to commencing construction in 2022.

Cheviot Holdings (Amble) Ltd have committed to support the AYP through a ten year funding programme and look forward to working with the dedicated team, including Jeff and Tracey, in their tireless devotion to improving the life chances for local children.

Upon being presented with the cheque, Tracey gave "a big thank you for this support, as, without this help AYP would not be able to offer the support to our young people of Amble."



Repurposing bras for those in need

October is Breast Cancer awareness month and staff at Angie's Tavern are helping to raise awareness by collecting unwanted bras and then sending them to those in need in third world countries.

Angie told The Ambler, "We have a bra bin and we hang them up! It's good fun for a good cause. In 2019 we collected over 200 bras."

The pub also raised £600 in 2019, for HospiceCare North Northumberland.

Amble Juniors under 7s



Thank you to Cottage Catering for sponsoring E.C. Amble Juniors for their new match day kit, (pictured above). Thanks also to Kayleigh's Kitchen for sponsoring the rain jackets, and also Castle North Plumbing and Heating who sponsored the training kits.

Thank you to everyone that has, and still is supporting our local football teams. You are all amazing and we couldn't do what we do without you

Sharon Chambers

Music concerts restart



Music concerts re-started at Warkworth Memorial Hall with a sell-out event with Alistair Anderson performing on concertina and northumbrian pipes. He provided a wonderful concert for a welcome return to live music. Now that we are up and running again, we hope to offer about eight concerts a year.

We're bringing jazz to the village on Sunday October 3 with Edinburgh based duo Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer. Playing saxophone and piano they have toured halls, arts centres and small theatres throughout the UK, as well as jazz festivals in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Fife, Callander, the Borders, Bath and Buxton. They use programmable lighting and bottle lights to create a wonderful intimate atmosphere for the music. They tell stories

of their travels in their Tour Bus - an old converted Yorkshire Ambulance, in an entertaining evening of creative music and enthusiastic joy, just what is needed after months of isolation.

'We are delighted to be performing again after sell out candle light concerts on the Glasgow Tall Ship in July and record sales for our concerts in this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival. We are hoping this makes a welcome release from lockdown and a chance for communities to reconnect.'

The room will be set up in cabaret style, enabling reasonable space between attendees. Ticket availability will therefore be limited and we expect this event to sell out. See www.wwmh.uk for further details or contact Peter Burnham peter.burnham@gmail.com, Tel: 01665 711388

Warkworth film club

Warkworth Film Club is back! Starting on Saturday October 2 and then on the first or second Saturday of each month in the Memorial Hall on Castle Street. The popular cash bar will be open from 7pm with the film commencing at 7.30pm, and a chance to stay for a chat, a drink and a raffle afterwards. We hope that lots of you will come along to see films that we've selected for you to enjoy with friends and as a social event. For licensing reasons we can't charge a ticket price so we'll be asking for a minimum donation of £5 per person on the door which includes your membership of the club. All are welcome and if you have any questions, suggestions for future film choices, or would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact Anna Willey on 01665 711341 or anna.willey@cantab.net

Dates for your diary

October 2 – Nomadland

November 6 – Dream Horse

December 4 – The Chronicles of Narnia –

The Lion the Witch and The Wardrobe

January 8 – 2001 A Space Odyssey

February 5 – True Grit (Cohen Brothers 2010)

March 2022 onwards: films still to be selected; diary dates are:

March 5, April 2, May 7, June 11, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3.

For more information and to see the trailers for upcoming films please visit: Warkworth Memorial Hall (www.wmh.uk)

Comedy songwriter shares her naughty secrets

A comic songwriter is set to share her life story in song with a hilarious provocative one-woman show at Amble Parish Hall.

Sharp, rude, ingenious and funny, the brilliantly entertaining Liz Cotton will be playing an evening of superbly crafted and mildly risqué comedic songs on Saturday 30 October at 7:30 p.m.

Described as Jake Thackray meets Victoria Wood, 100% Cotton tells the story of Liz's struggles as a classically trained musician trying to hide her rude songwriting from her parents.

The show, which is part of the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme, sees the audience treated to hysterical songs covering her everyday life. From her son leaving home, a surreal poem about flatulence, tales of wanton ghosts, artful arthritics and burning desires on bonfire night, Liz is a master of observational humour with just the right amount of naughtiness.

The Highlights Rural Touring Scheme works with volunteer promoters from over 65 village halls and community venues across Cumbria, County Durham and Northumberland to bring high quality performances and great value live events into the hearts of rural communities. They have been working with Amble Parish Hall since 2013.

There will be another Highlights show in the Parish Hall on Friday 10 December.

Saturday 30 October at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00 pm).

Venue: Amble Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, Amble. NE65 0DX

Tickets: Adult £10 | Conc. £8 | Child £5 |

Special Offer: 16-35 year old £10 for 2 tickets

Bookings: Tickets on sale at N&F Young, 8 Queen Street, Amble NE65 0BZ, online at www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

or call 01665 798271

There may be last minute cancellations due to Covid-19 restrictions, ticket holders are asked to check the venue or Highlights website before travelling. If a performance is cancelled due to Covid-19 ticketholders will be provided with a full refund.

Something a little different

Residents of Amble and the surrounding area enjoyed a day of free theatre, drop-in activities and workshops, live music and more, as local companies joined forces for a fun-filled day of entertainment.

Local theatre companies, November Club and Northumberland Theatre Company, alongside the Women's Workshop, brought residents together at the Dovecote Centre in early August.

November Club's Artistic Director and Chief Executive, Joe Hufton explains: "We created a project called 'Walk in Your Shoes/Doorstep Theatre' which is basically me walking 125 miles of St Oswald's Way, across Northumberland, stopping at eight communities along the way to deliver theatre."

"It is a way for us as a theatre company to get out and find out what our audiences want after the pandemic and also meet other organisations and come together in celebration. We approached NTC and the



Pictured L-R: Joe Hufton, November Club, Julia Lyford Women's Workshop, Kim McGuinness and Louis Roberts, NTC

Women's Workshop to help us bring something a little different on our stop in Amble." November Club delivered Doorstep Theatre to audiences including Amble Youth Project and the Women's Workshop – a space for women to try new things, to come together and campaign for equality rights.

Kim McGuinness, the Police and Crime Commissioner for

Northumbria also called in to support the endeavour:

"This time last year things felt very different. My office was helping Women's Workshop with funding through the Coronavirus Response Fund."

"Today, things are on the up, and it was great to see local organisations coming together to offer a day of fun for local residents in Amble."

Every Last Puffin


A new book, called "Every Last Puffin" heavily featuring Amble Puffin Festival is out now, and features author Ed Hancox's visit to the wonderful festival.

In 2015, the International Union for Conservation of Nature added the Atlantic puffin to the Red List of Threatened Species for birds. This book is a journey to find the last strongholds of the most enigmatic birds in the United Kingdom. Every last puffin.

It's a story of scouting for puffins on the remote Hebridean outpost of St Kilda, where they used to be found on dinner tables, of braving the fierce winds of Shetland to find pufflings, and of unintentionally swimming with puffins in the Shiant Isles. Scottish 'tammie norries' are sought from Lunga to Westray to the Isle of May. Elsewhere there's a puffin fightback in Skomer, southern puffins in the balmy Isles of Scilly, and the tale of an errant puffin who made an impromptu visit to a sex clinic in Hampshire.

This is a celebration of all things puffin, and a last chance to see the clown of the sea before it's too late.

More details can be found at <https://linktr.ee/everylastpuffin>




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Bumper seabird season on Coquet Island



Above: Coquet Island volunteers installing the steel hammocks which it is hoped will encourage more kittiwakes (above, right) to nest on the island

The RSPB staff on Coquet Island were fortunate this year to overcome the challenges of managing an island sanctuary throughout the pandemic, with the help of some careful safeguards put in place to safeguard the team.

2021 has been a bumper year for most species: the puffins in particular increased from some 25,000 pairs to around 30,000 pairs. They spread from the plateau to almost every part of the island, excavating burrows even under the roseate tern terraces.

Common terns reached a new record of 1,776 pairs whilst

the Sandwich terns increased to a staggering 1,919 nesting pairs. The Arctic terns increased from 1,010 pairs last year to 1,369 nesting pairs. The Arctic terns have been falling in numbers over the past few years but have bounced back, thanks in part to a displacement of birds from the Farnes.

There has been a steady increase in Kittiwakes on Coquet Island over the years since the first nest back in 1991. Kittiwakes are cliff-dwellers, but Coquet is limited in the cliff ledges that are suitable for them to nest on. Over the winter the wardens drafted in

the help of Stephen Lunn, the local blacksmith artist from Red Row and designed stainless steel artificial ledges (we call hammocks) which were fixed to the cliff faces using epoxy resin.

The resourceful Kittiwakes soon took advantage of the new nest sites and built their tumbling nests on them, each rearing chicks. More are planned for next season to meet the challenge of the growing population, currently standing at 466 nests.

Coquet continues to thrive as a sanctuary and even the roseate terns enjoyed an impressive increase from 130 nests last year

to a record-breaking 150 pairs this year.

The Roseates successfully fledged 186 chicks which are all on their way to Africa for the winter.

With the bird nesting season at an end the work on the island has turned to clearing all the rank vegetation, cleaning and stowing the hundreds of nest boxes and carrying out the repairs and maintenance of the various equipment on the island such as the CCTV network and solar power system.

*Paul Morrison
RSPB Coquet Island*

Opinion

A sustainable future for Amble?

Back in July I tweeted a photo of my son riding down Queen Street. It ended up with almost 150,000 views. Many folks realised that it wasn't a particularly healthy scene - a polluted, hostile, car-filled environment with a vulnerable young boy penned in on all sides. Some wondered what a young lad was doing on a busy road.

On the flip side, there were positives to the photo - a busy high street in a small coastal town that is seemingly bursting at the seams with people eager for to make the most of their holidays.

That said, there is a serious conversation that the custodians of Amble and countless other places like it need to have in the decade ahead. It's a decade where climate change will be front and centre.

As handy as cars are (we own one, but are doing a decent job

of reducing our reliance on it) they are staggeringly inefficient at moving people. Let's say there are 30 cars in my photo and, being generous, they all brought two people into the town. That's 60 people in a space that, were it pedestrianised, could handle hundreds and hundreds at a time.

Businesses on Queen Street really are missing a trick. Land on the outskirts of Amble could be better used for parking and a wonderful, healthy, bustling Queen Street could burst forth.

Amble, like many seaside towns, will have peaks and troughs through the year so there's nothing to stop schemes like this being timed so vehicles could access roads more often in the off season, or during off peak times during the day as well. Vans will need to make deliveries. We'll need far more people on trains, coaches and buses, with bikes coming in very



handy for those shorter trips.

Disabled drivers will need plenty of thought of course, but pedestrianised streets are far from lacking in terms of accessibility. Head to Northumberland Street in Newcastle to see what I mean.

Alnwick has had a little play with this as you may have noticed, which, from the few times we visited, seems to have proven successful. Lots more people can access the space now and people can linger and enjoy the street away from the noise

and pollution that our cars bring.

The pandemic has given us a little glimpse of what the UK looks like when no one can escape.

So I guess what I'm getting at is this: a big opportunity awaits places like Amble in the coming decade, but it won't happen by accident. Get some plans in place. Try things at weekends and see how they go. Move fast! Be brave! You won't regret it.

*Ed Lamb
twitter.com/edwardlamb*