



# The Ambler

## Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 134 June/July 2022

Amble kicked off the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in April, with a magnificent firework display on the Braid.

The event was organised by Amble Town Council and was met with praise from the majority of those who saw it.

A spokesperson for the council said "Having seen the pleasure and enjoyment brought to so many by the 2014 commemorative fireworks display, Council decided it would be a wonderful way to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and so immediately began a fund towards the estimated £4000 cost.

"After so many emotionally hard months for lots of people, it was a real joy to see smiles on those of all ages gathered to watch and to hear the gasps as the sky was lit up with brilliant splashes of colour.

"It is not possible to count those who delighted in the event as many watched from further afield but the favourable and enthusiastic comments certainly made it worthwhile and a fitting tribute."

Amble Development Trust held a competition to design a flag to be flown in the amphitheatre in the Town Square. The winning entry was

## Jubilee celebrations: fireworks and flags



The firework display was held on 21 April, the Queen's birthday. Photo by Andrew Mounsey

from Carole Hardman, who combined a puffin, fish, coble and beach hut surrounded by Northumbrian flag-inspired red and yellow squares.

The judges said "We chose the winning entry because it was bright and colourful, captured the spirit of Amble and fulfilled the design brief in referencing the Platinum Jubilee. The colours that have been used also reflect the greater Northumberland."

## Carole's flag is the winner

Carole Hardman (right) told The Ambler, "I was in Mallorca on holiday when I saw the post [about the competition] on Facebook. It was a rainy day so I thought I'd give it a try but I've never entered a design competition before. I couldn't just choose one thing that Amble was famous for so I chose four!

"Also I wanted to show we are part of fabulous Northumberland, so I added the border and also put a crown in the middle to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee."



Carole will return to Amble at the end of May in time to see



her design having been recreated into a full size flag.

The flag will be flown in the Town Square during the Jubilee and Puffin Festival weekend. A copy will also be sent to Her Majesty the Queen.

"I've only dabbled with art so I was absolutely gobsmacked and so proud when I was notified my flag was the one chosen," she said.

Anna Williams

## Parents to be consulted on education changes

A consultation is currently taking place on possible wholesale changes to the organisation of schools in the Amble area, after Northumberland County Council approved plans to consult with parents, staff and the wider community on a possible two-tier system.

Views are being sought via a six-week online consultation running from 11 May until 29 June. More information and a link to the survey is via <https://padlet.com/Northumberland/Coquet>. There will also be a drop in event on Saturday 11 June, 10am-3pm at Amble Masonic Hall.

Cllr Guy Renner-Thompson, cabinet member for education, insisted that no schools would be closed regardless of the outcome and the area's first schools would all have capacity to switch to a primary model.

Cllr Jeff Watson, said: "[We] will go the way the people want to go whether it is two or three tier. Hopefully we will have a plan that everybody can live with and have proper facilities for our kids in the Amble area, which has suffered for the last few years."

For events during the Jubilee and Puffin Festival, see back page

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## Meet our Big Issue vendor

Some of you might have seen her familiar bright red coat at the top of the high street, but we wanted to give our local Big Issue vendor a more formal introduction.

Larissa is from Newcastle and has lived there for 13 years, moving to England from Ireland when she was just 18 to study business, then ending up working in retail and meeting her husband.



"When I had my second child my life got turned around," she said, "We were living in a small space with not enough money to pay the bills.

It was hard."

It was then that Larissa went to the Big Issue. "They gave me a place to live, a pitch and free magazines to start with," she explained, "They even sorted out school for my kids. Over lockdown it was very tough, but they helped by sending vouchers and money from the regulars who subscribed online."

"Amble is a very nice place. The people are very friendly," she told us, but said that the high street could often be quiet, with many people visiting the pods and the pier but not making the journey up to the top of Amble.

"Every day is different, and not every day is a good day, but it's about challenging yourself. Sometimes I only make five or six sales in a day, but I have lots of friendly regulars."

Her pitch is outside the Co-Op and she is usually there from Tuesday to Saturday, but it can vary. "I have a six month old at home, so it really depends." Larissa currently has four children, with another one on the way, which she's hoping will be a boy.

*Lily Tibbitts*

## Puffin cakes at the Festival

Just wanted to let you know that here at The Puffin Deli we're excited for the upcoming festival and there will be lots of delicious puffin cakes and treats available.

We're also delighted to say we now stock quality, handmade pottery made by the very talented Gill Brindley at Sidecar Pottery, so don't forget to check them out!

*Hannah at the Puffin Deli*



>> See all the Puffin Festival info (including cakes) on our back page

## Sandy wins Gold again



Local preserves producer The Mad Jam Woman AKA Sandy Higson has (once again) found success at the Artisan Marmalade Awards, receiving two Gold Awards, for her Dark Seville Orange Marmalade, and Lime marmalade with Mango Pineapple and Chilli. One Bronze Award for Orange Marmalade with Herbs and Chilli, making her jars some of the best in the world!

Sandy also received commendations for her Blood Orange with Cardamom, Orange and Pineapple and the one she made specially for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Called 'The Queen's Tipple' it is Lemon Marmalade with Dubonnet and Gin, this is believed to be one of the Queen's favourite drinks.

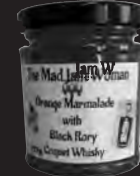
Firm favourites, these preserves are particularly loved for their quality, and clearly the judges agreed! They were very impressed with the marmalade's appearance, colour, consistency,

aroma and flavour.

Sandy said "I'm really pleased to have won two Gold awards. I very nearly didn't send one of the recipes in, but changed my mind at the last minute. I'm really glad I submitted it!"

Last year, Sandy won six awards at the same festival, taking home one gold, four silver and a commendation.

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# Waalk this way: Amble's new sculpture trail is



Above l-r: Artist Celia Smith's work will be at the entrance to Hauxley Nature Reserve; Amble artist Frances Anderson's piece, Murmuration

Walkers around Amble will soon begin to see the construction of the long awaited sculpture trail which hopes to inspire walkers, artists and nature lovers to visit the Friendliest Port.

Known as The Bord Waalk ('Bird Walk', in our local accent), the project is a new walking trail of public sculptures inspired by the bird-life found around the Amble coast.

The artworks are being created by nationally and internationally renowned artists, bringing something unique and very special to the area. The Bord Waalk will be enjoyed by residents and attract visitors to Amble from across the country.

The Bord Waalk was devised by Amble Development Trust, and is funded by the Coastal Communities Fund, Arts Council England and

Northumberland County Council.

"The aim is to attract new visitors to the area, and to create commercial skills and opportunities for artists, engaging local communities with creativity, and encouraging a closer connection between art lovers, outdoor enthusiasts and bird watchers," said Amble Development Trust's director Julia Aston.

"We very much want this to be a 'must see' experience for visitors. We hope it brings a heightened awareness to audiences of the relationship between the landscape and the world of ornithology."

Part of the trail includes an augmented reality app to enable people to access poetry, soundscapes, music, and information about the trail and the artworks themselves, as well





# poised for lift-off!

as the birds and the ecology that has inspired the works.

The route for the 'waalk' includes a varied range of backdrops and habitats. The trail will align with the already established England coastal path, and is accessible at locations between Hauxley Nature Reserve, following the coastline to Amble, through the town and along the river Coquet.

"Now at long last we have all planning conditions discharged for the trail," said Julia, although licences are still required from NCC for sculptures on their land. "So now we are able to share locations and details of each sculpture that will be erected through the trust's Bord Waalk project."

In addition to the physical sculptures by artists, funding through the Arts Council has allowed workshops to take place in local schools. This work will be showcased at the upcoming Puffin Festival.



Tern Wings: Jon Voss



Bird Heads: Andrew Burton

## Bord Waalk map guide

There is no definitive start or finish to the trail, but this guide begins at Hauxley Nature Reserve and travels along the coast through Amble heading towards Warkworth. See map opposite.

Sculpture number 1 is by Celia Smith located at the entrance to Hauxley Nature Reserve

Sculpture number 2 is 'Brick Tree' by Rodney Harris which incorporates nesting spaces for birds will be located on the beach road at Hauxley

Sculpture number 3 is 'Murmuration' by local artist Frances Anderson, will be located next to the East Cemetery

Sculpture number 4 is 'Big Puffin' by Ben Greenwell will be in Paddlers Park

Sculpture number 5 is 'Eggs' by Stuart Langley sitting at the top of Horseshoe Hill

Sculpture number 6 is 'Roseate Tern' by Jonny Michie will be next to the entrance at Spurreli

Sculpture number 7 is 'Bird Heads' by Andrew Burton will be in the Town Square

Sculpture number 8 is by Diane Watson and will be incorporated into the new car park structure

Sculpture number 9 is 'Dokies Egg' by Alec Finlay on the Braid triangle

Sculpture number 10 is 'Sphere' by Rob Mulholland next to the Coquet Shorebase

Sculpture number 11 is 'Tern Wings' by Jon Voss which will be close to the Braid entrance onto the river path towards Warkworth

Sculpture number 12 is 'Bird Song' by Aether and Hemera

To supplement the physical sculptures we have poetry by Katrina Porteous, 'The Bird Roads' bird song recorded along the walk by Geoff Sample and Music by John Kefala-Kerr which can be accessed soon on an app: 'Amble Bord Waalk Trail' created by Animmersion. This also has an interactive bird offering information on the artists and their creative processes.

## Food Bank thanks

Amble Food Bank would like to thank our local communities for their overwhelming generosity. Food donations continue to come in via Morrison's and the Co-op. We hope that people will continue to be as generous as they feel they can.

We were successful in our Co-op Local Community Fund application. Our specific cause was to provide healthy lunches during the school holidays to support our families with children. So far we have received £430.28 from the fund. With this money we purchased lunch items which were delivered at the start of the Easter break. Thank you also to the Co-op for donating Easter eggs to AFB and to those of you who donated eggs via Morrison's. Thank you to Morrison's for facilitating this.

NCEA Warkworth Primary School pupils came up with the idea to set weekly challenges of how many food items they could collect. We have so far received over 200 items! Thank you so much to the pupils and those who have contributed.

We are still carrying out regular large food shops for food items that we need. Because of this we set up a Just Giving page. The current total is £718 - thank you so much to these donors! If you feel you are able to donate, please search for Amble Food Bank at Just Giving. We are now registered with HMRC, so if you pay tax you can Gift Aid your donation.

Finally, we were extremely proud to receive a fabulous Puffin Award of Merit from St. Mark's URC Church for "outstanding service to the community of Amble..." Special thanks go to Reverend Jane Rowell for the beautifully embroidered puffin we received.

Should you wish to make a financial donation to Amble Food Bank, cash or a cheque can be addressed to us and posted through the letter box at Trinity Methodist Church. Or you can do a bank transfer using the following details: Amble Food Bank, sort code 77-20-04, account number 17925260.

If you are in need, you can get a referral through an agency such as CAB, your local school or GP. Or contact Northumberland Communities Together on 01670 620015, 9-6pm.

Any general enquiries can be sent to [amblefoodbank@aol.com](mailto:amblefoodbank@aol.com)



## The Ambler

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### 2022 Submissions dates:

#132 - 7 Jan	#135 - 1 Jul
#133 - 1 Mar	#136 - 2 Sep
#134 - 22 Apr	#137 - 4 Nov

## WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p8

### Is the Northumberland Local Plan irrelevant?

I have recently forwarded the following query to the County Council querying their Local Plan and housing planning permissions, as I feel the Local Plan actually seems an irrelevance.

'You have finalised the Northumberland Local Plan I see after some two - three years deliberations I wish to pose you the same question I raised in 2019.

The indicative housing

requirement for Amble is an additional 540 houses, roughly 27 per year, over the 20 year period 2016 to 2036. I accept that this is not an absolute limit and some local leeway may be appropriate.

Question: How can it be possible or justified to have given planning permission for over 1,500 new houses in Amble just in the last few years?

This is some 300% over the much lauded Northumberland

Local Plan assessments!

Either the long awaited Plan has no real worth, or the Planning Department pay no heed to your Local Plan.

Amble is being swamped with houses for which there is no strategic need, built to benefit rich landlords and holiday companies buying them up to provide second homes and holiday homes.'

George Martin  
Amble

### Concern about the Braid development

I am not personally affected by this proposal but I would rather not have buildings on such a well-used community space. However, there are those who need somewhere to live, now and in the future. So if approval of the plan is inevitable, it should not be without enforceable safeguards.

One safeguard could be ensuring that the development be totally for primary residential use only. (Compare with Alnmouth where second homes and business use are prohibited in an established block of flats.)

The insignificant number of

affordable homes planned should be increased, preferably at the west end of the site.

The three-storey blocks would be better at the east end of the site, giving the elderly residents easier access to the shops and harbour area; and surely accommodation for a full-time warden should be specified for those who need support.

New access roads should not be built at the cost of losing public space, without at least a contribution to recompense the community to a much-needed health centre, perhaps?

Living with neighbours who look out for each other has long been an Amble strength. This development has the potential for permanent residents to continue this, but it will fail if second homes or holiday accommodation take over and where permanent residents do not know their neighbours from one week to the next.

I hope that some of these issues can be resolved.

Douglas Temple  
Amble  
See also p8

### Wishing for the Good Old Days

Well here we are at the start of another year of visitors, dogs, litter, wild parking and many other things. Oh, how I wish for the 'Good Old Days' when almost everyone knew everyone and things were clean and tidy.

More and more homes are being bought for holiday homes and some pay hardly any rates!

The young people of our town have no chance of owning their own homes, let alone

paying the rent.

While having a grumble, I go further to say, I wish holiday home owners would keep the fronts of the houses clean by sweeping paths and deweeding. They are a mess. I would also like to see builders' bags and rubble removed from the rear of many houses.

My last grumble is the state of the Little Shore, the promenade and surrounding area. I watch many walkers'

programmes around England, Scotland and Wales and see with a great deal of envy, how beautiful other beaches are. It makes me wonder why people want to come to this filthy beach, litter on the grass and dog poo, because as we know, not everyone picks up.

For the future, I would like to see a more looked after Amble.

Audrey Jones  
Amble

### More memories of the legendary Dr Robertson and What became of those in the Lord Mayor's Camp?

I was on the pier with my young daughter sometime in the early 1960s when an elderly lady, returning from the then accessible pier end, slipped through the railings into what we called the triangle between pier and breakwater.

She floated just underwater with eyes open. Luckily, there was a very high tide and swell and some fishermen managed to pull her out as she rose

up. Dr Robertson arrived and gave her CPR for a long time eventually seeing signs of life. When ambulance men arrived she was carried back to the dock with Dr Robertson giving oxygen and me keeping her nostrils pinched as instructed. I understood at the time that he saved her life after a long time under water

As regards the Russians future after their time in the

Lord Mayor's camp (*What you say #133*) my Father Bill Thirtle was on the cruiser HMS Berwick on the Russian convoy to Murmansk and saw some of these returning Russians being escorted onto railway trucks and probably as in Dr Zhivago a nameless number on a list long forgotten along with millions of others

Des Thirtle  
Darlington



## Amble set for over 1100 more houses than Local Plan says we need

The number of houses planned, built or proposed in Amble since 2016 is over three times more than is required, according to the latest figures.

Plans were submitted in April by Persimmon for a further 60 dwellings on a site which has already had 166 homes approved. And a proposal from Northumberland Estates was submitted in March to create a Lifetime Neighbourhood of 93 dwellings on Braid Hill.

This is despite the introduction of the long awaited Northumberland Local Plan, which identifies that Amble needed at least 540 additional dwellings between 2016-2036.

The Plan was formally adopted by Northumberland County Council (NCC) on 31 March 2022, and forms the guidelines upon which subsequent housing developments can be assessed.

Amble residents will not need reminding that the town has been inundated with new housing in recent years. 776 dwellings have begun or been finished since 2016.



But Amble also has an additional 873 homes in various stages of NCC's Planning pipeline: Hindhaugh Homes site off Acklington Rd (500)

### New housing in Amble

Chart showing number of dwellings built in Amble versus the number required in the 2022 Northumberland Local Plan

Required number of houses acc NCC (2016-2036)	540
Number of houses already built (2016-2022)	776
Number of houses still to be built (2022)	873

Chart: The Ambler • Source: The Ambler • Created with Datawrapper

This includes:

Coquet Grange/Persimmon (257)  
Hauxley Grange/Persimmon (272)  
Gloster Hill Farmhouse (42)  
St Cuthbert's (13)  
Longstone Manor/Persona (185)  
Hindhaugh Homes/Artique (7)

NCC said "With the new Local Plan now adopted and having full weight in the determination of planning applications, we are now in a much stronger position to be able to manage the scale of new housing necessary to permit across the county."

Coble Marina (54)  
New Persimmon site on A1068 (166)  
Northumberland Estates on Braid Hill/NorthBank (93)  
Additional Persimmon homes on above site (60)

Our figures show there are 1649 houses already built or at some stage in the planning pipeline since 2016. That's over 1,100, or three times more than NCC say we require.

With this in mind, might it be possible to halt the flow of developments with immediate effect?

Anna Williams

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# Save Our Braid campaign

Opposition to a housing development and access road across the Braid is growing day by day. After a proposal to build 93 dwellings on land at Braid Hill/North Bank was lodged by Northumberland Estates, objections have been flowing in to the county council's planning website.

A group called Save Our Braid was set up to draw awareness of the plans, which include building a permanent access road alongside the Gut, as well as a construction road behind the houses on Rivergreen. Anger has been voiced that there has been little publicity of the plans and no meaningful public consultation.

The Ambler spoke to Terry

Barton, one of the Save Our Braid group. "People don't know about this development, and even if they do, they can't object if they don't have access or skills to use a computer. We asked Guy Munden from Northumberland Estates why there hadn't been a proper public consultation and he said it was because of Covid. But there are no restrictions now. There weren't even any public notices on lampposts until last Monday and so they extended the date for comments."

A proposal has been made for access to the development to be off the A1068, through the Rivergreen estate, along a newly constructed road adjacent to the Gut, before it would cross the stream via a culvert, onto the



land at Braid Hill (previously earmarked for Tesco). Concern has been voiced at the amount of traffic which would turn off the road near to where there have already been several accidents and at least one fatality. "It they put a road through Rivergreen or the Marina, there will be more accidents," said Terry.

"The construction road will be bringing lorries with thousands of tonnes of hardcore turning into the Marina road entrance then turning again behind Rivergreen houses and this is alongside all the other traffic and campervans using the car park, canoe club and recycle bins, I think it's disgusting. It's going to cause chaos and destruction."

The group say they have been inundated with emails of support for the group. "There are people who support this

development, but the vast majority of comments agree with us. It should stay as a green space. It's one of the few green spaces left in Amble and enough houses have been built here already.

But some residents disagree: One commented: "Good to see some decent housing provision for our local older generation - long overdue. Nice to know that there are still good people with common sense who care for others needs. More than enough land to build and more left for dog toilet which seems to be why others oppose."

You can see the plans and add your comments via Northumberland County Council's planning site, ref: 22/01051/FUL

Contact the Save Our Braid group via email: [saveourbraid@gmail.com](mailto:saveourbraid@gmail.com)



The 93 dwelling development by Northumberland Estates is proposed on land previously owned by Tesco. A road would be created on the Braid side of the Gut

## WHAT YOU SAY...

>> continued from p6

### Minister leaves Amble after 11 years

Thank you everyone! I may not have met each and everyone of you over the 11 years that I have been in Amble and Hauxley as the Methodist Minister but I want to thank all of you for shaping the minister who is leaving Amble this summer.

This has been my first appointment as a minister. Like a lot of things we may know the theory of how to do things but putting that into practice is something else.

So, thank you to those who have entrusted me to baptise your child(ren), to conduct your wedding, or to celebrate the life of someone you loved at their funeral. Thank you for allowing me to be involved in the Remembrance Day tributes at the Town Square, and thanks to Amble Coastal Rowing Club for

naming and blessing two skiffs.

Thank you to the staff, children and parents at Amble First School, Edwin Street for my time as a Governor. To Isolate Support Group Amble, and Coquet Medical Group that enabled me to help during the lockdowns and subsequent vaccination roll-out.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Methodist Church, not just while I've been there but throughout its life on the High Street and the last 50 years on Percy Street.

My final service will be on July 17 and I start in my new post on September 1. The Rev Christopher Wood-Archer will be taking up the reigns here in Amble and I am sure that you will give him a warm welcome.

It has been a joy and a pleasure to be part of the

community in the friendliest port. I wish you all the best for the future.

*Rev Lynda Coulthard  
Trinity Methodist Church*

### Gloster Park report

Since my letter was published (*Gloster Park footpath and boundary concerns, The Ambler #132, p6*) I commissioned an expert to assess the structure, this expert is a chartered engineer.

I have forwarded this report to my local councillor and Glen Sanderson. The report states the structure is a danger to the public who use the public right of way.

The council should close the public right of way until this issue is resolved.

*Lee Jackson, Gloster Park, Amble*

If you would like to read the report, contact Lee directly: [lee1967jackson@gmail.com](mailto:lee1967jackson@gmail.com)

### Tulips destroyed

I, and I am sure other people, have really appreciated the flower bed displays at the bottom of the Wynd junction with Gloster Hill and the one in Rotary Way as one drives into Amble. Lovely displays of tulips and other flowers.

Unfortunately some imbecile has come along this Bank holiday weekend and smashed most of the heads off of the tulips in the Wynd display. Some of the bulbs have also been pulled up.

What goes through the brain of a person like this, (if they have a brain)? The hard work of the people who planted this bed up has been ruined.

The culprits must have very sad lives if they do not see the beauty of nature. They have a long future ahead of them.

*Name withheld, via email*



## Remembering Dave Gray



Like so many others, we were very sorry to hear of the death of Dave Gray in March. Dave was the mainstay behind Puffin Cruises and will be a big miss around the Harbour. He died after a resurgence of cancer.

"Dave hadn't been well for quite a while," said his widow Betty. "He was nearly 82, but he was fighting it all the time. He was such a big part of the harbour, he lived for boats and the sea."

Dave was born and bred in Amble, but he and Betty began their married lives in Hauxley, with Dave fishing alongside Ebb Kerton. It was a hard life, the boat had to be dragged up the beach. It was difficult to make

a living, so the couple moved to Amble, and Dave worked on the dredger Coquet Mouth for a number of years.

Then in 1969 the family started Puffin Cruises, taking generations of visitors and locals out to see the puffins, roseate terns and seals around Coquet Island. During that time came Freddie the Dolphin and Dave and his friend Gordon Easton began taking sightseers out as people came from all over the world to see Freddie and swim with him.

"Dave was very down to earth," said Betty. "He would say what he thought. If he didn't like something, he would comment on it. He was well-liked at the Harbour Commissioners. He spoke for the fishermen."

Dave leaves behind his wife Betty, daughter Carol, son David, grandsons Steven and Conor, granddaughter Shannon and great-grandson Brodie.

Steven said "He's a big miss. He's played a massive part in my life as a Grandad. It's through him I have a career working at sea in Trinity House the lighthouse authority. I'd call

him every week from the ship and tell him where we were and what lighthouses and harbours I had been to that week. Some of the best memories with him are just simply taking the boats off together doing boat trips around Coquet Island."

Maurice Burnett, Chairman of Warkworth Harbour Commission said "Dave Gray was a long-standing, well respected member of the board of WHC. He joined as a Commissioner on 14 May 1990 and was regarded highly, thanks to his commitment to WHC and his regular attendances at meetings. Dave's deep and keen interest in harbour life at Amble and daily presence on the quays made his contributions to the Commission invaluable. We will miss him deeply."

After Dave's death, the family received condolences from all around the world. So many read and commented on their Facebook page, it crashed.

Puffin Cruises will carry on as Dave would have wanted. "We lost the mainstay," said Betty, "but David and Steven are going to keep the business going."

Anna Williams

## Cancer charity night at the Wellwood Arms

We had our cancer charity night at the Wellwood Arms it was a very successful night we raised £586.18p for cancer research.

We had lots of great donations, singers etc and everyone enjoyed themselves.

So thanks to Mark Rea for the room, thanks to all businesses in Amble who donated and to the people who came and supported me.

Judith Hardisty



l-r: Mark Rea landlord of the Wellwood Arms, Judith Hardisty, Andrea Haig volunteer who has raised over £100,000 for cancer research, Gail Aston.

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## All you need to know about Amble's favourite bird



You might think you know a lot about puffins, but do you really? Maybe after reading this you will be able to learn something new and exciting about Amble's favourite birds, and if not, maybe you might be able to tell someone else a cool puffin fact from this list that will surely surprise them.

### How many types of puffins are there?

There are 3 types of puffin – the Atlantic puffin, Horned puffin and the Tufted puffin. There is also another close relative of the puffin called the Rhinoceros Auklet

### How fast can they fly?

Puffins can reach speeds up to an astounding 55mph, beating their wings a rapid 400 times per minute.



### Can they swim/how fast can they swim?

Puffins can swim and are very good at it too, since they live on the sea for a long time of their life, and they are well adapted to this. They can swim as fast as up to 10mph.

### No nests?

Puffins don't make nests! Instead, they dig burrows underground, which is why people who can go on Coquet Island have to watch their step.

### Why are their beaks bright?

Puffin beaks aren't always bright, it depends on the season.

**They have their own festival?** Yes they do: Amble Puffin festival. And watch the Coquet Island puffins with this live link: <https://bit.ly/3LeihV7>  
By Grace



## Fontastic Fonts

What are the best fonts? Why does it matter? Personally, I love Comic Sans, because there's something funky about it, but for some reason it gets a lot of hate. Fonts can be important when writing to make the right impression, and some businesses pay tonnes of money to get fonts perfect. So here is my rating of 10 of the most popular (/random ones I found) fonts.

Helvetica – one of the most popular but very boring. I believe most people use it out of fear for social norms, 3/10

Times New Roman- a classic, but a little pretentious. I don't know much about the Romans but I feel like they'd be offended to have their name used this way. 7/10

Calibri – a little too straight for me, needs some pizzazz. I do like a sans serif though. 2/10

Comic sans- best font ever!! People are so unnecessarily mean about comic sans for no reason, but it is my favourite font and I make a point of using it for everything. 11/10

Courier new – very pretty, reminds me of a typewriter. I love when books have this kind of font. 9/10

Georgia – I don't understand the name, or the font. Feels like all the other fonts were melded into one and it made a big mess. 5/10

??????????? (Wingdings) – wonderful, show stopping, brilliant. 10/10

ALGERIAN- WHY IS IT IN ALL CAPS? IT SEEMS VERY ANGRY AND EXTRAVAGANT, BUT THAT'S NOT A BAD VIBE. HARD TO READ. 6/10

Bradley Handwriting- I love a handwriting font that makes me feel better about my messy scrawl. 7/10

Neuropol – reminds me of The Matrix and the colour purple for some reason. Very hard to read but in a funky way. 8/10

This is just my opinion, but if you argue, you are wrong. Just use whatever font makes you happiest.  
By Ava

## 'All my memories were in one bag'



Since 2011, when the war in Syria began, millions of Syrians have fled with some of them coming to the UK as refugees, seeking asylum. Sawsan Zaitoun is one of those refugees. She came to Northumberland on 5 December 2019 with two children and no English, and she now lives in Amble and is going to college in Blyth. She kindly came to see us at Artograffi, along with her local friend Eileen, who is helping her learn English, to chat with us about her experience.

Sawsan had a good life in Syria - her husband was a businessman and they owned an olive farm near the capital of Syria, Damascus. She had a big house, a car and family nearby, so she said she never would have left Syria if it weren't for the war. Her husband died in the conflict, so she escaped the country with just her brother, her parents and her children, who were eight and nine at the time, and a bag of her most important pictures and items.

"All my memories were in that bag," she said. She described how bombs dropped so close to them as they walked from place to place that they couldn't see in front of them, she just had to keep checking that everyone was still there and keep going.

She and her family escaped to Lebanon where they lived for six years, trying to start over, with Sawsan getting a job as a waitress, but the conditions weren't good there. Sawsan qualified for a UN

scheme, but only for her and her children, so she had to leave the rest of her family behind as she was put on a plane, only being told that she was going to Northumberland in the UK. "I didn't know where I was being sent," she told us, "I cried and I was scared. I had never been independent and I didn't have the language."

When she got here, Sawsan had more bad luck. It was only a few months after she arrived in Amble that Covid hit, and she was left in a brand new place with no family, no support and no English. She was having flashbacks and she couldn't sleep well, but even getting medical appointments was difficult, made even scarier by Covid. Luckily, Eileen was there to help out.

Eileen volunteered to teach Sawsan English and help out however she could, forming a bubble with Sawsan and her children during lockdown, so that she could give her support. Eileen has helped to show her around the area, visiting Holy Island for a day out, and Ingram Valley Farm, where they got to feed baby lambs.

One of the things Sawsan loves most about the local area is the sea, and walking by the sea helps to clear her mind. "I feel safe in Amble, and it feels like home," Sawsan said, "The people are very friendly. I feel free to go anywhere."

Sawsan is now doing an entry-level course at Blyth College, which she says is frightening getting there



I-r: Lily, Ava, Sawsan, Grace, Hannah, Eileen

because she still struggles with English to ask people for help on buses, but she's looking forward to getting her driving licence and getting some more independence.

"I'm focusing on my language, then my driving licence, then a good job," she said. She speaks to her family when she can but the electricity in Lebanon isn't good so it isn't always possible.

"I miss my family. I miss having everyone together." The news about the war in Ukraine has been hard for her, as seeing the refugees fleeing the country hits close to home and brings up bad memories. Sawsan wants to help the Ukrainian refugees, like Eileen helped her. "I just want to give them a hug," she said.

By Lily  
Additional reporting by Ava, Grace & Hannah



## Why I believe there Is No 'Trans Issue'



There is a huge conversation surrounding transgender people recently, fuelled by Boris Johnson's comments in a recent interview. It's difficult to combat all the transphobia in the world, but the overall message I want to give is that trans people are worthy of love and respect.

Johnson stated that 'biological males' shouldn't compete in 'female sporting events'. The question around trans people in sport is not one I have an answer for, but I do know that trans women are women and

should be referred to as such- to call them biological males erases their identities. Trans women go through rigorous testing before being allowed to compete to make sure everything is fair, only to be bullied by teammates and the public. Isn't it time we gave them a break?

The government has also recently made steps to stop conversion therapy - but not for trans people. Conversion therapy is the vile treatment of LGBT+ people to convert them to cisgender heterosexuals. To reject trans people from this bill is to endorse their abuse. One in five trans people have been

pressured into conversion therapy, and the government's neglect of trans people shows their negligence towards trans lives.

Before you speak about trans people, make sure you have done your research and know the background to your opinion; trans people do not deserve to be the victim of tabloids and uneducated comments by people in power. They are human too, and it is our job to unlearn the binary system that doesn't fit everyone. There is no 'trans issue'- the issue is your transphobia.

By Ava

## Queens of achievement

Guess who has recently made these achievements out of the Artograffi crew!

- 1) Won a national writing competition
- 2) Coloured in a really cool puffin picture
- 3) Become a sharp shooter with cadets
- 4) Got the most complaints for their articles

These incredible feats were by:

- 1) Lily
- 2) Grace
- 3) Hannah
- 4) Ava

By Ava





## Silver for unsung hero



John Nolan and Jacob Poulton

At the North East Tourism Awards in March, Jon Nolan of Northside Surf School was presented with the Silver Award for the category Unsung Hero. This recognises an individual working for a tourism business who excels in their role and deserves to be commended for their work and commitment to the industry.

"I was truly overwhelmed" said Jon "to come second in this category out of all the businesses in the North East"

Jon, along with colleague Jacob had been involved in three rescues last year while taking

lessons. He said, "You're always aware of things around you when you are on the sea. The beaches on the Northumberland coast have some deceptive rip tides"

Jon highlighted that in summer last year the staycation brought a huge increase in tourism.

"The beaches were rammed and many were thinking they were in the Mediterranean. They did not understand how things can change".

Readers may remember in Issue 129, The Ambler recounted how Jon and his

assistant Jacob Poulton rescued three swimmers who had got into difficulties at Cresswell beach.

Both surfers then also had to break away from a lesson at Bamburgh to rescue families who had got into trouble or become tired as they underestimated the strength of the currents.

Jon said, "The award is fantastic but you can't turn a blind eye, even though it disrupts our lessons. I think that what we did is just part of our duty of care"

*Ian MacKerill*

## 50 Years at Trinity

The three churches of Radcliffe, Percy Street and High Street were closed and all joined together to worship at Trinity Methodist Church in Percy Street, Amble.

Trinity opened on June 24 1972 when Rev. David Roberts was the minister. Everyone who worked on transforming the building from a factory to a church was invited to the special opening.

A commemorative key was presented to Mr. Cecil Ryle (property steward) by Mr Tom Straffen (Chairman of Amble Council). 300 people joined in the celebration service and afterwards tea was served by the ladies of the church.

And so in June 2022 Trinity will be celebrating 50 years of worship in the Percy Street church.



A special coffee morning will be held on Saturday 25 June from 9-30am to 11-30am with cakes, a raffle and a tombola.

An exhibition of photos and memorabilia will be on display showing members, friends and many aspects of the church life over the last 50 years.

On Sunday 26 June Mr Steve Collinson from Cramlington will preach the anniversary service at 10-30am.

This is a special weekend for everyone at Trinity and we invite anyone to come along to help celebrate our 50th anniversary.

*Susan M. Frizzel*

The caption reads: Mr T. Straffen presenting a key to the chapel steward, Mr Cecil Ryle at the opening of Trinity Methodist Church, Amble, on Saturday.

## Harry McQuillen's

## Age of insecurity



Top of our news column is Ukraine and Russia. Trying to return a country to its previous prominence in international affairs will always cause chaos. The Russian hierarchy believes it has the right to reclaim area designated by people who speak Russian. Shades of the British Empire and "people like us."

Conflict between a citizen army and a conscript army is likely to be nasty. Putin and Co. trumpet their nationalistic agenda while lying to their own people. Truth will out after a long running conflict.

A very valuable commodity is truth. It's a great pity that

some of our leaders wouldn't recognise it if it jumped up and bit them. Being economical with the truth is widespread in our Age of Information. We should be able to see a true picture of the action and inaction of our leaders despite mixed messages.

Widespread sports coverage fills our media. Radio and TV make a lot of money out of their coverage. Isn't it odd that a very limited number of teams top our Premiership Football League? Can rich owners guarantee success despite attempted restriction? Women's sport shows the same cash nexus.

Most of us are feeling the

pinch as prices rise and incomes plateau. Choices between eating, heating, clothing, leisure, holidays and other aspects of self-indulgence are with us to stay.

The environment may benefit from the choices we have to make. We're told that half of the world's wealth is now in the hands of the Chosen Few. I don't envy any of them in a world where I've always been able to manage. Mind you, I wouldn't object to a pool win that paid for my house. And there are such a lot of people to be helped.

Our local area is always with me, with images in my mind

of places I love. I have seen many changes in the last couple of decades. A profusion of holiday homes brings visitors, pricing locals out of the market. I wonder how the town will look in ten years time.

It's not a bad thing to look at the NOW. My Natural Optimism Drug is a work in progress. Let's all hope that it brings peace and happiness to everyone we know and many we don't know.

*Harry*



# Protecting Northumberland's iconic sea ducks

Summer is an extremely exciting time on the Northumberland coast, with so many wildlife spectacles. Terns, ringed plovers, eider ducks and a whole host of seabirds are using the beaches and offshore rocky islands to breed and incubate eggs, or rearing chicks.

For many of the birds using Coquet Island, the Coquet Estuary is a very important site, providing a sheltered area for feeding and a refuge for raising young. Large colonies of nesting birds inevitably attract the attention of gulls and other predators on the lookout for an unattended egg or wandering chick. Terns and other seabirds fiercely defend their young from predators until they are strong enough to fly from danger. For eiders, being true sea ducks, ducklings can leave the nest and head to the sea at a very young age – often within two days of hatching! In a bid to get away from the island and the mobs of gulls, eider duck mothers form crèches with other female birds and their chicks, and head to the sheltered waters of the Coquet Estuary.

Under the guidance of their parent and 'aunties' – other

female birds join the crèche to help protect the chicks – eider ducklings use the estuary to learn how to feed, diving to the seabed to find small shellfish and algae. At around ten weeks old they are ready to take to the wing, but until then they must rely on the adult birds to defend them.

Northumberland has a long association with eider ducks. They are often referred to as Cuddy Ducks after St Cuthbert protected them back in the seventh century. The county's coastal waters support a nationally important population of eider ducks, but their numbers are declining due to increased recreational disturbance, predation and habitat loss. They are protected in the Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone but need our help to ensure their survival.

The months of June and July are great for spotting eider crèches on the Coquet Estuary. Breeding sites for eider ducks are limited, and the estuary supports a very important proportion of Northumberland's birds.

The summer sun attracts many people to the estuary to participate in water sports such as stand-up paddle boarding



image by Paul Morrison

and kayaking, but disturbance from these activities could cause ducklings to be separated from their adults, hindering their chances of survival.

In recent years, observations of the eider ducks using the estuary have shown that eider duck parents are risking staying closer to Coquet Island to avoid the disturbance, rather than bringing their young inshore, resulting in ducklings being more at risk from predators and starvation due to challenging feeding conditions. With the eider duck population already in decline, it is a big worry that the estuary may no longer be a safe haven.

However, there are small

steps we can all take to protect eider ducks. By simply looking out for crèches using the estuary and giving them lots of space, you can enjoy your time on the water while helping to keep the young birds free from disturbance. This can have a positive impact on their chances of survival.

We wish a successful season to all of the birds using the Northumberland coast to nest this year. Please follow us on social media for regular updates this summer.

Thank you again for your continued support for us and the birds.

*Katherine Dunsford  
Space for Shorebirds*

## Update from Coquet Medical Group

### Prescribing

In 2020 the practice commissioned a service to help manage the huge volume of prescriptions processed each day. Patients who are due a review of their medication will be contacted by our team. If you receive such a message, please contact the surgery to arrange a telephone review.

It is possible to arrange repeat dispensing of regular prescriptions for patients whose medication is stable and unlikely to change. Contact the practice medicines manager, Lorraine Conroy: 01670 570173.

### Health and Wellbeing Coach (HWBC)

HWBC's aim is to support patients to take proactive steps to improve how they manage their physical and mental health conditions. Support is available for anyone over 18 who is living with, or is at risk of developing a long term condition eg diabetes or COPD, or is living with

depression or anxiety. Face to face or telephone support is available. Referrals can be made by any health professional in the surgery.

### Social Prescribing GP Link Worker (GPLW)

Support is available to anyone over 18 who:

- Has low mental health issues that may be precipitated by loneliness, isolation etc
- Has a long term condition that could benefit from additional community based support
- Is not benefitting from current treatment plans or who would like access to a more holistic approach
- Are struggling with social, economic and environmental issues and needs support
- In addition we offer Dementia support to those beginning to experience memory loss, mild cognitive impairment or have a diagnosis of Dementia.

*Coquet Medical Group*



Above: Congratulations to Ron and Irene Liddle from Low Hauxley, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding at Linden Hall Hotel on 12 March



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# Reports from our *County Councillors*



## Information regarding Residents Permit Parking

The primary aim of a 'Resident Permit Parking' scheme is to protect residents, who live adjacent or close to town centres, from parking pressures such as commuter or shopper parking. A permit scheme means that only those who are eligible for a permit can park in a defined area.

Permit schemes can, however be very restrictive:

- Only two permits are available per household, one of which can be used by visitors.
- Permits cost £25 each per year.
- Having a permit does not guarantee a parking space.

For these reasons, permit schemes may not be popular with residents. Before considering a permit scheme, evidence of demand from residents is required, usually in the form of a petition. The County Council would then consult formally before deciding whether a permit parking scheme should be implemented.

NCC are currently reviewing their guidance/policy on the provisions of resident parking schemes. They will not be progressing any new parking schemes until Senior Management approve a new county policy. Once this has been signed off information will be available.

## Local Transport Programme

Due to budget limitations, Technical services have only been able to include one Zebra Crossing along Percy Drive this year. It will be either near Fontburn or Coquet Medical Centre. The second will be started in 2023 or sooner, (if funding becomes available).



## Hauxley

Contribution from my Small schemes Funds towards Road Safety Measures between High and / Low Hauxley--

- Speed data to be collected in High Hauxley to inform decision on 30mph or 20mph.
- Double yellow lines to be provided around the bus stop corner.
- Double yellow lines to be provided along the road into Low Hauxley.
- Bollard or similar protection to the corner by no. 8 Low Hauxley if possible.
- Direction signage to direct visitors to the free car parks to be provided.
- Additional signage to be provided to discourage public vehicles entering Low Hauxley if possible.
- Gate or similar to prevent beach access by vehicles.
- Measures to emphasise the bend at the nature reserve to be proposed.
- Possible road narrows warning signs between High Hauxley and the nature reserve corner.
- Levelling of the grass verge between High Hauxley and the nature reserve corner.
- Consider a chicane/build-out at the western start of the 30mph limit.
- Consider whether the existing 'give way' system in High Hauxley could be improved.
- Interactive sign location to be agreed.
- Measures to emphasise the bend at the west end near Rose Cottage to be considered

## North Broomhill

Support from my Small schemes towards a Parking site and upgrading road surfaces along Queen Street.

Cllr Terry Clark Amble, Hauxley and North Broomhill.  
Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk 07779 983768

I am pleased to report that The Coquet Partnership for schools has had several meetings this year and are now putting together options for the future development of education in the Partnership. In 2022 the capital allocation in the medium-term plan of the County Council was increased to £25.5 m towards the improvement of school buildings within the Coquet Partnership.

When the Council receives a recommendation from the governing bodies of the schools it will want assurance that capital investments made in school buildings will support viable and sustainable schools at all phases of education and that proper consultation with parents and other interested parties has taken place.

There have been some disingenuous comments about progress with the development of the plans for the Partnership, but I would remind readers that until an acceptable proposal for the future direction of it is submitted by the governing bodies of the schools concerned, the County Council can take no action.

The trial of six motorhome spaces on the Braid car park has begun and already I notice it has cut down on illegal overnight stays. The trial will be assessed in the autumn of this year and appropriate action taken based on the trial results. The overflow car park will be opened again this year to help at least until the new car park on Turner Street is opened.

Highways have agreed to install 20mph signs on Acklington Road in the schools area. This should help to slow traffic down and make it safer for our children going to school and crossing to the Welfare play areas.

I was delighted to take part in the recent fireworks display funded by Amble Town Council which celebrated the Queen's birthday in her Jubilee year. I must say the Town Council organised the event very well and I know the substantial crowd enjoyed it enormously.

Whatever people's views are about the monarchy I think the Queen has been a dedicated servant of the country for all her reign and I look forward to the Jubilee celebrations which in many cases have been sponsored by the County Council..

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

Have a good Spring and remember Covid is still about  
*Jeff Watson*



## A new way to connect with Northumbria Police

### What is Northumbria Connected?

• Northumbria Connected is an easy way for you to send and receive messages from Northumbria Police. You decide on the updates you want to receive. It's a way for us to better understand your concerns directly

### Why join?

• Northumbria Connected allows you to share your priorities, concerns and views with us directly.

• Northumbria Connected makes Northumbria Police more accessible to you. It allows you to share your feedback with Northumbria Police on how you think we have tackled the problem. It allows you to create groups with other people in your area with the same interests

### How to join:

It could not be easier, simply visit:  
[www.northumbriacconnected.co.uk](http://www.northumbriacconnected.co.uk) and register by clicking on the 'join' tab.

You will receive information that you want to receive from us on those matters that affect you and your communities most

One of our staff will then register you on the system so that you can receive alerts and information for your area.





**C**ontroversy rules! More housing planned, very few affordable houses included, little if anything mentioned about infrastructure, current development proposals outnumbering the housing numbers required for the town, and little anyone can do about it..... or can they!

The Local Plan has now been adopted by Northumberland County Council, this plan which is agreed by parliament identifies the number of houses each settlement requires to maintain its sustainability for the next 20 or so years. Therefore planning departments now have guidance on housing numbers to work towards.

As Amble has already surpassed its revised 20 year target of 540 houses, one would assume that Northumberland County Council now have the ability to decline further developments that have not yet achieved full planning permission?!

As a note; I know many have submitted objections onto the planning portal for recent submissions. However, 'not liking' something or stating that 'there are too many holiday homes' does not constitute a legal planning reason for planners to reject an application. The exception would be if the town has a neighbourhood plan, or can prove there are over 20% of residencies that are holiday homes. Now the Local Plan has been adopted perhaps this is the time for reconsideration – they have the power!

On a cheerier note we have now had confirmation that all the conditions have been discharged on the Sculpture Trail. This will allow some of the sculptures to be erected however we do still require a licence for any that will be located on NCC land – at the time of writing we have no idea how long this part of the process will take. But some progress has been made at long last.

The Events Team have been busy working on the programme of activities for the Puffin Festival, which will include lots of entertainment, as well as showcasing some of the work done in school workshops for the Bird Trail.

The Trust will soon be unveiling the new town flag, and we would like to thank everyone who took part in the competition, as well as the independent judges who had the unenviable task of selecting a winner. We would like to thank NCC for their support with the Queen's Jubilee funding that allowed the flag competition to go ahead. We also included Lily of the Valley plants in the application as they are the Queens favourite flowers, as well as trees for the community orchard.

At the Welfare, all the tree debris has been cleared up and as stated above we will be adding to the trees we have already planted in the orchard. We have

a small group of very enthusiastic volunteers who have been integral to drawing up plans for the layout of the orchard and are eager to make progress as soon as possible, but obviously we are now heading out of the tree planting season. Once again we offer our thanks for sponsorship, this time to MKM Alnwick Brach for supplying a large number of High Viz jackets and protective gloves, which are greatly appreciated. For further information on the orchard contact; [andrew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk](mailto:andrew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk)

Our job search facilities are now open from 9.30 – 11.30 each week day. If you would like to contact the Ambler, or require a CV you can do so on: 01665 712929 or email editor@theambler.co.uk or Julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk  
*Julia, all Trust staff and Trustees julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk*



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# Amble Town

# COUNCIL

Town: 6pm 9 June, 14 July  
Amenities: 6pm, 26th May at Council Offices

<b>EAST WARD:</b>	Helen Lewis, Ian Parks, 33 Warkworth Avenue, Warkworth. NE65 0TP	Craig Weir (Chair/Mayor) 76 Priory Park, Amble NE65 0HY 01665 712342	<b>WEST WARD:</b>	Jeff Watson 14 Magdalene Fields Warkworth NE65 0UF 07802 385367	David Bewley 11 Brinkburn Place Amble NE65 0BJ 07525713086	<b>CEN. WARD:</b>	Kate Morrison, 3 Island View, Amble NE65 0SE 01665 711191	Paul Dancer Wellbank Victoria Villas Amble NR65 0LQ pauldancer1998@btinternet.com
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## PLATINUM JUBILEE

Two of the Town Council planned events have successfully taken place. In line with Her Majesty's wishes over 800 'whips' have been planted to grow to maturity. These are a mixture of ten types of shrubs and trees attractive to birds, insects and butterflies; some such as dog rose will twine amongst larger species, crab apple will provide food and those such as rowan and hazel will provide food, habitat and colour as well as be majestic into our children's lifetime.

The second event of a fireworks celebration for Her Majesty's birthday was widely enjoyed by our community and others further afield. Whilst professional contractors had to be employed for some aspects, neither would have gone so well if it had not been for the valuable support of many volunteers- too many to name individually but many many thanks to you all.

The last event is planned for the holiday weekend - Roller Skating! on the Saturday and Sunday. We expect this to be very popular so please be patient whilst you queue. If you can offer to be a volunteer marshal, even if just for an hour, please contact our Clerk with your details. Start saving your change- even £1 coins- as donations will be taken for Amble's own R.N.L.I. team, so please be generous.

## HIGHWAY CHANGES

The 30mph limit will be moved to the New Hall crossroads when the Longstone Manor development is occupied. Acklington Road will soon have a 20mph sign installed by JCSC entrance to encourage motorists to slow down here. A1068 by the North entrance has a new flashing speed sign to remind motorists to reduce their speed as they enter the town. NCC have listened to our concerns and Percy Drive will have a safe crossing point installed this year, with another next year although the exact positions are yet to be agreed. In line with the Hauxley Grange development requirements, the footway is being extended from Priory Park to the South roundabout. We continue to ask for more 20mph signage in the town.

## CEMETERIES

The drive repair at the West cemetery entrance is still needed (contractors are still very busy)- be careful to avoid this area by using other paths to reach the plot you are visiting. Tree tidying up work is being carried out but all the damaged trees and broken boughs have been attended to. Water is back on but please, please, dispose of any container you take. People are trying to be kind by leaving these for others, but what actually happens is they get blown all over the cemetery and look so untidy. The old seat on the drive is being replaced with a new one to match the others at the entrance. One of the East cemetery gates will be taken away for repair with a new 'knob' to make opening easier. Once back in place, the gates will be painted.

## VACANCIES

There are now vacancies for a Council member for the West Ward and for the Central Ward - please contact the Clerk for details.

## SEATS

Maintenance work goes on throughout the year but if you see a seat which has come loose or is vandalised please let the office staff know so it can be attended to. The basic design of metal seat costs around £450 to purchase and install if there is already a base in place with the more ornate ones almost double that. Council is very grateful to those people who have come forward and generously bought one in memory of a loved one. The seats are all well used but unfortunately a few are disrespected and mistreated- please help by reporting anyone doing any damage.

## LITTER BINS

Litter bins too suffer mindless vandalism and are not a cheap item at around £500 each to purchase and install. Whilst some ask for more bins, you may be surprised to find that this comparatively small place already has over 70! The trend is now to use larger boxes and containers for take- a- way food but these do not easily fit into the bin openings. Please try to fold these so the bins do not look too full when there is actually little inside! Left outside, they become a magnet for seagull, crows etc. and as they are light, they blow about and get caught in bushes etc. We are proud of our town, so let's encourage everyone to dispose of litter properly or take it home

## COUNCILLORS CORNER

[Views expressed are those of the individual and not necessarily those of the council]

As a longstanding visitor and a new resident of 8 months in the town, I was co-opted to the Town Council in February after putting myself forward. Living in a place gives you an entirely different perspective from just a day visit. Everyone is friendly here- most will pass the time of the day on Queen Street, at the Harbour Village or on The Braid. Having two flatcoated retrievers also helps!

It has been both interesting and surprising to find out what goes on in the town and just how active your Town Council is. In my short time, there has been the Storm Arwen clear up, tree planting and the Jubilee Fireworks in April. In the town the new car park construction works have started and we look forward to Platinum Jubilee events and the Puffin Festival.

Of course there are frustrations and problems too, but we are all trying to work to improve life in the town, whether for residents or visitors- to make it a better place to live, work or enjoy leisure time. I can only encourage more people to contribute to the life of the town for everyone's benefit. It is certainly rewarding.

*Cllr Paul Dancer*

## AMBLE CONNECT

Council are working with local businesses and voluntary groups on a joint initiative to help everyone in the town by promoting the benefits and expertise which can be shared together and with the community. More details including how YOU can get involved will be in the next edition of the Ambler.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT Tel: 01665 714 695 [www.amble.gov.uk](http://www.amble.gov.uk)

Email [ask@amble.gov.uk](mailto:ask@amble.gov.uk) Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil)

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



## Eliot Smith Dance



We're returning to Warkworth Memorial Hall with our all-new popular tour on Sat 18 June at 7.30pm.

Eliot Smith Dance returns with their popular North East spring tour performing four diverse contemporary dance works that are filled with physical movement, passion, and excitement!

The key piece, *LIFE*, created by Eliot Smith, features five cutting-edge dancers, original music by award-winning composer Adam Johnson, and stunning backdrops by renowned figurative artist

Bernadette Koranteng. *LIFE* highlights the climate change crisis through powerful choreography, encouraging awareness and action.

This ground-breaking performance includes other works by the award-winning choreographers Martin Hylton, and Balbir Singh, including the emerging choreographer, Yamit Salazar.

Expect an evening of unforgettable contemporary dance experience that inspires, it is not to be missed!

Tickets from: <http://eliotsmithdance.com/events>

## Mauretania Day

Mauretania Day returns this year on Sunday 3 July. It will be a welcome to the Morgan Car Club, back with us again.

We are hoping to have Newbiggin Brass Band returning again playing in the Harbour Village. We're also hoping to expand into the Town Square as we have done before.

Other entertainment will be from Lionheart Radio, Alnwick, Tribe Zuza will again entertain us with their dancing and we're hoping to have Britt Waspe

singing as well as the Auckland Shanty Singers. Why are we having Mauretania Day?

It's in honour of the RMS Mauretania when it was on its way to Rosyth in Scotland in 1935 to be broken up.

The message from Amble was 'Greetings to Mauretania, still the finest ship on the sea'. The message returned as 'Thank you to the last and kindest port in England.'

*Bart Rippon*

*Harbour Village Co-ordinator*

## Folk duo Billy Mitchell &amp; Bob Fox

Amble welcomes two of the UK's best known and loved singers - Billy Mitchell (Lindisfarne, Jack the Lad, Pitmen Poets) and Bob Fox (Warhorse Songman, Pitmen Poets).

This is a rare opportunity to see Billy and Bob perform once again as a duo.

Billy has done it all as a performer and songwriter. He

spent eight years as front man of the legendary Lindisfarne till their retirement in 2003.

Bob has twice been nominated as Folk Singer of the Year at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

At the Bede, Friday 3 June 7.30pm. Tickets £16 from Bart Rippon: 0796 417 1457 or the Bede. Cash only, no cards or cheques.



## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PROMPT & PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT?

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hello@tidycloud.co.uk  
www.tidycloud.co.uk





## Getting the most out of daily life



**B**order Links is a small friendly group who enjoy learning new skills and meeting up. They meet at Fourways2 every Monday, Tuesday and Friday. They are a Community Enterprise and aim to enable people with a learning difference to “play a part” and “get the most” out of daily life in their local community. They can help individuals to

- Develop confidence and life skills.
- Be part of a small friendly group.
- Share personal interests and talents
- Keep busy, join in and “have a go” at something
- Places are available in the Tuesday group. For further

information or a chat call Berwick 01289 305423 or email [borderlinks@btconnect.com](mailto:borderlinks@btconnect.com)

Weekly zoom sessions also take place for anyone who would like to join in with Bingo and a Quiz on Tuesday evening, Drama on Wednesday, Chitchat on Thursday. All by invitation – just call the office Berwick 01289 305423

You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what we are doing.

## Jubilee party at the Radcliffe Club

**J**oin in the celebrations at the Radcliffe Club on Sat 28 May. Free tickets incl buffet, live guest artist, bingo. Doors open 7pm

## Warkworth Film Club

**D**oors and cash bar open from 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm No need to book – seating is plentiful and well spaced. All welcome – just turn up from 7pm, £5 donation per person

### June 11 West Side Story

A story of forbidden love and rivalry between street gangs, directed by Steven Spielberg, this re-make of the 1957 classic has had rave reviews. Unforgettable music by Leonard Bernstein, spellbinding choreography and fast paced storytelling. It has been described as having ‘a brash effervescence. You can feel the joy he got out of making it, and the kick is infectious.’

(2021, 2 hours 36 minutes Certificate 12)

### July 9 Belfast

‘Belfast’ is the humorous, tender and intensely personal story of one boy's childhood during the tumult of the late 1960s. Directed by Kenneth Branagh and winner of the BAFTA for Outstanding British Film for 2022, this is a ‘must see’ for British film fans.

(2022, 1h 38 minutes, 12A)

We have had requests to show The Duke starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren and we'll screen this once it's available to us.

For more information call Anna on 01665 711341 or [anna.wiley@cantab.net](mailto:anna.wiley@cantab.net) or check out our facebook page [www.facebook.com/warkworthfilmclub](http://www.facebook.com/warkworthfilmclub) or the War Memorial website [www.wwmh.uk/cinema.html](http://www.wwmh.uk/cinema.html)

## Beside the seaside at the Bailiffgate

**B**aillifgate Museum & Gallery is pleased to exhibit *Beside The Seaside*, a celebration of 150 years of beach holidays. The exhibition runs until 30 August 2022 and will explore how the notion of taking a trip to the seaside has become recognised as a quintessential aspect of British culture.

The seaside holiday has long been perceived as a much loved British tradition. Once only affordable to those in high society, the establishment of rail networks and the introduction of Bank Holidays in the 19th and early 20th century allowed the ordinary British worker to take advantage of recreational opportunities that had previously been inaccessible.

On display will be a fascinating collection of cameras, photographs and postcards, showcasing how families from different social classes have enjoyed Northumbrian seaside resorts from the Victorian era up till the present day. There will be the opportunity to play traditional seaside games such as pin the tail on the donkey and Aunt Sally, and visitors will have the chance to dress up in traditional beach attire.

This interactive exhibition is perfect for families and young children looking to immerse themselves in local seaside culture.

Coinciding with the exhibition will be the opportunity to view seaside paintings from internationally recognised, Alnwick born artist Stella Vine.

Bailiffgate won the 2021 Kids in Museums Best Small Museum and overall best Family Friendly Museum Awards. They will continue to display their extensive range of cultural artefacts from their permanent collection.

Prices: £5 Adults, £4 for Concessions, £1 for ages 5 – 16 and under 5s free. For a full list of opening hours and events, please visit [www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk](http://www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk)

## Warkworth concerts

**T**uesday 28 June: Internationally renowned Italian Classical guitarist Giulio Tampalini. A guitar professor at the Foundation International Academy in Imola and at the Adria State Conservatory of Music (Italy). He is regularly invited to give masterclasses all over Europe. He has been hailed internationally as one of the most popular and charismatic classical guitarists, and as such he tours regularly.

Winner of the Arts and Culture Prize (Milan, Italy 2014), Giulio is a Warner Classics Artist, has recorded over 25 CDs and has played more than 2,000 concerts all over the world. He has won many prizes at major international guitar competitions. In 2001 he performed at the Christmas concert in the Vatican in honour of the Pope. In 2003 his double CD “Francisco Tarrega: Complete Works for Guitar” was awarded the Golden Guitar at the International Guitar Meeting in Alessandria as “Best CD of the year”.

Concerts take place at Warkworth War Memorial Hall. Normal start time is 20:00, with doors (and bar) opening at 19:30. The hall will be set up in cabaret style, enabling reasonable space between attendees. Ticket availability will be limited and some concerts will sell out. Tickets need to be reserved in advance by emailing [peter.burnham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.burnham@gmail.com) or telephone 01665 711388.

For the latest information see the website at [www.wwmh.uk/concerts.html](http://www.wwmh.uk/concerts.html).

## Amble WI

**G**reat talk at our April meeting from Mocha Mondo man Martin Homer, very interesting to hear about how he started. It was enlightening to hear about how he roasted the different kinds of coffee and where he gets it from, particularly the information about the Women coffee growers.

*Linda Barrett, Amble WI*



## Flying start for Amble Links under 9s

Congratulations to Amble Links u9 football team, who have won the League in only their second season.

The team made up of Jay, Joe, Alex, Ollie, Charlie, Zac, Callum, Jacob and Oakley have played each game with 100% commitment and haven't been beaten at home. Home games are played at the Welfare in Amble.

The boys have an unbeaten record and have won their league, a credit to them and the work they put in at training and on the pitch. When they play at home, there is often a small crowd of supporters which is brilliant. They play in orange football strips as they used to back in the day.

The team was formed in March 2021, after the original team the boys played for folded. They would have had to go their separate ways so two of the dads Jordan and David stepped up and completed their coaching badges and things have taken off from there.



Jordan and David are both incredibly passionate about junior football, and a new team Amble Links u8 has been formed. They offer training for 3-6 year olds on a Friday evening but spaces are limited; more information can be found on the Amble Links Facebook page.

Joe's mum Hannah Hay said: "Joe absolutely loves playing for Amble Links, the coaches are amazing and really knowledgeable! They really push the boys to be the best players they can be along with making training sessions fun and different every session."

"My child loves playing for the Links as he gets to play football which he loves but also has the freedom to play the style of football he likes. Coaches are always on hand to give advice, give him direction to improve his game and praises good play," said Claire, Charlie's mum

With a recent community grant from Northumbria Police young adults are being put through their coaching badges to hopefully grow the club and allow more opportunities for junior football. Well done to all involved keep up the great work.  
*Stephanie Hewitson*

## Amble Pin Cushion

Our courses are starting again. Stitch and Bitch (bring your sewing projects for support and to be social) from Monday 9 May 1.30-3.30pm £5 (no need to book.)

Knit and Natter: (bring your knitting projects as above) from Tuesday 17 May 1.30-3.30pm £5 (no need to book.)

Make a puffin: Saturday 4 June 2-3.15pm £10 (adult and child attending together making one toy £15) £5 deposit by 1 June. Materials provided.

Our Charity of the Year is Warkworth Area Ukraine Appeal. We have a collection box on the shop counter, and a knitted bear kit, with a £2 donation to the charity for each one sold. Following a request to "name the bear" on social media, "Volo" was suggested "after the brave Ukrainian president." For each Volo kit sold at £14, there is a £2 donation to the charity (£1 from the pattern designer, ECDesigns, and £1 from APC). There are four body colour options.

There is also a Northumberland themed bear kit, Bramble of Amble, in the same body colour options, but with a Northumbrian scarf, £14 (please note, there is no donation from this kit).

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# Puffin Festival fun: the events so far...

For times and more information on these and any additional activities, please check [www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk](http://www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk)  
You can find us on Twitter @AmblePuffinFest and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AmblePuffinFestival](http://www.facebook.com/AmblePuffinFestival).  
Events and times may be subject to change.

## Saturday 4 June

*Fair in the Square.* Arts, crafts, food, community groups and children's amusements in the Town Square

*Puffins ahoy!* Live footage of puffins on Coquet Island. In the Town Square

*Ask Captain Coquet!* with special guest RSPB Coquet Island warden Paul Morrison. A chance to ask Paul about the Puffins and other wonderful birds, wildlife and history of the island. Includes live streaming of the puffins on Coquet Island. In the Town Square (or top floor Fourways 2 if weather is bad) 11am -12.30pm. Free.

*Bord Waalk tent:* Display of community work carried out for the bird sculpture trail

*Roller skating rink.* Car park opp Town Sq 10am-4pm

*Puffin stories and crafts:* Puffin stories 10.30-11am followed by Puffin drawing virtual workshop with Katy Chappell 11.15-12pm at Amble Library. Free, but please register [www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/children-family-events-156049](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/children-family-events-156049)

*Health checks from Seafit and Fishermen's Mission:* Free to members of the fishing community. 10am-4pm at the Quayside

*Live Performances:* Throughout the day. In the Town Sq

Britt Waspe (Singer)

Harbour Lights choir

Live music from Meze Mundo

Fun with Neighbourhood Watch Stilts International

Tribal dancing from Tribe Zuza

Folk music from Tom O'Donnell

Sword dancing from Amble Sword

Music from Nasty Gran & Co

*Meet Tommy Noddy the giant puffin.*

*Diane's Flower Garden:*

Art installation and plastic bottle flower making workshops with Diane Watson. In the Town Sq. Free

*Dog show:* with Northumberland Dog Rescue.

Details from [www.northumberlanddogrescue.co.uk](http://www.northumberlanddogrescue.co.uk) or see their Facebook page. 01665 579246. On the Braid from 1pm.

*Amble Pin Cushion crafts.* Sew a fluffy puffin for adults and kids.

Check [www.amblepincushion.co.uk](http://www.amblepincushion.co.uk) for details and prices. 2pm-3.15pm at Amble Pin Cushion, Queen St.

*Afternoon nature walk:* Birds and flowers of the estuary.

With Atholl Swanston. Approx 1.5hrs. Meet at Town Sq 2pm

*Flight of Fancy Storytelling:* with the evergreen international teller of tales Malcolm Green. Details at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 2pm-3.30pm at Dry Water Arts

*Stand up paddleboarding:* with Northside Surf School.

Sessions last 30mins. Under 18s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian + must sign permission form. Ring Jon 07944398115 for details.



## EVERYDAY

- To see the puffins, and thousands of other seabirds, take a Puffin Cruise from the Harbour (weather permitting). Booking essential: 07752 861914
- Amble First Schools' puffin painting display in shops along Queen Street
- Exhibition by artist David Hall. 10am-4pm at Dry Water Arts. Free
- Children's amusements in the Town Square
- Create puffin bunting at cafes on Queen Street
- Puffin themed cupcakes from The Galley on Queen Street
- Puffin themed crafts for children at Amble Library (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat)
- Puffin themed cakes from The Puffin Deli on Leazes Street (Thurs-Sun)

Tickets for talks marked \* are available from

N & F Young (8 Queen St), Seafood Centre in the Harbour Village, and Fourways2, Dilston Terr. Tickets for talks are also available on the door.

Tickets for Mitchell and Fox evening only available from Bart Rippon: 0796 417 1457 or from The Bede, Bede Street.

To book Dry Water Arts activities, contact them via [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk)  
Classes are free with a donation to the Dementia Positive Programme and/or bring tins or packets for Amble foodbank

## Sunday 5 June

*Fair in the Square.* Arts, crafts, food, community groups and children's amusements in the Town Square

*Puffins ahoy!* Live footage of puffins on Coquet Island. In the Town Square

*Bord Waalk tent:* Display of community work carried out for the bird sculpture trail

*Roller skating rink.* Car park opp Town Sq 10am-4pm

*Meet Tommy Noddy the giant puffin.*

*Diane's Flower Garden:*

Art installation and plastic bottle flower making workshops with Diane Watson. In the Town Sq. Free

*Live Performances:* Throughout the day. In the Town Sq  
Bare Toed aerial art & live music. Join us to see a Puffin Pair fly, soar and swoop on the aerial hoop. They'll be accompanied by a puffling and live music and song.

Pop up poet Ian Williams

Cheeky fun from the Giant Seagulls

Live music from Caribbean Steel Band

Auckland Shanty Singers

Sword dancing from Amble Sword

*Mobile sound recording studio:* Have a go at mixing your own tunes!

*Stand up paddleboarding:* with Northside Surf School.

Sessions last 30mins. Under 18s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian + must sign permission form. Ring Jon 07944398115 for prices and times.

## FRINGE ACTIVITIES (28 May - 3 June)

### Saturday 28 May

1. *Raku pottery workshops:* puffin tiles. Book a slot at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 11-4pm at Dry Water Arts

2. *Puffin Exhibition opening:* Original Artworks by David Hall. Live music and refreshments. 6-8pm at Dry Water Arts

### Sunday 29 May

1. *Raku pottery workshops:* puffin tiles. Book a slot at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 11-4pm at Dry Water Arts

### Monday 30 May

1. *Storytelling with Captain Raggy Beard.* At Amble Library. Free, but please register [www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/children-family-events-156049](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/children-family-events-156049)

2. *Raku pottery workshops:* puffin tiles. Book a slot at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 11-4pm at Dry Water Arts

### Tuesday 31 May

1. *Puffin mask making.* Book a slot at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 1pm - 4pm at Dry Water Arts

### Wednesday 1 June

1. *Puffin kite making.* Book a slot at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 1pm - 4pm at Dry Water Arts

2. *Street theatre with Bell and Bullock.* Various times and venues around the town centre

3. *Evening talk\*:* Amble in Old Photos. With Bart Rippon. 7-8.30pm at the Masonic Hall £3pp\*

### Thursday 2 June

1. *Drumming circle.* Book a slot at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 10.30-12pm + 1.30-3pm at Dry Water Arts

2. *Afternoon nature walk:* Flowers of the dunes.

With Atholl Swanston. Approx 1.5hrs. Meet at Town Sq 2pm

3. *Evening talk\*:* Old Amble and the Railway. With Bart Rippon 7-8.30pm at the Masonic Hall £3pp\*

### Friday 3 June

1. *Poly Puffins:* mini polymer clay puffins. Book a slot at [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) 1pm - 4pm at Dry Water Arts

2. *Evening event:* Live music from Mitchell and Fox, two of the UK's best known and loved folk singers. Billy Mitchell (Lindisfarne, Pitmen Poets) & Bob Fox (Warhorse, Pitmen Poets) 7.30pm at the Bede. Tickets £16pp from Bart: 0796 417 1457 or the Bede.