



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 137 Dec 2022/Jan 2023

Delight as Christmas parade returns



More photos on our website and Facebook page

After two years, the Christmas Lights Parade was back with a bang! Thousands of people thronged the street and Town Square to watch the parade and enjoy the entertainment. This year the Christmas lights 'official' switch on was performed by Harry McQuillen, who led the parade in a vintage Coastguard Land Rover. The parade was the biggest ever with over twenty community groups taking part. Live music came from the Band2, Caribbean Crew steel band, Meze Mundo, and the Auckland Shanty Singers.

A spokesperson for Amble Events Committee said, "We'd like to say a special thank you to Amble Christmas Lights Team, and all the volunteers for all of their hard work, not forgetting the fabulous floats from Amble Coastal Rowing team and all the community groups who took part. This was the return of the parade after two years, so we'd like to thank everyone for coming along and making it such a fantastic community event."

Photos: Andrew Munsey and Anna Williams



Top: Matthew, James, Lucy and Chloe met Santa and his Elf
Above: Harry McQuillen switched on the lights.
Below: youngsters having fun



ReKINdle festival brought magic and light



Photos: Lynne Morelli and John Young.
More on our website

Amble's Little Shore was transformed into a magical outdoor celebration for the ReKINdle Festival. The shoreline and pier were filled with flags, lights, songs, sounds and a spectacular floating golden phoenix. Organisers estimated over 2000 people visited the event on 12 November.

It was third time lucky for the festival organisers. The event had been due to take place last year instead of the

Christmas lights parade, which had been cancelled due to Covid restrictions. But bad weather meant the event had to be postponed - not once, but twice, leaving the festival in limbo until this year.

The festival, directed and curated by Dry Water Arts, was part funded by the Arts Council and Amble Events Committee, and the magnificent phoenix was created by Amble's Coastal Rowing Club.

Some of your comments...

- Awesome, just returned home, a wonderful display, thank you all for your hard work and dedication.
- Really beautiful- Loved it!
- Thank you for all the hard work that made this evenings lights and flags and the glorious Phoenix on the water fabulous, what a great experience.
- Truly spectacular. Well done to Drywater Arts and everyone involved in this amazing event. You

really did Amble proud.

- Was spectacular! Such a wonderful atmosphere there and the light installations and sound were fabulous. Well done to Drywater Arts and all involved.
- Stunning initiative - well done to all those involved !!
- Well done to #drywaterarts for their hard work. Best achievement for Amble, keep up the good work and we would love to see more. It was truly spectacular!



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Coquet House opening

The Duchess of Northumberland officially opened Warkworth Harbour Commissioners' iconic new eco building on Amble harbour on 27 October.

After visiting the tenants in the new units on the ground floor of the building, the Duchess cut the ribbon at the main entrance, and then unveiled a commemorative wall plaque.

Chair of the Commissioners Maurice Burnett said "It was wonderful to welcome Her Grace to open Coquet House. Northumberland Estates have long connections with Warkworth Harbour and Coquet Island. Completion of this building is a great achievement



The roof was designed to mimic breaking waves

for the whole team after years of planning. Finally, we have a modern, user-friendly building, fit for the demands of a twenty first century harbour. I would like to thank staff for all their time, hard work and perseverance and welcome harbour users, whether regulars or visitors, to come and see this wonderful building."

The energy efficient building has solar panels and air source heat pumps for heating and hot water.

Amble Architect Kris Burnett of KB Surveying told The Ambler "I designed the large barrelled roof to mimic the breaking waves of the sea and the cladding, render and windows on the north side mimic Coquet Island light. As a seafarer myself I always know I am home when I see Coquet Island appear on the horizon. The balconies on the north side give the harbour master commanding views of the shipping and activities within the harbour and beyond. The building is Energy 'A' rated with modern insulations, under floor heating and solar panels



The Duchess of Northumberland unveiled a commemorative plaque

with large glazed areas to the south elevations combined with concrete flooring to make best use of solar gains."

Amble based DP Builders constructed the building, and employed many local sub-contractors to assist in the fittings and finish, making it a truly local project.

The building provides office space for the Harbour Commissioners staff, and the RSPB Coquet Island team. On the first floor is a large,

multipurpose community room which can be available for meetings and functions. The building is licensed to host weddings and civil partnerships.

The ground floor retail units comprise Bayside Hairdressing, Matt Robson Artwork, The Window Dresser, and Salt & Co silversmith.

The previous harbour office is now home to The Old Customs House tearooms, and to Waggs dog grooming and the Beauty Room.

edie pebble
Pod 14 Amble Harbour Village

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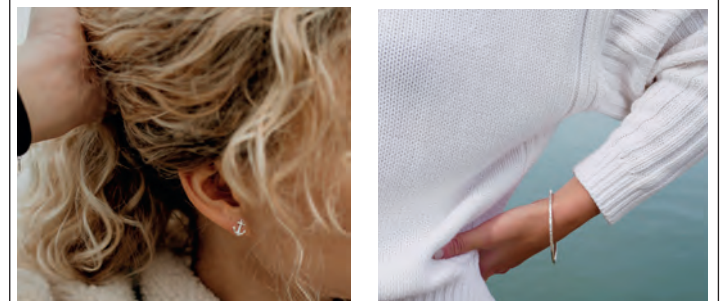
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Greetings from new Methodist minister

Dear Friends,
I grew up near Durham City, so the Northumberland coast was a regular destination for day trips when I was a child. We were regular visitors to Warkworth and its castle. Oddly almost the only place I had never visited here was Amble. I am now setting that serious omission right.

I have been a Methodist minister for more than 25 years. Previously I have served churches in Harrogate, Gateshead, County Durham and Middlesbrough. From September I have been appointed to serve the Methodist church in Amble, as well as in Alnmouth, Hauxley and Widdrington Station.

The focus of my ministry has always been preaching and teaching, but I have sometimes said that most of what I do is "creative loitering." I like to be where people are gathered, in church of course, at coffee mornings and fellowship groups, but also in the wider community. I am very fond of cafes, by which Amble seems very well served. I value the random encounters that just happen to happen and the relationships that can grow from them.

I will be living in Gateshead, with my wife Judith and close to most of our six children and all four of our grandchildren (there's a fifth due in December). I am working part time. I will be working from an office in the Methodist church in Amble, about three days a week and roughly every other Sunday.

You can contact me by phone on 07729 258671 or by email: cwoodarcher@gmail.com. I also have a website: cwoodarcher.com

I look forward to meeting some of you, at random, and sharing Good News and the hope and joy that grows from it.

Best wishes and every blessing

Christopher Wood-Archer



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Memorial for 'those in peril on the sea'



The Seafarers' Memorial was made possible by the kind donations of: Amble Town Council, Amble Boat Co. Ltd, W.Gibson, Hindhaugh Homes, Northern Structures Ltd, Northwood Tree Surgery, Sample Building Services, Kevin Stewart, Warkworth Harbour Commissioners, Michael & Helen Lewis, Craig & Maggie Weir

A memorial to seafarers has been installed in Amble's Memorial Gardens by Amble Town Council.

The piece combines a bollard and two anchors and a chain - all original items which have been donated. Local individuals and businesses contributed their time and money to ensure the memorial came to fruition.

The idea for the memorial came about after discussions in early 2020 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the WWII mining of Amble's Dredger 'Coquet Mouth' which at that point had not received public recognition at the harbour.

A spokesperson for Amble Town Council said: "During discussions, a roll of honour for seagoing personnel was mentioned. It was believed that many associate the present War Memorials with army personnel even though there are 16 seagoing personnel there. Thus the idea of a Seafarers Memorial was born, where all such men would be honoured whether from conflicts or assisting those in danger on the sea at any time."

Amble Food Bank update

Amble Food Bank would like to thank our local communities for their overwhelming generosity, particularly during such challenging times with the current cost of living crisis. Food donations continue to come in via Morrisons and the Co-op. We hope that people will continue to be as generous as they feel they can. We are truly grateful for every single item donated - each one really does make a difference.

We were able to provide children with enhanced lunch parcels during the summer holidays, accessing funding we received through the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Co-op members who chose our charity as their local cause raised an amazing £2,902.49! Thank you to the Co-op for making this possible.

Megan Boyd completed the Great North Run in September in aid of AFB - a huge thank you to her for raising £711.40 for our charity! Local schools and churches were incredibly generous with their Harvest Festival donations. Special thanks

AMBLE FOOD BANK: SOME FACTS

- Between 90 and 130 clients receive a fortnightly parcel
- 123 children were supported in October
- Recipients are a mix of people on benefits, pensioners and people in work. Some clients have medical conditions but have to wait months for payments to be issued
- The main reason now for referrals is the cost of living crisis

go to St. Cuthbert's Church, Trinity Methodist Church, St Mark's URC, Hauxley Methodist Church, Amble Links First School, Amble First School, Broomhill First School and NCEA Warkworth Primary. Thank you again to Alexa's Canine Trust who continue to donate cat and dog food to Amble Food Bank.

We have closed our Just Giving page for the time being. Thank you to all those who donated. This has reached a total of £867. With the increase in referrals to AFB, we now

have to carry out regular large food shops (currently averaging £1,800 a month). Should you wish to make a financial donation to help with this, 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 via: Amble Food Bank, sort code 77-20-04, account number 17925260. We are registered with HMRC, so if you pay tax you can Gift Aid any donations (email us for a form). We have collection tins at the Co-op, The Farm Bakery and The Boat Shed Gallery at Amble Harbour Village. A huge thank you for all financial donations that we receive. Without these and food donations, we simply would cease to exist.

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

Any general enquiries may be emailed to amblefoodbank@aol.com.

Pass Wide and Slow awareness event



An event to highlight the dangers of motorists encountering horses on the road was held at the end of September. The Pass Wide and Slow awareness ride was held

at Hope Farm, as part of a nationwide campaign, many of which were listed on a national Facebook group.

Laurie Wilkinson, organiser of the Amble ride said, "There

were 11 horse riders, three walkers, three police officers and one fire and rescue officer at our event. We rode from Hope Farm to Togston. We were pleased with how it went.

"We want to draw attention to the new Highway Code rule, which is for motorists to pass horses at no more than 10mph, and two metres apart."

Renewable technology one year on

Last year I wrote an article about the decision we made to install an air source heat pump instead of replacing an oil heating system (*Ambler; Issue 131 p7*). I thought I would try and give some indication of how it has performed as well as the implications the changing cost of fuel has had on the original estimates.

In general, the heating performed well and we noted no appreciable difference in comparison to our original system. However, it did seem to have to work longer than expected to maintain the temperatures we had

set. We are addressing the issues of draughts in our rooms that were made all too apparent by the storms of winter 2021-22.

The total consumption for both heating and hot water over the last year was 4,143KWh producing an output of 11,398KWh. When we first considered this installation, our electricity was 14p/KWh, which would have been about equal to the cost of oil at the time. Currently I am paying 28p/KWh, which makes the system more expensive than oil, even at current prices.

All I can say is that this is

unfortunate, we are still happy that we moved from a fossil fuel to a renewable source of energy.

I am only sorry that our electric generation systems still have a reliance on those same fuels and skew the costs of affordable electric energy at a reasonable price. I suppose the next move should be solar panels with battery backup but that would entail more capital costs, which, even with the high price of electricity, we are unlikely to recoup.

Ian MacKarill

DID YOU KNOW?

Amble Library is providing a warm space during the winter (Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat,) and will offer a hot drink, biscuit, some activities, free wifi and phone charging. A public toilet is available.



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The Ambler

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The Ambler team? We are a friendly
group who welcome contributions
and help from anyone who would
like to volunteer.

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#138 - 6 Jan #141 - 23 Jun
#139 - 27 Feb #142 - 1 Sep
#140 - 14 Apr #143 - 3 Nov

How much do you value The Ambler?



Did you know the Ambler costs
only 50p an issue to produce
and deliver to your door? That's
not a lot when you consider a first
class stamp is 95p. The question is
how much do you value it?

The Ambler will soon be
heading into our 23rd year. We
produce six editions per year,
delivered free to every home in
the town. The paper is managed
by one dedicated full-time worker

with a small but trusty group of
volunteers.

We are recognised as an
excellent example of a community
newspaper, and we continue to
provide a trusted and dependable
source of news and focus for the
town. Most articles are written
by locals, so our readership
recognises their input as being
authentic.

The number of houses in

Amble is growing all the time
and we really want to continue
delivering to everyone in the
community.

Our limited income comes
from advertising and the
occasional grant but ... if you
value what we do, perhaps you
would consider donating what you
can, via the new PayPal button on
our website?

Happy Christmas one and all!

WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p8

Sewage discharges are the reality of living in Amble

Iwould like to make a
response to your editorial
regarding the above topic
[p8, *Issue 136: Why is sewage
discharged onto our beaches?*]. (I
note that the piece was signed
by the editor and that the
twitter post quoted by the piece
also used the Ambler's handle
therefore presume that it was
also written by the editorial
team).

Some months ago, during
a very heavy rainstorm, I was
standing in my garden in Amble
up to my ankles in untreated
sewage effluent which had
overflowed from the drainage
system. I watched as the water
rose toward the lip of my
outside door knowing that if
it reached that level my house
would be flooded. When only
an inch from the door the water
suddenly stopped rising and
started to flow back down the
drains as though somebody had
pulled out a giant plug. This is
the moment that Northumbria
Water opened the sluices to

allow the overflow out into the
river.

I also took it upon myself
to warn local parents to stop
their children playing in the
floodwaters in their gardens and
the local streets as this was not
just rainwater. You can easily
tell the difference because the
overflow water is full of small
pieces of shredded toilet paper.
I tell this story to indicate that
I believe that Northumbria
Water's attitude to these
requirements is far from cavalier.

I too deplore the fact of
sewage ending up on public
beaches and in the sea but this
is the reality of living in certain
areas of Amble. We rely on
the professional engineering
staff at Northumbria Water to
save our homes, gardens and
streets from being flooded with
sewage effluent and I would
trust a professional engineer in
the water industry rather than
a member of the public who
happened to be looking out of
the window for half an hour to

make the judgement as to when
this is necessary. These extreme
weather events are often very
localised and it is often not easy
to judge local rainfall from a
relatively short distance away.

If you wish to identify
who is to blame for this state
of affairs I would suggest that
instead of pointing the finger at
local employees of Northumbria
Water you turn your attention
to the greedy, irresponsible
politicians who sold off
what was a public resource
thereby committing them to
having to pay dividends to
shareholders rather than invest
in the development of their
infrastructure.

*Robin Lewsey
via email*

Ed: There was no intention of
pointing at local employees
of Northumbria Water for
the decision to allow sewage
discharges into the River
Coquet. Responsibility for the
management of their company
rests with the CEO and execs.

The Bord Waalk: A canny Geordie tale!

When the gusts of North
Eastern rain belts down and
turns the grass to mud,
Your shoes get so wet you
wished you could...
Go along the Bord Waalk down
by the sea
Under a broly you'll find my
lass and me
Then out of the rain and into

the sun
Along the Bord Waalk we'll be
having some fun

From the distant car park you
can almost smell the sea
And almost taste the fishy
offerings they have promised me
That's why the fish and bords
are really the key

They're part of our life and that's
the way it'll always be.
Along the Bord Waalk down by
the Sea
Now strolling along with the
castle in view,
It's just the wonderful place we
always dreamt it would be.

Terry Barton via email

Dismayed by sculpture trail

As a relative newcomer to
Amble, of eight years, I
valued Amble for its relative
unspoilt quality.

I was therefore dismayed
to see concrete plinths being
laid in formerly valued, by me,
wild places and then later the
sculptures. I am appreciative of

sculpture in the right setting eg.
a sculpture park, where people
can choose to go and enjoy the
art form.

I say keep wild places wild.
Alas too late for Amble. I have
to grit my teeth now if I need
to walk in these polluted areas. I
avoid them wherever possible.

I wonder if these sculptures
please the locals or the holiday
makers, who surely come to
experience the natural unspoilt
beauty of a place.

"Blot on the landscape"
comes to mind.
*Lesley Burton
via email*

Neighbourhood Police update

Amble Neighbourhood Policing Team are passionate about the community and endeavour to address issues raised by residents. PC 3835 Richardson and PCSO 4089 Fawcett work from the Police office at Fourways 2, within Amble town centre.

Officers work closely with partner agencies to tackle crime and disorder in the area. They work with the Town Council, Northumberland County Council and local schools to deter and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. (ASB)

We feel it is important to provide feedback to the community and highlight the positive results officers have achieved to reduce crime and disorder in the Amble and Hauxley area.

Officers from the Amble Neighbourhood Policing Team issued ASB letters and visited youths involved in ASB with their parents present. Officers are working closely with youth services such as YOLO and the Amble Youth Project to make referrals to support agencies to deter re-offending.

Officers conducted a number of visits in conjunction with the



PCSO Fawcett

council to issue warnings about ASB and motor cycle disorder. Where relevant, occupants were issued warnings about their tenancy agreements and warned repeat offending could lead to enforcement proceedings.

Officers have continued to issue section 59 notices with regard to off road vehicles and the manner of driving within the town. Should the police catch those offenders on a second occasion they will have their vehicle uplifted by the police.

Officers have also been working with Amble Youth Project to secure funding for the renovation of the youth club to encourage youths to use the facility and divert them from being involved in ASB on the street.

The Officers will continue to patrol and prevent crime and ASB in the future and there will be further updates in due course.

If you wish to report an incident to the police, call 101 or online via web submission/online chat, however in an emergency always dial 999.

Thank you
Sgt 792 Les Robson

Litter picking heroes

We had an amazing turn out for our autumn litter pick on Saturday 1 October. The event was run as part of the Cross Border Coastal Clean-up with 100's of volunteers taking part along the northeast coast. We hit a record with 34 bags of rubbish collected in two hours in Amble. This was partly due to

the sheer volume of litter around Morrison's and the surrounding area. A big thank you to the residents who tackled this area.

A big thank you to FC Amble Under 11's football team for tackling the harbour area, and thanks to the rest of you who went off in all directions!
Lynne Russell



Amble Links First School Conservation Club (pictured above) headed for the beach earlier in September, to take part in this year's Marine Conservation Society's Great

British Beach Clean.

They picked up all of the rubbish along a 100m stretch of beach and logged it all. The weather was perfect and the event was enjoyed by all !

Advertisement feature

It's ok to not feel ok

As we approach the festive season, Amble funeral directors William Purves is launching a monthly coffee morning for anyone facing loss or, who needs company, in their Bede Street branch.

First Friday's is aimed at local people who may be facing a year of firsts after a recent loss or for those still struggling years on. With generations of experience, the experienced team understand that loss can lead to loneliness and even the simplest of routines can be tough to handle.

Acknowledging that it's ok not to feel ok, the team are hosting a coffee morning on the first Friday of each month. Bringing people together to share their common experiences provides support, reassurance and essential companionship. Widows, widowers, their friends, their family – everyone is welcome.

And it's not exclusively for those facing bereavement. We appreciate the need for people to have regular contact and with a town centre venue and some excellent home baking, it's our way of showing "we care".

Next First Fridays: Coffee and Cake at William Purves on Friday 6 January and 3 February 2023 from 10.00-12.00. No booking required. 18 Bede Street or 01665 712277.

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Alexa's new canine charity

There is a new charity in town. Alexa's Canine Trust is the brainchild of Alexa Nisbet who many of you may know through her work with PARRT and as the founder and benefactor of Alexa's Animals.

She has been involved with rescuing and rehoming dogs for over 40 years and was justly awarded an MBE for services to animal welfare. Recently, she was chosen to carry the Queen's Baton on its journey to the

Commonwealth Games.

At the beginning of 2022 Alexa's Animals ceased to exist and Alexa's Canine Trust (ARC) was born. Its main purpose is to rescue and rehome dogs, but Alexa acknowledged that with difficult times ahead many people would be struggling to look after their pets.

The charity has a remit to help people struggling financially with things such as vet fees and pet food. It can also provide



Alexa with Tizer the dog

temporary shelter for the dogs of the homeless, or victims of domestic abuse while they are in hospital, or finding permanent accommodation.

If you would like to know more or want to help, including volunteering, please pop into the shop and speak with Carole or Sheila or email info@alexascaninetrust.org See their website: www.alexascaninetrust.org

WHAT YOU SAY...

Preserving our wild spaces

Last year the Ambler printed an article about wild spaces in Amble. This year it has again been pleasing to see the boat storage area behind Broomhill Street full of flowers and wildlife. We have been relieved to see that the Warkworth Harbour Commissioners have avoided using weed killers on it as they have been known to do in the past.

The last year has been overwhelming for us all. The war in Ukraine, the cost of living crisis and the ongoing impact of the pandemic on individuals and services has affected everyone. In many parts of the world, including the UK, weather extremes have caused death and destruction. It is hard to know as an individual or a community what we can do to help or

change things for the better.

Areas like this one behind Broomhill Street, where nature has returned despite attempts to destroy it, are a symbol of hope and of more positive change. It is a sign that if we work with, instead of against nature, things can be improved.

Last year at the time of the UN Climate Change conference COP 26 in Glasgow, a group of us reached out to the Warkworth Harbour Commissioners who own this piece of land. We made detailed suggestions on how this area could be protected and developed as a wildlife haven alongside its role for boat storage. We were keen to involve the local community in a



conversation about the area with them. Unfortunately, despite sending our ideas to the Commissioners we have still had no response at all from them and COP27 has now taken place.

It has been positive to see that the new Harbour

>> more letters on p6

Lily Tibbitt's article in Issue 130 suggested areas left wild often have beneficial effects for wildlife

Commissioners building has eco credentials. However, it is disappointing that they seem reluctant to discuss other environmental issues under their management with community stakeholders.

We are all beginning to understand the importance of small wildlife habitats in fighting climate change. Let's hope that as a community we can be open and proactive in protecting and developing them for future generations.

Name supplied. Via email

Quayside walkway still closed

Almost fifteen months on now and it seems to have become a forgotten item, no remedial work or any other attempted repairs seem to have been undertaken, is it still on the agenda seeing as it was originally launched as part of the "Town trail" or just forgotten?
Alan Jamieson
via email

Ed: We do keep asking Northumberland County Council and Amble Marina what is happening with the repairs to the quayside walkway, but have been told that "discussions are continuing". We will continue to ask.

Thoughts on developments in Amble

The recent adoption of the Northumberland Local Plan has significant implications for the development of Amble. Housing development outside the settlement area has become much harder whereas there is now a presumption in favour of applications within it.

Given climate change, the rationale is commendable. By building in towns, we can create more sustainable communities where people are less dependent on private transport.

But for Amble, there may also be negative consequences.

Despite our already overburdened infrastructure, the presumption in favour of such developments will apply irrespective of the number of houses already in the planning

pipeline.

Furthermore, as development opportunities outside the settlement area diminish, developers are increasingly looking at developing more challenging and, arguably, more inappropriate sites, within it.

A good example is the proposal for a development at Braid Hill. This site is demanding on many levels. It largely lies in a Flood Zone 3 area, at high risk of flooding. Additionally, there are significant concerns around contamination - 399 tonnes of contaminated materials were removed during construction of the nearby Turner Street carpark.

The proposed access road across The Braid is also controversial. An old unregulated rubbish tip, it was restored in the

1970s, using government monies, and has been used ever since for public recreation. There has been a huge outcry at the proposed loss of much-loved open space.

Compounding these issues is the cost of developing these difficult sites. Only two of the 59 supported living apartments will have wheelchair access and, of the whole development, less than 5% of the residences will be affordable. It is not the development many people would have chosen.

Change is inevitable. But as a community we need to be clear about what we want and not simply acquiesce to the profit drivers of commercial developers.

Jackie Turpin
via email

Lily Tibbitts shares some thoughts of her first months away at university

A northerner at heart

It's been a couple of months since I had to pack my bags and, with a tear in my eye (or possibly multiple tears), leave Amble, heading down south to start university. As a northerner at heart, it was very hard to start with, but I soon learned to appreciate the little southern town of Newcastle.

Just joking- mostly. Forty minutes down the road isn't exactly Bristol or, God forbid, London. Even if it's not quite as pretty as Northumberland, it's good to still be up north, where the people are still friendly and the weather is still terrible.

There have also been a few bonuses to being an almost-local, with most of my university friends being from further south than me (not hard, unless you're Scottish) or from different countries altogether, so I get the chance to represent the north east and introduce them to what makes it great.

In the last two months I've introduced four people to Greggs, baked a stottie for a friend from Indonesia and done

a lot of translating Geordie accents (sometimes even accurately). It's been great fun.

To be able to make people excited about the area we're in has been great, and what's even better is that it's made me even more proud to be from the north east.

As someone who doesn't have much family up here or a Northumbrian accent, I've never felt quite as connected to Amble culture, even though I've lived here my whole life and always loved it. Now that I'm getting to share that part of my life with other people, I'm realising I'm a lot more Northumbrian than I thought, and I love that.

I'm missing home at times, but it's nice to still be close by, so I can visit any time I want (assuming the X18 is actually on time for once). Most importantly, though, I'm loving being able to share bits of home with a load of new people and show them why they should love the north east too.

Lily Tibbitts

Remembering Joan Shepherd

Joan Elizabeth Shepherd (nee Hindhaugh) died peacefully and with family by her side on Monday 10 October aged 89 years.

Beloved wife of the late Jim, sister to Eileen, Jack and Margaret and Aunt to her loving extended family, Joan will be dearly missed by family, friends and everyone who knew her.

Joan was a huge part of the Amble community and was known by many people from her days working at the Coop Handybank and, of course, remembered for the hundreds of wedding, anniversary and christening cakes she masterfully produced over the years. As a young girl, Joan was also an active member of the Amble



Retained Fire Service.

A committal took place at Northumberland Crematorium, Eshott on 28 October followed by a memorial service at Trinity Methodist Church.

Football legends



Back in September, three footballing legends met at The Wellwood for a Q+A and tales of years gone by.

Pictured from left, Malcolm MacDonald, pub manager Mark Rea, Bernie Slaven and Gary Bennet MBE. (Photo by Judith Hardisty)

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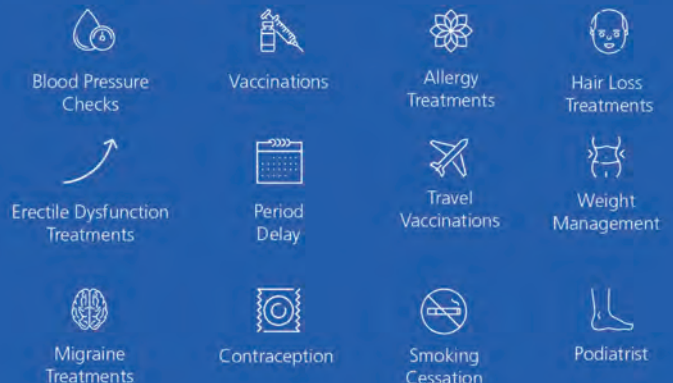
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Age of insecurity



The Christmas parade and celebrations were a joy. So many people, so much energy and so much fun. I know that I'll remember this year's event with great pleasure. The work that goes into the whole show, and the number of contributors was amazing. The weather was just as we'd hoped. Amble came together in a special way. We rejoice in our community spirit, and I feel confident that it will continue.

Frailty comes in many forms, and it's obvious to the people who have it. The physical and mental manifestations are pretty

clear to the sufferers.

You don't lose all your powers at once, but you're aware of the decline. I've known for some time that I can't do what I did not so long ago. 'Where did I put...?' becomes part of daily life. Mind you, that bit becomes easier if one follows Mrs. Beeton's adage... 'A place for everything and everything in its place'!

Coordination is not what it was, and physical balance needs care. Most of one's contemporaries have shuffled off this mortal coil, and the others have their own problems. These

truths tend to put everything in perspective.

So, what's the problem? As I've written in earlier articles, there's quite a lot to worry about. We have people working long hours, yet struggling to cope with the present cost of living. Environmental damage comes in different forms, but it's widespread and real.

Conflict, killing and injury are taking place on an international scale, with no end in sight. Droughts and floods are odd bedfellows. People who are suffering most are most likely to want to move. Protecting what

we have is natural. But that's not much help to people who have next to nothing.

Climate change has been around for a long time: lots of conferences, and still the rich get richer. There are eight billion of us, and rising, and we are all consumers.

Originality has never been my forte, so I'll sign off with a note of optimism. Good luck and good gardening.

Best wishes,
Harry

Guilty pleasures

When I was young, Ferrero Rocher were seen as sophisticated, along with Babycham and Gordon's Gin. Later I discovered it was all due to slick advertising, but I do like nuts in my chocolate. Favourite ice cream – almond Magnum!

Most of the world's hazelnuts come from Turkey, which provides them for another product from the Ferrero company - Nutella. I don't like that (too clarty, like peanut butter) but when the kids were little, we always brought Nutella in glasses back from France, because they had Asterix pictures on them. I now drink whisky out of them.



Back to Ferrero Rocher... I buy myself a box every week and it sits on my coffee table so I can help myself while watching TV in the evening. A box is just about enough to satisfy my craving for chocolate without feeling piggyish.

I wouldn't say it was sophisticated any longer; but then neither am I.

Chris Herzberg

Memories of North Broomhill

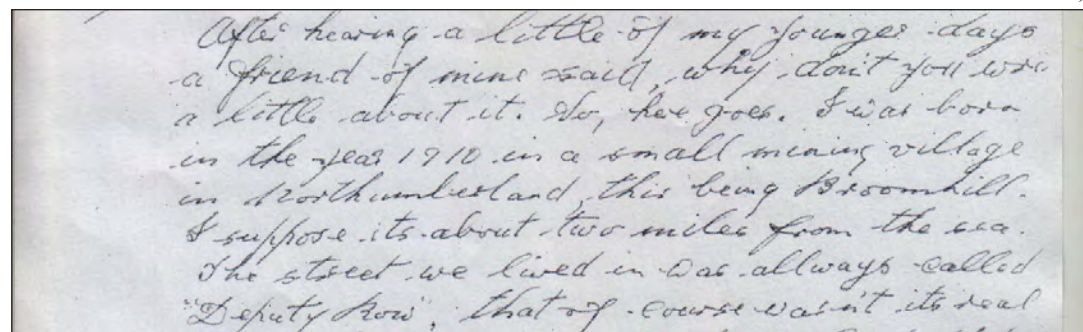
We were recently given an extract of Sidney Stevens memoirs from his nephew Keith Willey. Sidney was born in 1910 and spent his early years in Station Road, North Broomhill where everyone knew everyone else.

make kites from sticks, paper and string using flour and water paste to stick them together. They would play marbles and skip. There was no television.

Groceries came wrapped in brown paper parcels with hand written labels attached.

Amble to get his picture taken at Pringle's. I have some of these sorts of photos, they were taken in black and white, but could be coloured afterwards with paints.

After reading his story, it struck me that the things he remembered from his childhood,



He remembers the collieries where most of the local men worked, the railway lines carrying coal down to Amble and the passenger line that connected Amble, through Broomhill to the main line at Acklington. The steam engines that travelled on these and all the coal dust associated with such traffic. However people didn't travel much, they didn't have their own transport and most essentials were available locally.

Amusement for a young boy was found within the environment, with many hours spent outdoors playing on whatever was around, in the engine yard, the timber yard and on the railway, but he knew if he got caught then he would be in trouble. There was always something going on to watch, including the pit ponies and cart horses. Children would

These were often delivered from say Broughs in a pony and trap. Currency was in pounds, shillings and pence, £sd, including halfpennies.

On Easter Sunday everyone would get dressed up for church/chapel and on Easter Monday the painted and dyed paste eggs would be bowled down a hill, to break the egg shells before they were eaten, possibly as part of a picnic with lemonade or ginger beer.

Highlights would include a visit from the fair and the Amble feast. There were picture houses in South Broomhill and Amble.

Trips to Amble meant picking winkles on the beach, to be boiled and eaten by extracting the winkle with a pin; fishing from the pier with a bent pin on a length of string attached to a stick.

Sidney remembers going to

two generations before me, were still around during my own childhood, growing up in Amble in the 50s.

Moving forward another two generations to my own grandchildren, they would not recognise the lifestyle conveyed, it is completely alien to them. Things have moved on so fast in recent years.

Many things have changed, but some remain the same; Sidney talks of Mr. Turnbull the butcher, and Mr Forsyth the farmer.

In Sidney's time there were food shortages because of war (the First World War), in my time there was still rationing after the Second World War. Now there are still food shortages because of war (the war in Ukraine). Whatever the year, life goes on, hopefully.

Vivienne Dalglish

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How did a Columbian street dog end up in Amble?

Recently at Artograffi, we met with Maya the dog, Luz Helena Nariño, a Colombian vet, and Eileen Regan who eventually adopted her.

Maya is a mix of a poodle “and something else”, and very lively and excitable (she wandered round with great curiosity during the whole interview).

Luz Helena is from Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, high up in the Andes where she owns her own veterinary practice specialising in small animals.

In Bogotá, Maya was at a foundation for stray animals, (not as technical as British shelters) where she had been taken in after being thrown out of someone’s

house. She had no tail and suffered from skin problems, but Eileen and her husband (who were living in Bogotá for a couple of years) decided to take her home temporarily, and sought Luz Helena’s help to nurse her back to health. Luz Helena was more than happy to help this dog.

In 2014, when Maya was happy and healthy again, Eileen came back to Northumberland and brought Maya with her. At the time, she was around seven months old, but she is soon going to be nine.

Eileen first took her to the beach to show Maya the sea: “She didn’t know what to make of it... she stood and stared” said Eileen. Maya is still yet to go in the sea, but greatly enjoys her walks along the coast. Luz Helena visited Eileen and Maya here in Amble in 2016 and again this year, but there was no



Luz Helena, Maya, and Eileen

worries of Maya forgetting her. Luz Helena told us that as soon as Maya saw her she was jumped on and licked for a long time. Eileen

said: “Maya speaks both English and Spanish but she disobeys us in both!”
By Ava



You gotta fight for the right

Recently, protests have been at the forefront of the public’s minds. Whether it’s a train you couldn’t get, a package that showed up a few days late or a Van Gogh painting you were so personally attached to, we have all been affected in some way.

And often the headlines are negative, but in my opinion, protests are powerful. What better way to display your democratic rights than removing your necessary labour from the system and showing that you are a vital piece of society, so should be paid as such?

Strikes happen constantly, but more have been happening in the current economic climate, and they are being noticed. It’s difficult to keep up with who is on strike and when, but the consensus is that many unions and workers want higher wages in line with inflation, or fewer job cuts.

Strikes are an incredible way of demonstrating worker’s strength as it shows how important they are and that they should be respected.

Other forms of protest are my favourites: any sort of disruption and chaos with an important social message. Just Stop Oil campaigners throwing soup at a famous painting was ridiculed and criticised, but I loved it! They were just young people who



were passionate about the climate, and why shouldn’t they be?

Dramatic action was necessary as less direct action is all too often swept under the rug and ignored by those in power. Protests bring these issues to the people’s attention in a way asking politely won’t.

The wonders of protest have lately been under fire by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts bill, which gives the police more power to decide the conditions of protests and put more measures in place to stop them.

There are elements of the bill I agree with, such as protection of those the protests

affect, but I also think this is quite an easy cover up for wanting to reduce the scale of demonstrations and create fear around them.

Protests that are deemed ‘too noisy’ can have conditions imposed by the police, aka telling them to leave. But is the point of a protest not to create noise? Nobody at a protest is whispering, they want their message to be seen and heard. There are many negative implications of this bill and obstructions of our freedom to protest.

It is the younger generations who have the world in our hands, so it is so important we have freedom to express our opinions and the courage to do so.

If you disagree with a protest, or protests in general, ask yourself why. Put yourself in the worker’s shoes, or the environmentalist’s shoes, or the women’s shoes, question why they care about these issues, and interrogate why you don’t. Chances are, they aren’t the problem.
By Ava



Some things to know about our newest Prime Minister

- Rishi Sunak is our new Prime Minister. He was born on May 12 1980 (so he is 42 years old)
- He has written 3 books: A Portrait of Modern Britain, The Free Ports Opportunity and A New ERA for Retail Bonds.

- He went to Stanford Graduate School of Business in the USA, Lincoln College Oxford, and Winchester College.
- Rishi has a wife (Akshata Murthy) they married in 2009.
- They have two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka Sunak (age 11 and 9).

- He’s got a Labrador called Nova
- Rishi’s religion is Hindu. He’s the UK’s first Hindu Prime Minister
- He says he’s addicted to Coca Cola
By Katie

Ed: Rumour has it Rishi is also a Star Wars geek!



Investigating the new art

Around Amble, artists have been putting up sculptures related to birds. The gang and I went on a walk around Amble to see the ones up so far.

Bird Song

This is located next to the Marina. It is a huge metal frame with a song inside of it – this is depicted by the sound wave of a Roseate Tern. It was created by two artists called Aether and Hemera. It is nice, however it is one of my least favourites because not a lot of people would understand it.



Tern by Jon Voss

Flock sphere

This is located next to the Shorebase Trust on the Braid. It is by Rob Mulholland. I think this one is very clever because it is more interactive as you can go inside and see the world from a different perspective. It is a sphere made of metal birds, which you can go inside.

Tern

This is located just next to the Flock Sphere. This one is my second favourite because of the amount of detail the creator (Jon Voss) has put into it. The outside of the wings is made the same colour as a seagulls and the inside of it is extremely detailed with patterns.

Fat Puffin

This one is located next to the Paddler’s park. It is by Ben Greenwood. It is my favourite by far because of how cute it is. I feel that it could have been put in a better place because it is right next to the park. I feel like small children will climb on it.



Big Puffin by Ben Greenwood

Murmuration

This is located opposite Amble Links school near the cemetery. This is by Frances Anderson. I think this one has a really intelligent design because it is a metal or copper wave and has a flock of birds on it and when the sun shines at the right spot it casts a shadow against the ground making it look like there’s a flock of birds flying above it.

By Hannah

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL THE ARTOGRAFFI TEAM

We hope everyone has had a great year, and that next year will be even better. (If there is a next year after climate change)



Pokémon Scarlet and Violet

Pokémon Scarlet and Violet were released on November 18 so I wanted to talk about that and some of the new characters.



So I want to start this off with how cute I think the starter Pokémon are, especially Sprigatito – the grass type starter. The other starters, Quaxly (the water one) and Fuecoco (the fire one) are both cute, but since I love cats it makes Sprigatito better than the other two! I also really like its evolution: Meowscarada, which is a magician cat that is a grass and dark type. Quaxly’s final evolution is Quaquaval which is a dancer (I think) which has the water and fighting type. Finally we have Fuecoco’s evolution - Skeledirge, which I think is a singer since its signature move is called Torch Song.

And there are a few other Pokémon that I want talk about. First, let’s talk about Greavard, which is basically Litwick, but instead of a candle, it is a hairy dog. I think it’s too similar to Litwick, and its evolution has a very big jaw which I think is a bit weird. Speaking of evolutions, Girafarig finally has an evolution – Farigiraf! I love it because it looks like it’s wearing a hoodie. Another Pokémon I’m really happy about is called Tinkaton, which is this pink thing that has a massive hammer.

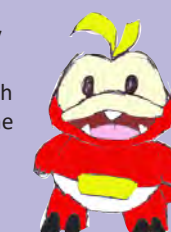


Sprigatito

“It literally looks like a golden surfing cheese string. I’m disappointed.”

Next up, Gimmighoul, a Pokémon that started following players around in Pokémon Go after Dratini community day. I don’t have much to say about it and I personally think it’s kind of ugly. It also has a really ugly evolution in my opinion. It literally looks like a golden surfing cheese string. I’m disappointed.

Now let’s get onto Pokémon that are in the game that I’m really excited about. So, if you didn’t know, the Paldea region (the place Scarlet and Violet is set in) is based on Spain, and the Kalos region in Pokémon X and Y is based on France, so a lot of Pokémon from Pokémon X and Y are in the Paldea region. Some of my favourites include: the Flabébé line (Flabébé, Floette and Florges), the Skiddo line (Skiddo and Gogoat) which is great because I LOVE GOATS!! And the Scatterbug line (Scatterbug, Spewpa and Vivillon, which is one of my favourite bug types!)



Fuecoco

In Scarlet and Violet there are 3 main storylines – Path of Legends, Starfall Street and of course the classic Victory Road, where you battle the gym leaders to become the champion.



Quaxly

In the Path of Legends, you need to find something called ‘Herba Mystica’ and visit the lairs of titan Pokémon (Pokémon which are bigger than normal, and which I think you use to upgrade the legendary Koraidon and Miraidon, so they can swim and fly. In addition you use can them to travel.

Next up, is Starfall Street, which is where you fight rebellious students, who are an evil team like Team Rocket.

By Grace



Reports from our *County Councillors*



As winter closes in the catastrophe embodied by the cost of living crisis will only become clearer. People are going to face hard times over the coming months with rapidly rising inflation.

Many people will be counting the pennies just to stay afloat with energy bills going through the roof, plunging many into fuel poverty and with every week that passes it's becoming increasingly difficult to put food on the table. The stark reality is that groceries and petrol bills are surging and rising every week. This puts further pressure on all our living standards.

All these factors have contributed to a situation where poverty, including in-work poverty, is at a record high leaving many people facing impossible choices between eating and heating. At the same time real wages are failing to keep pace, meaning families everywhere are feeling the pinch. We have had a decade of stagnating wages, our social safety net being torn apart, then a pandemic that has hit low paid workers the hardest.

We do not live in Charles Dickens' nineteenth century. We need fair pay deals to match rising costs, we need a fairer tax system, a windfall tax on

the Oil and Gas giants raking in record profits. We need to prioritise the well-being of the many before the interests of a very few.

If you should find yourself, or anyone you know, needing a bit of extra support or in a difficult situation; perhaps your financial circumstances have changed with reduced hours, redundancy or benefit changes; or you are worried about bills, financial pressure or costs of living; or concerned about a neighbour, then please contact :

- Northumberland Communities Together, a response hub that can signpost you to much needed advice. NCT@northumberland.gov.uk. Phone 01670 620015. 9am-6pm 7 days a week. Northumberland.gov.uk/support
- Citizens advice Northumberland. Contact details: www.citizensadvice.northumberland.org.uk Advice line 0808 278 7944. Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm.
- Universal credit help 0800 144 8444.
- Debt & Money advice 01670 339 960.
- Energy advice 01670 339 749.

I hope that even in the most difficult of circumstances, everyone is able to have a happy, healthy, and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

I know a better future is possible.
Cllr Terry Clark Amble, Hauxley and North Broomhill.

I am pleased to see that the speed awareness sign on the approach to Amble on Rotary Way is up and operating properly. The installation of this sign was funded by monies available to me through Northumberland County Council and will be maintained by Warkworth Parish Council.

This installation means that all the approaches to Amble on my Ward now have speed awareness signs and hopefully this will regulate the excessive speeds we sometimes see by motorists.

I am aware of some mud on Acklington Road resulting from the building of the new homes adjacent to Robsons Way. I have reported this to the enforcement officer of NCC

Several residents have complained about irresponsible drivers parking in dangerous places to

offload or pick up young people from JCSC. The traffic regulation department NCC has been informed and they will pay more attention to this and issue tickets if necessary.

The completed Statutory Consultation on Proposals for the Coquet Partnership is awaiting the Cabinet approval of NCC and will be published shortly.

It was good to see the tremendous turn out for Remembrance Day and proves to me that Amble does not forget the sacrifices made by our local sons and daughters in the Armed Forces.

I am available on jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk and by phone 07802385367

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk 07779 983768

jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk 07802385367



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Sunday - 11:30am-2pm

SENIORS CLUBS

Every week we have multiple clubs on. Mondays and Wednesdays we have a Luncheon Club on, this starts at 10:30am-12:30pm. Every Tuesday we have Exercise Club at 10:30am. On the first Thursday of every month there is a coffee morning hosted at Hadston House. At this coffee morning people find out what trips and activities will be on that month. Everyone welcome with transport available.

LUNCHEON CLUB

Throughout 2022 we have held Luncheon Club every Monday and Wednesday we have seen a huge increase in our service with a range of new people attending if you think you would be interested in coming please get in touch on 01670 761537. Transport is available for those unable to travel via public transport.

HADSTON HOUSE MEALS ON WHEELS

Do you know anyone that could benefit from our Meals on Wheels service? We deliver meals 6 days a week, freshly cooked everyday. 5* Food Hygiene Main course and Dessert Deliveries to Warkworth, Amble, Broomhill, Hadston, Red Row, Widdrington and Ulgham

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FROM ALL THE STAFF AT HADSTON HOUSE WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



As 2023 approaches, we look at some of the Trust's achievements and how supportive Amble's community has been in embracing the changes that are making Amble known worldwide.

Julia Aston, Director of Amble Development Trust says, "I hope readers of Trust Life find the news interesting, sometimes controversial, but a whole generation of young people weren't born when the Trust was established. Amble has gone through massive regeneration that has injected life blood into the community but it cannot become complacent; looking back at what was, and what is now, achieves sound forward planning ensuring prosperity for this, and future generations."

Historically, Amble was a hub for the coal and fishing industries. The recession of the 1980s created a need for regeneration for Amble to prosper. A civic regeneration study initiated by Alnwick District Council resulted in the creation of Amble Development Trust in 1994, with the remit to secure the vital funding necessary to deliver Amble's regeneration plans.

The Trust continues in securing the necessary funding that has

spearheaded the success in regenerating the town.

Amble Development Trust comprises a management committee and staff with elected members and representatives from Amble community, businesses, Warkworth Harbour Commission, Northumberland County Council and Amble Town Council. An AGM is held each year with members of the public invited to attend.

The Trust is operated on strict business lines with all of its development plans agreed beforehand and its expenditure strictly maintained within budget and reported in the Trust's independently audited annual report and accounts.

Julia Aston says, "Questions have sometimes been raised about the projects the Trust runs, and that the funding could be better spent elsewhere. The Trust is a not-for-profit regeneration charity. Its funding is always specific, and ringfenced for those identified projects. It secures its own finance through grants and donations from a variety of agencies including the Coastal Community Fund, Arts Council England, Northumberland Strategic Partnership and Northumberland County Council."

The Trust's past and recent successes are recorded on the Trust's website: www.ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk. The social media accounts encourage healthy feedback from the resident community and visitors.

To date, the Trust has successfully achieved many of its objectives, some not as visible as others, but all valuable to the regeneration of Amble. An early example was the excellent transformation of the town square in 2001.

In 2011, following the closure of the Cooperative non-food store, the Trust developed the building into retail units with affordable housing above. It supports a number of social enterprises and entrepreneurs. In 2007 the Trust took over ownership of Amble Welfare, maintaining a well managed recreational space.

The Harbour Village, with its eye catching Pods, seafood centre and lobster hatchery was opened in 2016 and, in 2022, the community welcomed the national bird sculpture trail, or "the Bord Waalk" in Amble dialect, funded by the Coastal Communities Fund, Arts Council England and

Northumberland County Council.

"The funding of arts projects during economic downturns can be contentious, but look at the benefits of linking business with education and art," explains Paul Rigby, chair of the Trust and ADT Northumberland Ltd the wholly owned trading subsidiary of Amble Development Trust.

Paul explained that businesses can benefit from publicity generated by the trail, and local pupils have worked directly with some of the artists, strengthening skills and discovering that a work of art is not only a creation of someone's inspiration, but also the end product in a process, whether on the factory floor or in the artist's studio. The whole project has taught them about ideas creation, design, planning, budgetary control, right through to the manufacture of the sculpture.

The "Bord Waalk" has placed Amble well and truly on the artistic map and is an outstanding example of community involvement in an iconic project.

Here's to a vibrant 2023!

Jennifer Dunn
Trustee, Amble Development Trust



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Amble Town

COUNCIL

Town: 6pm at Fourways 2 Top Floor 8th Dec; 12th Jan 2023
Amenities: 6pm at Fourways 2 Top Floor 26th Jan 2023

EAST WARD:	Helen Lewis, Ian Parks, 33 Warkworth Avenue, Warkworth. NE65 0TP	Craig Weir (Chair/Mayor) 76 Priory Park, Amble NE65 0PH 07751 229 739	WEST WARD:	Jeff Watson 14 Magdalene Fields Warkworth NE65 0UF 07802 385367	David Bewley 11 Brinkburn Place Amble NE65 0BJ 07525713086	CEN. WARD:	Kate Morrison, 3 Island View, Amble NE65 0SE 01665 711191	Paul Dancer Wellbank Victoria Villas Amble NE65 0LQ pauldancer1998@btinternet.com
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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The wreath laying and service in the Town Square was well attended and a tribute to all those who have served in whatever capacity and died in the two World Wars and Conflicts since. The newly installed Seafarers Memorial was blessed in the service and some of our seagoing organisations placed their wreaths there. It is truly wonderful that once again our community, individuals and businesses came together to freely volunteer their help and resources to create this fitting tribute which will remain for generations to come.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

As a lasting tribute, Council is planning to place a new floral bed in commemoration. Locations are currently being considered but it is hoped the area will be planted with seasonal heathers, plants and bulbs including Lily of the Valley, one of her favourite flowers.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

The final draft is almost complete so by early Spring we should see the installation of at least one safer crossing point in Percy Drive. This long needed addition should also help to slow traffic on this road. NCC are also placing a 20mph zone in place on Acklington Road to cover both schools there as well as the Welfare. While this is operational during school opening and closing times at present, we have asked for it to be monitored to see whether a permanent zone is needed. It has also been agreed that Cross Street will become one way from Queen Street to Church Street.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Please, please do report this. We know to some it may seem a waste of time as the police may be busy elsewhere and do not attend straightaway, but every report is logged and they all are added to the crime figures which are used to determine what manpower resources the town needs. So..please do report every incident online at Northumbria Police or ring 101.

COQUET QUAY WALKWAY

Rest assured we haven't forgotten how long this popular walkway has been closed off. We continue to regularly contact N.C.C. urging them to work hard with those responsible to get this open again. We have put forward ideas of how this might be possible but sadly have no good news to report yet.

CLOCK TOWER

At long last- dare we say it- the clock is fully operational. Each time something was repaired it seemed to highlight another problem. However the pendulum mechanism has now been thoroughly looked at and rebuilt. As it is almost 100 years old, it is not unexpected that parts will wear out and need to be remade. As these types of clocks were all individually made, each new part has to be remodelled by hand, hence the long wait before effective repairs can be carried out.

LITTER BINS

These are being placed onto a refurbishment programme following a survey of their condition. Those on Queen Street and the immediate central area will be renewed first and then progress will work outwards. Any of those removed which are still serviceable will replace those in a poor state until those locations are reached in the refurbishment programme.



Merry Christmas from all at Amble Town Council

Come and meet your Councillors at
our open event on

Saturday 17th December 2022

10.00am—11.30am

(No need to book)



Share festive refreshments and learn more
about your Councillors' roles!

Interested in becoming a Councillor?
ask about joining your Council!

Council Offices

Fourways2

6 Dilston Terrace

Amble

NE650DT



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

Outstanding Ofsted for Edwin Street



On September 8, Edwin Street Nursery, based within Amble First School received a visit from Ofsted where the provision was rated as 'Outstanding'.

A previous inspection in 2016 had previously rated the provision as 'Good'. The provision has been operating

since 2013.

Sharon Donaldson, Nursery Manager, said, "We are absolutely thrilled that the high quality of early years education provided at our Nursery has been confirmed by Ofsted. As nursery manager I know how hard the team work every day to ensure they provide the very best

education for all our children, the Nursery staff are truly amazing and the report highlights those areas we are particularly proud of and have worked hard to achieve.

"There are many comments I am proud of but the fact Ofsted recognised how much staff focus on developing a nurturing environment which allows

children to 'thrive in all areas of the learning' was really very special."

Lizzie Jackson, Head of Amble First School said, "We are delighted that the hard work of the nursery staff has been recognised by the recent report. Their expertise and enthusiasm ensure that all children make excellent progress and most importantly, that they enjoy their time in nursery.

"We know that the children who attend Edwin Street Nursery are getting the very best start to their education and this enables a seamless and successful transition into the First School.

"We will continue to build on this close relationship to create the best possible opportunities for the children in our care."

Amble First School

Harris Hall: one to watch



Harris (left) came second in the National Youth Cycling Championships

Fifteen year old Harris Hall from Amble, has come second in the National Youth time trial cycling championship.

Harris, who rides for Veloculture, finished second overall, cycling the 10 mile course in 20 min 44 sec.

Harris qualified for this race, held near Doncaster in September, by winning the North East National Youth Time Trial. He also competed in the RTTC national time trial, held in August, where he was also second overall.

While finishing second is an amazing achievement, it is made better by the fact that he is a year younger than the winner in each case.

Harris has been cycling in time trials since he was 12 and has been consistently improving, but this year he started out with a 10 mile personal best (PB) of 21 min 30 sec, and managed to clock a new PB of 19 min 15 sec by the end of the season.

Up against all the adults in the region, Harris finished fifth overall in the Northumberland & Durham Best All Rounder (BAR) competition, and he went on to win outright his last two time trials of the season, earning himself the title of winner in the Junior BAR category as well as his fifth place in the senior competition.

Tracey Sample

Can you help skier Amy?

Amy Stokoe from Widdrington has been selected to represent England in alpine skiing at the 2023 ISF (International Schools Sports Federation) World Schools Winter Games to be held in Erzurum, Turkey from 11-19 February 2023.

Amy needs to raise £2,200 and has taken on a part time job in the cafe at Druridge Bay Country Park, while she studies for her A Levels, but is also looking for sponsorship and has set up a fundraising page.

Amy's gofundme page is here: <https://gofund.me/53ac31f1>



Hauxley Parish Council would like to wish all our residents a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

We will be installing a Christmas tree in both High Hauxley and Low Hauxley but in addition this year we will be donating £50 to the Amble Food Bank.

We would like to welcome our new Councillor Dr Jann Robinson to the Council who lives in Low Hauxley.

The Neighbourhood Steering Group are making good progress with completing the pre-submission draft plan and its appendices ready for consultation.

An update will be provided after Christmas.

The first meeting in 2023 will be at 6.30 pm on Monday January 9, 2023 and held in Hauxley Village Hall.



Jade Reynolds Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Hauxley Parish Council Email: hauxleyipc@gmail.com
Website: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/hauxley>

This section is written and paid for by Hauxley Parish Council

Activities for fostered and adopted children

New charity FACET (Fostered and Adopted Children's Education and Therapy) holds activities in Amble, Alnwick, Morpeth and surrounding areas for children who are currently or previously fostered or adopted (including special guardianship orders etc.)

This includes FREE activities such as horse riding, animal assisted therapy, horticulture and swimming for the kids.

Regular FREE "Cuppa and Cake" sessions with guest professionals to meet more parents and help them develop their skills and knowledge in a range of areas (legal rights, therapeutic interventions etc.)

Please get in touch for more information and to register your interest: info@facetcio.org www.facetcio.org

Warkworth's got talent!

An impressive variety of talent was on display at the recent Warkworth Drama Group show, and hundreds of pounds was raised in aid of Warkworth Ukraine Support Group, Harbour Lights Community Choir and Warkworth Drama Group.

The entertainment began with Harbour Lights Community choir, followed by young dancers from the Alnwick Academy of Dance. Two Rowan Atkinson comedy monologues were skilfully performed by Andrew Wharton, and Sarah Mitchell got the audience participation going with her Halloween-themed story.

But the emphasis of the show was on music in widely varied styles; the show's organiser, Norma Arthur, singing Old-time Music Hall, Diane Maughan songs from the shows, David Gair, in his stage debut, accompanying his songs on guitar, and Carol and John Bird on vocals and keyboard. Adding a Geordie flavour were Gill Lyons and Joyce Quinn, playing well-loved local melodies on the Northumbrian small pipes.

Special mention to the young singers; Amy Miller-Trotter playing guitar and singing contemporary songs, and Teddy Cuthbert, with his joyous vaudeville songs.

The show, expertly compered by Colin Heathcote, was an uplifting tonic on a dreary autumn night. I think even Simon Cowell would have had a smile on his face as he left the Memorial Hall.
P. Heathcote

Winter can be a perilous time for shorebirds

As 2022 draws to a close, we reflect on the success of the year on the Northumberland Coast. We have been overwhelmed by the support that residents and visitors have shown for us and the birds.

The Northumberland Coast is made up of a mosaic of habitats, such as rocky shore, muddy bays and sandy beaches. So it supports, nationally and internationally, important numbers of non-breeding shorebirds between September and May. The mud flats of the Coquet Estuary are hugely productive and are a safe, sheltered location for birds. We often see over 320 Lapwing, 130 Curlew and 100 Dunlin feeding on the mud and roosting on the saltmarsh. These are significant numbers for those species.

Shorebirds using this stretch of coast benefit from having access



Turnstone on Warkworth beach

to Coquet Island, an undisturbed offshore rocky island which the birds can retreat to for shelter. On the mainland, the areas of rocky shore along the coast between Birling Carrs and Hauxley are extremely valuable habitat for turnstones and purple sandpiper, which are well camouflaged against rock and seaweed. These

birds rely on a thin stretch of the intertidal zone to find food. This means that their options are limited if they are disturbed and pushed away from these important areas of rock.

Winter can be a perilous time for shorebirds, and it takes a great effort to make it through the short, dark, cold days. Small acts such as looking out for areas of the coast being used by groups of birds and giving them space so they can conserve their energy make a huge difference to the birds. It gives them a fighting chance of making it through the winter.

If you would like to find out more about the incredible shorebirds on our coast, why not join us at one of our Shorebirds for Beginners events - all details and links to social media are on www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk.

Statue and relics come to Amble

A statue of the Virgin Mary and relics of two shepherds were brought to Amble's Roman Catholic church in early October

To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Canon Stephen Watson (who is looking after The Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert Catholic Church) invited the Pilgrim Virgin Statue and the Relics of St Jacinta and St Francisco to the Parish.

Celebrations began with Mass followed by a film about the shepherds Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta of Fatima. Then a procession brought the Statue of Our Lady into the Church.

Eight-year-old John McPeak carried the relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco, and a floral crown was placed on the statue by Rose Fletcher, aged seven, with some assistance by Canon Stephen.

Canon Stephen gave a homily that highlighted, with Ukraine in mind, the relevance of the message of Fatima in a time of war and persecution and the need for prayer and reconciliation.

One parishioner, Mrs Mary McNally, said that it had been

a very joyous and moving occasion that had been attended by Catholics from near and far, including two from Idaho USA who happened to be in the area.

Canon Stephen concluded that the visit of the National Pilgrimage Virgin Statue was a blessing to all, and one that will bring people back to church to grow in the grace of God.



New book: Warbird by Mark Batey

The looming Zeppelin emerging from the clouds puts you immediately into an uncertain world and, in a way, foreshadows the enormity of the oncoming war. As Klara Falke and other key protagonists are introduced, the novel throws you straight into the tensions, power struggles and politics within Germany in 1939 and highlights the mixed loyalties of country and state.

British historical context is seen through recruits at Bently Priory, headquarters of RAF Fighter Command. We learn of the crucial role of Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding, along with Robert Watson-Watt, in Britain's defence.

This is an immensely readable book, and Klara Falke is sent by the German Secret Service to probe a network of unusual radio

masts along the British coastline. She joins local Nazi sympathisers in the North East but soon finds there are other forces at work. The story is full of surprises and keeps the reader deep in plots and counter plots as the stakes change for Klara and investigation

becomes sabotage. Local readers will enjoy much of the action in familiar locations of Amble, Acklington and Alnwick as well as Lynemouth, Blyth and Newcastle. Meanwhile MI5 are onto Klara's trail.

The historical background is well researched and the attention to detail is built into the narrative with skill. I am a great fan of historical fiction because in the right hands you can learn a great deal. This book is no exception and I would put it alongside novels by CJ Sansom



for Tudor England and Bernard Cornwell for Napoleonic wars; the characters are believable and you are absorbed into the world of the time. There were a few occasions where maybe too much extra detail was included but overall it did not detract from the story.

The "Afterword" stresses this is a work of fiction and complements the story with historic context, which traces the legacy of the Second World War right up to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. When reading the novel in the light of current events I must admit this was never far from my mind.

Warbird is an absorbing thriller that allows you to face and engage with the uncertain world of the first year of the 1939-45 conflict. For anyone who likes historical fiction this would make a great Christmas gift. Order from the Accidental Bookshop in Alnwick: www.forumbookshop.com
Ian MacKarill

Remembrance day 2022

Below: Ray Harmor,
Bottom: wreath
bearers.
Photos: Judith
Hardisty



Above: Representatives of Hauxley Parish Council and Amble Town Council
Right: Representatives of the Coastguard Service and Amble RNLI Photos: Andrew Mounsey.
More on our website



Above: The children's service on Armistice Day. Children from Brambles nursery, Amble Links School and Amble First School laid hand made wreaths and observed a two minute silence. See website for more photos



What is social prescribing?

Social prescribing explores the wider determinants of health - broadly our life chances and lifestyles. We know that things such as where we live, our finances and how connected we are to the community impact our ability to manage our health conditions and general sense of wellbeing.

"Being able to refer to social prescribing is a fantastic resource for me as a GP. Many of my patients do not need medication, instead they get much better results through focusing on improving their social circumstances and engaging with others in the community. Before we had Social Prescribers I felt frustrated that I could see what my patients needed but was unable to help as much as I would like. However now with our Social Prescribers it is wonderful to be able to offer my patients a bespoke quality service which can help make real life positive changes to their life": Dr Katherine Carman, GP partner.

The GP partners at Coquet Medical Group alongside Social Prescribing Link Worker Natalie Arnold have recently launched a Courtyard garden project at Amble Health Centre. The aim of

the project is to bring patients together to create a sensory garden space.

The first session launched in September to begin clearing weeds to make way for the new gardening season

"My hopes for the project are to bring people together in nature, to give our patient attendees a sense of achievement and empowerment through creative input and collaboration, as well as offer a safe space to talk, build friendships, and generally improve mental and physical wellbeing. I'm really excited to see the space transform over the coming months and be able to offer staff a calming space to take 5": Natalie Arnold, Social Prescribing Link Worker

If you are a patient of Coquet Medical Group and want to get involved with the project; whether you are a keen gardener that would like to volunteer your time and expertise or you have no experience and just want to come along and get stuck in! Contact natalie.arnold1@nhs.net or 07485 348 303

Natalie Arnold
Social Prescribing GP Link
Worker

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported over the past year.

Together we have made a real difference within the community and within peoples lives.



Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Best Wishes

Scott Dickinson

Member for Druridge Bay &
Northumberland Labour Group
Leader



NORTHUMBERLAND
Labour

Putting
Local
People
First

Local artist's first major solo exhibition

Amble artist Luke McTaggart's first major solo exhibition 'Horizons' is at Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery from 1 November to 11 December 2022 and 10 to 29 January 2023. It comprises a body of work created over the course of the past year.

Luke graduated from Northumbria University in July 2022 with a First Class Degree in Fine Art and is now embarking on a career as a full-time artist. Prior to that he has exhibited his work in the area and been the recipient of a number of awards. He was given a Highly Commended Award for his painting 'Northumbrian Dusk (Fields Beyond Amble)' at the 2022 Woodhorn Museum Open Exhibition and more recently was the Alnmouth Arts Festival Poster Winner.

The paintings at the exhibition are derived from a narrow geographical area of just a few square miles around Amble. A landscape that Luke has grown up in and that he still walks and cycles through almost every day. His paintings explore



his relationship to this landscape, one dominated by the presence of the area's huge skies and varied topography.

For Luke the past year has been marked by a shift away from working outdoors to instead developing a studio-based approach that relies more heavily on memory. He gives a great deal of attention to the composition of his works, and the act of locating a horizon is a compositional problem that he resolves in each painting. Sometimes he seeks to emphasise a harsh division between ground

and sky, such as in 'End of the Pier', and other times he obscures it completely in the area's characteristic hazes and fogs, such as in 'Yellow Boat in a Fog Bank'.

The paintings themselves often undergoing radical changes and alterations until he arrives at an image that seems to resonate with his experience of the weather, feeling and mood of that place.

He thinks that this approach could be summed up in short as 'straining memory through matter'.

Leek Show results

The Masons Arms Amble held their annual leek show on the 10th and 11th of September 2022.

Results as follows.

1st P. Griffiths 265.36 cu.ins
2nd R. Lorrimar 244.06 cu.ins
3rd M. Brierley 175.42 cu.ins
Best Leek in show P. Griffiths

Three onions freshly dug P. Griffiths

Blanch leek and dressed onion N. Urwin

Most improved grower R. Lorrimar

Special thanks to The Masons Arms and all sponsors.

Peter Griffiths

Dance classes for children

At Inwick Academy of Dance (Amble branch), dance classes in ballet, tap, modern and jazz for children ages three – student level. Classes from 3.30pm, Tues and Weds

At the Parish Hall, Dovecote St, Amble. Contact Joanne Burn: 07979606822 or email joanneburn@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas wishes from St Cuthbert's Parish Church

Here at St Cuthbert's we are preparing for Christmas. This season is known as Advent. We try to find time to personally prepare for the coming of the Christ child and we are coming together for four house meetings which are looking at how we pray.

- **Pause** - how do we stop and find time and connection to pray.
- **Rejoice** - before we rush into our "shopping list of prayers" how do we connect with God.
- **Ask** - praying for ourselves and others; what we ask for and how we do it.
- **Yield** - acceptance and being in God's presence, prayers that don't seem to be answered and prayer in times when we feel down and prayer is difficult.

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It is a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for a movement towards a beginning.

The season of Advent, in the

fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, of four Sundays before Christmas Day.

It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is usually a circle of greenery with five candles rising from it. There are four candles on the outside that are purple (sometimes one is pink) and the candle in the middle is white. The candles are lit in the same order each week so that by the fourth week, the candles have burnt down by different amounts. (The pink

candle can be lit on the third Sunday, known as Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'.)

Mother's Union Carol Service

We welcome you to the MU carol service on December 7 at 1pm. Amble First school will be taking part and the service will be followed by refreshments.

Christingles

The custom of Christingles comes from the Moravian church and since the latter part of the twentieth century has become a part of how many churches mark the season (though Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas).

Its success stems from The Children's Society who encourage and resource churches and schools around the country

to hold Christingle services.

What the Christingle Means

- The lit candle represents Jesus being light in the world
- The orange represents the world

- The red ribbon represents the blood of Christ
- The sweets represent all of God's creations

St Cuthbert's popular Christingle service will be held on Christmas Eve at 6pm. Loved by all ages,

this is an opportunity to start Christmas celebrations off by remembering the Light of the Christ Child. Collections on this occasion go to support the work of Children's Society working with disadvantaged children and young people throughout the UK.



All at St Cuthbert's wish you and your families the happiest and most blessed of Christmases.

Film Club's next screenings

December 3 Death On The Nile 7pm for 7.30pm
Back to our normal start time of 7pm doors and cash bar with the film starting at 7.30pm. A classic Agatha Christie to round off the year. Hercule Poirot's Egyptian adventure aboard a glamorous river steamer descends into a terrifying search for a murderer. Directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh. (2020, A, 2h 7min).

We will be taking a short break in January. Then...

February 4 The Lost King 7pm for 7.30pm

After 500 years, the missing remains of King Richard III were discovered beneath a council carpark. The search had been orchestrated by an amateur historian whose unrelenting

research had been met with incomprehension by her friends and with scepticism by experts. The Lost King is the true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and who took on the country's most eminent historians. Steve Coogan and Sally Hawkins star. (2022, 12, 1h 48min)

* No need to book – seating is plentiful – Warkworth War Memorial Hall, 40 Castle Street, NE65 0UN

* All welcome – £5 donation per person, cash bar and doors open 7pm

For more information call Anna on 07758 253104 or anna.willey@cantab.net Or check out our facebook page www.facebook.com/warkworthfilmclub

Amble Living History group

Meetings at Dry Water Arts, Wellwood Street
Time: 7-8.30pm Entrance: £3
December 15: Richard Carlton; 'Sharperton Dig'

January 19, 2023: Rob Collins; 'Roman Wall and End of Empire'
February 16: Tony Regan; Amble Parish Archives

Adam's summer to remember

Warkworth Cricket Club legend Adam Jobson had yet another summer to remember.

Known as Jobba, he has exceeded his impressive 2021 season after securing his role at number 3 for the secondss.

He scored 403 runs with an average of 26.87 and HS of 67.

He also picked up 31 wickets at 17.35 with best bowling of 4/39, making him the #1 for wickets in the league.

Another stand out year

which puts him in contention for Player of The Season, some say he is one of the all time

greats to play for Warkworth CC.

Warkworth CC Seconds secured promotion despite the influential Adam missing the final game of the season. Adam said 'Last season I said this was the beginning'. Now next season he can't wait to get going again: 'As I feel I can kick on a gear or two'.

Well done Adam!

Josh Rutherford



Photographic group welcomes all

We welcome photographers of all levels of ability to our regular meetings. We have recently welcomed new members to our programme of talks, tutorials and competitions on Friday mornings at Trinity Church (Percy Street entrance)

starting at 10am (open from 9.30am.) The first session is free to non-members. One of our meetings every four weeks is a Zoom meeting so please check our website for the current programme and to contact us. www.amblephotogroup.com.



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- paving, fencing

Amble and District Education Association

Programme of lectures 2023

Feb.1: Winston Churchill-- How the halo effect blinded post-war Britain.: Ian Baulch-Jones

Feb.8 : Don't look now; you're in room 101:Ian Baulch-Jones.

Feb 15 : Coquet stop line and World War 2 defences: Jim Donnelly

Feb 22 : Bolivia and Ukraine: Alan Jones.

Mar 8 and 15: Hauxley and its Wildlife; Sophie Webster

March 22 and 29: River Coquet, estuary and coast: Steve Lowe.

Oct.1-22 Northumberland during WW1, between the wars, and WW2: Neil Storey. Meetings in Masonic Hall, Gloster Tce. 10am - 12 noon. All welcome



Rotary collections with Santa



Rotary Amble and Warkworth has organised its traditional Santa's sleigh visits with Covid-19 still in mind. To keep everyone safe, Santa will not be knocking on doors. However, Santa and his helpers hope that you will all come and say "hello".

We hope everyone will continue to support us in our efforts to raise funds for local charitable and needy causes.

Please keep in mind that

every penny we collect is used for charitable purposes, we do not have expenses. We are all volunteers!

Here are some dates for your diary - Christmas street collections

Acklington Village Hall, Wednesday 14 December from 4.30pm.

Amble, Wednesday December 15 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. Starting at Robson's Way.

Warkworth, Friday 16 December from 5.25pm starting at Montagu Avenue.

For more details of places, dates and times go to ambleandwarkworthrotary.org

Alnwick and District Choral Society

Saturday December 17 at 6pm in St. Paul's Church, Alnwick. Our Christmas concert switches to a Saturday but at a time to allow you to bring along the children and grandchildren. We will be performing Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" as well as a good selection of

Christmas carols, some of which give our audience a chance to participate.

For our Spring Concert we will be performing Handel's "Messiah". Saturday April 1 2023 at 7.30pm in St. Paul's Church, Alnwick: more details nearer the time.

Christmas Worship

Coquet Churches Together
Come along and sing with us for Carols at the Harbour Sunday 18 December 12.00 noon

Catholic Church

Amble. Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Christmas Eve 24 December Mass 5.00pm

United Reform Churches

Amble. St Mark's at the Dry Water Centre, Christmas Day Family Service 10.30am

Methodist Churches

Amble. Trinity Methodist Church, Christmas Day Service 10.30am

Low Hauxley. Hauxley Chapel Sunday 18 Dec: Christmas Carol Service 4.00pm (Mince pies after)

Church of England Churches

Amble. St Cuthbert's Carol Service Sunday 11 December 6.00pm

Christmas Eve 24 December Christingle Service 6.00pm

Christmas Eve 24 December Midnight Communion 11.30pm Christmas Day Family Communion 9.30am

Warkworth. St Lawrence Christmas Eve 24 December Carols at the Crib 4.00pm Christmas Eve 24 December Eucharist 4.00pm Christmas Day Eucharist 9.00am / Zoom Eucharist 10.00am

Advent Course In Amble

Tuesdays: 22 & 29 Nov., 6th & 13 Dec., 2.30 - 4.00pm Subject: PRAYER details on St Cuthbert's Church website

New writers' group

Some of us are hoping to start a writing group in Amble. There are currently six of us interested, and planning to meet on a Wednesday evening, during term time, starting in December. The venue is yet to be confirmed.

The idea of the sessions would be to do some writing exercises, get to know other writers and share thoughts and events.

If you are interested in joining us, please email me: Eileensutherland2003@yahoo.co.uk

Amble WI Craft Fair

On 23 September Amble WI held its first Craft Fair to include local talented crafters to sell their beautiful creations. As well as our own homemade cakes, there were also cakes donated by members of the Amble RNLI, and our craft stall made by our own talented ladies from the WI.

Thank you, to all the crafters, to the locals and visitors who



came and not forgetting the Harbour Master Alan for his support, to make the day a great success. We're hoping to run another fair in the spring.

Linda Barrett
Amble WI

Celebrate with us the timeless message of love, hope & peace.

**HARBOUR LIGHTS CHURCH
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER
10:30AM**

**THE RADCLIFFE CLUB
CHARLES ROAD
AMBLE. NE65 0RA**

With special guest
Roddy Matthews



Find out more about
our growing church:

harbourlightschurch.com



Christmas Fair at Coquet Vets



**Saturday 10th December
12.30pm - 4.30pm**

**Come along for a great afternoon of
festive fun at Coquet Vets!**

We'll have local businesses selling
handmade gifts and sweets, a raffle and
tombola, and much more!

Dogs are welcome on leads



www.coquetvets.co.uk

Bord Waalk: latest landings



Above: Artist Alec Finlay (left) and Alistair Letch who built Dokie's Egg. Big Puffin by Ben Greenwood, and Roseate Terns by Celia Smith

The Bord Waalk sculpture trail is growing steadily. More sculptures have been installed in recent weeks, with 'Roseate Terns' by Celia Smith now in place at the entrance to Hauxley Nature Reserve.

The framework for this artwork was made from steel, and the birds are made with stainless steel wires.

Celia told The Ambler, "I was inspired to make the piece after coming to Amble in the summer. I stood on the pier and watched them busily feeding over the sea. I spent many hours drawing them and making small 'wire' sketches. I used these sketches to help me formulate sketches for the sculpture. I wanted a feeling of movement and their constant motion both day to day and also the migration."

Dokie's Egg has recently been installed along the estuary. It should be completed in the next few weeks.

The structure brings together references to a Guillemot's egg and a fishing coble, and forms a

nurturing contemplative space.

"It's a place to sit, shelter, look and listen," said artist Alec Finlay.

Inside the shelter, an avian calendar (yet to be completed when I visited) will list birds local to the area, and this will combine with a specially created audio artwork which you will be able to listen to via the Bord Waalk app when that is up and running (soon).

The audio has been created by award-winning musician and sound recordist Chris Watson, (noted for working with David Attenborough, and he was part of the band Cabaret Voltaire), who has an extensive collection of bird sounds from around Coquet Island. The audio will also be available on Bandcamp.

"It's a shelter for looking at the view. A place to listen to the audio and appreciate all the birds you can hear in the area," said Alec. "We've called it Dokie's Egg as we learned from poet Katrina Porteous that dokie is dialect for Guillemot in the Newton by the Sea area*."

Since the last issue of the Ambler, Big Puffin by Ben Greenwood was placed at the Paddlers Park and is already a huge hit with the youngsters, and Murmuration by Frances Anderson from Amble, was installed at Island View near the East Cemetery.

Frances explained how she was inspired by observing Starling murmurations. "The idea formed around how they come together in a community, they cross boundaries and group together to stay safe and warm. There's lots we don't know about why they murmurate, but just standing and watching can take your breath away."

The piece was made from Corten steel which changes colour with age and weathering. The steel begins as a silvery colour then softens to a soft brown, and then over the years it should get

darker. Already the sculpture has changed colour in different places as it was caught up in Storm Arwen while being stored in the county council yard.

The shape of the sculpture is also reflective of Starlings' movements. "When you see a murmuration, you see them and then you don't, and the shape mimics that movement as you move around it," said Frances.

The latest pieces to be installed are the ceramic Bird Heads in the Town Square, which were designed by Newcastle-based artist Andrew Burton.

All the sculptures have been installed by Barry Knox from Amble's Beck Groundworks. *Anna Williams*

**This appears in the book Fishing and Folk: Life and dialect on the North Sea Coast by Bill Griffiths.*



Above: Bird Heads by Andrew Burton
Right: Murmuration by Frances Anderson

