

The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 138 Feb/Mar 2023

How will the plans benefit the community?

Northumberland County Council say that the new plans will not only provide vast improvements for schoolchildren and teachers, but the enhanced sports provision will benefit the wider community.

A floodlit 3G football pitch, traditional sports pitches, tennis courts/multi use games area, and a revamped running track will all be available to the public. There is also a four court sports hall.

Access to the sports facilities and parking will be provided by the school. A community use agreement will be set up to ensure the prices will be in line with other similar facilities in the area.

Some comments:

"It's great seeing the plans being displayed for this long-awaited school and seeing the sports and community facilities on offer."
Jeff Watson, County Councillor

"It would be marvellous for the children and for improvements in their education, but personally I still have concerns with the community use. I am also concerned about the traffic using Acklington Rd during construction"
Helen Lewis, Town Councillor

"I am really pleased with the plans, there are quite a lot of children from the Amble area who come to Barndale. We've had lots of input in the designs and it's moved forward quickly from the initial concept."
Mark Phillips, Head of Barndale

"As a community charity working with young people in Amble we are pleased with the plans for the new school building, while a little disappointed with the community elements. We want to contribute to the community use plan that will be part of the process as the project moves forward."
Matthew Connolly, Amble Youth Project

"I'm excited for the floodlit running pitch."

"I hope there are more toilets, and wider doorways, as at the moment we all collide, so it needs better student traffic flow."

Two Year 9 students

New school plans shown to public



New plans for JCSC includes a 3G football pitch which could be used by the community

Plans to redevelop the James Calvert Spence College site on Acklington Road were shown to the public at a consultation event held by Northumberland County Council on 25 January.

The public were given a week to send in their feedback, and NCC then intend to submit a formal planning application at the end of February.

A new school building will be built on land next to the current Middle School, (formerly used as a hockey pitch,) after which the existing Acklington

Road campus will be demolished and the land used for football and rugby pitches.

The South Avenue building will be extensively modernised to provide space for children from Amble First School, and 50 Special Educational Needs places for youngsters from Barndale School in Alnwick.

All the power in the new buildings will use electricity via air source heat pumps, solar panels on the roof, and LED lighting. The intention is to create a 'net zero carbon in operation' school.

As well as improving the teaching and learning environment, improvements to the on-site sporting and community facilities will be accessible to the wider community during out of school hours. The enhanced facilities include:

- A floodlit 3G full size football pitch
- A Multi Use Games Area
- A series of football and rugby pitches
- An all-weather running track

Over £36m has been agreed by Northumberland County Council to be spent on the school building development and upgrades to schools in the Coquet Partnership.

The current three tier educational system will be changed to two tier, requiring expansion to Broomhill, Grange View, Red Row and Amble Links first schools, which will now become Primary schools taking pupils aged 4 -11yrs. The new JCSC building will be able to take up to 720 pupils aged 11 to 18yrs.

Members of the public will be able to comment on the proposals once the planning application is submitted.

Anna Williams



A planning application is due to be submitted at the end of February

New cocktail bar coming to town

All being well, a new cocktail bar will open at the end of February on the site of a recently closed restaurant.



Chris and Becca Green have plans to open Hummingbird in the old Fat Mermaid premises.

The pair are from Amble and both have backgrounds in hospitality. They married in 2021, and not long after, Chris wrote a cocktail book called Hummingbird. The couple then bought a horsebox and turned it into a little cocktail bar, doing pop up cocktail events.

Becca told *The Ambler*, "We originally started off doing pop ups in Brewis Beer Co, and thought the horsebox would be the perfect addition so that we could offer our services to a wider range of venues."

Chris has 13 years of Mixology experience and Becca has always worked in customer facing roles. She has always taken great pride in excellent customer service.

Becca said, "Chris actually named his cocktail book Hummingbird after me. Me and my dad both have hummingbird tattoos, it's very much something that connects us, so is a symbol very close to my heart. So, as the book was called that, we just carried on the name to our company once it was launched!"

"We are planning to turn the Fat Mermaid into a bar specialising in cocktails, but will also offer a range of bottled beers and ciders, wines and spirits. We also intend to offer cold sharing platters (charcuterie and cheese boards) and bar snacks."

Remembering Julie Baxter

On 29 September 2022 Julie Baxter, passed away, only six months after being diagnosed with cancer. Julie being Julie remained positive and battled on right until the end.

Julie was born in Walker, on 5 October 1967. She had always craved a life in the country and close to the coast, and in 1996 the opportunity arose for her to move to High Hauxley. Her home, "Daisy Cottage", became her dream home and a place where she stayed until the end.

Julie had several jobs; most people will remember her working at Roland's Butchers on Queen Street, and the Community Kitchen which she started during the pandemic, when she realised that many were struggling to prepare a nutritious hot meal. She set to and worked with the Amble Food Bank, St Marks United Reformed Church and a group of volunteers to prepare and deliver meals to those in need.

When restrictions were lifted, the Community Kitchen became a place where people could just meet up for a chat, or for some friendly support from Julie or each other. It even extended to cookery classes to help those who had

never cooked before. Julie just wanted to help; ten minutes with her and you were out of a dark place and smiling again.

You could write a complete book about what Julie did for the community: offering isolated individual support; helping with vaccinations; "secret" cake deliveries during COVID; Easter Egg Trail; "Olivers" Army - fundraising for Oliver; providing cakes and food to Warkworth Primary School; Tea in the Churchyard; providing a Christmas dinner with other volunteers at St Marks.

In addition, Julie also ran her own Cottage Catering Business making the most amazing buffets, cream teas, cakes and pies. The savoury pies had won awards when she worked at Rolands Butchers

Although never wanting any reward, Julie was recognised for all her selfless and challenging work, when she was invited to the Lord Lieutenants Garden Party hosted in Alnwick Gardens by the Duchess of Northumberland.

Julie was so determined not to let this horrible disease ruin her life that she spent her last six months travelling and walking the length and breadth of her beloved Northumberland and beyond. Only



four weeks before her death Julie and Ken went on holiday in North Yorkshire.

In memory of Julie's selfless community work the people of Amble donated to have a memory bench (see article below).

Julie will also have her name inscribed on the new Shannon Class Lifeboat that will be coming onto station in Whitby later in 2023. This was Ken's personal tribute to Julie as Whitby and its lifeboat museum were one of the last places Julie and Ken visited during their holiday to Yorkshire.

Julie touched the hearts of so many people in Amble, Hauxley and beyond and our little "Whirlwind Community Angel" will be missed by all.

Ken Henderson

Tributes to a 'community angel'



Raising a glass in memory of 'community angel' Julie Baxter: l-r: Beverley Carr, Rev Alison Mills, Ken Henderson, Rachel Cook, Val Connell

A memorial seat has been placed on Amble's quayside to remember a 'community angel'.

A large group of well wishers gathered to toast the memory of Julie Baxter who died at the end of September. Rev Alison Mills talked about Julie's generosity; she was famous for her baking and had set up a community

kitchen in St Mark's Church. Alison said: "She filled the soul as well as the belly".

Julie was well known throughout Hauxley and Amble for her generosity, and there were few charities who had not benefitted from her fundraising efforts and support for good causes.

Rachel Cook described how

Julie had jumped straight in to help during Covid, joining Rachel's support group, and baking and delivering food for those in need.

After Julie's death, a fundraising page was set up to buy a memorial seat, which has now been placed with Julie's favourite view of the harbour and across to Warkworth castle.

Aid trips to Ukraine are still ongoing



A little boy in Kherson receiving chocolate from the aid team

It may have slipped down the UK news running order, but aid is still desperately needed in Ukraine. Mariusz Biziewski who lives in Blyth is planning his seventh aid trip to some of the most war-torn parts of Ukraine, and is asking for donations of items to help families there during the winter.

Mariusz told The Ambler that people from the Polish community are still collecting and fundraising, but if anyone would like to donate specific items, he can take them on his next trip, which he is planning to make at the end of February.

"For Polish people, we see that the Ukrainians need our help, they are our neighbours. Russia

has always been an aggressor, so we want to help. Me and my friend now drive the goods to Ukraine. Others collect money. We do what we can."

Mariusz is no stranger to conflict, he is an ex bomb disposal expert with the UN. He described the devastation he had seen in some of his aid trips. "In big places, things are fine, but in the small places, they have nothing. Sirens, alarms, and bombs - 31 December was one of the worst days of the war. Buildings were completely destroyed. These were residential, nothing to do with military."

The aid group are asking specifically for first aid and

medicines, canned food with a long shelf life, toiletries and warm or thermal clothes. Generators are also desperately needed. It will still be winter in Ukraine until the end of March.

It takes the drivers around 72 hours to get from Blyth to the Ukrainian border - after that, it can be another 14 or 15 hours travelling, depending on the conditions.

The dangers to the aid workers are high, but it is seeing the atrocities and appalling conditions of the innocent families caught up in the war, which keeps people like Mariusz returning to help.

Of course, the desire to help has personal consequences. Not only do the aid trips cause stress to



The aid van next to a shell at the edge of the road



The team delivered Christmas gifts to children, as well as aid

their own families, but Mariusz and his friend even lost their jobs.

Mariusz has been to several of the worst affected towns, like Kharkiv, Kherson and Bucha where the massacre occurred. He saw first hand the abject despair on the face of a father whose entire family had been killed.

Why does he continue to go? "I don't know why I'm doing this, but the people need help. My friend and I lost our jobs, we tried to go back to normal, but we couldn't. If I can keep helping, I will."

You can contact Mariusz on: 07907450897
Anna Williams

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We are also passionate about local produce, you can find other tasty, locally made products at our pod such as; **Northumberland Fudge's** range of melt-in-your mouth fudge, made right here in Amble, **Mocha Mondo Coffee** which is freshly roasted just 1 mile away and **Cake Stories** incredible cakes and traybakes from Jesmond to name just a few.



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Tackling anti-social behaviour in Amble

In recent weeks police have received complaints regarding youths kicking at the front doors of properties in the local area. This has happened from when school finishes for the day into the dark evenings. Many victims of these incidents have been elderly residents, and it has left them saddened, scared and frustrated.

Enquiries made by residents and police have identified some of those responsible which has enabled police to conduct home visits to speak with the youths responsible in the presence of their parents/caregivers. During these visits the youths have been issued with ASB (anti-social behaviour) letters. Fortunately, in these instances there has not been any damage caused, however the footprints left on the doors have been a reminder of these senseless acts.

We hope that residents will feel reassured that by reporting ASB incidents to police, they can end with positive outcomes. We do not want the community to believe ASB will be ignored.

We will continue to work alongside local schools, council and partners to deal with issues faced in the community we serve.

If you are affected by anti-social behaviour and have not yet reported this, please do so by calling 111 (non-emergency) or via our website. For all emergencies, please call 999
*Sgt. Les Robson
Northumbria Police*

Marrisse puts Amble on the literary map

Local crime fiction writer Marrisse Whittaker, from Lesbury has featured Amble in her latest book, *Buried Dreams*.

"I set quite an important scene at Amble Harbour and also inside the restaurant Lilly's Landing, but a lot of the action in all of my books takes place along the coast here. I also managed to get a mention for Sweets and Treats, in *Mad Hatter Murders*," Marrisse laughs. "That was the third novel in my Billie Wilde trilogy."

Marrisse, a former TV scriptwriter and producer, sets all of her books in Northumberland, after being offered a three-book deal with Bloodhound Books, having been runner up to the Lindisfarne Prize for Debut Crime Fiction in 2020 with her debut *The Magpie*. The books sell all around the world.

"I love the idea of visitors

as well as locals finding the locations mentioned in the books whilst they are in the middle of reading them. When I was a child, I used to stay at a caravan in Amble, when they were positioned on the dunes. I remember reading Enid Blyton's, *Five On Treasure Island*, whilst looking across to Coquet island. The location in the book seemed almost identical to the seashore where I was sitting.

"My own grandchildren love to have the books read to them when they visit and of course hop on the boat at Amble and see Coquet Island up close.

"Now, I live in Northumberland and set my books around this coastline, so I guess you could say Amble was the spot that inspired me to become an author, all of those years ago."

The Billie Wilde thrillers –



Marrisse Whittaker

The *Magpie*, the *Devil's Line* and the *Mad Hatter Murders*, along with *Buried Dreams*, the first in a new spin-off Wilde and Darque series, can be ordered from bookshops or ordered from a range of online stores. <https://geni.us/BuriedDreams>

Youth Project working with local youngsters

Amble Youth Project continues to work with young people and create projects around their needs. The 'After School Club' is free for 8-13's and runs every Monday and Wednesday from 3.30 - 5.30pm. Get in touch to book a place.

If you are 13+, free on Mondays 6.30 - 8.30pm, and interested in getting involved in projects, please get in touch to find out more.

Attendance is growing at the Friday Night Youth Cafe (13+ Drop-in sessions) 6.30 - 9pm. Young people are planning some great trips out for 2023.



Pop in to see what is on offer, check out our social media or call for more information.

We are also looking for volunteers who have a passion

for work with young people and want to get involved. If you are interested in paid work, we are looking for part time youth support workers. Please contact us for more details.

We have had to change from our Amble Youth Project Appeals Facebook site and are now using www.facebook.com/AmbleYouthProjectFacebook. Community support is essential to all our work, so we'd love you to follow us.

*Tina Gibbinson
Delivery Manager
Amble Youth Project*

How to recycle old blister packs



You might have noticed by the door into St Cuthbert's church, that you can now leave your old blister packs for recycling. The packs are taken on to Superdrug in Ashington.

Blister packs are made from rigid PVC with a cold form foil of aluminium and PVC. This is a durable way to protect medicines but they are hard to recycle so have usually gone to landfill.

Fortunately, a company called Terracycle have schemes to recycle 'hard to recycle' things, such as crisp packets.

They work to collect and recycle blister packs through

collection boxes and send them to processors.

The recycling scheme started in January 2021; 'Little Packs, Big Impact'. It has been a popular scheme, but was overwhelming some chemist shops.

The packs are first cut into strips and then ground into powder, passing over an electrostatic separator that sifts the aluminium and leaves the plastic.

The plastic is turned into reusable pellet material (PET) that is used by other manufacturers to make new

products such as outdoor furniture, bins, planters, and even school playgrounds. In addition, the aluminium can be recovered and reused.

Why are St Cuthbert's Church doing this?

Well, as Christians we know that Jesus tasked us to care for creation – the planet. Caring is done by people of all faiths and none, and we want to contribute.

We are hoping to start other initiatives and join with other groups so that we can make a difference, through action and prayer.

Should Amble have a Neighbourhood Plan?

One thing that I am sure everyone can agree with is that Amble has been through a lot of change in the last ten years.

Some parts of Amble are unrecognisable from a few years ago, some may think this is a good thing some may disagree. Change to some degree is inevitable, but the way in which change takes place can be influenced by the community – if we want it.

A lot of the recent development in Amble has taken place in the absence of a local development plan, although wider plans for Northumberland are now in place. However, a number of areas around Amble (Warkworth, Hauxley etc.) are going a step further and creating a Neighbourhood Plan that enables the local community to have a greater say in how their towns develop in the future.

For Amble, the town council is the only organisation that is legally allowed to create a Neighbourhood Plan and whilst they have looked at the issue over the last ten years, they are not convinced that there is sufficient



There's an online poll on The Ambler's website

interest from the community.

Any Neighbourhood Plan would need to be community led - that means a greater input than just councillors would be required. You do not need to be a planning professional (although that would obviously be useful) to get involved; just have a sensible approach to the process.

A neighbourhood plan puts planning policy in place for a neighbourhood area to guide

future development. It is about the use and development of land and may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. It may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (such as housing, employment, design, heritage and transport) or it may focus on only one or two issues.

We have an online poll on The Ambler's website if you would like to take part. If you think a Neighbourhood Plan for Amble is a good idea and would like to be involved, please email julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk or andrew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

*Julia Aston
Andrew Gooding
Amble Development Trust*


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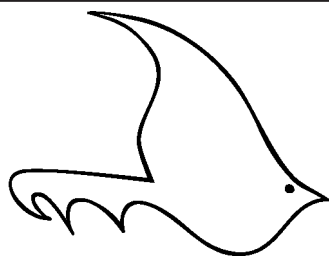
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The Ambler team? We are a friendly
group who welcome contributions
and help from anyone who would
like to volunteer.

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2023 Submissions dates:

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

Help keep The Ambler going out to everyone

In our last editorial we said we hope you value The Ambler and what we do. It is undeniable that The Ambler holds a unique place in the town - we are recognised as the best method to reach the largest number of residents.

And because most of the

articles are written by local people, you can trust that the information we print is verifiable. It costs only 50p an issue to produce and deliver The Ambler to your door, and of course the number of houses in Amble is growing all the time. We want to continue to deliver

to every house in the town, but that means more copies - which means we need more income.

If you value The Ambler, would you consider donating what you can, via the PayPal link at the top of our website?

Thank you

The Ambler team

WHAT YOU SAY...

Christmas lights parade thanks

It was fantastic to see the Christmas Lights Parade, people must have missed it for the past two years, as it seemed the lion's share of Amble turned out to see this wonderful annual event. The Town Square thronged with activity and entertainment, as did the parade itself. It was a real community effort with more than 25 groups and organisations represented - all looked like they had an enormous amount of fun. Having fun and being an integral part of the Amble calendar is what we all aim for.

It was wonderful to have entertainment not only in the parade but also at various positions along the route. We at Amble Events Committee are always looking for ways to improve the occasion, whether it be through entertainment or attractions - so if you

want to be involved or have any ideas, please do get in touch.

Of course, the parade had the tremendous backdrop of the Christmas lights. It is worth remembering Amble Christmas Lights Committee have to find all their own funding. We must be pretty unique in having such a dedicated band of volunteers who work throughout the year to repair, build and put up lights for us all to enjoy when the festive season arrives. If you would like to take part in their work and be a member of their team, please get in touch through The Ambler.

If you enjoy the parade and Christmas lights, as well as other community events in the year like the Puffin Festival, please be as generous as you can when you are asked for a contribution, whether

it be time or money. The costs of staging these events may surprise you - just to close the road for the parade is over £1000, not to mention insurances and licences etc.

We really enjoyed this Christmas parade and we are already looking forward to December 2023. If you want to:

- Be part of the parade organisation
- Join or help the Christmas lights team
- Be a sponsor (companies or individuals)
- Or have ideas for how to make it better - then get in touch now via The Ambler (editor@theambler.co.uk) or Julia Aston (julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk).

Thank you,
Bartle Rippon,
Chair, Amble Events
Committee

Information please

A long lost pal who joined the RAF as a Boy Entrant in 1961 aged 16, Reg Taylor originated from Amble.

I am wondering if he is still around and if anyone from his family can contact me and give me any information.

I was known as Ken Tinker and I hailed from Blyth (although my name has changed since then for personal reasons to Ken Mckean).

Kenmckean100@gmail.com - I live in hope!

Ken Mckean
Via email

Disappearing wildlife habitats

I fully support your correspondent's efforts to protect nature in the boat storage area behind Broomhill Street as did Lily Tibbitts in her excellent article "Wildlife v Weeds" in a previous issue. There are many other sites within Amble rich in plant and animal life worthy of protection. These places harbour Amble's natural heritage which are Amble's links to its rural past.

These sites are relatively small but varied. Each has its own distinctive flora and fauna. The whitebeams and rowans which were felled on the Coquet Industrial Estate earlier this year were one such habitat which if they had been protected might well have offered a rich food source to the waxwing and

fieldfare which turned up in Priory Park a few days before Christmas.

Other sites around the industrial estate are home to Meadow Brown and Small Skipper butterflies as well as Cinnabar moths. Wildflowers such as Cuckoo Flower, Meadow Buttercup, Common Knapweed and Hoary Ragwort which help to sustain these insects and many others, are also present.

The presence of orchids also hint at unimproved pasture, a unique habitat which is disappearing elsewhere. Identifying and protecting such sites from development and mis-management would cost little and they could become an attraction to visitors and

residents alike and could even be of educational value to local schools as environmental study areas.

Before Hauxley Grange was built skylarks sang over the former meadow in Spring and Summer and probably nested there too. A barn owl used to hunt over the rough grass verge, now under tarmac, adjacent to Percy Drive. Slowly but surely nature is disappearing from Amble. The Braid, with its wealth of biodiversity, is presently under threat of development. Perhaps now is the time to halt this trend and instead recognise the community value these areas offer.

Yours sincerely,
Hugh Tindle, via email

Ambles Food Bank (AFB) would like to thank our communities for their continued generosity, during such challenging times.

We were overwhelmed by the scale of food and financial donations during December, without these we simply would cease to exist. In the run up to Christmas we received in excess of £3,000, (which does not include regular standing orders.) We hope that people will continue to be as generous in 2023. We are truly grateful for every single gift; each one really does make a difference.

Thank you to Morrison's for organising the pick-up bags, the Co-op for managing the food bin and the Food Share items (clients benefit from food that would otherwise be binned).

We are fortunate to have so many businesses and local establishments supporting our charity, the following businesses kindly donated food or festive items in the run up to Christmas: Styles by Helena, Nu.U Hair Salon, Harbour Lights Church, Amble WI, The Mad Jam Woman, and Heron's customers who bought savings stamps that provided food items and The



Amble Inn who purchased over £700 worth of food items.

Thank you to James Calvert Spence College for organising a collection of food on their Festive Jumper Day. Thank you to all who donated.

Thank you to Alexa's Canine Trust who continue to donate cat and dog food. Donated pet food enables pets to stay in their family homes.

With the increase in referrals to AFB, we now have to carry out regular 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 with 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 currently have collection tins at the Co-op, The Farm bakery and The Boat Shed Gallery at Amble Harbour Village.

Food items can be dropped off at either Morrison's or The Co-op.

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.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Amble Food Bank

Advertisement feature

I didn't know you could do that!

Amble based William Purves Funeral Directors has written a free guide to help local families arrange personal funerals for their loved ones called "I didn't know you could do that!"



Drawing on years of experience, the Amble team guide families through the many choices of coffins, transport, celebrations to create the perfect send-off. For some it's all about fuss free, simple affairs and for others, a greener goodbye or an extravagant event is important.

From the patriot, the band player, the farmer and fisherman, the teacher, the family member, the sports enthusiast – our expertise is available for free. Pop in to our Bede Street branch or we can come to you with a range of free resources to help plan ahead.

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Flying thousands of miles to raise young on our shores

As the days get longer and spring approaches, the extra hours of daylight signal to many species that it is time for some seasonal behavioural changes. For most wildlife, spring heralds their breeding season, when they make the most of the warmer temperatures and extra daylight to produce the next generation.

Many of the shorebirds seen on the Northumberland coast over winter push this seasonal behaviour even further by undertaking incredible feats of migration. These tenacious birds can fly thousands of miles to reach their breeding grounds, where the habitat is better suited to raising their young and giving their chicks the best possible chance of survival.

Around April each year our Purple Sandpipers set off on a journey of up to 2,000 miles that will take them as far north as Svalbard, deep inside the Arctic Circle. Their chicks, once hatched, can run around and feed themselves within a couple of hours and during their summer when the sun never sets, they get 24 hours of daylight to cram in as much feeding as possible and within one month they are ready to fledge.

When young birds first undertake migration, they are



Purple Sandpiper and Turnstone

driven purely by instinct, but if they succeed, they can learn from experience and memorise their route. This allows them to revisit the best stop-over locations to rest and refuel, as well as learning about the best winter-feeding grounds.

For Purple Sandpipers to stand a chance of making it through this huge journey and arriving in the Arctic with enough energy to raise a family, it is important that they leave our shores in the best possible condition. This means that while they are here it is important for them to feed up as much as possible and to conserve calories

so that they have enough energy for their flight. The good news is the Northumberland coast has excellent feeding opportunities for shorebirds. There is a fantastic mosaic of habitats along our shores, a mixture of muddy bays and estuaries, sandy beaches and gently sloping rock platforms that offer a wide variety of food sources.

Unfortunately, these birds can really struggle to get enough calories if they are disturbed by people using the beach. Flying away from a disturbance costs energy, particularly in freezing winter weather. Luckily, we can take some simple steps to reduce

the disturbance we cause when enjoying the coast. Firstly, we can look for where the birds are on the shore and give them space, usually 40 - 50m will prevent disturbance. This might mean moving off the beach to the coastal path for a short stretch, particularly at high tide. This can make a real difference.

Secondly, our dogs love spending time on beaches too, but they can also cause disturbance if they get excited and want to chase the shorebirds. Big sandy expanses of beach are used less than rocky and muddy areas by shorebirds at this time of year, so they are wonderful places to let dogs run and let off steam while keeping bird disturbance to a minimum.

For more information on how you can make a difference visit spaceforshorebirds.co.uk or follow us on social media. We also run guided walks and birdwatching events throughout the year along the Northumberland coast. You can sign up for these for free on our website, so why not come along and see what you can spot?

Thank you for giving space for shorebirds.

*Ben Arthur
Space for Shorebirds*

NIFCA CEO to retire

Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA) chief executive officer Mike Hardy is retiring after almost 20 years at the helm.

Mike leaves after serving 19 years in the leadership role, firstly with Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee from 2003 and then NIFCA from 2011. Mark Southerton, the organisation's chief enforcement officer will take on the Chief Officer role as part of a new management structure.

Based in Blyth, NIFCA was established in 2011 to replace the Sea Fisheries Committee and is one of ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) dedicated to looking after the marine environment and promoting sustainable fishing practices.

The Northumberland district covers an area from the mid-



L-r: Mark Southerton and Mike Hardy

point of the River Tyne to the Scottish border and extends six nautical miles out to sea along the coastline.

"It's been a privilege and an honour to lead this great organisation," said Mike. "Working alongside my NIFCA colleagues, members and

stakeholders to champion and sustainably manage our inshore fisheries and marine environment is quite exceptional and unique".

"NIFCA's future is very bright under my successor Mark Southerton, who joined the Sea Fisheries Committee in 1995, and has been instrumental in

supporting NIFCA's strategic direction. He will continue to guide the Authority, together with an exceptionally dedicated and able team. I look forward to receiving reports of them and NIFCA in general continuing to go from strength to strength."

NIFCA chair, Les Weller, said: "I would like to thank Mike for his years of dedication. He has led the Authority with integrity and commitment, and under Mike's leadership, NIFCA has kept pace, helping to balance the needs of our delicate marine environment with the social and economic needs of the NIFCA district, for the betterment of our communities.

"Mike's contributions have positioned NIFCA well for continued success and will always be valued. On behalf of our board, we thank him and wish him well in his well-deserved retirement."

Alba's adventures to promote mental health

Meet Alba, she's eight and since March 2021 has been on a mission to raise awareness for mental health and charities supporting it. For those who don't know her, she's doing it for her daddy and those just like him. From only three months old, Alba was visiting him in psychiatric hospitals while he did all he could to get well enough to be home. They did bedtimes via facetime, supervised visits and Christmas in family rooms on the wards of big hospitals. And now Alba wants to do all she can to change the way people see and talk about mental health.

She's achieved so much in such a short space of time, walking hundreds of miles, and thousands of steps and raising over £20,000 during this time.

And now she's planning another attempt. On January 21 Alba arrived in Amble. She will stay the night ready to start her 100 mile trek the following day, walking all the way down to Redcar, doing it in only seven days.

Following this she'll be back in Amble in February and walk



Eight year old Alba will be making two charity walks from Amble

north to the England/Scotland border.

In September Alba walked from Redcar to Spurn Point on the mouth of the River Humber, so by the end of February she will have walked the border to Spurn over three weeks. In March she'll be starting her longest multi day hike of two weeks, 200 miles south to around Hunstanton in Norfolk.

Alba is supporting Mind throughout 2023, starting with

Leeds Mind, then in March supporting the Hull and East Yorkshire branch.

She'll be rocking her yellow croc wellies, bright odd socks and huge smile. You may spot her running, dancing, singing, making sandcastles and happily waving and chatting to anyone on route. You can read all about her on her Facebook page: Albasadventures and website: www.albasadventures.co.uk

Finding new and interesting walks

With spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northumberland <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris
www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk




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World famous dancer inspires us all



Fernando Montano is a man of many talents, and it was incredible for us to interview him and hear some of his stories.

In his own words, 'I'm a very curious person', making him a fascinating and inspiring individual to listen to; he is an ex dancer for the Royal Ballet, but has also pursued interests in fashion and marine conservation.

Fernando comes from Columbia, where he grew up playing football but watching ballet dancers on TV. He 'loved the way they were moving', and was eventually able to move to the only ballet school in the country at age 12, chasing his dream of being a dancer.

'You really become the best version of yourself', he said about taking

risks, because he was forced to leave his family behind. It was very evident when talking to him that dancing is his life's calling – when he talks about it he lights up and it was so exciting to witness that.

One of the surprising things about Fernando during our interview was that he started by telling us he is an ambassador for the Marine Conservation Society. His interest in marine life stems from his childhood, where he was unable to learn to swim because the water was too dirty where he grew up.

In 2018, Fernando decided to use his platform to spread awareness for marine wildlife and the threats it faces. He decided that an underwater photoshoot as 'a good image could transcend the message'. He invited several London schools to

help him create it by recycling their plastic and making a background and the result, titled 'Dance For The Sea', was shown all around the country in June 2018.

Another of his accomplishments is his fashion collection, born from the spare time he needed to fill during Covid, 'a good time to start doing sketches'. His fashion brand 'Maison Cachua' debuted in 2021 with a unique line of clothes, with Fernando in charge of design and small businesses in Peru and Columbia controlling creation. Fernando explained that fashion had always interested him, but hadn't expected his dreams to come true so early.

Fernando Montano is proof that anything is possible with enough determination and spirit. His



Back row: Ava, Hannah, Evangeline and Noah. Front row with Fernando: Nina and Cindy

home city in Colombia is called Buenaventura, which means good adventure. That seems fitting because of the wonderful and full

life he has lived.

By Ava

Pokemon Violet review



I got Pokemon Violet for Christmas and it was very good. I was happy. It was fun. I chose Sprigatito as my starter (obviously) and then I did the storyline and finished the game.

The game crashed like six times though, but it is still good. It also had a lot of glitches for example Miraidon would disappear when I rode on it so I would just be floating in the air for a couple of seconds but I'm not mad because it was really funny.

On my team right now I have a Cyclizar, a shiny iron valiant, a Meowscarada, a Tinkaton, a Tyranitar and a Mismagius. It might not be the strongest team but it's cute and that's all I care about. Also in spring, you will be able to transfer

some Pokemon to Scarlet and Violet that aren't in the game normally, like the starters of X and Y, Froakie, Fennekin and Chespin.

I remember when I finished the game and the end credits played I got jumpscared by an Ed Sheeran song.

I love the game but the frequent glitches can be annoying and off putting since you could lose a lot of progress if you forgot to save, but apart from the glitches (which hopefully will be fixed soon) the game is very good and I really like it, so I give it a 4.5/5.

By Grace



Taste the energy!

Young dancers from Carol Gray's Dance School, and Alnwick Academy of Dance also met Fernando and asked him some questions. Fernando gave tips on stage fright: "It's always good to be nervous because it means you are passionate. It's only human to feel fear or nerves, so never be afraid. Taste the energy!"

Evangeline asked what had been Fernando's biggest challenge in his dancing career. Fernando described being asked to perform at the Colombian Presidential inauguration in 2022. He had only three days to prepare, including a 10 hour flight and had to acclimatise (Bogota the capital of Colombia is one of the highest cities in the world).

Fernando explained it had been very physically challenging, and he knew the pressure was on as it was going to be televised.

After the interview, everyone said how inspired they were after meeting him. Cindy told us: "I enjoyed meeting Fernando.". Music student Noah said: "He was

very inspiring, and I was surprised to learn how young he was when he left home. It was absolutely amazing and highlighted how big the world was and how dreams can be achieved."

Evangeline said: "It was 10/10. He was very interesting and I enjoyed meeting him."

Should we take maths until 18?



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has suggested that we should all study maths to 18. Here's what I think... NO NO NO I HATE THAT IDEA SO MUCH!!! You should only take maths till you are 18 if you like it or you need it for a job you want. If I had to take maths for that long I would be VEEEEEEERY annoyed.

The good things are:

- You could get a job in something maths related if you study it for longer.
- You will get better at maths
- We asked a 15 year old who LIKES maths what she thought. She told us: "I'd say, overall as a nation we would be capable of achieving more. It also helps with brain, knowledge and memory capacity."

The bad things are:

- Maths is boring and can be so hard : (
- Not everyone wants to be an accountant or do something maths related
- It's a waste of time to study it if you don't like it.
- It's just genuinely such a BAD idea.

By Grace

Is it ever ok for kids to hold guns?



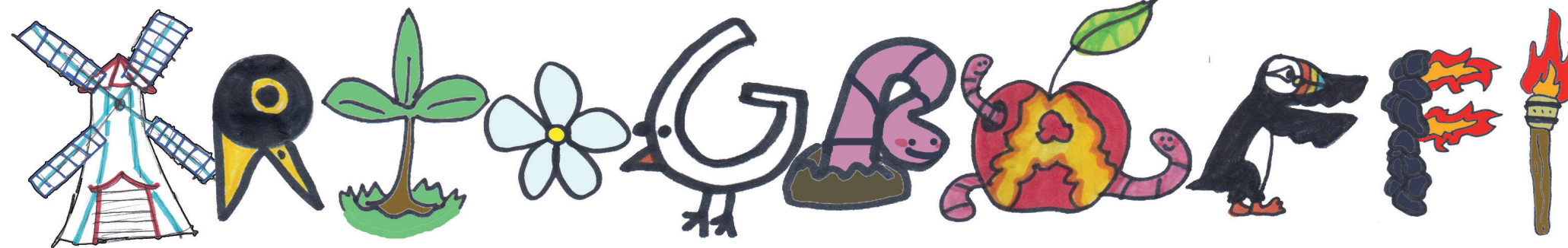
SHOOTING STAR: At the end of November me and Katie, (and Thomas and Kyle from cadets) took part in a shooting competition. We won! We won a trophy bowl for my detachment because we got the highest shooting scores. In the individual competition Kyle (from my team) won the runner up getting 96/100 shots perfect and I won the competition because I got 98/100 shots perfect and I got a gold medal. This was out of 200 people. That is an example of good shooting.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY: An example of bad shooting is how a six year old shot his teacher in America. The six year old claims that he did it purposefully. The court is wondering what to do with a boy of such a young age. My question is what is a six year old doing with a gun? In school?



School shootings in the US by a student so young are rare but not unprecedented. Gun violence experts say there have only been three other shootings caused by six-year-old students among 16 incidents involving shooters under the age of 10 since 1970. However, those incidents have typically involved other students, not teachers.

By Katie and Hannah



Book recommendations to get you through winter



One Last Stop by Casey McQuiston - the cutest rom-com between August, a new-New Yorker, and Jane, who may or may not be from the 70s and stuck in time on a train.

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong - this book is hard to put down. It's a very poetic letter to a mother who can't read, with themes of the Vietnam War, race, class and sexuality.

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid - Taylor is a master at world building in this story about the luxurious life of Evelyn Hugo and the wild times she had in the 80s. 10/10

Heartstopper by Alice Oseman - an extremely wholesome comic book about young love- you should also check out the Netflix adaptation!

Women Don't Owe You Pretty by Florence Given - a non-fiction book all about how to improve your life as a woman and the women around you. Both helpful and funny, Florence's book is a must read.

Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan - good for younger readers, 'Percy Jackson' follows the son of Poseidon on adventures.

By Ava

Don't vape, kids



Statistics in a new report from youth charity The Mix, shows that one in three 16-25 year olds have vaped in the last month. Whilst it was once seen as a positive development to help those trying to quit their addiction to cigarettes, vapes have become a trend among children as young as 11, particularly in the North East.

Their fun colours and flavours are often blamed for inviting young people to try them, so I believe they should be treated like cigarettes- sold behind closed doors with strict ID checks. They are far too accessible, encouraging young people to pick up the habit and making it seem fashionable.

Hannah says: "There's eleven year olds that vape. It's actually disgusting".

By Ava

Note to self: better time management needed

Newcastle University takes a six week break over Christmas and New Year, leaving us plenty of time to have fun, see family, and wonder what on earth we're paying ten grand a year for.

It should've been a nice, fun break with lots of time to spend with my family and friends back home, but the relaxing aspect that usually comes with a nice long holiday gets lost a bit when they also set four essays to do before mid January.

I shouldn't really be complaining. Four isn't that many compared to what some of my friends have been getting the last few months, but I really wanted to

spend the Christmas holidays with my mum, dad and sister, having a fun time rather than stressing about summative assessments, so I prioritised family time over work time, which is a great idea in theory. In practice it was very bad for my word count.

The week before the deadline involved a lot more stress writing into the late hours of the night than I would usually be doing, resulting in four essays that were all submitted around an hour and a half before the deadline, which I considered a win. It was only afterwards I realised the following week I had to submit my creative writing portfolio for a different

module- the creative writing that I had been super excited about, the creative writing that was most of the reason I chose this university course.

It wasn't that I had forgotten about my creative writing, it was just that I considered it to be the most fun part of my course, and therefore not really worthwhile. So I did my essays and left the creative writing until last, squeezed in before the deadline so I couldn't really enjoy writing it as much as I wanted to.

If I was going to set one resolution this year, it might be this: to do what I love (it should be relatively easy to get this

cliche phrase on one of those nice wooden mantelpiece posters to remind me of it daily). Cliche though it may be, it reminds me that I need to make time for family and for writing- two of my favourite things- and not just fall into the trap of thinking the 'academic' side of things is what I should be focusing on most. I plan to be writing a lot more stories than essays in the future, so why shouldn't that start now?

Or perhaps my resolution should be better time management. Seems unlikely, though.



Did you know...

You now need photo ID to vote

For the first time, voters will need to show photo ID when they vote in person at elections in England.

This is a change being introduced by the UK Government and will apply to all future local elections: referendums, recall petitions and Police and Crime Commissioner elections from May 2023 and all UK Parliamentary General Elections from October 2023.

These new requirements will not affect electors who vote by post.

Voters are being asked to check in good time, whether they have an accepted form of ID and to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate if they don't.

Accepted forms of ID include a driving licence, passport, as well as some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or a blue badge. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for free voter ID, at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.

If you have a query regarding Voter ID, or need help applying you can contact the county council's election team: 01670 624811 or email: elections@northumberland.gov.uk

New residents at Druridge Pools

Great news! Harvest mice have set up home on a second Northumberland Wildlife Trust reserve at Druridge Bay.

Just two months after 13 more harvest mice nests were discovered on the wildlife charity's East Chevington nature reserve, some of the tiny mammals have headed one mile down the road to its Druridge Pools site.

Weighing the same as a 10p coin, harvest mice like to live in long tufted grass and reedbeds. They build distinctive circular grass nests the size of a tennis ball on tall plants, three feet from the ground.

In 2021, 200 harvest mice were released onto the East Chevington reserve as part of the Trust's Catch My Drift project. Since then 36 nests have been discovered on the 185 hectare site, with 13 of them being found last autumn, totally by accident, over one mile away



Harvest mouse by Joel Ireland

from all the other nests.

At the start of this year, two members of the Catch My Drift team and five volunteers looked at a map of the area around the East Chevington reserve, thinking if the mice had travelled one mile across that reserve, there was nothing stopping them venturing outside it.

The most likely spot for them to move to was Druridge

Pools, a little over one mile from East Chevington with the same kind of habitat favoured by harvest mice - long tufted grass, reed beds, good scrub land and hedgerows for nesting.

Following an extensive search, two nests were discovered much to the delight of all involved and hopefully the first two of many.

Sophie Webster, Catch My Drift Project Officer says:

"Talk about a great start to 2023. After we found the East Chevington nests one mile away across the reserve from the others, it spurred us on to look further afield.

"Harvest mice numbers have declined throughout the UK in the last 40 years and are now quite rare; so to find nests on two sites is a wonderful sign that they are not only breeding but using habitat corridors to expand and establish populations around the area."

Youngsters learn about archaeology

Year 5 students at James Calvert Spence College (JCSC), Amble, received an introduction to the fascinating work of archaeologists thanks to a visit from the Newcastle University outreach programme.

Outreach Ambassador Isabelle Morris introduced the enthusiastic pupils to archaeology through a look at the world of the Romans, explaining how archaeology has shaped what we know about the Roman Empire and everyday Roman life.

During the workshop, children learned about Roman

buildings and the gods Romans worshipped. They also discovered how Romans communicated, learning some common Latin words.

Students had the chance to explore the role of archaeologists, asking questions about what they do and how to become an archaeologist.

This led to some fantastic discussions about universities. The children were keen to hear about university life and how and when you can study subjects at university.

Mrs Johnson, Head of Lower School at JCSC, said:

"The children have soaked up so much information this morning. After the workshop, the children chatted about Roman life and university, which was lovely. For younger students, university education can sometimes seem like a far-off possibility, geographically and because they may not know much about what it means to go to university.

"Thank you to Newcastle University and Ms Morris for helping Year 5 dig into archaeology and their aspirations for the future."

James Calvert Spence College

Choking dog - what to do



Coquet Vets have made a video of what you can do if your dog is choking. You can find it on their website or via <https://youtu.be/qBTTLmJVseI>

Although extremely uncommon, choking is not unheard of in dogs, especially larger breeds. Complete obstruction of the airway is very rare, but it can be catastrophic when it occurs and is deemed as an emergency. Here's what to do if you suspect a dog is choking on something.

The most usual cause of a complete obstruction is a ball

that has been thrown by an owner and caught by a dog, and subsequently got wedged in the back of the dog's throat, obstructing the dog's airway.

Signs of choking

- Frothing at mouth
- Panic
- Shaking of head or pawing at mouth
- Collapse

It is essential that the obstruction is removed as soon as possible, and unfortunately, time is of the essence. If the dog is able to get some air in (if there isn't a complete obstruction) you can attempt removal, but if unsuccessful, then rush to the nearest vets. If, however, the obstruction is complete and the dog can't breathe, even a short trip to the vets could be too late.

What to do:

1. Try to stay calm
 2. Shout for help
 3. Whilst doing 1 and 2, if at all possible, turn the dog onto its back - ask anyone around to help keep them in this position. Try to massage from behind the throat towards the dog's nose - 'milking' out the ball. (See our demo video).
 4. If you try to remove the obstruction via the mouth, there is a high chance you will be bitten, and unfortunately, a chance you could push the obstruction further down
 5. If step 3 fails, try some short hard blows on the dog's chest.
- We have made a short

demonstration video which shows you how to massage a dog from behind the throat towards the dog nose - 'milking' out the ball. See <https://youtu.be/qBTTLmJVseI>

Things to consider:

- Use balls with a hole through the middle
- Size of ball - is it a choking hazard?
- Use something other than a ball

There is additional advice from First Aid for Life (<https://bit.ly/3WktdpB>) to show you what you can do to help a choking dog.

We hope that this never happens to any of our patients, but please pass this article on as it could save a dog's life.

If you are a client at Coquet Vets, and you have an emergency situation, please call us without delay on 01665 252250. For further contact information and our out of ours emergency service, please visit our 'Contact Us' page.

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Reports from our County Councillors



Myself and fellow Councillor Jeff Watson

have funded through our small members scheme a video camera that will allow the police to zoom in and capture clear pictures when pursuing off road motorcycles especially along our national coastal footpath.

It can also be utilised for obtaining the registration plates of the bikes themselves or the vehicles dropping them off, as well as providing evidence for prosecuting off road nuisance motor vehicles.

This camera will help gather details of nuisance off road bikes in the area to help build intelligence regarding offenders in helping the police with the dangers of anti-social biking within Amble, Hauxley, North Broomhill and Warkworth.

Police are fully aware of

how anti-social off road bikes can cause distress and noise nuisance as well as a danger to the public and riders themselves. Purchasing this camera will increase the police resources in addressing this problem.

There has also been counter measures put in to limit access to these vehicles along the Dolphin Court / Fontburn footpath, installing barriers while giving enough space for mobility access.

Residents need to note details of anyone they see driving illegally or causing a nuisance on these bikes, anyone who has information please contact Northumbria Police - phone 101. Email northumbria.police.uk

Hopefully these measures when combined will help to lessen the impact of these bikes on the local community.

Cllr Terry Clark Amble, Hauxley and North Broomhill.

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk 07779 983768

Advertising feature

Will your dog go nuts for this?

Dog Owners! Did you know nut butter can be a very beneficial part of your dogs' diets as well as a delicious treat? Well...not all nut butters, as some contain harmful additives. The Nut Roaster all-natural nut butters don't contain any harsh chemicals or additives at all, just pure 100% nuts ground down into creamy butters, so they are perfectly safe for your dog and even good enough for us humans to eat!

Including nut butter in your dog's diet can aid a strong immune system, support healthy skin, a glossy coat and boost vital nutrient levels. We recommend a serving of up to 15g per day (approx. 1 tablespoon). It's a perfect addition if you are feeding your companion a raw dog food diet, or using a treat toy and as it's a high-reward treat it's perfect for puppy training. We love our natural peanut butter the most for fluffy companions as it's high in nutrients, fibre, protein, healthy fats and it's a good source of folic acid, which can support cell growth. You can find our range of natural nut butters online or at The Nut Roaster, Pod 11, Amble Harbour Village and other retail outlets across Northumberland. To be a stockist please get in touch. www.thenutroaster.co.uk



**HAUXLEY
PARISH
COUNCIL**

The Parish Council are holding a Spring Litter Pick around the Village which will take place on Saturday 25 March, meeting at Hauxley Village Hall.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the 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

I was delighted that Northumberland County Council allocated £10,000 to the Amble Food Bank to help with its good work.

Central Government have also given grants to our schools to help with heating costs. The grants are £30,000+ for James Calvert Spence College, £13,000+ for Amble Links and £12,000+ for Amble First School.

The plans for the new structure of the Coquet Schools partnership are progressing. There are meetings taking place between planners and interested partners to ensure that the Amble area as well as the schools can benefit from the massive capital investment that is being made in this development.

I have been working with

NCC officers/
Sports England/
Football
Foundation to
include sports

and recreational activities that will improve what is available to our young people and the community as a whole. A 3G pitch available to all is one of my priorities along with ample free parking to alleviate the problems that occur on Acklington Road when the Welfare ground is being used

As Amble continues to grow I believe it is imperative to improve the facilities that the community needs to keep active and healthy and I will continue to work towards that aim.

Jeff Watson

Amble West with Warkworth

Jeffrey.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk 07802 385367



Review: The Wind in the Willows

Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) ended their seven week tour of The Wind in the Willows at the Dovecote Centre in Amble, their home.

It was a Sunday evening before school so there were only a couple of kids in the audience. The rest were big kids, like me, who hadn't read the book for 50 or 60 years.

There was a backdrop of blue sky, white clouds, trees and the hint of a riverbank. There were minimal props. It would have been easy to dress the actors in animal costumes, but no. Moley, for example, wore sleek black jacket and trousers, Toad wore an outrageous, brightly-coloured, broad-striped jacket. I believed in them.

There was music. Two of the actors played guitars and sang. Lucy Desbrow produced background music and the audience poop-pooped along with Toad where appropriate. The mood veered from

Music Hall to Benny Hill to Shakespeare.

Wind in the Willows is a moral tale about greed and arrogance in the form of Toad and how he gets his comeuppance. This production was skilfully written and directed by Louis Roberts. I was disappointed that he was not in the cast too. The story didn't need fancy sets and props. It was conveyed through the acting and the music. It was pure theatre, well done. The experience was warm and life-affirming.

I came out of the Dovecote Centre thinking how lucky I am to have access to such high-quality theatre on my doorstep.

I can't wait for the next NTC production, The Ambler will keep you informed. Also, check the NTC website regularly, they are looking for trustees at the moment.

See you at the Dovecote Centre soon. (Poop poop)
Chris Herzberg



Wishing a happy New Year to all Ambler readers. Well Christmas has been and gone, the lights once again were wonderful and the Rekindle and Light Procession were unrivalled successes with even more participants than we could have hoped for, after all this time of following Covid restrictions.

Investment Plan

We are starting the year off with a community workshop to build an Investment Plan for the town. This plan will capture participants' ideas, that we could put forward for funding as and when appropriate, if we can match the criteria (which generally has to be about job creation). While we cannot accommodate everyone to attend the meeting in person you are welcome to forward ideas by email to myself or Andrew Gooding: andrew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

The report has to be completed by the end March, so thinking caps on if you have any

ideas you think would benefit the town.

Neighbourhood Plan

Still on the community development aspect, you will notice an article on p5 of this Ambler asking if you would be interested in working to develop a Neighborhood Plan. This would involve meetings and data gathering to ascertain what the community would like included.

While there are certain things that cannot be determined by this type of plan, there is no set format or criteria that must be included. It's a way of giving the community the chance to have their say on how the town could progress in the future, which is being encouraged by NCC. If you are interested, please email me or Andrew at the Trust (email addresses are below).

We will be relying on the town council to progress this if there is sufficient interest. We will collate the responses and forward them to the council for consideration.

Bord Waalk

At the time of writing we have only two sculptures left to install, one on Horseshoe Hill and the other in the new car park on Turner Street. The app is just about ready to be released once all installations are done. We will also be printing leaflets because we are aware that not everyone wants or uses a smartphone.

Please keep sending the photos in so we can add them to our portfolio and add them to the app (if you are happy for us to do so). Or use the hashtag #AmbleBordWaalk in your social media posts.

If you would like to know more please feel free to call into the Trust office or email me.

Welfare and Orchard

At the Welfare we have submitted an application to NCC for funding to replace the rubber crumb surface in the children's play area. As with all funding there are no guarantees we will be successful, but you have to be in to stand a chance of winning!

We are also meeting with NCC officers to discuss Playzones, which are basically multi use games areas. While we already have two at the Welfare, they could do with some freshening up, so again fingers crossed.

Plans for the Orchard continue and some trial work should happen there in the coming weeks. For further information on the orchard contact; andrew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org

Contact us

Our job search facilities are now open from 9.30 – 11.30 each weekday. CVs: julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

The Ambler: editor@theambler.co.uk

Andrew Gooding: andrew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Julia Aston: julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk or ring 01665 712929

Julia, all Trust staff and Trustees



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Amble Town

Town: 12th Jan, 9th Feb, 9th March at 6p.m. Amenities: 26th Jan 2023,
30th March at 6p.m.
Amenities: 6pm at Fourways 2 Top Floor

COUNCIL

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 NE65 0HY 01665 712342	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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LINKS AVENUE BUS SHELTER

The roof and ceiling here have been affected by the rain. As Travelsure and Arriva no longer operate a service on this route the Council have decided to demolish the shelter. The property boundaries will be retained for their privacy. This is considerably cheaper than a repair, should a service be reinstated on the route. then a new shelter will be considered.

A CHAIRMAN'S PLEA

Who am I? I am a Councillor- an unpaid volunteer, who happily attends meetings, sometimes late into winter evenings. I deal daily with complaints about the state of Amble. I try to understand quite complicated legislation and Government Policies. There are very few of us compared with the population of Amble - seven to be exact.

There have been many changes in Amble since I arrived here 13 years ago. Some say Amble has improved and that it is more economically sound, but others have the opposite view in that change has been bad for the town. The old Amble is fading with time. Both views are of course important. Progress will always create this conflict, but I believe that without improvements Amble could have become just another fading old fishing port where the younger generation could move away as no work prospects exist. Yes, undoubtedly there is a problem with progress in that housing becomes difficult to get but this is a country wide problem and not just specific to Amble.

"So, you are a Councillor on the useless Council who should all resign, especially with the negative vibes coming out of the office " quoted from a person I met recently. Their impression seems to be that a Councillor does not look after the interests of the Community but we all do try our best to do that. The Town Council are also victims of those known as "Keyboard Social Justice Warriors." Thankfully many people don't let their fingers do the talking but feel more comfortable contacting us directly to get a better response to their query. Come along to a Council meeting to see just what is involved and gain a greater understanding of what actually happens. You may be surprised and feel you'd like to help. We are not experts, we are not trained in what we do but we do try to apply local knowledge. We can get it wrong sometimes but we have to be transparent in every aspect of our discussions. I do believe that my efforts and my time are well spent for the benefit of Amble and the Community. I believe that as a Town Councillor I can make a difference. Can you? Come forward, come out of the shadows. There are vacancies on the Council which wants to reflect all of the community including those new to the area. If you feel that you care about Amble then contact the Town Clerk 01665 714695 for details on how to join. Go on- I dare you give it a go!

{Views expressed are those of the individual and not necessarily those of the council}

WEST CULVERT

The culvert, which carries surface water from the west of Amble and joins with the system near the bottom of the Wynd, runs through the West Cemetery, near the entrance, and the West Allotment site. In order for the new estate on Acklington Road to use this system, a survey was needed to determine its ability to cope. It was found to be very robust despite its age; however a small section needs to be diverted to ensure future reliability. Work is planned for mid- February so please do not be alarmed if you see large machinery going into the allotment area. The diversion will mainly be near and within the redundant raised bed section and every attempt will be made to minimise disruption to tenants. Notices will be displayed when a date is confirmed.

GRITTING

Whilst NCC Highways and Neighbourhood Services will place grit bins at some locations i.e. where there are steep hills, sharp bends or steps, the policy does not finance them to be placed around town nor for use on all footpaths. Once the footpaths in the centre of a town is completed, if time permits, operatives will move towards schools and elderly residential areas before tackling other streets. In the recent icy spell, we did contact NCC to ask for more gritting of streets to be carried out. Residents can apply to NCC for a grit bin but the same criteria needs to be applied before this will be agreed. NCC will not supply private residences but will treat adopted footpaths as soon as they can.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEMORIAL PLANTER

This proposed tribute will go ahead as a joint project with NCC and will be in the Gibson Street area where the shrubs have been removed. The bed facing the Wynd will be raised at the rear to enhance the effect; the border will be a variety of seasonal heathers with the letters E and R in box hedging and the II in various flowering plants including Lily of the Valley. To complete the area, the rear bed will have 4 planters placed onto it with seasonal bedding throughout the year.

CEMETERIES

The western boundary of the West Cemetery is soon to have more trees planted from the County's Treescape Fund. If you would like to help with this, please give your contact details to the Clerk. The tarmac path here between the upper turning circle and section M is to be removed and grass installed instead. Remember the water is turned off until early April. Although the drive is gritted in frosty weather, care still needs to be taken there and more especially on the side paths. The East Cemetery gates are back in place after refurbishment and painting- please remember the handle turns anti-clockwise to open them!

CCTV

Council have engaged a new contractor for the CCTV network. You will see work being carried out as all the cameras are being assessed and realigned or replaced where needed to ensure an effective system continues to be in place.

SAFE CROSSING

We are assured that plans are progressing to install a safe crossing on Percy Drive - at the end of Fontburn, across to the Allotment path to the Industrial Estate. We are still lobbying hard for another crossing from Priory Park.

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

This page is written and paid for by Amble Town Council

New health programme for fishing families

A new health drive has been launched in Amble for fishermen and their families.

The first event took place in January at Coquet House, the new Harbour Office on Amble's quayside, and there will be additional dates throughout the year.

There will be a range of free services for retired and active fishermen from health checks, physiotherapist, mental health support, Prostate Cancer UK, a GP, Pharmacist and a Social Prescribing Link Worker. Healthwatch Northumberland will also be on hand to listen to the fishermen's experiences of local health services.

Well Up North Primary Care Network, as part of its health equity drive for the people of North Northumberland, have joined forces with the SeaFit Programme, which is run jointly by The Fishermens Mission and the Seafarers Hospital Society, along with Healthwatch Northumberland and Amble



l-r: Karen Gibson, Well Up North; Brian Douglas, Skipper Sarah Louise; Peter Dade, Fishermen's Mission

Harbourmaster, to deliver a new health equity pilot programme "Health at the Quayside" for the fishing community (past and present), and their families of Amble.

Karen Gibson, Health Inequality Project Lead for the PCN stated "This pilot programme is designed to improve the physical and

mental health and wellbeing of our fishermen. Working in the fishing industry is one of the most challenging jobs. Work-related injuries are high within this industry and time spent at sea means it can be difficult to access appropriate health care.

"We are very much looking forward to working collaboratively with our partners

in this pilot.

"Healthcare in a place based setting in the heart of the fishing community in Amble."

Further dates throughout the year are: Wed 29th March, Wed 31st May, Wed 26th July, Wed 27th September, Wed 29th November.

For further information about welfare support please contact the Fishermen's Mission Area Officer Peter Dade 07917 754259

For further information about the SeaFit Programme please contact Carolelliott@fishermensmission.org.uk or call 07486 319621

Women's Workshop need a trailer

The Women's Workshop in Amble need a twin axle, 4 wheeled trailer, capable of supporting a 2 tonne load and measuring 2x3metres.

If any one has one for sale, or which they can gift, please get in touch with Eileen Sutherland eileensutherland1951@gmail.com

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DANCE CLASSES IN AMBLE

Alnwick Academy of Dancing
Amble Branch

Dance classes for
children aged 3 to 18
years old in:

Ballet
Tap
Modern Theatre
Jazz



Classes held weekly
on Tuesdays and
Wednesdays from
15:30 onwards at
The Parish Hall,
Dovecote Street,
Amble.

For information on all dance classes please contact

Joanne Burn on 07979 606822 or joanneburn@hotmail.co.uk

Amble Living History group

Meetings at Dry Water Arts, Wellwood Street
Time: 7-8.30pm Entrance: £3

February 16: Tony Regan; Amble Parish Archives
March 16: Brian Ward; 'Martin Luther's Visit to Newcastle, 1967'
April 20: Eleanor George; 'Broomhill Colliery'
May 18: John Yearnshire; 'The Edlingham Village Burglary'
June 15: Peter Regan; 'Warkworth'
July 20: Liesbeth Langford; 'Childhood Under Occupation'

Warkworth Film Club

MARCH 4TH – EMILY - 7 for 7.30pm

Emily is an award-winning biographical drama written and directed by Frances O'Connor in her directorial debut. It depicts the brief life of English writer Emily Brontë, portrayed by Emma Mackey. In his review for The Guardian, Peter Bradshaw describes the film as "beautifully acted, lovingly shot, fervently and speculatively imagined". Mark Kermode recommends Emily as a "full-blooded gothic fable", praising O'Connor's "spine-tingling feature debut". A fabulous production and emotionally moving film. 2022 Certificate 15, 2 hours 5 minutes.

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

* Doors and Cash bar open at 7pm, films start at 7.30pm

* All welcome – £5 donation per person

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

Handel's Messiah

Alnwick & District Choral Society presents
"MESSIAH" by George Frederic Handel.
With guest soloists, organ and chamber orchestra

conducted by Peter Brown
Saturday, 1st April 2023
at 7.30pm at St Paul's R.C. Church, Prudhoe St., Alnwick
Admission: £15.00 (Students Free)

St Mark's URC new meeting space

St Mark's URC are now meeting at Drywater Arts Centre, Sunday mornings at 10am in the Drywater Arts Centre, 'Fenders Yard', Wellwood Street, Amble, NE65 0FG

Contact: Revd. Alison Mills, revdalmills@gmail.com (01670) 517 510 and also St Mark's Church Sec: Sue Swanston sue_pergirl2@icloud.com (01665) 711177 and 07980 208533

New year activity at Dry Water Arts

We have a great programme of regular classes and workshops to get you hopping into this yearwell it is the year of the rabbit! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Yoga, Dance & Meditation	Arts and Creativity
Barre Class	Watercolours
Chair Yoga	Printmaking Class - NEW
Yoga Flow	Jewellery
Yoga & Movement Play	Print, Textiles and Paper
	Bespoke Workshops

We are continuing with our Covid community support. So if you need help or even a chat, please do get in touch:

07542 141411 email: info@drywaterarts.uk

Dry Water Arts Centre

The Workshop, Wellwood Street, Amble, NE65 0FG

18 ~ The Ambler

Free talks from county archivists

Northumberland County Council are offering free in-person talks at County Hall, Morpeth in Conference Room 1 and 2

15 Mar 1pm "Women's Football in Northumberland"

12 Apr 1pm "Lost Country Houses of Northumberland"

The talks last about 30 minutes and then the archivists will answer any questions. Come along and meet us!

Jo March

Senior Archivist, Northumberland Archives

Dancing in Alnmouth

Alnmouth Ceilidh/Barn Dances are back at the Hindmarsh Hall, Alnmouth NE66 2RX

Starting Tuesday 21 February at 7.00pm – 9.30pm and every third Tuesday after that.

No experience necessary, individuals and couples will be most welcome with well-known caller Mike Jevons guiding everyone through the dances, some new and some old favourites.

Bring your own drinks and glasses

£5.00 admission at the door

Dates for your diary 28 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June

Further information from 01665 830330

Acclaimed play comes to Amble

On Robben Island in 1970s Apartheid South Africa, two political prisoners, share a cell in the same prison that held Nelson Mandela for 18 years. Together they survive through a mixture of defiance, kindness, bickering and laughter.

The Island is a rich, powerful joyous play about the ability of the human spirit to defy oppression and a cry for freedom everywhere. Written by Athol Fugard in collaboration with South African actors John Kani and Winston Nshona, it has been acclaimed and seen all over the world.

Elysium Theatre Company are proud to bring this magnificent play to Highlights Rural Touring.

The Island
7.30pm Saturday 25th February
The Parish Hall, Dovecote St
NE65 0DX.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. There will be a licensed bar and a raffle at the show.

Tickets are on sale at N&F Young or online at www.highlightsnorth.co.uk Adult £12 Concessions £10 Child £6.

Mike Dixon

Border Links open day

Border Links Open Day,
Fourways 2, Amble, Tuesday 7th March 11am 2.00pm.
All welcome. www.borderlinks.co.uk

Craft and chatter

Join us at Amble Pin Cushion for an informal monthly drop-in session in our upstairs craft room, where you can enjoy some sociable knitting, sewing and crafting, swapping ideas and tips with others. Bring your own equipment, current project and any crafting traumas, and we will try to help. Everyone and all standards are welcome. No need to book, just pay when you turn up. Arrive early for browsing before the start. Everyone and all crafting standards welcome!

£5.00 per session, including refreshments, raffle and 10% shop discount.

February 16, March 16, April 20

1.30-3.30pm at 20-22 Queen Street, Amble

www.amblepincushion.co.uk www.facebook.com/amblepincushion

Bord Waalk map guide >> more on back page



- #1: Recycled Terns by Diane Watson in the Turner St car park
- #2: Bird Song by Aether and Hemera is on the Braid near the Beacon
- #3: Flock Sphere by Rob Mulholland is next to the Coquet Shorebase
- #4: Tern by Jon Voss, close to the Braid entrance and the Warkworth road
- #5: Dokies Egg by Alec Finlay along the estuary towards Warkworth

Existing art now part of the trail

- #6: East window in St Cuthbert's Church
- #7: Peace sculpture by Stephen Lunn in the Town Sq
- #8: Bird Heads by Andrew Burton are in the Town Square
- #9: Uplift by Jonny Michie is on Spurreli's roof
- #10: Cracked Eggs by Stuart Langley, at the top of Horseshoe Hill
- #11: Big Puffin by Ben Greenwell is in Paddlers Park
- #12: Murmuration by local artist Frances Anderson, located next to the East Cemetery
- #13: Brick Tree by Rodney Harris which incorporates nesting spaces for birds is located on the cycle path at Low Hauxley
- #14: Roseate Terns by Celia Smith, at the entrance to Hauxley Nature Reserve

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Last few sculptures land with a flourish



Left: Brick Tree by Rod Harris is situated along the cycle path at Low Hauxley;
Above: Uplift by Jonny Mitchie is on the corner of Spurreli's roof;
Below: Recycled Terns by Diane Watson, in the Turner Street car park

The final few sculptures in the Bord Waalk trail are being placed around Amble, and the mobile app is due for launch in the next few weeks.

Beach walkers may have noticed Brick Tree by artist Rodney Harris, which was installed along the cycle route at Low Hauxley before Christmas. Rod told The Amble about his inspiration and the process he used to create the piece:

"The Tree sculpture on the coast path at Low Hauxley is hand carved from the same brick clay that was used to make bricks in Amble until the brickworks closed. It is carved before the bricks are fired while they are still soft and malleable, the bark is created using moulds from an old oak tree pressed into the brick clay surface after the form has been carved. The clay tree is then dismantled, each brick is numbered, and then fired and built.

"The coast of Northumberland was once connected to Northern Europe with a forest that was flooded around eight thousand years ago when the English Channel was created. Ancient tree stumps can still be seen on the beach along the coast. The tree sculpture is a memorial to the ancient forest that once stood there and designed to provide habitat for birds. Its location next to Hauxley Nature Reserve influenced the decision to add nesting holes for

tree sparrows. Tree Sparrows are endangered and so any extension of available habitat is welcome. The local RSPB warden Paul Morrison helped to determine the correct size of opening and cavity to provide ideal habitat for them and possibly other small birds. Hopefully it will become home to a new colony of Tree Sparrows."

Uplift

Uplift by Jonny Mitchie is now installed on Spurreli's roof. The piece is made from brass, and with a mix of time and the Northumbrian weather, will develop a patina.

Jonny told us: "Uplift is inspired by the acrobatic movement of terns above the Amble coastline. Terns are beautiful flyers. They flit into view, skim across the water surface and dart away, all in the blink of an eye.

"The fragmented form of the sculpture attempts to capture this motion. By breaking the design into slices, the viewer is unable to see the whole sculpture from a single viewpoint, as if

the bird is only spotted for a moment before quickly changing direction.

"I was also inspired by their migration. I gave the bird a pose in which it is stoically peering off into the distance. I wanted to highlight the perilous journey terns undertake each year in order to survive."

The next sculpture (at time of writing ready to be installed in the Turner St car park,) is Recycled Terns by Diane Watson.

Diane's work is influenced by the plastic pollution of our seas. This piece is based on Arctic Terns and their migratory patterns.

She says: "The life of a sea bird is particularly affected by the health of our oceans. It is estimated that one million birds die from plastic consumption and entanglement every year. These birds can travel around 12,000 miles, so a car park where journeys start and finish is a fitting location for the work."

Coming soon

Cracked Eggs by Stuart Langley, will be placed on

Horseshoe Hill. The piece comprises three 'eggs' balanced on top of each other, reflecting the fragility of life, and the importance of inter-species support.

In addition to the new sculptures, the east window in St Cuthbert's church, featuring St Cuthbert and his famous 'cuddy ducks' is included, and the Peace Sculpture in the Town Square Memorial Gardens by local blacksmith/artist Stephen Lunn is also part of the trail.

Download the app

The app will be available soon for both iOS or Android devices. It contains information about the sculptures and artists, as well as additional content from poets, sound recordists and musicians.

Poetry, music and birdsong

Bird Roads by poet Katrina Porteous features conversations with local people, words inspired by the dunes and beaches from Hauxley to the Coquet estuary, together with birdsong from wildlife recordist Geoff Sample.

A soundscape from John Kefala Kerr called Sanctuary, draws on the connection between birdcalls and the human voice. John describes the piece as "a kind of meditation, offering bird trail walkers the opportunity to pause for fifteen minutes or so, and experience the Little Shore as an al fresco concert hall."

Anna Williams

