



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Ambler eggs-clusive!

Final
sculpture
balances art
and nature



Sharing a yolk: Artist Stuart Langley (right) and contractor Barry Knox assemble Cracked, the last of the twelve new physical sculptures making up the Bord Waalk sculpture trail. Photo by Anna Williams. See page 7 for full story.

The Ambler receives glowing tribute at Newspaper Awards



Above: The Ambler on the big screen at the 2023 Newspaper Awards.
Photo: Mark McGinlay
Below: Comments from the judges

Commended

Enfield Dispatch Now in its fifth year, and extremely well written and printed, judges loved that the title, part of the Social Spider CIC social enterprise of five community newspapers, was owned by its members.

Hackney Citizen The Citizen is a slick publication with superb front cover illustrations. Great local issues explored by this constant high performer and judges noted it was 'great to see an independent title securing a contract for public notices – a brilliant achievement.'

Hailsham News A good-looking and well produced 'newsy' publication with its sister title the Bexhill News, the newspaper prints 10,000 copies a month on a bright stock that fly off the shelves in just 10 days.

The Ambler An A4 magazine-style title for the Amble area for 20 years – a touching and very worthy community initiative. "It's so good, it's collectable," enthused one judge.

Wells Voice Fantastic template-driven mini magazine style publication – a massive effort by a one man band working from a bedroom. A huge offering, dripping with content and plenty of supporting photography from its team of community contributors.

West Leeds Dispatch A fantastic community-led publisher that's grown from one experienced journalist to a team of seven in the same number of years since launch and has empowered local people with a voice.

The Ambler has received a glowing tribute at the 2023 Newspaper Awards.

Over thirty community newspapers entered the ICNN Independent Community Newspaper of the Year award, and The Ambler was selected to be in the final eight, drawing a Commended accolade on the night.

At the awards ceremony held at the Hilton in Park Lane, the judges described The Ambler as a touching and very worthy community initiative, with one declaring "It's so good, it's collectable."

The winner of the ICNN Independent Community Newspaper was the Peckham

Peculiar. The Bristol Cable received Highly Commended.

Other categories in the 2023 Newspaper Awards included Regional Newspaper (Yorkshire Post), and National Newspaper of the Year (FT)

Ambler editor Anna Williams said "It was an absolute honour to have been shortlisted alongside these other community newspaper titles. It's heartening to be in such prestigious company. I would like to thank all our contributors, volunteers, and supporters; we really couldn't do it without you all."

For more details of the awards go to www.newsawards.co.uk/winners/



The Ambler received a Commended accolade at the Newspaper Awards

Mad Jam Woman wins Gold again

Amble preserve producer Sandy Higson aka The Mad Jam Woman, has once again found success at the Artisan Marmalade Awards.

Sandy received a Gold Award for her Ruby Grapefruit with Chai Spice marmalade, competing against some of the finest marmalades in the world. The judges agreed that this preserve was excellent. They were very impressed with the marmalade's appearance, colour, consistency, aroma and flavour.

She also received three Bronze awards for her Lemon with Honey and Star Anise, Orange and Ginger, and Lime with Apple, Pineapple and Chilli.

The Marmalade Awards received entries from more than 33 countries worldwide

including Ukraine, Spain, Canada, Brazil, Czech Republic, Japan and Argentina. The Artisan marmalades were judged by an expert panel including food writer Dan Lepard, Fortnum & Mason Grocery Buyer Holly Warren, and food historian Ivan Day. For the full list of Artisan Marmalade Awards, visit www.marmaladeawards.com

In Amble, Sandy's marmalades can also be purchased at the Old Fourways, the Northumberland Seafood Centre, and the Independent Food and Drink shop on Queen St. For online sales see www.madjamwoman.com

In 2022 Sandy won two Gold and one bronze, and in 2021, she won six awards at the same Marmalade Festival.



New inshore lifeboat named



l-r: Rev Mc Dermott; John Young, chair Lifeboat Management Group; John Wingfield, Lifeboat Operation Manager; Fiona Fell, deputy chair RNLI and crewmembers of the Amble RNLI, with the new inshore lifeboat 'Alf & Dora Whiting'

A good crowd of invited guests attended the official naming of Amble RNLI's new inshore lifeboat.

Funding for the new lifeboat came in part from Elaine and Gary Whiting, both members of the Mirfield RNLI fundraising group. The boat was named in memory of Gary's parents. Sadly

both Elaine and Gary died in 2018, leaving a very generous bequest to the RNLI.

Named 'Alf & Dora Whiting' the new vessel was formally handed over to the RNLI by Steve Barrans, a representative of the Whiting family, and accepted by Fiona Fell, deputy chair of the RNLI, and John

Wingfield, Lifeboat Operations Manager of Amble Lifeboat Station. Rev John McDermott led the service of dedication and blessed the boat, after which Sharon Barrans, Elaine and Gary Whiting's niece, officially named the vessel. Bart Rippon, chair of the Lifeboat Fundraisers then gave a vote of thanks.

Policing stats

More than 100,000 anti-social behaviour incidents were not attended by Northumbria Police officers in the past four years, it has been revealed.

The percentage of anti-social behaviour reports across Tyne and Wear and Northumberland that resulted in a police officer visiting the scene of the incident has dipped from 60% in 2019 to 45% in 2022, with more than 23,000 unattended last year.

Cleveland Police attended 47% of incidents last year, while Durham's figure was 71%.

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness recently pledged to divert an extra 130 police officers into neighbourhood policing teams, though the force is also planning to axe 136 Police Community Support Officer posts.

A spokesperson for Northumbria Police said it was "committed to tackling anti-social behaviour and bringing effective justice against those found to have been involved."

"Anyone with concerns can report to an officer on duty, using the 'Tell Us Something' page on our website or by calling 101. In an emergency, or where a crime is taking place, always dial 999."

Local Democracy Reporter Service

See also p8

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Mayor visits schools for coronation

Mayor Craig Weir visited Amble schools to help commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

The mayor visited James Calvert Spence College to award the winners of a poem and crown contest the students have been working on. The winners were handed chocolate and a personal congratulations from the mayor himself.



Alarna-Mae year 5 and Mayor

The mayor has also kindly given all of our students a mug to mark the coronation. He feels this is important to commemorate the coronation of the new King.

He said, "I was there for Queen Elizabeth II Coronation all those years ago and it was a great honour to get a commemorative mug. I've kept that with me all these years. I'm sure in the years to come, the children will do the same with their mugs."



Porscha year 6 and Mayor

"It's been a great pleasure to visit schools around Amble. I've enjoyed some comments from the children believing I was Charles or his brother."

This was a very exciting day for James Calvert Spence College. We are grateful to the mayor for coming in and for making this a coronation the students will always remember.
Rosie McInally, JCSC

Future is brighter for Jacob, thanks to help from his friends

An Amble surfer whose belongings and camper van home were stolen, has thanked his family, friends and members of the public for helping him get back on his feet.

Jacob Poulton told The Ambler, "It's just surreal how much support I've received from so many people coming together. I am so grateful to everybody who contributed because I wouldn't be where I am now without them. I am still slowly getting back on my feet, and that's thanks to everybody. I could have been a lot worse off."

Over £1,800 was raised after friends set up a crowdfunder for Jacob, which he has put towards converting a new van, and replacing essential items, like clothing. Seventy people contributed to the fund.

"I used it for building my new van to the point that I can sleep in it and live in it comfortably (including all cooking appliances and bedding and lots and lots of timber). I've also got some clothes now which is nice. My parents helped me to get a new surfboard and wetsuit."



Before moving to Cornwall in 2021, surf instructor Jacob hit the news after helping to save three swimmers who got into difficulties in Druridge Bay.

As reported in the last issue of The Ambler, Jacob was left devastated after the camper van in which he lived was stolen on a trip back home to Amble. All his belongings were in the van, and police were unable to track down

the thief. Jacob's insurance did not cover the replacement of his belongings.

Now, with his newly refurbished van, Jacob has been able to return to Cornwall, where he is beginning a new job as a surf instructor. He told us, "It's quite a simple life at the moment, but that's not necessarily a bad thing."

Anna Williams

Amble's artistic buzz reflects a growing local arts scene

Over the past few months, there has been a real momentum amongst many of us involved in the arts in Amble, that would have been unthinkable 10 years ago. That is, Amble has the beginnings of a tangible 'art scene'.

In March, I was awarded a small bursary by the North East Artists Fund, and used it to hire an empty room inside the Old Harbour Master's Building to mount a pop-up exhibition. The show, entitled 'At the River Mouth', brought together work from four artists based in the area who have dealt with the landscape around the mouth of the River Coquet. The preview night proved extremely busy and we had a steady stream of visitors during the following Saturday. We estimated receiving around 250 visitors in all.

We were pleasantly surprised with the high turnout, given the small scale and limited advertising we undertook. It really proved to us that there is an appetite for engaging with contemporary art in this area.

The show was a precursor to a larger group exhibition Called the Dovecote Street Show, it will be Amble's largest-ever art exhibition to date.

The exhibition which runs until

28 May, has been organised by myself and Amble photographer Jim Donnelly, in partnership with the Northumberland Theatre Company, who own and operate the Dovecote Centre. Thanks



to the backing of Amble Town Council, who have purchased exhibition boards on our behalf. We are excited to be mounting what constitutes the first exhibition of this type to happen in Amble.

This momentum comes off the back of a number of factors at play within the past five years. The development of the Dry Water Arts Centre has been critical in providing a space for activities and exhibitions in the centre of town. Their emphasis on community engagement has proved very

popular and the centre continues to go from strength to strength. If the 'Bord Waalk' Sculpture Trail lives up to expectations, it too will prove a welcome addition to the town's cultural offering. The Old Bath House in Broomhill has proved vital in building up a visible community of artists. However this groundswell is not limited to Amble. There is a wider sense of creative upstart across the area.

In Alnwick, the Bailiffgate Museum has hosted a string of successful solo exhibitions of painters and printmakers from the town. In addition, the well established Old School Gallery in Alnmouth, and the more recent RePublic gallery in Blyth (located in the old Kings Head Pub) are providing spaces for regular exciting showings of contemporary art.

Newbiggin too is host to a bustling community of artists; its Arts Centre, located on the High Street, has a steadily strengthening programme of exhibitions. The list goes on, but my point is that there is a rising tide of creativity in the area. It is my hope that Amble can become the focal point for it over the next few years.

Luke McTaggart

Rodney Burge honoured for a lifetime's service with RNLI



On 25 March Amble RNLI members met together to honour a loyal member. The team had managed to keep the event a secret, so it came as a complete surprise to the person in question, Rodney Burge MBE.

Adrian Carey, Head of RNLI SW Region, presented Rodney with a Vellum (certificate) which read "For commitment to both the institution and his fellow volunteers and his personal contribution which has helped the RNLI save lives at sea."

He was also presented with a bottle of genuine Navy rum, now only available for such occasions, and a crystal with a Shannon lifeboat etched inside the glass.

In reply Rodney said, "It was nice to feel appreciated by everyone." But he also emphasised it's not just one man that takes a boat out, it's all about teamwork.

Chairman John Young said, "Rodney has attended many presentation events at the lifeboat house as older members retired, but as he has no intention of retiring, we organised this event to make the presentation possible."

The occasion clearly put into perspective how highly people thought of Rodney. Expressing his appreciation for all the effort that had gone into making the event go well, but also throughout his lifeboat career, he was overcome with emotion. He said he was so thankful for the support of the crew over the years as well as each of his and their family members.

He said, "There are only a few folk who truly know what happens aboard the boats and the effect it has on the crew. One of the finest

compliments I've received came from a crewman's wife saying how she knew that if her husband was onboard the boat with me in charge, she knew he was going to come home that night."

Rodney joined the Amble Lifeboat crew in 1969 after leaving service in the Royal Navy onboard HMS Dreadnought, Britain's first nuclear submarine. He then fulfilled his boyhood dream to join the lifeboat, starting out as a crew member, eventually moving up to coxswain, then applying his knowledge as manager and training officer and now he is Amble RNLI's media officer. In 2021 he was awarded a 50 years' service medal.

Among his other achievements he wrote a book 'Amble and Hauxley Lifeboat Station'

published by the RNLI and recently rereleased. Rodney signed copies sold at the event.

Rodney's family said how much he had enjoyed seeing and speaking to everyone, reminiscing on past stories and catching up with them all and just having a laugh with good friends. His family were extremely proud of all he had achieved.

Rodney's granddaughter Courtney Stewart told The Ambler, "He was totally unaware of what was planned and it left him speechless. He was staggered by the number of people that showed up, which overwhelmed him a bit as he's not used to people making such a fuss. He's more used to just getting on with the job."

Vivienne Dalglish



Rodney and Adrian Carey (seated) with the crew and committee of Amble RNLI



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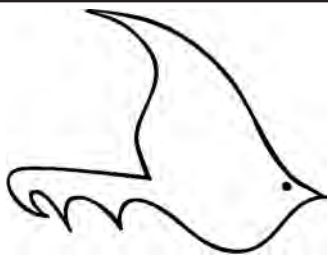
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the Editorial Team

2023 Submissions dates:

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

Onwards together

Our printing schedule sadly
collided with the coronation,
so you won't see much in this
issue about it, as at time of
writing it hasn't happened! But
please feel free to send us any
photos of celebrations you took
part in, so we can put them in the
next edition.

The town seems busy again.
Not necessarily in the best way,
as we note the number of anti
behavioural incidents being
reported in the town.

Sadly this coincides with
a huge drop in the number of
incidents attended by officers
in the Northumbria Police
area (which of course covers
Northumberland, Newcastle and

Tyne + Wear). See p3
for the statistics.

The Town Council
has noted the
intended reduction in
PCSOs with concern
(p16), but we must
also acknowledge the
work our local policing team are
doing, albeit with little support
from the powers that be (p7, p8
and p14).

But on to happier stories - and
a little blast of our own trumpet
(p2) as The Ambler featured in
the 2023 Newspaper Awards and
received a Commended accolade.

And congratulations (again)
to the Mad Jam Woman - will
she ever stop? She has won



more awards for her
marmalades this year,
and the great news is
you can buy them in
several places in Amble
(p2).

Congratulations
also to Amble Juniors

footballers and to the Amble Links
girls team; all champions! (p19).
Amble Netball team have soared
to victory too (p18). Well done to
them.

We hope to see you all at the
Puffin Festival at the end of May
(back page) which is set to be
another fun packed weekend.

Thank you once again to our
lovely donors, we very much
appreciate your support.

WHAT YOU SAY...

Update on Braid and Braid Hill site

The application to build
over 100 mixed housing
units on Braid Hill at Amble
was withdrawn shortly before
it was due to be considered
by the Planning Committee
at Northumberland County
Council.

Planners themselves
had recommended that the
application be refused and had
raised a number of matters that
remain as serious obstacles to
any future development of this
scale on the Braid Hill site.

The main issues seem to
be that any developer should
explore suitable alternative
locations and that the significant
risk of flooding must be
addressed.

These concerns, along
with many other objections to
developing a road across one
of Amble's few and much used
open public spaces (the Braid)
certainly puts the development
on hold.

However, there remains
the possibility of further
development plans coming
forward so the situation is being
actively monitored by a small
group using the working title
"Friends of the Amble Braid".

Of course, it would be
much better if the Braid
could be afforded permanent
undisturbed protection as a
place of leisure and enjoyment
for both residents and visitors
so we were delighted to see that

the Warkworth Neighbourhood
Plan draft identified the whole
of the Braid as Protected Green
Space and trust that this was
reflected in the final draft that
has now been submitted.

*Friends of the Braid
via email*

Easter egg run

I would like to thank the
following shops for their
kind placement of the Easter
egg run posters:

Kayleigh's Kitchen, The Amble
Butcher, Morrisons, Fourways2

And everyone for their kind
donations and waving to the
bikes.

Syd Henderson, Amble

Coronation miss

Where are the Coronation
celebrations? I have
been asked on a number of
occasions. A good question
to ask. At St Cuthbert's we
organised a shared Coronation
Tea Party with donations
going to Amble Food Bank.
The theme of the coronation
celebrations is 'Community,
Faith and Service' and we have
attempted to embrace this
message.

Is it not a pity that Town
Council in Amble have not felt
it appropriate to participate in
any form of celebrations for the
Coronation? This is a historic
event in the life of our country.
It seems to me that Coronation
is not just about a monarch
who lives in a far away city. It

is about us and how we behave
and relate to each other.

I seem to remember a
former Prime Minister, Mrs
Margaret Thatcher stating
forcefully that there was 'no
such thing as society'. Clearly
our Town Council agree with
those sentiments. However, if
you don't like the word society
how about 'Community'? I still
believe that Community counts
for something regardless of our
individual political stance.

I wonder if there might
have been something achieved
that could have benefitted the
Community. How about a
Coronation Bench sited for the
elderly and weary; or perhaps
some play equipment for our
children.

It seems to me the Town
Council have missed an
opportunity to lead and bring
about something positive for
some group in the town. That
to me is a great shame.

In a time where the world
has never been more divided
isn't it right to work to heal
divisions by focusing on
the positive rather than the
negative.

I am aware that some
groups such as Amble
Youth Project have used the
opportunity to do something
good. But couldn't we see a
stronger input from the Town
Council who represent us all?

Rev John McDermott, via email

Ed: The Town Council did donate mugs
to Amble schoolchildren. See p3 & 16

Great eggs-pectations for Bord Waalk sculpture trail

>> From front page

The final sculpture in the Bord Waalk trail has now been placed at the top of Horseshoe hill, opposite Amble Harbour Village.

The piece is made from carbon fibre and epoxy resin, with clear epoxy resin used for the cracks. The piece was then UV lacquered for protection. The sculpture is lit from within which will emphasise the cracks as light fades.

The concept for the sculpture came from Stuart Langley who is based in Hartlepool. Stuart told The Ambler "The idea behind it is to do with the fragility of life, and how precarious life can be. The eggs are balanced on each other but there are cracks which could suggest the beginning of a new life, or the end of something."

Stuart worked closely with fabricator Duncan Henthorne whose studio is in Harrogate. He explained how they worked with a structural engineer to build the piece.

Duncan said, "We had to consider all the types of material which could withstand what the design called for, and the environment and surroundings in which it is placed."

Two virtual reality and one augmented reality pieces will join the physical sculptures to make up the entire Bord Waalk trail. These will be accessible, along with bespoke poetry, birdsong and soundscapes via the Bord Waalk app.

A spokesperson for Bord Waalk said, "At long last, and not without some relief, we are pleased that all the physical sculptures have now been installed. Now we can go ahead with printing leaflets and completing the mobile app."

Leaflets will be available from the Seafood Centre at Amble Harbour Village and at various outlets in Northumberland.

The spokesperson added, "We've already had some very positive feedback, and hope those who haven't visited the trail yet, will do so soon and enjoy their experience."

If you would like to chat to one of the organisers about the Bord Waalk project, they will be at Amble Puffin Festival on 27 and 28 May.



Five vehicles seized



A first-of-its-kind operation to tackle the anti-social and illegal use of off-road bikes in rural hotspots has garnered fantastic results.

Officers have heaped praise on the pioneering partnership with British Transport Police (BTP) which uses a specialist drone to help identify offenders.

On Sunday (March 26) members of Morpeth's Neighbourhood Policing Team joined forces with expert BTP officers – and together they detected and uplifted five vehicles in a matter of hours.

Covering the area between Craster and Amble, the dedicated op saw the BTP drone scour the

skies looking for signs of ASB-related activity – the locations of which were then passed to officers on the ground.

A total of five vehicles were seized – four off-road motorbikes and one quad bike.

All of the riders were reported for driving offences, including driving with no insurance.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police via the 'Tell Us Something' page of our website or by calling 101.

You can also pass on information via independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously by ringing 0800 555 111.

See also p8

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Working together to tackle crime in Amble



l-r: Gordon Saunders, Northumberland Fire and Rescue; Judith Davis, Community Safety Officer NCC; PCSO Darin Fawcett; PC Dan Richardson

Amble is enjoyed as a close-knit community, workplace and tourist attraction by many. Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council work together to ensure the area remains a safe and enjoyable place for people to visit and live in.

Amble has a low crime rate; however, Northumbria Police are aware of a number of problems.

- March saw the first of a series of community engagement events with Police, NCC Community Safety, Housing and officers from the Fire Service conducting a town walkabout followed by an afternoon at the library where residents were able to speak to officers in confidence.

Officers spoke to a number of residents and tourists about a variety of concerns from parking and damage to ASB and motorcycle disorder. Those spoken to were positive in their feedback of the event.

- There have been reports of vehicles involved in anti-social activities and concerns around the standard of driving in the area, with a particular focus around Morrisons and the A1068.

Neighbourhood staff have been looking at these issues and will continue to do so with regular patrols. The Operations Department has also deployed unmarked vehicles and will continue to do so where possible in order to deal with these issues.

As a result of this Neighbourhood staff have spoken to a number of drivers concerning the need for considerate driving and have issued warnings around potential enforcement action that could be taken should any vehicle be involved in anti-social driving or incidents.

Home visits to identified drivers have been made and appropriate action taken. Drivers of vehicles involved in incidents of this type should be in no doubt that if they continue to act in this manner, they could lose their vehicle and their driving licence through police led enforcement action.

- Northumbria Police saw an increase in youth related antisocial behaviour especially over the Easter holidays. A number of youths have been targeting elderly members of the community on Queen Street. Youths have been kicking at residents' doors and shouting verbal abuse.

Parents are requested to engage with their children to ensure they are not involved in this type of behaviour. Robust action will be taken against anyone targeting elderly members of the community.

Officers have been liaising with community members, shops and schools to identify a number of young people who have caused problems in the community.

In one weekend 16 young

people were visited at home and spoken to in the presence of their parents/guardians. The action saw a drop in reported incidents. The work is ongoing and further action will be taken where those involved come to police attention again.

NCC supports police, not only where those involved are council tenants, but by ensuring young people and their families receive support where needed, particularly where the young people themselves are vulnerable.

However repeat offenders may be in breach of their tenancy agreement, and if found to be involved in ASB, this could lead to action being taken against them by the housing authority.

- Police have launched an initiative to tackle motorcycle disorder and off-road bikes by using drones to locate and identify offenders in conjunction with British Transport Police. The first of such deployments saw five bikes being seized and appropriate enforcement action taken. This initiative will continue throughout the year.

There are no locations hereabouts where the riding of motorcycles offroad is permitted and anyone with information about motorcycle disorder is asked to report it.

- Finally, NCC Community Safety has been granted funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to carry out work relating to the safety

of women in public places. Part of the funding is being used to carry out high visibility evening patrols in a number of areas. Amble is not seen as an area of concern in this regard; however, the town and surrounding area have been included on a number of occasions.

Officers from Community Safety and Police have engaged with members of the public to increase public reassurance and identify locations where women may feel unsafe when out and about. The initiative has been well received and will continue throughout summer.

Anyone who would like to discuss a related matter can contact Judith Davis on the NCC Community Safety: details given below.

Officers are conducting regular patrols of the area and should you wish to report any concerns please call 101 or use the Northumbria Police web page: <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/our-services/report-it/report-an-incident/>

In an emergency if there is risk to life or property call 999


To contact NCC community safety - call 0345 600 6400 and ask for public protection, or email public.protection@northumberland.gov.uk

*Contributing to this report
Sgt. Les Robson, Northumbria Police Neighbourhood Team.
PC.3835 Richardson, Amble Policing Team.
Judith Davis, Community Safety Officer, Northumberland County Council*

See also p3, p7, p13, p14 and p16



Pod 14 Amble Harbour Village



Beautiful handmade gifts,
vintage treasures and
nautical decorations



They've been quite easy to miss the past few months, but you may have noticed there have been a couple of strikes going on recently. Not many – just one or two or twenty – but one of the recent unions on strike has been that of most university staff, with teaching strikes taking place over 18 days throughout last term and marking strikes now planned that could prevent some students from graduating.

First things first, I support the strikes. They're hugely important. I don't want to complain that the strikes are inconvenient, because the whole point is that they're inconvenient so that we understand how essential the workers are, and then once we've all realised how

essential they are, the powers that be offer a deal. This doesn't work quite so well when the powers that be don't care if we're inconvenienced, so the strikes can just carry on forever. But what else is there to do other than strike when reasonable demands are refused?

As a student, I've definitely felt the impact of the strikes. Not as much, obviously, as someone having to wait for an operation because of the NHS strikes, for example. However, university students are some of the only people still paying for the services that are affected by a strike. We've had no discount on the £9,500 we're paying for the year, despite the fact we've missed nearly half our lectures

this term and possibly our marks for the end of the year now too.

Only one of our lecturers explained the reason for the strikes – showing us her pension cuts and the gender pay gap in universities across the country – but most didn't bother, only sending out cursory emails that let us know there would be minimal impact on us and it would all get sorted. I quickly found out I wasn't the only one who found this very patronizing.

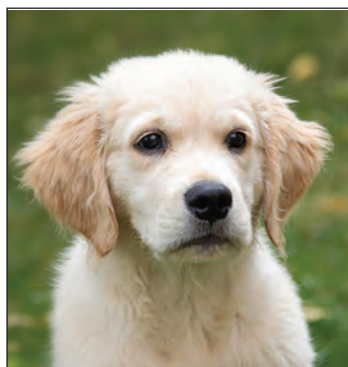
Students were (and still are) angry. Unfortunately, that anger is getting a bit misdirected. Although, sure, the staff on strike could've treated us a bit more like adults who are paying a lot of money to be here, our anger shouldn't be directed at

them. It should be directed at the university officials who won't meet their reasonable demands or even consider offering students any compensation. They're the ones who don't care about us, not the lecturers who are losing pay every day they do this.

No one likes strikes. No one wants to strike. If we want the strikes to stop, the best way to do that is to support them. If students want to complain, we should be doing it to the people in charge – and we should be doing it in numbers.

Pet advice from Coquet Vets

Parvovirus cases reported in Amble



Parvo in puppies is caused by the canine parvovirus. This virus is highly contagious and spreads through direct contact with an infected dog or by indirect contact with a contaminated object.

Your puppy is exposed to the parvovirus every time he sniffs,

licks, or consumes infected faeces. Indirect transmission occurs when a person who has recently been exposed to an infected dog touches your puppy, or when a puppy encounters a contaminated object. This might be a food or water bowl, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs.

The virus does the most damage on the dog's stomach and intestines. The virus prefers to infect the small intestine, where it destroys cells, impairs absorption, and disrupts the gut barrier. Parvo in puppies also affects the bone marrow and lymphopoietic tissues, and in some cases can also affect the heart.

Why do puppies get parvo?

Puppies aged six weeks to six months are the most susceptible to parvo. Puppies younger than six-weeks-old retain some of their mother's antibodies, assuming that the bitch received her full series of parvo vaccinations.

Puppies are vaccinated against parvo at approximately eight and 12 weeks of age. We also give a parvo top up vaccine at 16 weeks. They are vulnerable to the disease until they have received all three shots in their vaccination series, which means owners need to take extra precaution during this time to prevent their puppies from contracting the virus.

The severity of parvo cases

varies. The stress of weaning can lead to a more severe case of parvo in puppies, as stress weakens the immune system. A combination of parvo and a secondary infection or a parasite can also lead to a more severe case of parvo in puppies.

To top it off, certain breeds of dogs are at an increased risk of parvo: Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, American Staffordshire Terriers, English Springer Spaniels, German Shepherd Dogs, Labrador Retrievers.

If you are a client at Coquet Vets and this article has raised any concerns or questions, don't hesitate to call us on 01665 252250 or email us at info@coquetvets.co.uk

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Do you believe in faith schools?

Ok what is a faith school? Well, some of them are like a community school that teaches the normal lessons, but religion is very important and can affect the way that some of the lessons are taught.

In faith schools the religion may influence the things they teach in other lessons. According to data from Humanists UK, around one third of all of the state funded schools are faith schools.

An example of a local faith school is St. Paul’s in Alnwick, who made us pray to God every day before lunch, and at assembly. That’s two times too many in my opinion!

Some people might think being taught with a religious viewpoint would help bring the child up to know what’s right and wrong.

And if we separate people from an early age based on their religion, is this a good thing?

I’ve considered some reasons for and against faith schools:

Some things in favour of faith schools:

• If you like being religious and want to be as close to your god(s) as possible, I guess going to a faith school will reinforce a particular attitude to life.

• If parents want their child to love only their religion, they could send them there.

• Children at a faith school can find friends that follow the same religion as them.

Things AGAINST faith schools:

• Children might be sent there only because the school has good results, even if the child isn’t religious.

• Children are made to join a religion without being given free will to choose

• Some things might affect the way some things are taught, like I mentioned before. For example,



evolution. Some extremely religious schools don’t teach kids about it, and would rather talk about creationism, even though there’s lots of proof about evolution, and the only proof of Adam and Eve is in the Bible.

• They might not teach you about other religions so you would not grow up to feel that people with other religious beliefs are part of your society.

• Teachers following a different religion than the one the school is based on are less likely to get a job there

Something to consider:

• If you are only being nice because of the consequences (for example, otherwise you think you will go to hell), then it isn’t really being nice, is it?



By Grace

He’s not my king

With the coronation prominent in everybody’s minds, now is the perfect time to step up and question what it means to be British. We value principles of democracy, freedom, equality, but these are not being represented in the one thing that represents us: the monarchy. This is what anti-monarchy pressure group Republic say.



The Republic group have been around since 1983, and have gained media attention this year as they adopted the slogan ‘Not My King’. Protestors have reportedly chanted this in the presence of King Charles, sparking both support and disagreement. The group argues for a democratic, elected head of state as opposed to the non-elected hierarchal system we currently have. Because they aren’t elected, Republic argues ‘there’s nothing to stop them abusing their privilege, misusing their influence or simply wasting our money’.

The coronation is an especially sore point for the group, as it is coming from taxpayers money. King Charles’ wealth is estimated at well over £1 billion, yet because of the traditional history of the coronation ceremony the £100 billion is coming from the taxpayer’s pocket. This cost is double that of Queen Elizabeth’s coronation, and has come at a time of economic difficulty for at least one in three adults (according to the Office for National Statistics).

Republic have many other important principles, much too long and complicated to fit into one article; I would recommend looking them up and finding out more about their policies and ideals. I can’t say I personally agree with everything they say, but I definitely find it interesting to see the intersection of my beliefs and theirs.



By Ava

Stay safe this summer

Every influencer I’ve seen tends to bang on about using sunscreen in their morning routine, but even the NHS is promoting daily use of sun cream. Even on cloudy days it is possible to burn, and this burning increases chances of premature wrinkling at best, and melanoma (a type of skin cancer) at worst.

The most common reason for not wearing sunscreen that I’ve heard is that people want to get tanned. But you can still get a tan when you wear sunscreen! It protects your skin from the worst UV

rays, but some still inevitably get through and give you a tan. If you need to live up to society’s messed up beauty expectations that badly then please just get a spray tan, it’s really not worth risking your health.

So this summer make sure you (and your friends!) are applying and reapplying sunscreen so you can stay safe whilst having fun in the sun. Read more safety guidelines in the NHS website. By Ava



Splash about for your mental health

With the weather slowly warming, it’s been increasingly tempting to get out into nature, specifically for me into cold water. Wild swimming in lakes, rivers and the sea has a multitude of proven health benefits, but it really doesn’t take an expert to see that. After just one dip in the North Sea I always feel relaxed and refreshed, albeit a bit chilly.

Swimming in general has great health benefits as a worthy form of exercise, but cold water is where it gets exciting. Physically, cold-water swimming improves metabolism, immune response, blood flow, sleep and recovery, and it’s good for your skin. However, I find the mental benefits the most fascinating – it improves your stress response, confidence, dopamine response, sleep and energy levels. Wild swimming is widely regarded as a form of eco-therapy, meaning it



reconnects you with nature and has many healing benefits.

There are of course many risks that come with wild swimming, for example cold water immersion

shock can be potentially fatal as it may cause hyperventilation, but as long as you immerse yourself slowly and keep your breathing regulated you should be okay. It’s best to keep someone with you for safety, and even better to do it with a group of friends just for fun. You really shouldn’t stay in cold water for more than 20 minutes, and always keep a warm drink nearby for when you get out!

I’ve never been a strong swimmer, but just splashing around where my feet can touch the floor is something I would 100% recommend. During GCSEs last year I went swimming in the river at Warkworth as a way to de-stress, and I also adore going into the waves in the sea when the sun is just setting. By Ava



Don’t forget the puffin festival!

At the end of May it’s Amble’s Festival of Puffins YAY! There will be crafts, food and workshops as well as live entertainment. This year’s puffin festival will be better than ever - with special guests like the Bare Toed aerial artists, world music from The Baghdaddies, Salida and the Carribean Crew steel band. Plus of course meeting Tommy Noddy the giant puffin! It will be a weekend to remember. Come along from the 26 to 28 of May and see what it’s all about! See www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk . By Katie



A French revolution?

In France, people have been protesting about the French president, Emmanuel Macron, pushing a bill to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64. There have been approximately 1.5 million protesters, however there have been over 400 protesters injured. Things like rocks, bottles and even fireworks were used as missiles. Police arrested over 50 people and used tear gas to try to clear the streets. Approximately 10 officers were injured.

The protests have been going since January 19 with no sign of things stopping. Just recently people threw electric meters outside of Marseilles city hall. Protesters have also been banging pots and pans to bring away attention from the president’s speech.



In our country teachers, nurses and doctors are also protesting by striking, because the government isn’t listening to what they would like. However, the government is passing a bill to restrict some strikes. By Hannah

Join the Amble Youth Project today!

Interesting projects for young people. Please call or email for more information or to book a place.

- Are you interested in organising an event to raise awareness around LGBTQ+ We have an 8-week project starting Monday 15 May 6.30pm-8.30pm. (ages 13+)
- For females aged 12+: Young Women’s Project on Thursdays, starting May 18, 6.30-8.30pm. Term time only.

Amble Youth Project will open its doors to the public for the Puffin festival on Saturday May 27, 11-3pm. Crafts and a chance to see our amazing project. We will also be holding a stall in the square on the 27 and 28 May.

- Are you 11+ and want to become a Youth Champion? Have your say on matters that are important to you. Volunteer your time and gain awards through Vinspired or Childrens University.
- Hi-Tech Tea - 1 June - Do you want young people to help with your technical issues, on your Ipad/tablet, phone or laptop? Please join us 4.30-7pm. Yummy cake too!
- Are you in Year 10-12? Would you like to be a Young Leader, earn some cash, learn and work through the summer holidays? Training on Mondays, starting 31 Jul
- Free summer activities Juniors - August 1-24 (4 weeks): Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Seniors -July 28- August 25: Fridays Call Tina 07488984053 or email Tina@ambleyouthproject.org



Bringing lawns to life

Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) called on gardeners to reimagine their lawns this summer as they launched their 'Bring your lawn to life' initiative.

The charities are inviting people to raise the blade on their mower and reduce the frequency of mowing to once every three to four weeks to allow flowers such as dandelion and speedwell to bloom and help pollinators, all for the benefit of wildlife and the wider environment.

Lawns left to grow long soak up rainwater, helping to reduce flooding, and capture pollutants. They are also better at resisting browning during dry spells than short grass, owing to their longer roots.

Keep some areas short as pathways, sunbathing spots, and foraging areas for worm-eating birds. For the rest, let the grass grow a little longer, offering shelter to grasshoppers and other

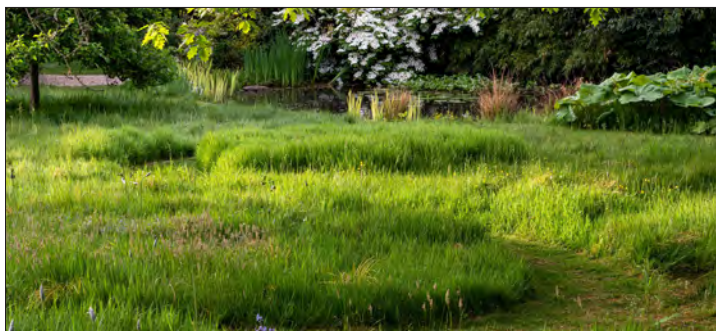
insects. In turn, these creatures are food for frogs, birds, and bats.

Allow parts of your lawn to grow long for the whole summer so that caterpillars can feed and transform into butterflies and moths. Ignore the odd bare patch within a lawn as these provide sites for ground nesting bees.

If you do want a luscious green carpet, consider growing hardy yarrow within your lawn or, where there is limited footfall, experiment with a tapestry lawn and grow herbs and flowers such as chamomile and creeping thyme.

Duncan Hutt, Northumberland Wildlife Trust Director of Communications said "Everyone can enjoy the beauty of longer lawns! It's time to take a step back and help nature and climate by letting lawns live wilder and grow longer. Avoid plastic lawns - they may be easier to maintain but they will turn your gardens into lifeless deserts and end up in landfill!"

See wildaboutgardens.org.uk



Amble Vets sudden closure

Clients of Alnorthumbria's Amble branch were shocked to discover that the veterinary practice was shutting its doors.

Sharon Fairbridge has been a customer of the Amble practice for seventeen years and was alerted to the closure by email. She told *The Ambler*, "The first I knew they were closing was an email I received the other day. There was only three days notice before the closure too."

An Alnorthumbria Vets spokeswoman said: "Due to the rise in pet ownership and the increasing demand for veterinary services, it has been challenging to provide the best urgent and emergency vet cover for our clients at our Amble branch.

"It is therefore with great regret that we have had to make the difficult decision to close Amble permanently at 1.00pm on Friday 28th April 2023. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused."

Some comments on social media voiced concerns about access to discount schemes that have already been paid for.

The spokeswoman said: "Our nearby Alnwick site remains open, enabling our team to continue to care for our Amble clients' pets



without interruptions or delay. Membership of The Healthy Pet Club will also automatically transfer to Alnwick so that clients can continue to enjoy their usual discounts and savings."

Sharon told us "The thing I can't understand is the reason they are closing is because of the increase in pet ownership and demand for veterinary services... so why don't they expand rather than close?"

Alnorthumbria group and its predecessors have been in Amble since the 1960s. Since 2020 the town enjoyed the benefits of two veterinary practices when Coquet Vets opened on Percy Drive.

Sharon said "I am really annoyed about the short notice closure though. They seem to have a lot of customers in Amble, so it's a shame they're going."

Update from Amble Food Bank

Amble Food Bank (AFB) would like to thank our local communities for their continued generosity, particularly during such challenging times. We continue to be amazed by the amounts of food donations that come in to us.

A huge thank you also for all financial donations that we receive. We are conscious that, with food prices continually rising, the average price of a Morrison's pick up bag has risen significantly.

If you'd prefer to buy your own items, then you can do so and simply leave them loose in our cage by the tills. We really do appreciate EVERY SINGLE item donated!

Alternatively, there is a food bin near the door at the Co-op. Typical items that we always need include cereals, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, tinned veg/meat / tuna / fruit / rice pudding / custard / soup / baked beans and toiletries. Thank you once

again for your great support. We rely solely on food and money donations: without these we simply could not operate.

Many thanks to Morrison's for organising the pick-up bags which members of our community purchase and thank you to The Co-op for managing the food bin and also the Food Share items every Sunday. We continue to be grateful to both for supporting our cause.

Grants received

During the Easter break we delivered enhanced food parcels containing lunch items to support families with children during the holidays. We were fortunate to receive £1000 from AkzoNobel's Community Fund and we used this kind donation to support this project. In addition all children received Easter eggs.

Thank you to William Purves Funeral Directors and to Morrison's and Tesco for

organising donations of eggs to AFB. Special thanks to local residents who donated eggs to us.

We have once again been fortunate to have been awarded another £10,000 grant by Northumberland County Council through delivery of the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Household Support Fund. Thanks go to our local councillors, Terry Clark and Jeff Watson, and to the Leader of the Council, Glen Sanderson, for being strong advocates of our charity. The money was granted to charities and organisations targeting food poverty.

It may sound like a huge amount of money, but we are currently spending around £2,000 a month on food alone - this is on top of your incredibly kind food donations which we really value. With the increase in referrals to AFB, we now have to carry out regular large food shops.

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 also have collection tins at the Co-op, The Farm Bakery and The Boat Shed Gallery at Amble Harbour Village.

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 our new email account: amblefb@gmail.com

Many thanks again for your ongoing support.
Amble Food Bank

Motorcycle Easter egg run



Photograph by John Digger Buxton

Over 430 motorbikes drove through Amble on Easter Saturday, as they took part in the annual Easter egg run.

The event is organised by the Infidels MCC. Club secretary Andi Yearham told The Ambler "I would like to thank all the fabulous folk who turned out to line the route of our Northumbria Easter Egg Run. It made our day even more special to see the support shown by

everyone, you're all amazing!!! Heartfelt thanks to you all!"

1000 Easter eggs were collected and will be donated to children in North East hospitals including the RVI, Freeman and Sunderland hospitals, some specialist schools and hospices. The bikers also raised £1507.71 for the Northumbria Blood Bikes. Volunteers from the Northumbria Blood Bikes charity deliver blood and urgent

medical supplies, out of hours, between hospitals and other healthcare sites in North East England.

The event began at Woodhorn before travelling to Ellington, Amble where they stopped for a break, then on to Acklington, Stakeford, Bedlington and ending at Blyth.

Anna Williams

See also p6

Spike in deliberate fires in Amble

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service recently visited James Calvert Spence College to teach students about the dangers and consequences of setting deliberate fires.

In 2022, there was nearly a 40% increase in the number of deliberate fires set in Amble. Two of the main areas affected were the dunes and the Braid.

Amble was in the top four hot-spots for deliberate fires occurring alongside Blyth, Bedlington and Ashington.

Watch Manager, Matthew Cairns, who is based in Amble visited JCSC to speak with year 6-11 students.

He said, "Deliberate fires affect the fire service massively. We are trying to educate young people to prevent it from happening."

"This was becoming a major problem in Amble, our service being sent to deliberate fires often. We all need to work together. Parents need to take some responsibility and educate their children on the dangers of fire and to not do this."

Last year, between April and August saw the largest spike of deliberate fires being set, with 80% of incidents occurring during this period and therefore the busiest time for the service.

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Reports from our *County Councillors*



Anti-social behaviour takes many forms from aggressive, noisy or abusive behaviour within our community and neighbourhood, disturbances also involving drugs, animals, and off road motorcycles, if you witness anti-social behaviour please report it.

Your neighbourhood can be an area where you live, work or visit often.

In March, Amble held a community engagement event involving the Police and Partners working together to make our communities and everyone within it feel safe, secure and comfortable within their homes and community.

I attended a walk around Amble with officers from Local Police, Public Protection, Housing and the Local Fire Service raising concerns with businesses on Queen Street and residents in the surrounding area, we also held a drop in session at the public library which was well attended.

Fire Officers provided fire safety advice and guidance, they also offer safe and well-being visits to those who needed their help.

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk 07779 983768

If you require a safe and well-being visit please call 01670 621149 to book a visit or Email nfrs@northumberland.gov.uk

Police help keep our communities safe and secure, it's vital that the police receive your reports and here your concerns all reports are treated in confidence. Police 101.

The Public Protection team's work is both enforcement and prevention based; they take enforcement action through their legal process, once you contact them they will guide you through a process of dealing with ASB. 0345 600 6400 Ask for Public Protection. Email- public.protection@northumberland.gov.uk. Public Protection work closely with key partners such as-

- Northumbria Police.
- Fire Brigade.
- Youth Offending
- Local Schools.
- Elected Members.

Reporting incidents is the first step to finding a suitable resolution to residents' concerns.

Please come along to the next engagement event and talk to Officers with any issues regarding community safety.

Terry Clark

Northumberland County Council celebrated the King's Coronation at a garden party in Alnwick Castle on May 6 with a screening of the coronation ceremony live on a big screen. This was a joint event funded by the Castle and NCC. In addition, the Council financially supported many applicants throughout the County for street parties etc. A great weekend was anticipated across Northumberland.

A very important part of the celebrations was the recognition of our unsung heroes. Nominations were available to every Councillor in Northumberland to nominate a person in their area, to receive the award on May 6.

The King made it clear that he wanted to recognise the work of volunteers, and this was NCC's way of doing this.

In my area, I was delighted to nominate

Maggie Weir for all the work that she has done with

the 'Pride of Amble' group and other good causes and charities. If you know Maggie you will know just how much effort she puts into helping anyone who needs it. Many of you will have seen her on her hands and knees weeding and working in the Town Square and she shuns any sort of publicity for any of her work.

This award was well deserved and a great way to show appreciation of her efforts.

Well done MAGGIE!

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

I hope everyone enjoys the Coronation weekend.

Jeff Watson

Jeffrey.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk 07802 385367

Who's too old for adoption?



Could you adopt a child or siblings?

How old is too old to be an adoptive parent? And at what age should a child have been adopted by?

In truth, there is no upper age limit for those wishing to adopt. In fact, more mature applicants are welcomed as they can bring the strength of

life experiences to adoption. As long as you have the health and vitality to meet the needs of the child in your care through to adulthood, whatever age you are, you could adopt.

Adopt North East is your local adoption agency and works on behalf of Northumberland

County Council. They particularly welcome applications by experienced parents who have children who are now adults, who feel that they still have a lot to offer as a parent. They can be an excellent match for an older child.

There is no upper age limit for a child to be adopted. Sadly, children aged over five typically wait 13 months longer to be adopted, yet the need for an older child to find a forever family can be more urgent and Adopt North East works tirelessly for them.

Children like six-year-old Joe* and his four-year-old brother, Ethan*, need a family who can adopt them together. Joe is polite, caring and very articulate. He loves arts and crafts and anything to do with dinosaurs. Ethan enjoys running around outdoors and playing with his cars. The boys have a close bond and are developing well. Could you be their forever family?

Often the best way to help

you think about adoption is to attend one of Adopt North East's regular information events. These are informal, warm and honest presentations where you can learn more about the process and the ongoing support provided, hear from experienced adopters and ask any questions.

Information Events

- Tuesday 6 June, 6.30-8.30pm: Online event
- Saturday 10 June, 10.30am-12.30pm: William Elder Building, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1JT
- Wednesday 5 July, 6.30-8.30pm: Adopt North East office, Longbenton, NE12 8QP
- Thursday 3 August, 6.30-8.30pm: Online event

Full details are on the 'Events' tab of the website, or contact Adopt North East. www.adoptnortheast.org.uk
Tel: (0191) 643 5000
Email: AdoptNorthEast@adoptne.org.uk

**names have been changed*



Hello everyone, how quickly the Ambler deadlines come around. It seems no time at all since the last time Anna was chivying me to get Trust Life done!

And so to The Ambler our much loved and coveted newspaper, which was nominated for an award through the ICNN Independent Community Newspaper of the Year Awards against some very stiff competition. While The Ambler didn't win, it was given a Commended acclaim with one judge describing it as a touching and very worthy community initiative, "so good, it's collectable". Well done to Anna and the wonderful volunteers who keep the press rolling.

Following the community workshop for the Investment Plan we hope to have the final version in the next couple of weeks. Once adopted by ourselves and NCC this report will be available to everyone. Although we have had to slow

down our plans for the orchard in the welfare, other plans for the facilities are taking shape and progressing. We were successful with our application for S106 funding to replace the rubber crumb safety flooring in the children's play area and are waiting for a start date from the contractor.

In addition, we understand NCC are working up their application for Playzones which has to be submitted in the coming weeks. If they are successful Amble will be one of the first to see work commence in the summer.

Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire saying what activities they would like to see marked out on the Playzone footprint.

Still on the community development aspect, we continue to offer Amble Town Council information to assist them with deciding whether to initiate a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Having forwarded them

the responses received through The Ambler, they have asked for more information some of which we feel will only be available once the process begins.

Ultimately the final decision on whether this progresses will lie with Amble Town Council who would be the responsible body for taking this forward.

The last sculpture in the Bord Waalk trail was installed at the end of April. This final one has caused some issues that needed to be resolved by the artist and fabricator. Unfortunately this delay has impacted on the finalisation of the app, leaflets and broader marketing of the trail.

However during the down time we have identified some funding that has allowed us to commission an augmented reality addition to the Murmuration sculpture on the Links and two virtual reality sculptures along the beach road between Hauxley and the east cemetery. This will bring something additional to

the trail where we have not been able to install physical sculptures.

We do now have a confirmed date for a Royal visit to officially open the trail, however there are still some elements that need to be confirmed which we will share asap.

We would like to offer local Amble businesses the opportunity to have their business listed on the Bord Waalk website. We have a section called 'Make the most of your visit to Amble'. If you would like to be listed please get in touch with the information you would like included.

Our job search facilities are open from 9.30 – 11.30 each week day. If you would like to contact the Ambler or require a CV you can do so by ringing: 01665 712929 or emailing editor@theambler.co.uk or Julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Julia, all Trust staff and Trustees
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk



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Amble Town

COUNCIL

Town: 11th May + AGM; 8th June; 13th July at 6p.m. Council Office
Amenities: 25th May; 27th July at 6p.m. Council Office
Meetings at 6pm at Fourways 2 Top Floor

EAST WARD:	Helen Lewis,	Craig Weir	WEST WARD:	David Bewley	CEN. WARD:	Kate Morrison,	Paul Dancer
Ian Parks,	5 Meadowburn,	(Chair/Mayor)	Vacancy x2	11 Brinkburn	Vacancy x1	3 Island View,	Wellbank
33 Warkworth	Amble	76 Priory Park,		Place		Amble	Victoria Villas
Avenue,	NE65 0PH	Amble		Amble		NE65 0SE	Amble
Warkworth.	07751 229 739	NE65 0HY		NE65 0BJ		01665 711191	NE65 0LQ
NE65 0TP		01665 712342		07525713086			

CORONATION

When you read this the ceremony to crown King Charles III will be over. Council decided to present our town pupils from Reception to 6th form with a souvenir mug to commemorate the occasion. The Mayor and some Councillors visited assemblies at First schools on the 3rd May and JCSC on the 4th May; after which the gifts were given to all pupils. First school pupils received the 'crown' version, JCSC the 'emblem' version but all had the town council crest on the base. There are a few left from the order-suggested donation to cover production cost of £6- so if you would like one please contact the office.



COUNCILLORS' EMAIL

From 1st May all councillors' email addresses have changed to be council specific. These will be updated on the council website and in noticeboards. You can still contact the office on the same email address as before. (See contact details below)

PLANTING BEDS

Soon summer bedding will be in place in these. It has not proved possible to put the EIIR bed at Gibson Street- this area will be grassed over and planters placed onto the two areas there. The EIIR bed will now be in the middle of the three beds at Dilston Terrace. The single bed will be the home for the Covid Snake stones. These have been treated by the small group of volunteers who have been longing for a home for them. This should be in place towards the end of the month.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Unfortunately our town is still experiencing a lot of this despite more police presence and home visits. It is a shame that some people feel a little intimidated and unable to go out and about and that visitors may be deterred from staying long due to this minority- some not even from our town. We all need to report any incidents no matter how trivial they may seem as it is only by logging these that we will get more action to stop it. We are very dismayed that after solving the water feature problems last year, only one week into putting it on this year, it has been vandalised. Someone has deliberately targeted it as all the special bolts have been removed so the top has tipped over, breaking the water pipe and the connecting hose. We will get it mended – yet again- but it is so very disappointing to have to keep spending money again and again on repairs rather than new facilities.



WEST CEMETERY

The badly deteriorating path between the top turning circle and section M has been removed and will become a grassed area. We would be grateful if visitors would refrain from walking indiscriminately over this so that it has time to grow. Please keep to the access opening which has been left at present. Councillors have now completed a survey of this section so that ground levels can be evened and any small dips taken care of over the next months.

Unfortunately there are a number of plots which are making maintenance very difficult as owners have used more than the area allowed and placed various items down the grave length. Please remember that planting etc. must not exceed 9ins/ 23cms in front of the memorial.

Where council has contact details, letters will be sent asking for removal of unauthorised items within 14 days. If there are no contact details or no response, the items will be removed and stored for four weeks to enable collection if desired.

ACKLINGTON ROAD AREA

Bad parking in this area continues to annoy and frustrate those trying to get down here. Cars parked almost totally on the pavement meaning those with mobility issues or young children in prams etc. are having to go out into the road. Please don't be the driver who causes someone to be injured doing this- take more care when parking there. Indeed there are other narrow streets in the town where this is also a problem which could and should be avoided.

GARDEN AWARDS

It seems as though the wintry weather is hardly over but the weeks are going by quite quickly. Soon councillors will be looking round the town and putting forward gardens for judging in July- so hopefully there will be some lovely warm dry days for you all to get busy digging, weeding and planting.

PCSOs

The recent press about the reduction in PCSOs in Northumberland was not well received by Councillors. The number will probably be reduced so that the three areas have only 20 in each. We do appreciate this is so there can be more full time officers for the area but there cannot be many of our people who do not know Darin Fawcett. Whilst he has been here he has seen the pupils he knew grow up, marry and now he sees their children in the schools and town. Many a young person has benefitted from his kindly words and, when needed, warnings to improve their behaviour before something more serious happens. Council has pleaded with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to retain PCSOs in our town as we know how valuable they are.

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

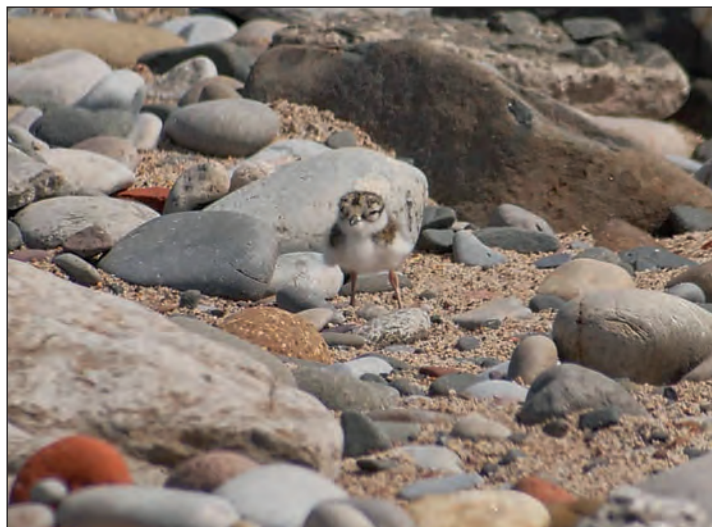
Breeding season brings its own concerns

It is an exciting time here at Space for shorebirds, as this is the breeding season.

Ringed plovers have been finding mates and scoping out breeding territory since early March. Those efforts then ramp up and we hope that by now the birds are sitting on eggs all along the coast. Ringed plovers make their nests directly on the sand and shingle of our beaches and their eggs and chicks are camouflaged to avoid predators. Unfortunately, this camouflage can make them particularly vulnerable to being accidentally stepped on by beach users or dogs.

To give our ringed plovers the best chance of rearing the next generation we put up protection areas around their nests. They help people using the beach know where to take extra precautions and hopefully stop nests from being trampled. Ringed plover territories can pop up wherever there is suitable habitat, so we must be flexible about installing our nest protection areas, but wherever they are our advice is the same:

- Stay clear of the fences to avoid disturbing nesting birds



Ringed Plover chicks can be hard to spot on the beach

- Follow the advice of any of our rangers or signs at the site
- Keep dogs under control around nesting areas, as there may be chicks feeding outside the fences

Another part of our nest protection efforts is the work of our amazing volunteers; we couldn't do what we do over such a large stretch of coastline without them! From the breeding territory surveys which help us find the nest sites, to the nest-watch and chick-watch

sessions that help keep the birds safe and spread the word about ringed plover protection. If you would like to get involved, let us know by getting in touch either on social media or email (spaceforshorebirds@northumberland.gov.uk).

Thanks for caring about our fabulous beach nesting birds, and fingers crossed for another great breeding season!

*Ben Arthur,
Space for Shorebirds*



St Cuthbert - and his ducks

I am sure that many of you will have been enjoying the loveliness of our new Bord Waalk and engaging with the fantastic sculptures.

I find myself looking eagerly for the

wonderful wings as I come into Amble from Alnwick and knowing that I am coming home when I see them.

We at St Cuthbert's feel a part of this Waalk as we have in our east window the portrayal of our patron saint, Cuthbert with his ducks at his feet and we do hope that you will come and look at it as part of the Waalk around our town (see photo).

Back to Cuthbert for a moment. He lived in the 600s AD in the regions of Scotland and

Northern England, he became a Bishop and travelled around the region establishing churches and monasteries, so today we would call him a "church planter".

His life story is told with an abundance of miracle stories, most of which sound a bit outlandish to our ears, like padding one's resume, but there is no question about the impact of his life in the region.

Much of his time was spent in isolation and his main company was of the animal variety but also of miraculous nature.

The Venerable Bede records the repentance of a crow who stole straw from the thatched roof of Cuthbert's guesthouse. Once Cuthbert had rebuked the black bird in the name of the Lord, the crow bowed its head, flew off, and returned with a piece of pig's lard which Cuthbert and his guests could use to shine their shoes.

One particularly sweet legend asserts that sea otters would come and sit upon Cuthbert's feet, keeping the man of God warm in freezing weather.

Cuthbert not only received help from wildlife, but also offered protection to wildlife himself.

He gathered a flock, not of sheep or of monks, but of eider ducks, giving them sanctuary on his little island and making him the first wildlife conservationist!

It is a pleasant picture, to imagine Cuthbert surrounded by his animal friends during his prayers and praises to their Creator.

Today the eider duck, with its yellow beak, black and white plumage, and expressive eyes is affectionately called "Cuddy's duck" in recognition of its protector.

In the spring, Coble Quay is often filled with the "booming" of the eider ducks as the males start showing off to the females, a very distinctive sound, once heard never forgotten.

Cuthbert used to say, "We lose our relationship with creation because we have lost sight of the Creator. If we love the Creator we would learn to love his creation."

In our day, we would tend to turn that around - we lose sight of the Creator because we are out of touch with creation. Either way, walking the "Bord Waalk" is one way of getting in touch with both.
Sarah Mitchell

Dementia social group launched

Age UK Northumberland has today launched a new dementia social group in Alnwick for people living with mild to moderate dementia.

The group sessions are designed for over 50s who are living with mild to moderate dementia and involve a range of fun and interactive activities such as games, music, art, cooking and exercise classes. The groups have been proven to improve mood, memory and cognition and currently Age UK Northumberland is running groups in Ashington, Morpeth and Hexham, in addition to this new group.

Amy Whyte, Chief Executive of Age UK Northumberland said:



"We're delighted to launch this new social group in Alnwick. The weekly sessions are specifically designed to help with mood and memory through participation in fun and interactive activities, these groups also provide a valuable opportunity for carers to socialise and benefit from peer support".

The sessions, which are also known as Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, provide the only non-drug treatment recommended to improve memory and thought processes, independence and well-being by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

To find out more, please call our reception team on 01670 784 800, email: info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk or contact our Dementia Lead David on: 07977 071471 or david.bonham@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk. The group will take place every Wednesday, 10am - 12pm at St James' Church, Pottergate, Alnwick, NE66 1JW

A Team are league winners



Congratulations to Amble Netball Club's A Team. Division 2 League winners and B team who finished in second place in Division 4.

For more information on Amble Netball Club contact them via email: amblenetball@aol.co.uk or see their Facebook page.

Amble's largest ever art exhibition

The Dovecote Street Show, Amble's largest art exhibition is currently in a new exhibition space at the Dovecote Centre. It will bring together a wide array of contemporary art in Amble. The project is organised by painter Luke McTaggart and photographer Jim Donnelly, in partnership with the Northumberland Theatre Company who are based in the Dovecote Centre. The initiative has received the backing of Amble Town Council who have purchased exhibition boards on behalf of the show.

The exhibition showcases the breadth of talent both in the area as well as across the wider North East. With a total of 50 participants, representing painting, printmaking, photography and sculpture, it is hoped that the exhibition can become a focal point for the growing artistic buzz in the town. The name, the 'Dovecote

Street Show', draws on the Ninth Street Show which took place at 60th East 9th Street Manhattan in 1951. It marked the inaugural exhibition showcasing the Abstract Expressionist movement, moving the centre of gravity in the art world from Paris to New York. Although on a much smaller scale, it is hoped the show can help to foster a collective sense of direction for the arts and artists in the area, and help set the stage for future events and exhibitions of this kind in the town.

The show runs until May 28 and it will be open each day from 10am-4pm. A special day of talks and screenings will take place on May 27, to coincide with the Amble Puffin Festival. For up-to-date information please visit the show's social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You can contact the event's organisers via email at dovecotestreetshow@gmail.com.

Ceilidh dancing in Alnmouth

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

Starting Tuesday 16 May 7pm -9pm and every third Tuesday after that.

No experience necessary, individuals and couples will be most welcome.

Well-known caller Mike Jevons will guide everyone through the dances, some new and some old favourites.

Bring your own drinks and glasses. £5 admission at the door.

Dates for your diary, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July. Further information from 01665 830330

Amble Living History Group

May 18 John Yearnshire - The Ellingham Village Burglary
June 15 Peter Regan - Warkworth
July 20 Liesbeth Langford - Childhood under occupation
Location: Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Street, NE65 0FG
Time: 7pm to 8.30pm
Parking: yes Easy access: yes Format: Informal
Entrance: £3 to cover meeting and refreshment costs
Do I need to be a member – NO! Everyone welcome

Theatre Company comes to Warkworth

The Portable Theatre Company is delighted to be returning to Warkworth on July 7 and 8 with its production of 'A Bunch of Amateurs'.

The play is written by Ian Hislop (Private Eye and Have I got News for You) and Nick Newman (cartoonist and comedy sketch writer for numerous television and radio programmes) so, as you might expect, the script is very funny.

The story-line features a fading Hollywood actor who comes to England to revive his career by playing King Lear at Stratford. However, instead of the birthplace of Shakespeare

and the R.S.C., he finds himself in a different Stratford with a bunch of amateurs. The clash of their two acting worlds provides considerable comedy as all concerned try to stage 'Lear', whilst overcoming prejudices and misunderstandings.

The performance starts at 7.30 and tickets cost £10.00. They are available from The Village Post Office, Warkworth, or, if you prefer to go online, at ptcalnwick@gmail.com where you can purchase by bank transfer.

We look forward to welcoming you to an uplifting evening's entertainment.

Sailing and windsurfing opportunities



Coquet Shorebase Trust has been awarded £3,240 and will be working with Amble Youth Project to provide free sailing and windsurfing opportunities for 32 children aged 11+ during school holidays.

Eight children at a time will attend weekly sessions over four weeks, working towards RYA Stage 1 and 2 certificates. To further remove any barriers to participation, the programme includes free transport for the five-mile journey from Amble to Coquet Shorebase and meals are included.

Free membership of the Trust's Cadet Division will then be available for a year to support those who would like to continue sailing and windsurfing and developing their skills.

Tim Stuart, Manager at Coquet Shorebase Trust, said: "Hopefully some will be enthusiastic and enjoy getting on the water and want to progress. The aim is to create some long-term interest." Contact CST on: 01665 710367 or see their Facebook page.

Under 12s amazing season



Amble junior under 12s have had an amazing season, they won their league with four games to spare and got through to a cup final losing out 2-1 to Newcastle City juniors who scored the winner in the last minute of the game. We are very proud of these boys.

We will be moving to 11aside teams in September, so we need additional players to help us make that transition. Anyone who would like to join this team ring Gary on 07544599030

Under nines looking for players



FC Amble junior under 9s are looking for players.

We have had the most amazing season and we are very proud of how these boys have developed over the last year. We are playing mid division football and holding our own.

We got through to a cup semi-final only losing out to a very good Berwick team. The only way is up for these boys.

Warkworth Memorial Hall films

Matinee screening Friday June 2 Empire of Light

Doors and refreshments 2.30pm. Film starts 3pm

Romantic drama directed, written, and co-produced by Sam Mendes. Set in an English coastal town in the early 1980s (2022, 1h 55' Cert 15).

Saturday Evening June 3 Amsterdam

Starring Christian Bale and Margot Robbie, the film features an ensemble cast including Andrea Riseborough, Taylor Swift, Matthias Schoenaerts, Rami Malek, and Robert De Niro. Part drama, part dark comedy and 100% stylish. (2022, 2h14' Cert 15).

Saturday Evening July 1 Moonage Daydream

An audiovisual treat for Bowie fans, The film uses montage-style editing of film clips and interviews from Bowie's career. (2022, 2h 10' Cert PG).

Saturday Evening August 5 The Full Monty, timeless comedy classic Evening performances, doors and cash bar 7pm. Film starts at 7.30pm

No need to book - seating is plentiful - £5 suggested donation per person

Call Anna on 07758 253104 or anna.willey@cantab.net Or our facebook page www.facebook.com/warkworthfilmclub

Girls remain unbeaten



Amble Links under 7s girls recently won the Girls under 8s Champions League. They managed to remain unbeaten in this division, which is a great achievement especially as they are playing against girls a year older than themselves most weeks.

For more information on the girls' team, contact David Whenray on 07885546163.

Thought-provoking exhibition

An exhibition celebrating the female Artist Susan Waters through a witty and thought provoking exhibition at Dry Water Arts. As ever this dynamic arts hub offers something different and beautiful for Amble.

Everyone welcome, bring your friends too! A free event and a chance to meet the artist on the preview evening.

Preview evening Friday 26 May 6pm - 8pm - Everyone welcome - refreshments available.

Exhibition open 10.30am - 4pm Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Street Amble NE65 0FG www.drywaterarts.uk Tel: 07542 141411

Volunteering opportunities

We were recently successful in raising money via crowdfunding to develop an Outdoor Kitchen at the Women's Workshop on the Coquet Enterprise Park in Amble. We are offering a variety of opportunities to get involved, from volunteering to help with projects, keeping the garden tidy and growing, to attending the workshops activities such as seed sowing, both vegetable and flowers, making herb planters, building bee and bird boxes, and creating structures with willow from our own garden.

As part of the overall garden project, we were also successful in receiving funding to build an outdoor feature. This will be a small community eco-hub, made with environmentally friendly materials such as straw and clay. The build will go ahead in June and July. The eco-hub will be for multi-use, as well as to showcase garden and creative projects.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved by emailing angela@womensworkshop.net.

Warkworth Memorial Hall concerts

No concert planned for June, but very pleased to have Paul Anderson and Shona Donaldson with us on July 14. A rare opportunity to see two of Scotland's foremost traditional music talents bringing fiddle mastery and ballad singing to Warkworth.

For further information and to see our plans for later in the year have a look at www.wwmh.uk/concerts.html. Tickets for our concerts are limited and must be booked in advance.



Puffin Festival Fun: the events so far...

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

Saturday 27 May

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

Pop up bird watching. With the Space for Shorebirds team. 10am - 12midday next to the Shorebase Trust. Come along and watch the birds along the estuary using our telescopes. Free

Puffin storytime and crafts: With Jodi at Amble Library. 10.30am - 11.30am. Free but booking required: book via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/41Wa6Wb>

All about Puffins. A chance to ask the RSPB and Coquet Island wardens about the Puffins and other wonderful birds and seals on the island. In the Town Sq. Free

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

Exhibition: SheView. Celebrating the female artist Susan Waters through a witty and thought provoking exhibition at Dry Water Arts. Everyone welcome. Exhibition open 10.30am - 4pm Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Street Amble NE65 0FG www.drywaterarts.uk Tel: 07542 141411. Free

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

Talks and Screenings at The Dovecote Street Show. Sound, film and video art pieces. More info: Instagram: [dovecotestreetshow](https://www.instagram.com/dovecotestreetshow); Facebook: Dovecote Street Show; Twitter: [DovecoteStShow](https://twitter.com/DovecoteStShow). 10am-4pm at the NTC Dovecote Centre

Beach Safari: Explore the rockpools at the Little Shore with Ranger Jane. Join in any time. More info 07742 665258. Free

Beach Art: with Claire Eason. Turn up and join in. On the Little Shore. Free

Live Performances: Throughout the day. In the Town Sq Bare Toed aerial art & live music. Plus have a go workshops where you can try out your aerial abilities! Tribal dancing from Tribe Zuza

Pop up poet Ian Williams (in cafes in the town centre)

Salida: Chilled out acoustic Latin, samba and reggae tunes
Auckland Shanty Singers: Songs of the sea, traditional and new. Bring your best pirate impersonations

The Boffs: Psychedelic rock from reformed 60's Amble band

Meet Tommy Noddy the giant puffin.

Dog show: with Northumberland Dog Rescue. Starts at 1pm with registration from 12.30. On the Braid near the beacon. Categories are; best senior, best bitch best dog, best rescue, best behaved, most like owner, best overall. Special guest: John's Paws dog trainer. Details from www.northumberlanddogrescue.co.uk or see their Facebook page. 01665 579246.

Make a puffin mascot: Make a plushy puffin mascot Some skills needed: backstitching, needle threading and knot tying. Not for complete beginners. Toy not suitable for small children and pets. 2pm - 3.30pm at Amble Pin Cushion 20 Queen Street. £12.50 inc materials (adult and child attending together making 1 toy £17.50). Ring 01665 714584 www.amblepincushion.co.uk or see their Facebook page

Afternoon nature walk: Birds and flowers of the estuary. With Atholl Swanston. Approx 1.5hrs. Meet 2pm at info stall near Cock + Bull in the Town Sq. Free.

Nature talk: A look at the work of the British Divers Marine Life Rescue. With Jane Hardy. At Cock + Bull in Town Sq. Time 1pm-1.30pm. Free

Stand up paddleboarding: with Northside Surf School. Sessions last 30mins. Under 18s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian + must sign permission form. Ring Jon 07944398115 for details.

Evening talk*: Old Amble. With Bart Rippon. 7pm-8pm. Doors open 6.30pm. At the Masonic Hall NE65 0LN. Tickets £5. Cash only on the door; sorry no card facilities.



Sunday 28 May

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

All about Puffins. A chance to ask the RSPB and Coquet Island wardens about the Puffins and other wonderful birds and seals on the island. In the Town Sq. Free

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

Exhibition: SheView. Celebrating the female artist Susan Waters through a witty and thought provoking exhibition at Dry Water Arts. Everyone welcome. Exhibition open 10.30am - 4pm Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Street Amble NE65 0FG www.drywaterarts.uk Tel: 07542 141411. Free

Dovecote Street Show: Last day. 10am-4pm Dovecote Centre. See Fringe section for more info

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

Beach Safari: Explore the rockpools at the Little Shore with Ranger Jane. Join in any time. More info 07742 665258. Free



Live Performances: Throughout the day. In the Town Sq Baghdaddies: exuberant world music, played with furious energy and theatrical humour

Caribbean Crew: steel band from Cramlington, playing upbeat, contemporary music

Pop up poet Ian Williams (in cafes in the town centre)

The Boffs: Psychedelic rock from reformed 60's Amble band

Afternoon talk: The Bird Roads (Poetry created for Amble Bord Waalk). With Katrina Porteous. Poetry reading and Q+A. At Cock + Bull in the Town Sq. 1-2pm. Free

Afternoon nature walk: Flowers of the dunes. With Atholl Swanston. Approx 1.5hrs. Meet 2pm at info stall near Cock + Bull in the Town Sq. Free.

FRINGE

To see the puffins, and thousands of other seabirds (weather permitting):

>Puffin Cruises from the Harbour. Booking essential. Ring 07752 861914.

>Amble Boat Trips aboard the Natalie Kristen II. To book, ring Kevin on 07873 752643.

•Amble First Schools' puffin painting display in shops along Queen Street

•Children's amusements in the Town Sq.

•The Dovecote Street Show. Large-scale exhibition of contemporary painting, printmaking, photography and sculpture from across the North East. Runs from May 8 - 28. 10am-4pm at the NTC Dovecote Centre NE65 0DX. See their social media for more info. Instagram: [dovecotestreetshow](https://www.instagram.com/dovecotestreetshow); Facebook: Dovecote Street Show; Twitter: [DovecoteStShow](https://twitter.com/DovecoteStShow). Free entry

•Create puffin bunting at cafes on Queen Street, Radcliffes Bar and Spurreli's

•Puffin themed cupcakes/treats from The Galley and Gracy's on Queen Street

•'Puffin Poo' milkshakes and fudge from Mocha Mondo pod in the Harbour Village

Thursday 25 May

Evening talk*: An introduction to the ecology of Harvest Mice and their reintroduction to the Northumberland

Coast. With Sophie Webster, Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Catch My Drift project officer. At the Dovecote Centre NE65 0DX. 7pm-9pm (with interval). Doors open 6.30pm. Adults £5, children £3. Cash only on the door; sorry no card facilities.

Friday 26 May

Preview event: for SheView exhibition at DryWater Arts. A chance to meet artist Susan Waters at the ahead of her two day exhibition. Everyone welcome - refreshments available. Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Street Amble NE65 0FG www.drywaterarts.uk Tel: 07542 141411 6pm - 8pm. Free

Evening event*: Live music from local modern folk group Wild Cloudberrries. 7.30pm at the Dovecote Centre NE65 0DX. 7.30pm-10pm (with interval). Doors open 7pm. Tickets £10. Cash only on the door; sorry no card facilities.

Tickets for events marked * are available from N & F Young (8 Queen St), Seafood Centre in the Harbour Village, and Fourways2, Dilston Terr. Tickets for talks are also available on the door. Cash only on the door; sorry no card facilities.