



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 142 Oct/Nov 2023

Go Girls!

Amble Links Girls are
double champions
Page 23



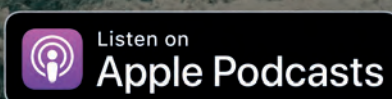
WONDERY

DIVE INTO THE PODCAST

THAT WILL LEAVE AMBLE HOOKED!



**THE STORY OF AN UNUSUAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
A SWIMMER AND A WILD DOLPHIN, AND THE SCANDAL
THAT THREATENED TO DESTROY THEM BOTH.**



For ad-free listening, exclusive content and early access
to new shows, follow Wondery+, now available on Apple Podcasts.



Vera author thanks RNLI, as Lifeboat Day raises thousands



Top left: Ann Cleeves opened the event. Photos top and above by Vivienne Dalglish and Bart Rippon. Photo right by Ivor Rackham



Vera author Ann Cleeves admitted she had much to be grateful to the RNLI for, as she opened Amble's annual Lifeboat Day on 27 August.

She spoke of her gratitude to the RNLI; many years ago they rescued her husband who had been washed out to sea while ringing sea birds. After her speech, she met local people and signed copies of her books.

The day started in bright sunshine and Rev. John McDermott led a service. A good crowd filled the quayside throughout the day, and an amazing £7981 was raised.

Entertainment was provided by Ellington Colliery band, and later

by the lifeboat crew themselves, as they demonstrated some of their skills with both the Shannon class lifeboat and the inshore craft.

One of the organisers said, "A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support us, pity about the showers but we hope you still enjoyed yourselves. Thank you to Ann Cleeves for opening the event, Ellington Colliery Band, Tom O'Donnell, the local and non local businesses and individuals who kindly donated and helped us to make the day a success. It's very much appreciated by the crew and fundraisers. Thank you"

>> More photos on p17



Did you know we have two shops in Amble? Our second shop is located at our roastery at Unit 6D, Coquet Enterprise Park in Amble (Just around the corner from Morrisons). We're open 9AM - 3PM weekdays and it's FREE to park!

AT OUR ROASTERY SHOP YOU CAN FIND:

- Our entire range of over 25 bagged coffees (we can even prepare them to a specific grind or bag size as needed).
- Northumberland Fudge, homemade flapjacks, coffee makers and equipment, The Nut Roaster's range of nut butters, full range of Bari Tea, Northumbrian Bakehouse biscuits, shortbreads and more.

You can even grab a takeaway coffee whilst you browse the shelves! When ordering with us online, why not choose to collect your order from our Roastery Shop and save on shipping?

MOCHAMONDO.CO.UK

OPEN WEEKDAYS 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



A look at the history of the Lord Mayors Field



John Grantham, Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne and Violet Grantham, Lady Mayoress, visiting the Lord Mayor's Holiday Camp at Amble, Northumberland, 9 August 1937 Image: Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

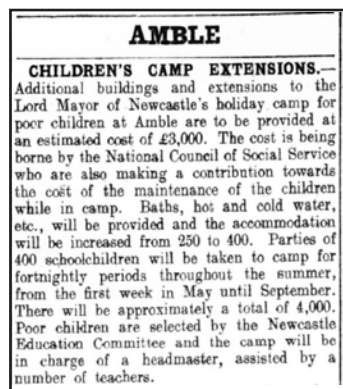
- In 1934 the land was bought by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle and used as a holiday camp for poor children from Newcastle. More information on the activities at the camp can be found on Amble Town Council's history trail information board.

- 1936 The Lord Mayor's Field (LMF) was sold by Michael Lawson Smith to Adamson Dawson Russell (then Sheriff of Newcastle) and Samuel Smith. The conveyance of the land refers to 'varied' covenants. These included a ban on any manufacturing, trade or business on the land and no beer or alcohol was to be sold. An additional covenant forbade activity on the land 'likely to cause a nuisance'.

- The holiday camp closed in 1938 as war loomed on the horizon. During WW2 the field was likely requisitioned for war purposes as it was used as a POW and a displaced person's camp (mostly eastern Europeans).

- 1954 a deed and covenants on the LMF were documented. There seems to have been a legal partnership between Michael Lawson Smith and Amble Urban District Council. A clause released the ban on trade and business, but kept the rest.

- 1963 the caravan site and other land was sold by Robert Rice Forsyth to Amble Urban District Council.



From the Morpeth Herald 1936

- Over the next several decades, the LMF was used for many recreational purposes; caravans, jazz band marches and practices, weekend dog races, funfairs and the circus. It also provided an open space for children to play, for dog walking, and for unofficial bonfire night fun.

- 1974 Amble Urban District Council was abolished. Many records from AUDC were subsequently destroyed by Alnwick District Council.

- 2002 the caravan site, the amusement arcade, the Granary and the LMF were

leased by Alnwick District Council to New Links Caravan Park Ltd. There were to be no caravans on the LMF; the stated permitted use is: "for landscaping and open space affording free access to members of the public and occupants of the Caravan Park."

- 2009 Alnwick District Council was abolished, replaced by a unitary Northumberland County Council (NCC).

- 2013 LMF and caravan site were transferred to Arch (development arm of NCC) for £5.4m. In 2018 Arch was dissolved, replaced by Advance Northumberland (new development arm of NCC).

- 2021 Advance agreed to sell the caravan site for £8.25m and LMF for £2m to Park Leisure with a formal agreement on public access to the pool. The LMF was designated Open Space in the Northumberland Local Plan 2016-2036, the statutory development plan for the whole county.

- 2022 (January) LMF and caravan site were sold by NCC/Advance to Park Leisure 2000, for £10.25m. (February) Park Leisure was bought by SCI SG Bidco Ltd. Park Leisure takes out a 175 year lease for the caravan site from SCI SG Bidco. SCI SG Bidco is owned by Sun Communities Inc, a Real Estate investment trust, based in the USA and which trades on the NY Stock Exchange.



Over the years, the LMF has been used for many recreational purposes; caravans, jazz band marches, dog racing, funfairs and circuses. (Spot the elephants in this photo from Anne Lambert, taken in the early 1970s)

Answers to Lord Mayor's Field sale provoke more questions

Was the Lord Mayor's Field sold off to plug Advance Northumberland's debts? Could it now become an extension for the Amble Links caravan park? The sale of the Lord Mayor's Field (LMF) has continued to draw questions, despite efforts to quell concerns.

News that the long standing public open space had been sold off in 2022 alongside the Amble Links caravan park land, drew anger from residents who felt the public should have been informed at the time. (See Issue #141 p5)

Cllr Jeff Watson (Amble West with Warkworth and chair of Advance Northumberland at the time of the sale) told The Ambler: "There hasn't been any change in the conditions from when the land was leased to Park Leisure and when it was sold. There was no need to consult the public as Advance doesn't generally consult when they sell land. I want to reassure people that the people of Amble will always have access to the LMF."

Later, in a joint statement Advance Northumberland and Northumberland County Council (NCC) responded to fears that the LMF could be fenced off from members of the public, or possibly developed in the near future. They noted two conditions which had been placed on the sale of the land:

- To restrict future development potential so that the site remains a caravan park, that no part of the site, (including the area of land known as the LMF), could be developed for residential purposes, until 2032, without the consent of Advance Northumberland, unless the



The Lord Mayor's Field is a popular and valued open space in the community

owner can demonstrate to Advance Northumberland's reasonable satisfaction that the site is no longer economically viable as a holiday park;

- To ensure that members of the public continue to have access to the site's swimming pool as has been the case during Advance Northumberland's [and the Council's prior] ownership, that the owner of the site entered a contract with NCC to maintain public access, for the same rates as the Council usually charge, unless it becomes uneconomic to keep the pool open.

It continued: "These conditions will remain in force, even if there were a change of site owner."

Why was the LMF sold?

The statement has prompted more questions, not least what would happen after 2032, or if the owners were to show financial need to expand onto the LMF. Possibly the biggest question remains; given its history as public open land, (see p4,) why was it sold at all?

Despite being deemed by NCC to have no commercial value, the LMF has been bundled together with the caravan park in leases since 2002. By 2013, the site rent income proved so lucrative for NCC, they used it to help offset the cost of running 'poorer quality' industrial estates. However, in recent years, Park Leisure made Advance at least three offers for both pieces of land.

In documents seen by The Ambler, an initial proposal in 2020 was for Advance to sell the caravan site land to Park

"The sale would provide a cash buffer to repay debt"

Leisure for £8.25m, and lease the LMF for £150,000 pa for a 20 year period. This would have yielded at least £3m in rent, but by 2021 Advance agreed instead to sell the LMF for £2m. Together with the caravan park, this brought the total to £10.25m.

Explaining their decision, Advance stated that the sale would mean they would not have to worry about potential defaults on rent, and it would provide a cash buffer which could be utilised to repay debt.

A last, but no less significant question: why would Park Leisure, who were about to be bought out by an American investment trust, spend £2m on land and not use it?

The Ambler asked NCC if the owners could now use the LMF for additional caravan or lodge space, and if so, would the public have right of access onto the land.

A spokesperson told us: "They would need planning permission, and the land is permanently and formally designated Open Space in the Statutory Development Plan."

They added, "public access could be maintained via appropriate design and Planning Conditions/legal agreements attached to any planning permission."

Anna Williams



TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME

01665 710 442

MONDAY TO SATURDAY: 11.30AM-9.00PM SUNDAYS: 11.30AM-2.30PM

★★★★★ NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN



Make it look pretty again!

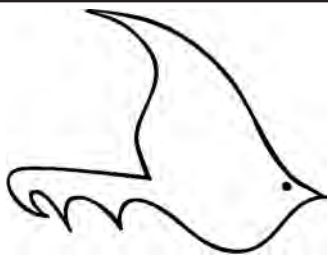
Maintenance and Design

- weeding
- grass cutting, edging
- planting, flower potting
- hedge trimming
- pruning
- landscaping
- paving, fencing

STAINTON

Coast & Country Garden Service

01665 798543 **AMBLE**  Visit us on Facebook



The Ambler

Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace
Northumberland NE65 0DT

Tel: 01665 712929

www.theambler.co.uk
editor@theambler.co.uk

Facebook: TheAmbler

Twitter: AmbleByTheSea

YouTube: AnnaAtTheAmbler1



Editorial Team:

Vivienne Dalgliesh, Norma Hinson
Ian MacKarill

Editor: Anna Williams

Thanks to:

Mark Beswick & The Artograffi Crew

Distribution:

Charlotte, Wendy, Lorraine, Bryan
Ian, John, Richard

Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

Would you like to join
The Ambler team? We welcome
contributions and help from anyone
who would like to volunteer.

DONATE TO THE AMBLER

via our website or this QR code



Thanks to all our contributors,
sponsors and advertisers:

Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth



The Ambler is a proud member of
the Independent Community News
Network

The Ambler is a project of
Amble Development Trust



The Ambler is printed six times per
year. The views expressed in *The
Ambler* and *The Ambler Online* are
not necessarily those of
the Editorial Team

2023 Submissions dates:

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

Do you want to be in the Christmas parade?

Shoutout to all groups and
organisations who would like
to take part in the Christmas
Lights Procession this year. The
procession and lights switch
on takes place on **Sunday 19
November**; the parade itself will
leave the Wellwood at 5pm and
end up in the Town Square.

During the afternoon, there
will be live music and children's
amusements in the Town Square
and Santa will be in the Harbour
Village.

The theme this year is birds,
wings, and Christmas. Dry Water
Arts will be putting on a free bird



inspired mask making workshop
on Saturday 11 November from
2-4pm. Contact them if you'd like
to book a place - or a banner for
the parade: info@drywaterarts.uk

There are loads of birds
associated with Christmas: from

a plump little robin puffing out
their red breast, to turkeys and
partridges hanging around in pear
trees. It's time to let your 'bird-
brained' imagination go wild and
come up with something really
creative for the parade.

Organisers are also looking
for volunteers to help so if you
can spare a couple of hours to
help with putting up/taking down
gazebos, marshalling etc. please
get in touch.

Participants/volunteers
please contact julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk so
she can assign you a place.

The Ambler sends our condolences to the family and friends of 13 year old Cyrus Mitchell who sadly died at the end of August. Despite a valiant battle with cancer, the youngster was given only weeks to live, just before his 13th birthday. His family rallied to give him the best birthday party and make as many happy memories as they could. (See issue #141 p3)

WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p8

Bord Waalk opening not publicised

As a resident of Amble I
would have liked to have
been at the opening of the Bord
Waalk Trail. I have spoken
to many other residents, who
also would have supported it.
However, nowhere was the
date/time/place advertised for
any of us to see.

The Duke of Gloucester –
“a minor Royal” (not sure he'd
be happy with that description)
– must have wondered whether

the people of Amble were at all
interested in the Bord Waalk
Trail.

There's always a great turn-
out for community events such
as this, IF WE HAD KNOWN
WHEN THEY WERE
TAKING PLACE.

Another missed
opportunity, is all I can say.

Sue Swanston
Amble

Ed: We asked Julia Aston, director
of Amble Development Trust for a
comment. She said, “I appreciate
and understand the comments
made by Sue and that she felt
disappointed. The process of being
able to confirm all the details
required for the royal visit took a
great deal of time and were only
confirmed the Friday before it took
place. It was only then we were
allowed to publicise the event -
which we did on The Ambler's
Facebook page.”

We are not aware that any of
our mentions of the Duke have
described him as a minor Royal.

Should we have a tourism tax to build affordable houses?

I loved the piece in the Ambler
(*Population falls in Amble*
#141 p9) and it should, to
many residents, provide some
interesting figures to think
about. Well, you did ask the
question “What do you think?”

I think that there are
many who have taken the
opportunity to purchase
the cheaper older properties
to create holiday lettings
businesses without serious
thought to the consequences,
either in reducing the number
of available affordable houses
to buy or to rent, or in the
dangerous congestion caused by
the extra vehicles coming into
the town.

Judging by the different
accents, many people from
outside the area have bought
properties to retire here adding
to an aging population.

We should all be concerned
at the low number of affordable
houses being built either to
buy or to rent. I've just heard
on the radio that although
Cornwall is one of the poorest
areas in the UK, to purchase a
house there you need to be a
millionaire! Amble will not be
far behind as many of the new
housing finished or still being
built in your first list, are in the
high bracket purchase price. In
fact the seven new houses built
at the bottom of the Wynd,
(Marina West), were originally
marketed as holiday homes,
and have since been put on the
market at over £700k each.

I think if everyone living
in Amble carried out a quick
count of the number of key
safes at each house in their
street they would be surprised.
Let's be fair, there are not many

who need them to let their
carer in, so it is likely that these
properties are purchased as
holiday lets, including some of
the new builds.

Several weeks ago I carried
out a spot check in Wellwood
Street, Byron Street, Middleton
Street and King Edward Street,
including three in Bede Street
but not counting those in the
High Street or Church Street,
and found 36 were now holiday
lets - all of these were once
affordable houses.

How about we reverse the
situation by charging a tourism
tax on those businesses and
individuals who have one or
more holiday lettings and use
this tax to build truly affordable
housing!

Jennifer Dunn
via email

We welcome all your letters and email. Your name and address must be supplied, but will be withheld on request. Letters are accepted in good faith, but may be edited. Readers have a right to reply. See the About Us section on our website for more information.

Covid stones have a new home

Readers may remember the painted stones at the Little Shore, created by locals and visitors of all ages during the Covid 19 lockdown. It was then that Jacqui Jones and Kate Morrison looked to find a permanent home for the stones.

Now the project has come to fruition as they have been fixed in one of the planters opposite Dilston Terrace, along with a plaque made by Stephen Lunn.

However, concerns have been raised that people are climbing on the planter, and in some instances the stones have been dug out.

The pair want to thank all the people who helped make the project happen: Beth Sunter for her original idea. Harbour Commissioners for helping to collect and store them. Nick Spurr for storing the stones for 18 months, and donating money

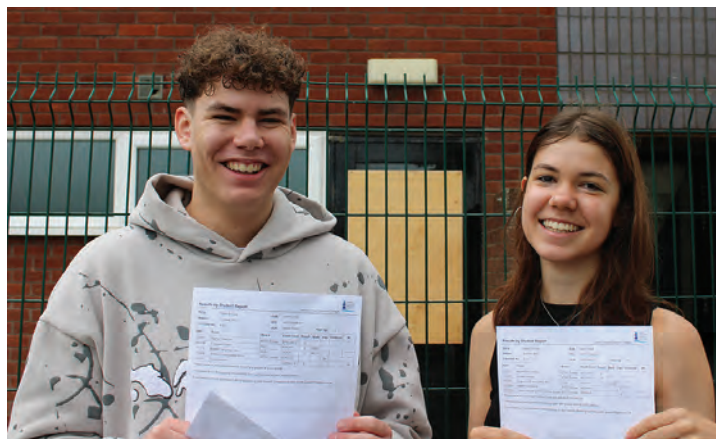
towards cement. Stephen Lunn for donating the information plaque. Peter Sample for his building knowledge. Matthew Connolly and Gary Morrison from Amble Youth Project, and young person, Issy and her parents for supplying equipment and donating time to secure the stones in the raised bed. Jim Donnelly and Julia Aston for helping to place the stones in the raised bed. The county council for allowing the painted stones to have a permanent home in the raised bed. Amble Town Council for their donation for cement.

Kate Morrison said, "We hope that people will respect the effort that the children and people of Amble made to paint the pictures and that they will help to protect it. Everyone gave their time, expertise and donations of money to make this project a success."



People are asked not to stand on or dig out the stones, after damage has already been done. Pictured: Jacqui Jones, Stephen Lunn who made the plaque, and Kate Morrison

JCSC A level students' results



Dylan Clark and Hope Vernon with their A level results

Congratulations to students from JCSC who received their A Level results this summer. This cohort of students did not take their GCSEs due to the pandemic, so their A-level exams were the first external tests they had sat since their KS2 SATs at 11 years old.

Will Griffiths achieved an A in Chemistry, an A in Physics and a B in Mathematics. He will be studying Chemistry at Newcastle University in September.

He said: "I'm over the moon with my results. I'm very

thankful to Mr Moore, and the school have been really helpful. My hard work has paid off and I am really looking forward to going to Newcastle University in September."

Neil Rodgers, Executive Headteacher, said "This year's A-level results are the well-earned reward for the determination and teamwork shown by this group of resilient, hardworking students and their teachers. They took their exams in their stride and performed incredibly well."

See more on our website.



Commercial & Domestic Cleaning Services

Your One Stop Cleaning Service Provider

Our ever expanding teams of fully trained and insured operatives are insured and able to carry out all of the following aspects of Domestic and Commercial cleaning for you, or your business.

Carpets and upholstery	Conservatory	Pressure washing
Windows	Roofs	End of Tenancy
Gutters/Fascias	Commercial	Post Build
	Kitchens	General

01665 713448 www.lionheartcleaning.co.uk



Cromie PHARMACY

NHS Providing NHS services

 Blood Pressure Checks	 Vaccinations	 Allergy Treatments	 Hair Loss Treatments
 Erectile Dysfunction Treatments	 Period Delay	 Travel Vaccinations	 Weight Management
 Migraine Treatments	 Contraception	 Smoking Cessation	 Podiatrist

and treatments not routinely offered by the NHS

To discuss any of our services in private, speak to a pharmacist

Visit our website for more information:
www.cromiepharmacy.co.uk
info@cromiepharmacy.co.uk | 01665 710 896
 158 Percy St, Amble, Morpeth, NE65 0AG

Facebook Instagram

Proposed closure of railway ticket offices

This is a copy of the letter I've written to Ms. Trevelyan, MP.

This proposed closure is a contentious issue. It seems to me that the arguments against closure are overwhelming, and the only people to benefit will be the train operators' shareholders. They will think it's Christmas and obviously don't care about the impact on train users, just the financial benefits to themselves.

Your Northumberland constituents, and people further afield, value the exemplary services at Alnmouth station. If the station shuts, staff will have to spend the working day

braving the elements outdoors and providing information and support that is not available on websites. What if disabled people can't access ticket machines or are not computer literate?

So where do you stand on this issue? I'm sure thousands of voters will take this into account as the 2024 elections draw closer. They have long memories and you stand to gain a lot of votes and goodwill if you take a clear position against the closures.

Please let us know your position in unambiguous terms. I look forward to hearing from you.

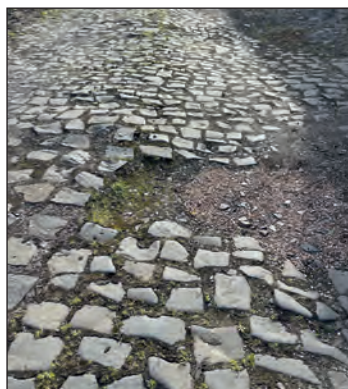
*John Bird
Amble*

I'm now scared to go out in my scooter

It was a sunny day in August so my friend and I decided to take a walk down to the harbour in Amble. I was in my mobility scooter.

I love to visit Salt and Co to see what new silver jewellery Martha has made and I am able to manoeuvre my scooter into the shop and reverse out again. This time I didn't buy anything but I already have four rings and two bracelets.

It looked like it might rain so we made our way home. I have to go over the cobblestones at the back of Church Street to get to my house. There seemed to be a pothole at the top and my wheel stuck in it and I couldn't get a purchase on the cobbles to get out, I was stuck.



My friend said she couldn't push with me on it so could I get out for a few seconds while she tried to push it out of the way. She fetched my quad stick and I stood up. I immediately fell over onto the cobbles on my right side. My friend dialled

999 and I lay on the cobbles for half an hour until the ambulance arrived.

People who lived nearby were marvellous and brought me blankets; I particularly want to thank Emily, and her daughter Maisie, from Straffen Court and Alison, Emily's mother, who all stayed with me.

When the paramedics arrived they produced something which sounded like a "Mangalift" and with this they were able to sit me up then transfer me to the scooter.

I was able to drive back to my yard with the Paramedics and walked a few steps into the house. I didn't want to go into the hospital, so they did tests (including an ECG) at my kitchen table. I wasn't bleeding and had very little pain so they declared me well, and left.

I am scared to go over the cobbles again in my scooter. This accident would not have happened if the cobbles were in a decent state of repair or replaced. As it is, I am left a prisoner in my own home.

Please Northumberland County Council, sort this out so there are no more accidents. It could have been worse, I could have broken something, but as one of my carers pointed out I am well padded and I landed well. Cobbles look nice but they are a safety hazard.

*Chris Herzberg
Amble*

Save the A1068 woods



This is a public plea to save around 500 sq m of the established woodland shown in this photo next to the A1068 approaching Amble from the south.

Persimmon already have permission to demolish the ENTIRE woodland, to build a dangerous new T-junction to access 166 new houses in the field behind at "Hauxley View". This permission was originally granted when a separate developer couldn't get the obvious safer access direct from the roundabout, as Persimmon owned the adjoining land. This was used for construction access to the adjacent Coquet Grange development. Persimmon, who actually complained about the traffic dangers of the original proposal, have now taken this development over, so why

haven't they changed their design to provide this much safer access and save the woods?

Come on Persimmon, there's a golden opportunity here, to :-

- save these trees and the habitat they provide
- give us a safer road layout by making Percy Drive a 4 way roundabout
- reduce traffic noise for your proposed housing behind the trees
- share the cost with Tantallon whose development in the fields behind desperately needs a direct A1068 vehicle access to avoid overloading Acklington Road

I've had no response from the NCC planners on this, so just think what great publicity you could get by initiating the change yourselves !

*Tom Lloyd
Amble*

Percy Drive pedestrian crossings

Great news to discover that Councillor Clark's plans for the installation of drainage and the re-surfacing of the Southmead Footpath No. 16 are about to be made real by Northumberland County Council. The path will be closed off for the duration of the work but that will be a small inconvenience compared with the number of times it is likely to be impassable due to future flooding.

But why stop there? In the same week as the notices appeared, a cyclist was injured in a road traffic accident and received roadside medical treatment at the Priory Park junction on Percy Drive which has become a bit of a race track in recent months. It is becoming increasingly risky trying to cross the road on foot at the same point particularly from

the Southmead side. The field of view towards Philip Drive is restricted by the bend in that section of the road and the speed of the traffic leaving Amble doesn't leave much time for pedestrians to cross safely even if they are young and fit.

I know that the Fontburn crossing point is the preferred option for a pedestrian crossing at the moment but I would suggest that the Priory Park crossing is the more dangerous and therefore just as essential.

With the improvement to the Southmead path there will probably be an increase in the number of pedestrians crossing Percy Drive in both directions so why not install a safe pedestrian crossing here as well as at Fontburn.

*Hugh Tindle
via email*

Bill Mitchell: A life well lived

When daughter Emma Oliver put a post on Facebook telling us that her father Bill Mitchell had passed away in June this year, more than 500 people reacted to the post. He had had so many connections within the community.

Bill was born in Alnwick and was educated at the Duke School. On leaving he trained as a mining engineer with a view to becoming a colliery manager, but then tuned his hand to teaching. He met Jean, his wife of 65 years, when she attended Alnwick Training College in the 60s.

The couple moved to Amble when he started teaching at Amble Secondary Modern School, where he specialised in mathematics and general subjects. When the system changed, he joined the staff of Coquet High School and he served as deputy head until he retired in 1987. During school holidays Bill, Jean, and children Mark and Emma enjoyed caravanning in Scotland and holidays abroad.



Bill liked to be busy and supported his local community. in a wide variety of roles. He was a member of Amble Urban District Council, and Amble Town Council, serving as Mayor on two occasions. He served on Alnwick District Council from 1973 and was chairman for two years from 1984. During this time he negotiated with the EU in Brussels for the building of Amble Marina. When he travelled to secure the funding, he took with him, as a gift, a red telephone box. This was installed in Voerde, and he rang his wife from it.

He became a Justice of the Peace in 1982 and chairman of the bench from 2001-2004. In 1987 he became an Alderman of Alnwick, and in 2009 a Northumberland Alderman.

Bill's wife Jean told us, "After retiring he said he would not want to live anywhere but Amble."

Bill was 86 years old but sadly had not enjoyed good health in recent years. Now he is at peace.

Lily Tibbitts' *Student Life*

Even though it's one of my favourite things to do, I haven't been doing as much writing as I would like to recently (especially considering I'm supposed to be doing a creative writing degree). Ideas are high but motivation is six feet under, so for July I decided to do nanowrimo.

Nanowrimo - national novel writing month - is a challenge that usually takes place in November, but there's a 'bootcamp' version over July that I signed up to. The general gist is that you have to write 50,000 words in a month, which in July averages at 1612 words per day, and log it on their website so that they can send you motivation and good vibes. If you're thinking that sounds insane, you're absolutely right.

I'd attempted it a couple of times before, years and years ago, with a suitable amount of arrogance, because of course I could write over four pages a day while also doing school work and having a life and coming up with the plot on the spot because

I hadn't planned a single scene. Needless to say the attempts were not a success.

This time, I had a story plan. I wasn't doing school or uni. I still wasn't prepared for how hard it would be.

Trying to write over 1600 words a day meant that almost everything else had to take a break, and if I did choose the 'having a life' option then I'd usually end up writing into the early hours of the morning to get it done in time. It was hard, but it definitely got me writing again.

After thirty one long days, I managed to do it. I now have just over 50,000 words of a novel, but more importantly I've got the knowledge that it's something I can still do, even after what feels like ages since I wrote a longer story. Maybe next time I could come to that conclusion in a way that doesn't involve losing so much sleep.



Advertorial

A revolution is sweeping the world in dog behaviour

Challenging dog behaviour is a huge topic and may include minor issues, or more challenging behaviours caused by, for example, dog frustration, fear, or excitement.

This may result in the destruction of the house, barking, pinching of clothing, resource guarding, fear of fireworks or loud noises, licking incessantly, relationship issues with the owner or members of the family, refusal to comply with basic commands and so much more. Maybe your dog is just naughty but really nice and can be an angel one minute or a mischief-maker the next, impacting your life with the family far too often.

Although these issues are resolvable, often owners feel broken, ashamed or downright exhausted which clouds their desire to reach out for help.

Help for many owners takes too much time, money, and energy. They have often tried help via the conventional training route, to find their dog is no better behaviour-wise at home.

Many ingredients contribute to a pup's emotional state.

Their start in life, the breeder, and their new home, also how a pup's socialisation goes, all make a huge difference to their personality (which will be covered in another article).

This all coincides with the 'Hazard Avoidance Period' where the puppy becomes fearful. So gentle encouragement with plenty of sleep, plus games to boost their optimism and confidence helps to reset their emotions, helping them to cope in life.

Often owners are blamed for their dog's behaviour. My outlook is that most people are doing the best they can with the knowledge, experience, or resources they have. A blame culture is negative and unhelpful. An owner's emotional state or energy is picked up by the dog. Dogs smell cortisol, (which is a stress hormone) so pick up on owner's feelings.

There is a solution. An exciting and revolutionary approach to dog behaviour is spreading around the world. This is a modern, positive reinforcement, management approach to canine behaviour which is simple to understand,



does not take hours to do, yet is cost-effective.

This is what positive reinforcement offers with the games based approach tailored to your dog: only 10-minute-a-day games, for 3 weeks then review.

There are some easy-to-implement extras such as soothing music, practice clips shared by the consultant and by the owner, with resources that cost nothing or very little, with management tips.

Sounds amazing? You bet! Specific games for identified triggers or behaviours, yet so achievable and simple to follow.

This experience can even be accessed from Zoom or in person for short courses.

The result is an engaged dog, an improved dog/owner relationship where the human becomes a leader, and feels happier.

Meanwhile, their dog knows they are in the best of company and want to hang out with their beloved owner. It's a win/win situation!

Alison Arrowsmith

Owner of Northern Zen Dogs
Mobile: 07049 026374

Follow on Facebook and
Instagram: **NorthernZenDogs**



Tong He, Amira Alkafafi, Libby Forsyth

Congratulations to students at James Calvert Spence College who received their GCSE results on 24 August. Ninety students sat the exams.

Neil Rodgers, Executive Headteacher, said "Despite having had the most important years of their education seriously affected by the pandemic and industrial action, our young people have shown incredible resilience and determination throughout. [These] results are the rewards for their hard work and stoicism – and the perfect springboard for the exciting next chapter of their lives.

"There were excellent results in a wide range of courses, with biology, chemistry and physics being our top performing subjects – all had pass rates of over 90%.

"We celebrated some

outstanding individual performances this year, including top grade 9s and Distinction* grades being awarded across many areas of the curriculum – including in the first set of exam results for GCSE sociology."

Libby Forsyth was among the top performers in sociology receiving a grade 9. She is returning to James Calvert Spence College Sixth Form in September to study Biology, Chemistry and Maths at A-Level.

Neil continued "We look forward to welcoming many of them back into our sixth form to continue their pathway into successful higher education, apprenticeships or employment."

James Calvert Spence College

See page 7 for A level results, and more on our website.

edie pebble
Pod 14 Amble Harbour Village



Beautiful handmade gifts, vintage treasures and nautical decorations

THE MAD JAM WOMAN & Pride of Northumbria



Award winning Preserves & Relishes

Fourways One
Bridge St, Amble NE65 0DR
07766 857680

Also available at the Seafood Centre
www.madjamwoman.com

Book review: *STARFISH* by Mark Batey

Win a signed copy of Mark's book!

Part of the story of *Starfish* takes place in Amble and its Marina. In what year did the Marina officially open?

(a) 1980 (b) 1984 (c) 1987 (d) 1989

Email your entry with name and address to The Ambler: editor@theambler.co.uk

The Ambler will make a draw of all correct answers received by Monday 23 October 2023. The first five drawn will each win a signed copy of the paperback edition of the book.

STARFISH is set in summer 2022. It is a fictitious adventure that takes place in London and Northumberland against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Part of it unfolds in Amble.

The Ambler's Chris Herzberg gave us her review.

When his Mum dies aged 62, she leaves John Stirling a Jensen Interceptor and a key fob concealing a memory stick, which of course he wants to investigate...

The more I read, the more I enjoyed and believed it. I thought the Russians were round every corner. The only thing I didn't believe was that the Constable had been on the beat with Northumbrian Police. You never see a copper on the streets of Amble!

Although there are a lot of characters, Mark is very good at describing them so you don't get confused.

It was a long journey through several countries with several characters experiencing various social dilemmas. Some of the time I had no idea what

was happening. Some of the time I felt I was being chased. It was exhilarating.

The Cold War, Ukraine, AI. It's all there. Enjoy the ride.

A starfish has five limbs. When one is cut off, another grows. There is cyber crime, civil unrest and violence on UK streets, and finally building up to an assassination. But whose?

A starfish has no brain or blood. *STARFISH*, the book by Mark Batey has plenty of both.



Win a copy!

This is the third book by Amble author Mark Batey. The Ambler has been delighted to review *Grace*, a new look on the life of Grace Darling, and *Warbird*, a thriller set during WW2. Find or order them from independent bookshops if you can.

Soirée by the Sea



Students of Amble piano teacher, Isabel Morrison, gathered together in July, at Coquet House, for their bi-annual "Soirée by the Sea". An eclectic mix of classical, jazz, blues and folk music was enjoyed by all on a lovely summer's evening.

The students, aged seven to 70+ enjoyed sharing their music and are already planning their programme for the Christmas Soirée in December.

New seat for Coastguard compound at Harbour Village



Our local coastguards with the new seat. Ian Howard is third from right

There is an addition to the street furniture at Amble Harbour Village. Coastguard Ian Howard has fabricated and donated a metal seat, which has been mounted within the coastguard compound.

Family and friends came along for the unveiling, then enjoyed a celebration. The public are welcome to use the seat when the gates are open.

Ian, known to his fellow coastguards as H, was unable to continue in his former job abroad due to travel restrictions during the Covid epidemic. He was too young to retire, but did not want to sit idly around, so he decided to turn a hobby into a business. He founded Coquet Ironworks, which is based in the Old Bathhouse, North Broomhill, where he fashions

metal gates, railings, memorials and seats among other things.

Ian also joined the coastguards and wanted to raise the profile of the local group; this seat was a catalyst for that.

HM Coastguards celebrated 200 years of service in 2022. They are the only national maritime emergency service. Like the RNLI, they are involved in search and rescue, but they are a

separate entity.

There are 12 members based at the Amble Coastguard Station, all volunteers, both men and women. The service is available 24/7. The volunteers on call are paged from headquarters in Humberside, whenever there is an incident. Their area stretches from Eyemouth to Whitby, but there are other stations along the way. They respond to emergencies along the coast, such as search and rescue, oil spillages, missing persons and occasionally dead animals on the beach.

If you are new to the area, and want to stay safe in and around the coast here in Northumberland their website hmcoastguard.uk carries a wealth of information about the dangers that may be encountered in the sea, on the beach and cliffs in our tidal waters.

Hopefully your only encounter with our coastguards is when you pass the time of day with them on this new seat.

If you spot an emergency on the coast call 999 and ask for the coastguard.

Vivienne Dalgliesh

Expertise Wills and Wealth

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY ASSETS

Long Term Care • Third Party Challenges • Divorce
Business Failure • Sideways Disinheritance

LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY in areas of
Property and Affairs • Health and Welfare
Make sure you have them in place while you're fit and healthy

WILLS Simple Wills • Trust Wills • Free Reviews

PROBATE Call us for Expert Help and Advice

PENSIONS Do you have pension pots scattered
here and there? Now coming up to retirement?
We're here to help you go through your options.

Ring Enid: 07772 182 130
for a **FREE CONSULTATION** in your home



Email: enid.eww@sky.com
Enid Wilson
Consultant
30 years of experience

CBSWorld

Complete Business Supplies



Printing Services


Leaflets • Booklets • Books • Newsletters • Posters
Carbonless sets and books • Fine art prints • Invites
PVC Banners • Foamex boards • Signage

www.cbsworld.co.uk

Unit 5 Elm Square, Lionheart Enterprise Park
Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2ES
Tel: 01665 660022 Email: sales@cbsworld.co.uk



What happened to the running track we were promised?

 Last year the long awaited dream of a new James Calvert Spence school building finally felt like it was becoming a reality, but it has certainly not come without its issues. Most recently is the removal of the running track from plans. This has angered many, largely because they felt the decision was made unfairly.

From the very first new school plans a running track was included. Alongside several football pitches and a multi-use games area, it seemed like Amble was finally getting the facilities the community needs, what with the expansion in housing. We were promised an all-weather running track with floodlights and synthetic turf pitch inside.

The running track that is currently on site is awful and unusable; not a single lane is free of rabbit holes and the surrounding grass

is horribly overgrown. It has fallen into disrepair, and because it was blocked off from public access several years ago it has had little use. After all, who would pay over £100 an hour for an impractical track?

The planning statement for the new school says not enough people have used the track. They cited this as the reason for the track's exclusion in the updated plans.

"Who would pay over £100 an hour for an impractical track?"

So instead it has been replaced with yet another grass pitch. Despite earlier consultations, this change was not discussed with the public, leading to some outrage.

They say there has been 'little representation from the local community for the track's repair or replacement. There is very little demand currently for the athletics track'.

One commenter said 'This seems like a huge backwards step. This would have been a huge benefit to the school, its pupils and the community as a whole. Now there will be no track at all. Amble has been crying out for years for investment in leisure and sports facilities. Alnwick has had its investment, Morpeth have had theirs. Why has this been removed?'. There has been a flood of support for the track when it was noticed it was being excluded, and Sport England have flagged their concerns for its loss too.

Although I understand the difficulties of creating this school, a running track truly could be beneficial to the whole community to instil a love for running and athletics in those who use it. I hope there are more deliberations and something changes, so we can have the facilities we deserve.

By Ava



The current running track is awful and unusable


JCSC entrepreneurs win!

Congratulations to Bethany, Becky, Olivia, Jess, Jasmine and Emma who are the national runners-up in the Tycoon Enterprise Competition for both KS3 and KS4.

They came up with an idea for creating and selling self-sustaining plants in terrariums and formed a business called 'Light Clouds and Co'. (See Artogracchi #141).

The group travelled with Mr Gaines and Mr O'Neil down to Hampton Court Palace in London for the finals, and were presented with their award by Dragons' Den's Peter Jones.

BEING A MIDDLE SCHOOLER IN HIGH SCHOOL

 Because of the extensive building works happening to James Calvert Spence College, the previous middle schoolers, years 5-8, are now up on the Acklington Road site. I am in year 13, so it feels very strange being surrounded by the youngest years when we are finally starting to feel like mature students. I asked Issy from year 6 what she thought about being in the new building.

The younger years are in Portakabins on the field, which Issy described as "awful and disgusting... it's not the best they could have had. It's got stains on the wall and loads of gum on and under the tables".

Personally, I like the separation of the younger years as it would be far too crowded having them in the main

building all the time, but I understand the annoyance at inadequate classrooms. One of my classrooms, for about a third of my lessons, is a dingy room that used to be a storage cupboard. It's especially frustrating because I know there is no better solution, and they are making what they can out of an inconvenient situation.

Watch out for the other students

Lesson times have changed too, meaning years 9 and above have to wait until 1.30pm for their lunch. It's not the end of the world, but another irritation to add to the list. Issy said, "I don't think it's good the way they've sorted it out. Because at the end of the day you think ah yeah it's last period but then you've got another class!"

Being at the high school also means Issy has to face students of up to 18 years old,

which she said was "not very good because there's the older loud ones and we can always hear them during tasks and tests". I agree, except in my opinion it's the younger years you have to watch out for!

Overall the move has been tricky to navigate in the first few days. Overcrowding and general disorganisation has been a problem, for example in the canteen: "it's okay but the queues are always massive and it's always super crowded".

Issy and I are looking forward to settling in a little better and hope this year goes well for everyone.


By Ava and Issy

See also page 19



There were lots of potholes at the playground

What's happening at the Welfare?

 We went to the play park at the Welfare to see the park and the surface of the playground. The surface had lots of potholes. We thought that was really sad. We saw some people playing on the MUGAs, but there weren't very many people there because it was raining.

We asked Julia Aston from Amble Development Trust what is going to change. She told us people had been messing with the surface for a long time and now it can't be repaired so they are getting it replaced.

She said "We have a contractor who is going to take up all the playpark surface and dispose of it because it is hazardous and then he will relay a new one."

Can you guess how much it will cost to put a new surface down? £71,000!

We also learned that the MUGAs are going to get new flood lights, new fencing and surface improvements. Can you guess how much it will cost to do these improvements? About £180,000!!


When is all of this going to happen? Julia told us "Sadly it won't all be done together. The contractor told me he hoped to start the play park at the end of August. The MUGAs application is a part of lots of other ones, so it will take a bit longer."

I think it's great what they are planning to do, but it's not great that it's having to be fixed because people destroyed it.

By Isabelle



Grace's braces (are no longer a thing)

 After 367 days my braces have (finally) come off, so I thought I would tell you how it was, just in case you ever get braces.

Before I got my braces on, I had to get two of my bottom teeth removed. Not everyone will need to get teeth removed. It might seem scary, but it isn't as bad as you'd think. After all of that, you should be ready for braces. If you're scared of getting those on, don't worry, it doesn't hurt much, and the pain goes away quickly.

Just make sure to eat a big meal beforehand so you won't be hungry. Every month or so, you will need to get your braces tightened – this is what brings your teeth closer together and makes them straighter. The most uncomfortable time that they get tightened is the first. Each time they get tightened, it hurts a LOT less.

When it's time for your braces to be taken off, don't be scared – people say it is way worse than it actually is. First of all, you need to lie down in the seat, and your orthodontist will get things which are like tweezers, and use those to pull the metal parts of the braces off. Similar to getting your teeth removed, the sound of the metal getting taken off the glue is the worst thing about it.

"Just make sure to eat a big meal beforehand so you won't be hungry."

doesn't hurt at all. After all of the glue is gone, you will be given a cup of water to make sure all of the pieces of glue are out of your mouth.

Finally, I don't know if this is the case with

everyone, but I had to bite down into a mould thing since I had to get retainers, to make sure my teeth wouldn't move back to their original positions. All I remember about that was that the mould stuff tasted like forest fruits. Once my bottom and top teeth were finished with the mould thing, I could finally go home with my straight teeth!

A couple of days later, I finally got my retainers. Depending on how much your teeth have moved over those couple of days you have waited, the retainer could be either very snug or a perfect fit. If it is tight, after just a whole day of wearing retainers should make your teeth fit in it better. After a day – or however long your orthodontist said – you only need to wear your retainers at night.

That's all, bye
By Grace O



Reports from our *County Councillors*



Fix my street.

We are encouraging people to report issues using their mobile phones. The system enables people to photograph, locate and highlight issues on a mobile phone, computer or tablet, issues can be reported simply by going to nland.cc/fix

The system can be used to report a whole range of issues from potholes, faulty street lighting, and drainage issues to abandoned vehicles, litter and incidents of fly tipping.

This will significantly improve communication with residents, help reduce duplicate reports even speed up responses by giving staff a precise location. (#141 page 19)

The Lord Mayor's Field and the Local Plan

The Northumberland Local Plan was adopted in March 2022. The Plan is the legal starting point for how the

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk 07779 983768

County Council makes decisions on all planning applications. In this new Plan, the Lord Mayor's Field has been formally designated as "Open Space". This will give the land a robust level of protection until the mid-2030s.

After this, there would need to be a compelling reason to change the designation, and this would be carried out in a formal review of the Local Plan. In the review, argument for and against all changes would need to be carefully balanced. Given that Amble will have already exceeded its long term housing target by 2035, the need to develop the land would be a difficult argument to make.

In reality, there may not be a reasonable argument to look at changing the Open Space designation of the Lord Mayor's Field until the 2050s review. Even then, the argument to retain all Open Space in Amble could reasonably be made.

Cllr Terry Clark Amble, Haunxley and North Broomhill.

I am pleased to see our schools continuing to do well and so much better than they did back in the old days when Northumberland was in the bottom quarter of schools in the North East. It is now in the top quarter and still improving thanks to the effort that this administration has put into them.

You may have seen the recent publicity about RAAC (concrete) in schools across the country, however, I am pleased to say it is not a problem in Northumberland. All our Council managed schools are unaffected.

As a Councillor for many years, I understand that you can't please all the people all the time. I have grown to accept criticism and generally do not respond to it but in last month's Ambler a letter regarding the nomination of an unsung hero I feel needs a response to set the record straight.

The award was for an unsung hero, of course the food bank and many other charities do a wonderful job, but they are well recognised by our community, and I (like all NCC Councillors) had only one nomination available for an unsung hero, so I had to choose.

Jeffrey.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk 07802 385367

I understand that my nomination was the only one submitted for an Amble hero by any NCC Councillor.

Mr Nutting in his letter in the last edition of the Ambler (#141 page 6) suggests that a personal connection influenced my choice. I think this is regrettable and hurtful to the recipient who nevertheless continues to quietly go about her good work as she has done for many years.

I am not aware of the rift that is suggested by him, indeed, until very recently I was a member of Amble Development Trust and had been for many years.

I have always supported the food bank and have made several substantial grants to them, as well as being involved in many other charities and organisations in Amble.

I would like to inform readers that my County Council area only includes the West Ward of Amble Town Council, i.e., the Gloster Park area down to the top of the High Street.

Cllr Jeff Watson Amble West with Warkworth

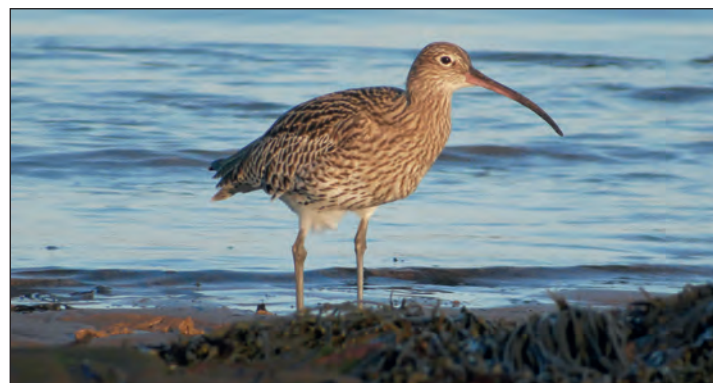
Who wants to use the new MUGA?

The playzone project at the Welfare has been successful in securing funds for construction in spring next year. The project will see one of the MUGA (multi use games area) courts upgraded with new surfacing and lighting.

The group taking the playzone project forward are keen to hear from groups and individuals in the community that may be interested in booking the facility for new or existing activities. Please contact Julia Aston: julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk See *Artograffi* page



Tough breeding season for shorebirds



Curlew

This has been a tough breeding season for our beach nesting birds. There have been pockets of success and hope with a fantastic number of chicks fledged from Beadnell and lots of nesting attempts around Amble.

Ringed plovers nested on either side of the Coquet estuary, hatching chicks on Warkworth beach and Amble links, but the chicks did not make it to fledging. It is however, encouraging to see the potential these beaches have. Once chicks hatch, they run around the beach within a couple of hours

finding their own food, but they are not able to fly for three to four weeks. This makes them very vulnerable to dogs and people, as their instinct is to freeze amongst the shingle when they sense danger and rely on their camouflage to keep them hidden. We can help by keeping well clear of any fenced areas and #WatchYourStep to avoid accidentally standing on hiding chicks.

At this time we welcome back a whole host of shorebirds that choose to come to the Northumberland coast to

spend the winter. Numbers of oystercatchers and curlew have been building steadily, as have smaller species like redshank and turnstone, and we are starting to see returning purple sandpipers.

These birds have spent their summer in their breeding grounds and have just finished an exhausting migration to Northumberland, in some cases flying for thousands of miles from the Arctic circle. Now they need to feed as much as possible to rebuild their energy reserves before the winter, and our coast offers perfect habitats for that.

Rocky and muddy beaches are the best feeding grounds for most shorebirds, so if you see them using these areas it's important to give them as much space as possible so they can forage in peace without being pushed off their food. Every time that they get disturbed they are wasting precious calories flying away and this can be the difference between them having enough energy to survive the winter or not.

Space for Shorebirds



We are still waiting for dates for the playzone work to commence - our last meeting was in early September. However the good news is that work will begin to remove and replace the rubber crumb flooring in the children's play area at the Welfare sometime in September. (See *Artograffi* page.)

On Neighbourhood Planning, we hope a combined meeting will have been convened in October. We have also asked for a meeting with NCC officers regarding the new school development. As the planned route from the proposed car park is through the Welfare, we would like to know what their plans are. We have seen from the planning

application that it is proposed to cut down some trees and install new lighting, but we have not been contacted or spoken to about either.

Following up on an idea that came out of the Investment Plan workshop, we met online with members of the Derwent Valley Car Club and Edge Innovation who are carrying out research into options for similar clubs that would meet the needs of the communities they could serve. The research findings will be collated, shared with various government departments and used to apply for funding to establish electric clubs around the country.

On a slightly different note,

from our office window we now have a view of the planter which has the painted stones in and can confirm just how successful it has been. Whether it be locals or visitors, there are dozens of people looking at it every day. Unfortunately some people seem to feel the need to stand on it to look it, which is not advised.

Elsewhere in this edition there is a letter about the Royal visit and the apparent lack of information that was made available to let the public know it was happening. Throughout the planning process I tried to let everyone know it was happening but wasn't given the official nod to release all the details until the Friday before it actually

happened - which made publicising it a little difficult.

Everyone who had taken part in various elements of the project had basic information so were all on standby. However getting information out to the wider public was more difficult than making a phone call.

I realise that not everyone uses social media but we thought The Ambler Facebook page would be read by as many as we could possibly hope for to get the message out there. Apologies to anyone who felt they had missed out - we did try.

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

Prestigious award for Hadston House

Hadston House has scooped the prestigious award of Northumberland Community Centre of the Year 2023 for the second consecutive year. The organisation founded in 1997 has been offering services to the community of Hadston, Amble,

Widdrington, Ulgham, Warkworth and many more for years.

It offers a wide range of services for the elderly and young people to combat loneliness, supporting people living at home for longer and supporting a huge youth service providing year-round

services.

They have a huge number of services for all ages including support with work, socialising in the community café, providing volunteering experiences, training apprentices and so much more.

Scott Dickinson MBE, who took

on the centre 15 years ago said, "This reflects the dedication of our staff and volunteers. They strive to provide the best possible services with limited resources." He added "We must also thank the funders and donors. Without them none of this could happen."

COOP Funeralcare

Our caring staff are here
to listen and advise you,
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Coquetdale Cottage, Queen Street, Amble
Tel: 01665 710437

LILLIE DESIGN CONSULTANTS LTD.

Services offered:

Architectural Drawings for :

- Houses
- Extensions
- Loft conversions
- Refurbishments
- Commercial
- Change of use

Planning and building control applications

Permitted development advice

Structural Calculations

Timber frame design

Timber roof design

Party wall agreements

Building surveys

Free, no obligation initial meeting

Based in Amble, Northumberland

David Lillie

Lillie.dc@outlook.com

07734995569

lilliedesignconsultants





Amble Town

COUNCIL

Town: 12th October, 9th November at 6p.m. Council Office

Amenities: 23rd November at 6p.m. Council Office

Remembrance Day Wreath Laying Service: 12th November

EAST WARD:
Ian Parks,
33 Warkworth
Ave, Warkworth.
NE65 0TP
ian.parks@
amble.gov.uk

Helen Lewis,
5 Meadowburn,
Amble
NE65 0PH
07751 229 739
helen.lewis@
amble.gov.uk

Craig Weir
(Chair/Mayor)
76 Priory Park,
Amble NE65 0HY
01665 712342
craig.weir@
amble.gov.uk

WEST WARD:
Vacancy x2

David Bewley
11 Brinkburn
Place
Amble NE65 0BJ
07525713086
david.bewley@
amble.gov.uk

CEN. WARD:
Michael Joyce
c/o Fourways2,
6 Dilston Terrace,
Amble NE65 0DT
michael.joyce@
amble.gov.uk

Kate Morrison,
3 Island View,
Amble
NE65 0SE
01665 711191
kate.morrison@
amble.gov.uk

Paul Dancer
Wellbank
Victoria Villas
Amble
NE65 0LQ
paul.dancer@
amble.gov.uk

WHY?

Why do some people feel the need to be destructive? Are they angry at something? Are they trying to be 'clever'? Do they think it makes them look 'big' to their friends? Why they do it seems a mystery to most of us as there seems no real reason why whatever is troubling them should result in acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. This means others spending their time or money putting right what has been damaged. Last year, Council refurbished the East Cemetery Gates; this year we will have to spend again to restore the mindless vandalism to the round handles, which has been reported to the Police. Recently plants were taken from the Rotary flowerbed in the Town Square - widely published on social media then reported to Police - time and money needed to replant. Not only climbing on them but removing painted stones from their commemorative bed. These examples are bad enough but what was in someone's mind to make them decide to defecate in the children's 'teacup' in the Paddlers Play area!!!! What a disgusting thing to do. Words are not enough to praise the ladies who found the mess and took it upon themselves to discard it and clean the area before reporting it. Thankfully these antisocial people are in the minority and the greater majority are working hard to keep our town as a lovely place in which to live and enjoy. Thanks to all those involved in whatever capacity as we are truly grateful for your efforts.

COMPLAINTS

When it involves things over which the Council has control or responsibility, our staff are always willing to help residents whenever they can. In this modern era there are lots of ways in which those who wish to, can obtain advice or make a complaint. There are few businesses which do not have a telephone contact or an internet presence to enable you to get in touch. Please think carefully about who you should contact and don't automatically assume it should be the Town Council. Some recent examples which we cannot deal with are complaints about access to a business, use of their toilet facilities, disability discrimination, dirty premises, dog fouling/litter on the streets, food below standard. All these should be addressed to the business or company first or highlighted to the relevant department at County Council level.

ACTIVITIES

Soon a small group of JCSC students will start working with Council on developing a Community website which we hope will contain information on all the pastimes and activities available in the town. Please contact Council with details of your group. We are not just interested in sport but also in social and creative interests. We want to include things for all age groups from babies and toddlers to the elderly, from the very active to the more sedate, from the knowledgeable to the keen to learn more. Whether it's Football or Knit and Natter, please do let us know.

earmarked funds at 31st March 2023

COMMUNITY

SCHOOL PRIZE FUND towards next batch	£1000
SEATING refurbishment/replacement	£4128
TOWN PROJECTS towards projects/enhancements	£2810
COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL publicity/ environment works etc.	£15400
COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS	£5125
MATCHED FUNDS towards projects attracting grants	£1300
ALLOTMENT FUND boundaries, walkways, maintenance	£14234
RECREATION maintenance/future replacement	£14357
WEBSITE & COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION	£1320
LITTER BINS refurbishment/replacement	£3379
BUS SHELTERS refurbishment/replacement	£5370
NOTICEBOARDS repairs/replacement	£3750
ACTIVE AMBLE	£4450
CCTV	£6500

TOWN

MEMORIAL CLOCK maintenance/service	£5422
MEMORIALS upkeep/repairs	£556
MEMORIAL GARDENS maintenance	£5088
WALL REPAIRS	£4720

ASSET MANAGEMENT

CEMETERIES

EAST CEMETERY MAINTENANCE walls/ boards etc.	£3023
MEMORIAL SAFETY checks and stabilisation	£4500
WEST CEMETERY PREMISES maintenance	£3000
WEST CEMETERY MAINTENANCE walls/drive/fence/trees etc.	£16988
WEST CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT signage/mapping/new	£25000
CEMETERY REGISTERS legal requirement	£610

COUNCIL, COMMITMENTS & STAFFING

COMPUTERS & I.T. new and replacement hard/soft ware	£5000
QUALITY STATUS registration fee	£500
ELECTION COSTS for elections/ by election	£12000
OFFICE FURNISHINGS ETC.	£8000
LEGAL/ REGULATORY PROCEDURES advice etc.	£20000
TRAINING staff & councillors	£5000
COVID GRANT	£3270
LOYALTY FUND retirement gift/ civic & community	£3390
CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS	£45200
CONTINGENCY emergency cover	£10000
GENERAL FUND	£57242.99
EQUALS TOTAL BANK BALANCE	£330203

PLEASE CALL IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31/03/2023

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

Update from Amble Food Bank

Amble Food Bank would like to thank the local communities for their continued generosity. We really do appreciate every single item and penny donated! We rely solely on food and money donations, without these we could not operate. Thanks also go to our local supermarkets, businesses and charities, including Alexa's Canine Trust and Amble Women's Institute for their support to AFB.

We are now working in partnership with The Oswin Project, which has set up a farm shop at HMP Northumberland. (This scheme creates training opportunities for inmates.)

Every Friday we receive unsold cakes, bread and pastries from the shop, and fruit and vegetables from the prison gardens for distribution. (The prison shop is open Wednesday to Friday, 11am to 4pm.)

We were fortunate to receive a generous donation from a Newcastle company to support our work with families with children during the school holidays,

In July Morrison's hosted a Food Bank Awareness Day.

Volunteers helped to raise our profile and four full trolley loads of groceries!

Also in July £326 was raised through a music event at the harbour. Amble Sword, Guy Nutting, The Lads and The Boffs performed for free. Thank you to all who supported this.

How to donate to us

With the increase in referrals, we now have to carry out regular large food shops. Should you wish to make a financial donation, cash and cheques can be addressed to us and posted through the letter box at Trinity Methodist Church. A bank transfer can be made to 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).

How to contact us

If you are in need, you can get a referral through an agency such as CAB, or contact Northumberland Communities Together on 01670 620015, 9-5pm.

Email: amblefb@gmail.com
Amble Food Bank

Footpath 'is safe to use'

Residents of Gloster Park, and walkers along the public right of way from the cemetery to New Hall Farm are being reassured that the footpath is safe to use, despite the placement of Heras fencing along one section of a length of wall, where brickwork has come loose.

The fencing has been in place for some time, as a Gloster Park resident is in dispute with Northumberland County Council (NCC) and builders Taylor Wimpey.

The resident asserts that the boundary retaining walls between the properties and the right of way were built incorrectly when the development was constructed over 30 years ago, and that the fence and wall are now structurally unsafe and pose a danger to the public.

The resident told The Ambler what he hoped would be the outcome for the residents: "All the boundary retaining walls require replacing with Chartered Engineered designed retaining walls to comply with all building regulations and 1980s Highways Act. And ownership of these boundary retaining walls remain the ownership and responsibility of Taylor Wimpey. All costs covered by Taylor Wimpey."

A Taylor Wimpey spokesperson said: "We are aware of structural issues to the wall at the rear of



Temporary fencing along the public right of way at Gloster Park

Gloster Park in Amble. We have already undertaken structural surveys, at no cost to residents, and plan to carry out further, property specific boundary wall and fence inspections in consultation with residents, which will be completed by the end of October 2023."

The footpath was closed for a few days last summer after a section of the wall was displaced. It was reopened several days later, and the temporary fencing put alongside the damaged section of wall.

NCC have confirmed to The Ambler they are continuing to monitor the footpath, and reassure the public that it is still safe to use.

Anna Williams

More Lifeboat Day photos



Photos above by Bart Rippon. Photo left and below by Ivor Rackham
Below: Vera and Ann with some of the Amble RNLI crew



Police reports

Vehicle ASB

Northumbria Police have had an increase in reports of motorcycle and vehicle disorder within Amble and the surrounding areas. There have been a number of reports at Morrisons car park and the town centre.

The neighbourhood team and traffic officers have conducted targeted patrols in the hotspot areas and have taken enforcement action against a number of offenders.

A vehicle was uplifted on 21 August by the traffic department. Police have worked with partner agencies to conduct operations to seize vehicles used for ASB and off-road riding in public areas.

We have used new technology including drones and long lens cameras to assist in identifying offenders.

Enforcement action will be taken against anyone committing driving offences. Vehicles can be uplifted and drivers prosecuted.

Youth ASB

Anti Social Behaviour incidents involving youths have also increased in the Amble and Widdrington area during the school summer holiday period.

Six ASB visits have been conducted by the neighbourhood team. Police are working with Northumberland County Council and ASB cameras have been deployed to identify the offenders involved.

There were a number of youth related activities held by Amble Youth Project over the summer period. Further information is available on their website and Facebook pages. (See also article, right)

Please report all ASB incidents via 101 or through our online reporting services. In an emergency always call 999.

PC 3835 Richardson / CSO
4089 Fawcett
Amble Neighbourhood Policing Team

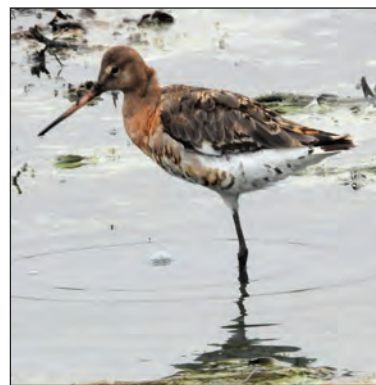
Unusual sighting at Hauxley

Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Hauxley reserve has welcomed an unusual visitor. A one-legged black-tailed godwit was spotted feeding in the large lakes by visitor Gareth Evans.

The Hauxley team has no idea whether the bird was born with one leg, or may have lost it due to injury. However, the beautiful bird appears to be managing to fly, feed and enthrall

a steady stream of visitors.

Hauxley nature reserve is a haven for hundreds of species of birds and every year welcomes large numbers of black tailed godwits as they move south from their breeding grounds in Iceland to wintering areas in Britain, Ireland, France and Portugal although it is the first time a bird with one leg has made an appearance.



Photograph by Gareth Evans

Monthly gatherings of artists after successful exhibition

Organisers Jim Donnelly and Luke McTaggart are keen to build on the success of the recent Dovecote Street exhibition, which saw over 900 people attend across its three week runtime.

They are offering the opportunity for artists to come together in a series of monthly gatherings taking place on the last Tuesday of every month from 7-9pm.

The gatherings will provide a setting for artists to offer positive

and constructive feedback on each other's work, as well as opening up wider discussions.

The events are not limited solely to artists from the exhibition, organisers are keen to involve other artists and members of the community.

The public are welcome to attend to engage in discussion with the artists or simply to just sit back and listen.

Organisers emphasise that the events will have a focus on positive and constructive

criticism and hope that by being alongside the Northumberland Theatre Company's programme of productions and the Amble Cinema Club's screenings, it will promote the Dovecote Centre as Amble's cultural hub.

Anyone interested can just turn up on the night. Entry is £2 per person.

Further details are available from dovecotestreetshow@gmail.com

Address: Dovecote Centre, Dovecote St, Amble NE65 0DX

Amble Youth Project update



What a summer! We engaged with over 110 young people from the ages of 8-17 years; these young people attended over 16 days. We have 11 young leaders who worked with us, aged 14-18 years, and we are halfway through our new young leader's programme, as three of the original young leaders are moving on to university and year 13.

Big shout out to Angelina Morrison and Hermarni Simpson as they secured their place at university.

Louise, one of our young leaders attended the Rotary Young Leaders Award, sponsored by Warkworth and Amble Rotary. She attempted activities that she has never taken part in before and learned a lot about herself and others.

Just a reminder that all of our sessions are free, our role is to develop young peoples' personal, social skills as well as providing somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

Our free after school provision is on Mondays and

Wednesdays 3.30-5.30pm - please call Tina for more information on 07488984053, or pop in and speak to Gary during the session. This term we are looking at Nutrition and Photography, and planning for a Halloween Party and the November Lantern Parade.

Are you a young woman aged 13-18 years, looking for more ways to connect with other young women? Our Thursday Northern Lasses Project is open 6.30-8.30pm, call Tina for more information: 07488984053.

'Village' feel with new mobile classrooms at JCSC

Children moving from the middle school on South Avenue to James Calvert Spence's main site, now have their own mini village of mobile classrooms, while work begins on the new school buildings.

As many people will know by now, JCSC is undergoing a huge change - both in terms of its structure, and in due course, the building itself. The educational system has been three tier: first, middle and high school, and will now change to two tier: primary and secondary.

Work to prepare the middle school for its changes has meant that years 5 and 6 have had to move to the main school site, but staff have been careful to ensure they feel as comfortable as possible.

Executive Head Neil Rodgers told *The Ambler*, "Pupils are all now on the main school site, but we've tried very hard to let the youngest be together, with their own area and the staff close at hand."

The new term began with a flurry of reorganising, unpacking boxes and moving furniture.



Neil Rodgers at the new KS2 'village'

During the holidays eight mobile classrooms were brought in and prepared for the children, who are now all together behind the sports hall.

"We're really pleased with the way things are going," said Neil. "The staff have adapted well, there's been no real complaints, we're adapting and changing and it's really lovely to see all the staff all the time. There's been a lot of support and good cameraderie."

Logistics have meant lunch and break times are split, so the younger children have their own playtime and have lunch first.

Preparations for the new

school build means there won't be a year 5 intake next September, those children will stay in their first schools for two years.

"We'll be looking at the new school plans in more detail, hopefully in November, so we can then get an accurate workstream for the build" said Neil.

In the meantime, despite a few niggles, (*see Artograffi page*), the move to the new Key Stage 2 'village' appears to have gone remarkably well.

Anna Williams

A decade of charity support

Ten years ago the Old Boathouse in Amble made the Fishermen's Mission their chosen charity and has since raised over £5,000.

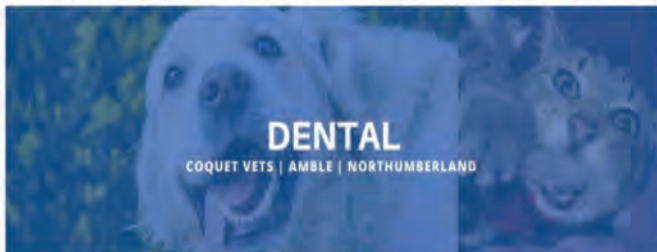
The Fishermen's Mission are incredibly grateful to have built such a wonderful relationship with Martin Charlton, of the Old Boathouse, who went above and beyond in support of us, as well as running a brilliant restaurant.

James Corrighan, restaurant manager, and his staff extended the envelope collection scheme to include its sister restaurant The Fish Shack.

Peter Dade, of the Fishermen's Mission, would like to thank the restaurant and everyone who has donated over the last decade.

Peter says: "It has been a privilege to be part of such a giving community and we are thankful for those that help us provide a lifeline of support to active fishermen, former and retired fishermen and their families across the UK."

For more information, contact: Peter Dade, peterdade@fishermensmission.org.uk , 07917 754259



Up to 15% off dentistry during October!

Coquet Vets is dedicated small animal practice.

We provide high quality, friendly and supportive veterinary care for you and your pets at affordable prices. Being a small team means we can get to know you and your pets personally and provide consistency when you need it most.

- Open Monday - Saturday.
- Pet health club available.
- Free parking on site.
- Appointments available the day you call.
- Initial Consult £35



www.coquetvets.co.uk

Info@coquetvets.co.uk

Can you spare an hour a week?

ACTION TUTORING

Action Tutoring offers free maths and English tutoring to disadvantaged pupils.

By volunteering for just one hour a week, you'll be supporting children to build their confidence and help ensure they leave school with the grades needed to build a bright future.

We have in-school (Newcastle) and online opportunities. All training and resources are provided.

Interested?
Apply now at
actiontutoring.org.uk





Coquet Vets Christmas Fair!



Coquet Vets
Veterinary Services



Saturday 2nd December 2023
12.00 - 3.00 p.m.
Percy Drive, Amble

*Stalls, Charity Raffle and
Tombola, Children's Activities
and more.*

(01665) 252 250
info@coquetvets.co.uk



RCVS
**ACCREDITED
PRACTICE**

Double bill in Warkworth

Warkworth-based Far Horizon Voices are to perform a double bill with the title 'Remember' in November.

The script-read plays are to be staged at the village's Memorial Hall on Thursday and Friday, November 9 and 10.

Actor-writer Dave Stockwin's play 'Bevin Boys - The Forgotten Conscripts' deals with the experiences of three Bevin Boys from very different backgrounds who are reunited at a commemorative event. Meeting again after more than fifty years, they relive their wartime memories of life at the Cramlington Lamb Colliery, with honesty, warmth and humour.

Bevin Boys - named after leading trade unionist Ernest Bevin - were conscripted to work in coal mines from 1943 to increase the rate of coal production which had declined during the early years of the war.

These young men were sometimes targets of abuse from those who mistakenly believed them to be conscientious objectors.

Paul Mein's play 'Eagle Child' came as a result of two finds. They were a story of a baby being snatched by an eagle, and the discovery of an old family photograph. The photo included an uncle that Paul had never known. The unknown uncle, John Mein, had been a rear gunner in a Halifax bomber, and was killed when his plane was shot down during the largest bombing raid over south west Germany in 1943.

It was during a holiday cottage stay in the Cheviots that Paul came across the newspaper cutting which told the story of a child being snatched from its pram by an eagle.

Building on the fascination with flight, imagined and real, that human beings have, 'Eagle Child' is a play for voices in which these two stories are imaginatively and poignantly intertwined.

The performances begin at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Warkworth Post Office, N&F Young or via fhvtickets@yahoo.com. A donation from the ticket proceeds will be given to the local branch of the British Legion.

Rotary update

The changes at the Hermitage Inn have resulted in recent meetings of Amble and Warkworth Rotary taking place at the Warkworth Cricket Club.

Local Rotarians have enjoyed several interesting speakers, as well as some social events, and supporting various other community events.

The club, working in conjunction with the Amble Youth Project, has supported and funded a local young woman, Louise, to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards in Upper Teesdale along with 27

other young people from the North East. Here she enjoyed a week's camping in sometimes testing weather conditions, while undertaking various outdoor activities, which included problem solving and teamwork. By all accounts she had an amazing and enjoyable experience. (See page 18.)

Further details about the Amble and Warkworth Rotary can be found via the club website; www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org or via the Facebook page Rotary Amble & Warkworth

Memorial Hall concerts

On 25 Nov: Magic Lantern show of Robert Tressell's book "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists" adapted by Neil Gore and directed by Louise Townsend

8 Dec: Two of the foremost choirs in our region. The female voices of Werca's Folk, directed by Sandra Kerr, and male voices of VoiceMale, directed by Jon Doran

9 Dec: Keith Donnelly and Lauren South. Christmas show with crazy bits and wintry-wonderful songs.

See more at www.wwmh.uk/concerts.html or contact Peter Burnham. Tel: 01665 711388. Tickets for our concerts are limited and must be booked in advance.




THE LOUNGE BAR
 Drink . Relax . Enjoy



COFFEE
 BEER
 WINE
 SPIRITS
 COCKTAILS
 LIVE MUSIC





20 BRIDGE STREET, AMBLE

Victory for Amble Bowling Club



Amble Bowling Club men's team came out top in the North Northumberland League for 2023.

The league was closely fought throughout with Amble being defeated just twice during the whole season. The result was not determined until the season's final round of matches. Amble won away at Lesbury in a very close game, triumphing by five points to three. This result meant that Amble were the league winners for the first time since 2017 beating their nearest rivals, Rothbury, by a single point! There was much celebration by the team once this was confirmed.

Warkworth History Society

The History Society meets in the Warkworth War Memorial Hall on the first Monday of each month from October to May inclusive. Doors open from 7:00pm with a bar and refreshments usually available, presentations start 7:30 pm.

Society membership for the duration of the programme is £10 for the coming year. Non members pay £3 per lecture at the door.

Monday 6 November: Elvis Lives! The Life and Afterlives of Elvis Presley- Professor Brian Ward

Monday 4 December: Newcastle and Northumberland- How we used to live: work, events, places, faces and memories- Neil Storey

Frankenstein review

Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) staged Frankenstein on 24 August in the Dovecote Centre, with a return planned for 8 October.

The stage was exciting. It held white mannequins in various stages of dismemberment, adorned with the odd rubber glove and light knee pads. There was no tank from which the monster would emerge. No, the monster was fully formed and totally white. Including featureless face. He was hideous, but did elicit sympathy from the audience in his quest for love. This sympathy was soon dissipated when we learned that he had almost certainly killed Frankenstein's brother and maid. That made it easier to dislike him. He wasn't just ugly on the outside.

The theme that nobody will love you if you are not beautiful still resonates today, but this production was very faithful to the original book, including the language. Mary Shelley would have been proud.

Philip Harrison did a really good job of putting the book on stage as well as being in the cast. But for me, Louis Roberts was outstanding as Frankenstein, probably his best part yet. Another memorable night with NTC. Keep 'em coming.

Chris Herzberg

Frankenstein returns to the Dovecote Centre, Amble on **8 October** at 7.30pm. See the link on their Facebook page for ticket details: www.facebook.com/NTCtheatre

Celtic Folk Rock in Lesbury

Gaelforce a Celtic flavoured folk rock band will be playing at Lesbury Village on **Saturday 21 October** doors open at 7.00pm.

They are winners of the 2023 Great British Folk Festival Introducing Stage.

[Facebook.com/GaelforceCelticRock](https://www.facebook.com/GaelforceCelticRock)

Gaelforce will be supported by guests Roz and Kevin Doonan.

No Bar: Please bring your own drinks and glasses

Tickets from Lesbury Community Shop or

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gaelforce-celtic-folk-rock-band-in-concert-lesbury-village-hallalnwic-tickets-633520124747

For further information 01665 830330

All profits to Lesbury Community Shop. There will be a Raffle.

OPAL meeting change of venue

Please note that OPAL "Old People Actively Learning" meetings will no longer be held at the Masonic Hall, Amble, future meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month at FOURWAYS 2 (3rd floor: lift available), 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble, NE65 0DT

1:00pm -2:30pm

Further information, please contact Eileen or Mel Brown on 01670 221924 or eileen.opal77@gmail.com

Amble Living History

Meetings held at Dry Water Arts, at 7pm.

See website: www.drywaterarts.uk

Thursday 19 Oct: Sharperton Dig; Richard Carlton

Thursday 16 Nov: Hadrian's Wall: End of Empire; Rob Collins

Thursday 14 Dec: Cresswell Walled Garden; Barry Mead

Dovecote Centre film nights

The way we are showing and advertising the films is changing. We now have the large screen fully installed and the projector mounted from the ceiling (funded by County Councillor Terry Clark) which will make setting things up easier.

We have decided that admission will be by donation - meaning there will be no advance ticket purchasing. We ask you to make a donation on the door (initially £5.00, you can donate more if you wish). This allows us to put on the films and not lose money. However, this means that under the new licence we cannot put up posters around the town or advertise other than on NTC premises, so it very much relies on word of mouth and regular emails.

We hope to show films initially every four weeks. For each showing the doors and the bar will be open for 30 minutes before the screen time. The 'purchase' of alcohol will also be by suggested donation. It is my intention to do a 10(ish) minute introduction for each film where appropriate.

The next film planned is Coogan's Bluff with Clint Eastwood (date TBC) For more information go to: www.facebook.com/amblefilmsociety *Jim Donnelly*

Alnmouth ceilidh/barn dances

Third Tuesday every month, no experience necessary, solos and couples welcome. 9pm. £5 admission BYO glasses and drinks.

17 Oct, 21 Nov, 19 Dec; 7pm -

Call 01665 830330 for details.

Fishermans Mission concert

An evening with Reston Concert Band/Eyemouth Fishermans' Choir Friday 20 October: at Eyemouth Community Centre, Albert Rd, Eyemouth TD14 5DE

Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets £10 light supper inclusive Available at Occasions Flower Shop or Eyemouth Community Centre

Amble Links FC

Over the summer months Amble Links FC have added to their silverware. They played in many tournaments and came away winners in three. This is a great achievement for all the local boys and girls involved.

The U11 won the Eric Hatley tournament at Alnwick for the second year running: the boys showcased their great talents and their grit and determination to win. As they've been promoted this upcoming season into one of the top leagues, we wish them all the best of luck.

The newly formed U7 won the North Northumberland Europa league. This team has a



bright future ahead of them in junior football.

Over the summer, the girls' team were victorious in not one but two tournaments. In August, they took part in the TSC tournament at Cochrane Park and came away Europa league winners, then in September they

won the Champions League tournament.

A brilliant effort by all involved.

You can follow us on Facebook for more updates.

The U11 are also looking to add more players to their squad. *Steph Hewitson*



Amble WI

In July we donated knitted and crochet blankets and bonnets provided by our ladies, to the Special Care Baby Unit at Cramlington, which was very much appreciated!

Our August meeting was the start of a new chapter for the branch as it was our first held in our new meeting home, The Parish Hall. The change in venue provides us with more suitable facilities to carry on with our ever changing events and branch life!

August also saw us head off on our annual trip, this year to Raby Castle. We also submitted entries at Warkworth Show, with prizes awarded to the very happy successful members! The month finished with some of our ladies donating cakes for RNLI Harbour Day.

In September we resumed our monthly meetings, coffee mornings, and a trip to Howick Hall.

A date for your diary: 'Autumn Craft Fair' which will take place on Sunday, 29 October, from 10am at the Harbour Masters Building. Those who attended last year will recall that it was a very enjoyable event. We look forward to seeing you, and then we will all be thinking about Christmas!!!

True Colours Theatre
SEND Days Available

THE UNIQUE tent company

Tynemouth

Winter Wonderland

Nordic Tipi Village

Storytime with Mrs Claus

Christmas Crafts with the elves

Meet Santa

All included in your ticket price!

Tickets

SCAN ME

Every Saturday and Sunday
25th Nov - 24th Dec

£18 Child
£10 Toddler
£8 Adult

In partnership with
Tynemouth Cricket Club

TIDY CLOUD
Chartered Accountants

xero SILVER PARTNER

LOCAL CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

- Self Assessment
- VAT Returns
- Corporation Tax
- Payroll & CIS
- Annual Accounts
- Tax Planning

CONTACT MATTHEW SPEARS TO ARRANGE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

01670 282 345
07596 926 740
hello@tidycloud.co.uk
www.tidycloud.co.uk

The Colony: Rocking the rain away



Six Card Trick at The Colony. Image: Wobbly Fingers. More photos on page 20

What a phenomenal day yet again for the Colony Festival 2023 sponsored by Castle North. Due to not booking Crowded House, they refused to take the weather with them and left behind rain showers not seen since Noah popped up the Coquet to get a pair of Adders.

The day started with some wind and combined with DJ Jamie Mac, the cobwebs were well and truly blown away and the music started as the final stage preparation to “Shakey’s Stage” was completed.

Cue the May, Jonathan May was ready, but the may that arrived was mayhem... The first of the heavy showers flooded the stage and the sound crew started negotiations with the committee.

Just as the soundman was ready to pull the plug the Amble spirit hit him like a truck, and he uttered the words “They are still coming and its getting WORSE”.

He’d never encountered the good folk of Amble who treat weather like a salad that comes with a steak, push it to the side and crack on...

As the rain subsided, and the crowd still swelling to capacity there was a frantic dry up job and

the stage was ready AGAIN.

Jonathan May wasted no time and burst into his repertoire of acoustic classics. This allowed the crowd to rock the rain off their waterproofs to Dakota and finally dance the last drips off to Drops of Jupiter.

The rain clouds appeared but passed over without any drama as they left that to Rick and Yiota. With a blend of country soul and powerful vocals, they blew the crowd away just like they did on their debut last year. The perfect apéritif for the music that followed.

*“They
manned
the towels
and
brooms
and fought
back the
deluge”*

The band set up undeterred, as the rain tried to beat them back at every angle but the diligent Colony Committee manned the towels and brooms

The crowd now at full capacity and full swing ready to rock the night away until the skies heard that Prism – a Pink Floyd tribute act were limbering up to play and decided to try and create its own rainbow spectrum.

and fought back the deluge mightier than the super soaker on display at the cricket that very day.

As the weather relented, Prism kicked into action and the crowd burst back into life singing along to Money and Another Brick in the Wall.

From the vintage to the vogueish brought Bear Park to the stage for what would be a momentous day for the young band. They attacked the stage with their original set list and took onboard many a new fan to their voyage into the music business which ended with them signing their first record deal later that evening. Who are we to say that the Colony Stage is a lucky omen to catapult stars of the future, but... possibly not a coincidence....

Fuelled by the fresh new music that preceded them The Range gathered up the crowd and propelled them into the early evening with their addictive rocking sound which culminated in their adoring public joining them in one of the finest renditions of Nellie the Elephant that has ever graced a festival.

Six Card Trick bounded onto the stage and took Amble back in time. This time round they were

back to their usual collection of modern rock classics played at a ferocious tempo that kept the dancefloor pumping.

To close out the festival it was left to the one and only Britpop Union. Playing banger after banger from the 90s they added some from other eras, from Love Will Tear Us Apart to Not 19 Forever. The weather held off and their kit survived the night better than when it was hit by a tornado at the Bede.

The festival finished and the committee set about the clear up, but, once again, the people cleared most of the site for which the committee can only offer their highest gratitude.

The committee’s thanks also go out to all the sponsors who without their help could not put on this magnificent festival, Castle North plumbing and heating, The Amble Inn, Coquet Island Shellfish Ltd., Amble Town Council and Warkworth Harbour. Finally, a special mention to The Radcliffe Club and Amble Masons Pub for supplying the bands with much needed refreshments to keep their vocal cords in perfect order.

Until next year Amble, See you at the Shore!
Aaron Armstrong