



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 153 July/Aug 2025

Rocking out in the Friendliest Port



EVENTS SPECIAL: Puffin Festival *page 2*,
Mauretania Day *page 10*, Clock Tower
Centenary *page 9*, The Colony *back page*

ARTOGRAFFI EXCLUSIVE: New school:
What happened to our wildlife pond?
Page 5 and centre pages

Puffin Festival 2025: it's been a whirlwind



Blyth Valley Samba's drumming workshops were very popular, especially with the youngsters

This year's Puffin Festival proved to be a blustery event, with strong winds causing a little havoc on occasion. Stall holders had to hang onto their gazebos, while the elements on Sunday proved too much for even the biggest kites on the Braid.

Despite the weather, the Puffin Festival was another joyful, quirky event. "It was a wonderful weekend" said Events Committee chairman Bart Rippon. "We want to thank everyone for coming and making it another great event."

The organisers were delighted with the huge number of visitors to the stalls and activities over the bank holiday weekend. Blyth Valley Samba entertained the crowds on Saturday, along with Tribe Zuza tribal dancers, local singer Brian English, and street band Meze Mundo. On Sunday, Caribbean Crew steel band, Brian English, Tribe Zuza and Salida band took

to the stage, as youngsters had a great time dancing with giant puffin Tommy Noddy.

builds was very impressive. Two winners received a £50 voucher from Seaside Travel Amble. The



Puffin Festival 2025 landscape artist winners. Winner (centre): Anthea Wood; second place: John Tuff; third place: Becky McMurray

The sandcastle competitions on both days was run by the wonderful Ranger Jane, and proved immensely popular. Judges said that despite strong winds and a high tide, the number and quality of the

Come and Try Kayaking with Coquet Shorebase Trust also proved popular, and the winner of the Puffin Rescue game, sponsored by Puffin Cruises received a cuddly Puffin prize.

Fifteen people entered

the Puffin Festival landscape artist of the year competition, organised by Dovecote Street Arts; fortunately they and their equipment survived the gusty winds intact! The winner won a weekend stay at Radcliffes Lodge, the two runners up won a £50 voucher for a meal at the Old Boat House.

DryWater Arts organised a host of cultural activities over the whole weekend, and the town's shops included puffin artwork painted by local school children. Guided walks, poetry readings and nature talks were very well attended, as was the ever popular dog show organised by Northumberland Dog Rescue.

Organisers thanked this year's main sponsor Coquet Cottages for their generous donation, and to Alncom who helped make the Puffin Cam live streaming possible in the Town Square.

On behalf of the Events Committee, Matthew Connolly said "It's been a whirlwind of a weekend. You could have blown me over with the joyful and enthusiastic response to the Festival!

He added, "We're a small team and we'd really like additional ideas and help for upcoming events such as the Christmas Lights Procession and next year's Puffin Festival."

Come and join the Events Committee or volunteer to help out. Ring 01665 712929 and ask for Matthew or Julia, or email ambleeventscommittee@gmail.com
Anna Williams

The Christmas Lights and Procession will be on Sunday 23 November. Next year's Puffin Festival will take place on Sat 23 and Sun 24 May 2026.



Dancing to Salida band



Some of the sandcastle builders with Ranger Jane and judges Katherine Renton and Luke McTaggart

Swimblers join national protest against sewage



A swimming group has staged a beach protest against sewage pollution in Amble.

The Amble Swimmers took part in a nationwide Surfers Against Sewage Paddle-Out protest to demand action against pollution being pumped into seas and rivers.

The protest coincided with the launch of a public consultation by the Coquet River Action Group (CRAG) to gain bathing water status for the Little Shore at Amble.

Judith Gleave, spokesperson for the 994-strong Swimmers' group and a member of CRAG, said: "We wanted to take part in this protest to show how angry we are about the appalling way our water companies are behaving. As Swimmers we take care of each other and part of that is ensuring the water we swim in is clean. We use the Surfers Against Sewage app to check for discharges and there are far too many."

Bathing status would mean

the water at the Little Shore would be tested weekly, during the season, by the Environmental Agency, for harmful bacteria like E.coli and Intestinal Enterococci.

Water quality would be classed as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor' and public signs would have to be displayed, informing bathers of the status. Water companies would also be legally required to reduce raw sewage discharges.

The campaign for bathing water status at the Little Shore

is also being supported by the Harbour Commission, Amble WI and the Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club.

Community support is needed for the application. The Amble Little Shore survey can be found online at coquetriveractiongroup.org - look for Bathing Water Survey.

The Amble Swimmers had a stall at the Puffin Festival, giving out campaign information and chatting to visitors about the benefits of protecting the Little Shore for locals, tourists and wildlife.

Tracy Mitchell

Photos: Jim Donnelly



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Town councillors step down after fifty years of service



l-r: Kate Morrison, Craig Weir and Helen Lewis have now retired

Over half a century of service has been clocked up by three town councillors who have now retired.

Helen Lewis, Craig Weir and Kate Morrison are stepping down from Amble Town Council, but before they left, they met with The Ambler to reflect on the changes they've seen over the years.

"I've been on the council for 23 years," said Helen, "but I'm not the longest serving councillor." [Ian Hinson served on the town council for over 40 years, Eric Alcock for 40 and Robert Arckless for 34].

We asked if it's good to have people on the council for so long, and how do they encourage new people to come on - and, importantly, to stay on.

Helen: "I think it's good, as long as the person is open to new ideas and thoughts. They've got to be flexible. And also, as long as people aren't coming on the council just to stop

something happening."

Craig has been a town councillor for 14 years, serving as mayor for twelve of those.

"Good councillors have to deal with the whole community," he said. "I think a lot of people don't know what a councillor does. Some people join for fixed reasons, but they soon learn we have a set of rules and protocols and we have to stick to that."

Kate joined the council just after Craig, "When we moved here, all you saw in the Gazette was bad stuff about Amble. There's not so many people coming forward [for the council] now, but they should know they can make a difference."

Helen, who served as mayor for two years, added, "You have to realise you'll never please everybody. What has been decided might not be what you want, but it's a democratic process."

The councillors were proud of what Amble Town Council

had achieved over the last couple of decades.

"When I moved here, I was told by my family not to go," said Craig. "Since we've been here, people are now proud of being from Amble. I think we've helped give a sense of pride in the community and boosted community spirit."

Highlights have also included working together with other groups to bring about change and developing links with local organisations. The council has worked to encourage existing or fledgling groups to develop, and they've made big changes to the Paddlers, the Memorial Gardens, the cemeteries, and the allotments.

Service Level Agreements with Northumberland County Council means the town council no longer have to employ people directly - which would include costly ongoing training and equipment.

"This hasn't been cheap, but

with all the rules and regulations on the type of equipment, training etc, it was beyond what the town council could provide" said Helen.

If there are regrets, then lack of self publicity is probably one of them, with a feeling that there's a lot of hard work done behind the scenes and people tend only to see the end result - or lack of it.

"One thing I'm sorry about is the town doesn't have better recreational facilities," said Helen. "A while ago we offered to pay for a part time youth worker to work out what was needed. We worked on that plan for about 18 months but it fell because NCC told us they couldn't find anyone to fill the post. And Amble lacks a wet weather recreational facility. Again, that is not for the want of trying."

There's obviously a lot of work to do as a town councillor, which might explain why it attracts some older and/or retired people, but it doesn't preclude younger people with jobs or busy lives from joining. Some meetings with NCC are between 9-5pm, but as Helen says, there are ways to manage that.

"Come to a council meeting, see what we do. You have to be aware you're making a commitment, but the rewards can be worthwhile."

Said Helen: "We'll all miss being part of Amble Town Council. We've been so involved for so long. And sometimes our memories might be useful, so we're here to offer advice if the new members need it."

Anna Williams

Local firm praised for transforming a Queen Street building

A local building firm has been praised for transforming a property on Amble's Queen Street.

Kelly Construction have been praised by the building's owner and its new tenants for the wonderful job on the renovations to the property on the corner of Queen Street and Bridge Street.

For decades, the building was home to S&M Electricals; the shop is now a beautiful showroom for Evolution Flooring. Director Justin Mathews told the Ambler they were thrilled to move to such a prime position in the town, and delighted with the restoration.

"The work that John and Shaun of Kelly Construction have

done to the shop is fantastic, the restoration of the property with the exposed internal stone wall adds charm and character, as well as making sure we have the modern comforts that we need in the 21st century.

"Adding our touch of Evoflooring style and sparkle has in our opinion made it one of the best-looking shops on Queen Street (a little bias I know) and we are so happy to be part of Amble's thriving local community".

The company provided a full renovation; new floors, walls, joinery, plastering, new windows, electrics, plumbing and decoration.

Shaun Kelly told the Ambler that he and his dad John were really pleased with the reaction to all their work. "We started on the old electrical shop at the end of last year. We're really pleased with what we've done, and we're glad everyone's happy with our work."

The shop has been totally renovated, and a new building is currently being created on the



site of the old back yard. It will feature a large skylight.

"There's been some interest in it already; it'll suit some little business, and that's good for Amble," said Shaun.

School build forges ahead before changes granted permission

Construction of Amble's new school is progressing well, with an estimated completion date of September 2026.

However, at a meeting with young journalists from The Ambler, (see centre pages,) it was revealed that modifications to the building being constructed have not yet had planning permission.

Roddy Graham, Senior Project Manager at Kier

Construction confirmed that the building being constructed was not the design given planning permission last November, but a new design which was submitted in April and has yet to be agreed.

At the meeting, the young people pointed out that outdoor learning areas were important for many children. They asked why so much had been removed in the new design.

NCC Leader Glen Sanderson

expressed sympathy with them over the loss of the outside learning facilities, including a wildlife pond. He said "This is very important. I hate being stuck inside. We will have a discussion about this."

Roddy Graham said "We have to build the plan we are instructed to build. The costs for the [previous] plan were made three years ago. They are not reflected in 2025 prices."

Sue Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources, told the young people that the plans had been simplified to create more value for money.

The final decision whether or not to pass the modified plans will be made by the Northumberland Area Planning Committee. At the time of writing, there is no date set for this meeting.

Anna Williams

Vision for 'sports village' inspires asset transfer request

A community asset transfer request has been submitted for the current James Calvert Spence College gym, as part of a wider vision for a sports village for Amble.

Amble Development Trust submitted the request to Northumberland County Council after developing an idea for an innovative community sports and leisure area in the town.

The vision to retain the sports hall, which is destined to be demolished after the new school is built, would see the facility run for the benefit of the



The sports hall at JCSC is subject to a community asset transfer request

community.

Julia Aston, director of

Amble Development Trust said

"In the absence of funding for

Amble to have its own sports and leisure centre, we have looked at options for providing a variety of activities by working with NCC and JCSC.

"By combining the facilities of the three sites - JCSC, Amble Welfare and retaining the existing gym, we would look to create a sport and leisure village."

She added, "We would not be looking to compete with JCSC, but offer a wider range of activities than each site could provide individually, and possibly more than could be achieved by a leisure centre."

Anna Williams

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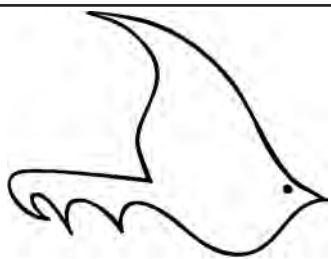
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The Ambler

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Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace
Amble, Northumberland NE65 0DT
Tel: 01665 712929

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

Facebook: TheAmbler
X/Twitter: AmbleByTheSea
YouTube: AnnaAtTheAmbler1
Threads: AnnaAtTheAmbler
Bluesky: AnnaAtTheAmbler
Instagram: TheAmblerNews



Editorial Team:

Vivienne Dalgliesh, Norma Hinson,
Ian MacKarill

Editor: Anna Williams

Distribution:

Luke, Wendy, Janette, Ian,
John, Richard, Gill & Ira

Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

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#150 - 6 Jan	#153 - 20 Jun
#151 - 21 Feb	#154 - 29 Aug
#152 - 11 Apr	#155 - 31 Oct

Capt'n Coquet's Chronicles

Past times: How we counted the puffins

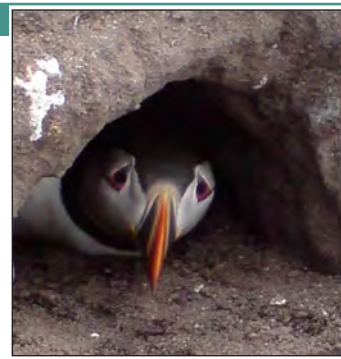
With another successful Puffin Festival behind us, it's a good time to think about how the puffins are doing on Coquet Island. To do that, wardens and volunteers set aside a day each year to carry out the Puffin Census. This count is important as it gives us a regular scientific insight into how well the puffin population is doing.

Puffins live on the sea over winter, many on the Atlantic Ocean (hence their full name the "Atlantic Puffin"). If the weather at sea is reasonable over the wintertime, more puffins survive to return to Coquet Island. If the winter is harsh, many puffins perish or get washed up exhausted in large numbers - referred to as a Puffin wreck. We have been lucky over the past few years and lots of puffins have returned.

Puffins nest underground making them difficult to count,

so over many years, a standard technique was developed to make sure they were counted in a way that could be compared with counts in the past and in the future. It is difficult, time consuming and disturbing for the birds, to count every burrow so a set of 30 sample areas were chosen (each covering 20 square metres).

It took five or six experienced volunteers to check each burrow for occupancy. This involved looking for evidence such as feathers, discarded fish, a latrine, smell, or even a puffin popping out to object! It also involved putting your arm down the burrow to feel for an egg (or a puffin). Eventually, a long-term researcher devised a battery-powered micro-camera on a long cable, to check burrows quickly and efficiently. This technique was found to be accurate and saved lots of time, reducing



disturbance across the colony. With some simple maths, the number of occupied burrows for the entire island was estimated.

Puffins have been doing well, and numbers reached 30,000 pairs five years ago. That's a remarkable achievement for these hardy, iconic seabirds. The result was so astonishing that we had to repeat the census that year to make sure!

Dr Paul Morrison aka Capt'n Coquet was a Coquet Island manager for 38 years

WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p8

Thank you to those who saved my life

A very unusual thing happened to me four months ago. I was walking my dog as usual and apparently I fell off a cliff. I don't remember anything about it until I woke up in the RVI hospital. Anne who found me called the rescue services. The rescue helicopter saved my life getting me quickly to hospital.

I can never thank them enough for what they did especially the helicopter. Anne who found me and her friend Julie are my guardian angels because they took my dog Candy and looked after her all those months and kept in touch. I would also like to thank the ladies in the coffee pod who organised the things I

needed in hospital. I have met so many kind people who went out of their way to help me and I will be eternally grateful. The update is I had a blackout caused by my heart.

That is how I fell. I now have a pacemaker and back home with my dog.

Betty Robson, Amble

Only scrubland?

Further to the excellent article in The Ambler issue 152 written by Hugh Tindle entitled "Wildlife Wipeout", could we draw your attention to the proposed fate of the many established trees and large shrubs growing on Braid Hill which are destined for removal by Northumberland Estates to build yet more flats and houses?

At the planning committee which approved this travesty on 24 October last year, the site was dismissively called "only scrubland". Neither of the two Amble councillors was present at that meeting, and it was obvious that none of the other committee members had visited the site or even appeared to know where it was. The biased report submitted by the planning officer was simply accepted at face value.



Now that the trees and shrubs are in full leaf it is obvious that they must provide a wonderful habitat for birds and wildlife, habitat which is sorely lacking now that so many other green spaces have been obliterated in the pursuit of money.

No Decision Notice has yet been issued, due to procrastination over who has responsibility for maintaining

the Gut culvert. Let's hope that our newly elected councillors will be more proactive when other sites come up for development around Amble.

In the meantime, go and look at Braid Hill - is that really "only scrubland"?

J & L Hayes, via email

Update: NCC have now issued a Decision Notice fully permitting development.

Hugh's views: Spring Ups and Downs

Somehow Spring arrived without any great fanfare in the natural world around Amble. Cold winds, low overnight temperatures and a lack of precipitation did little to persuade nature that the new season was upon us.

At the beginning of April, a dead barn owl found on the verge beside Rotary Way did little to improve the mood. The unfortunate bird carried a BTO ring on its right leg which later provided information revealing that it had been ringed locally and that the bird was just over three years old.

I saw my first swallow of the year in Amble on 16 April, as it skimmed over buildings in the Coquet Industrial Estate and the first house martin was heard calling from a previous years nest on 26 April beside Percy



Roe deer at Hauxley Nature Reserve

Drive as temperatures remained stubbornly low.

Two adult rabbits, one beside Coquet Vets the other beside Tiger Lifting, at either end of May, showed advanced

symptoms of myxomatosis, with closed eyes and a reluctance to move. The first cases which I had seen in a long time.

The dry weather continued into May but surprisingly a local colony of house martins seemed to have little problem locating a plentiful supply of mud, despite the lack of rain, as two new nests were constructed under the eaves of a house close to our own.

A chat with a resident of Hauxley Grange revealed that the industrious birds were using mud exposed by falling water levels in ponds which collect surface water from the new estate's surface water drainage system. Both nests were completed by the end of the month.

On the last day of May, a neighbour very kindly informed me of the presence of three otters

at the weir on the Coquet which he and his wife had discovered while out walking early one morning. Possibly a female with cubs which were there two days later but which eluded my own efforts to locate them.

In early June a visit to Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre was rewarded with excellent views of lots of waterbirds and in particular several avocets, the RSPBs emblem. These graceful wading birds have only recently started to colonise Northumberland.

Later, while we sat watching from the comfort of the excellent café, a roe deer appeared from the trees at the side of the lake and then for an hour browsed along the shoreline, completing a memorable visit.

Hugh Tindle

Update on firearms incident

In the last issue of The Ambler, we reported that a man was arrested in Amble by police on suspicion of making threats to

kill and was taken into police custody.

As an update, a Northumbria Police spokesperson said: "A man

in his 30s who was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill on April 8 in Amble will face no further action for this offence.

"However, he remains under investigation on suspicion of possessing drugs and a bladed article."

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A thank you to outgoing councillors

I wanted to say a word of thanks to our outgoing Councillors. This local election has seen many changes with the departure of Terry Clark and Jeff Watson from the County Council and the retirement of Craig Weir, Helen Lewis and Kate Morrison from Amble Town Council.

Each of them worked hard for our town. During my own term as a Councillor, I worked with all of them, across politics and whatever differences we might have had.

Terry, like me, is a proud Labour man, but he also cares passionately about our community, responding to individual concerns and supporting local projects. Being a Councillor can be tough and the job seems thankless at times.

Some elections involve results that have little to do with the merits or otherwise of individual



Terry Clark

candidates and much more to do with feelings about national politics.

I know how many sacrifices are involved and the pressures that can bring – especially in the era of the keyboard warrior. Somehow “thank you” seems inadequate, but it is heartfelt.

Robert Arkless, via email

25 years of service to the community



Jeff Watson

As the political scene in Warkworth and Amble changes direction many people will be wondering what will happen next. For myself, as the wife of Jeff Watson, it will make a huge difference. I have shared a part of my life with you all for 25 years as Jeff’s priorities (no matter what your political creed) always took centre stage to enable him to make a difference to your lives. I am extremely proud of what he has achieved, as are many others who have kindly expressed their gratitude to him. It has been much appreciated.

As we move on with our lives perhaps, those of you who have recently moved here, having recognised the town’s attractions, might observe some of the things he was involved in such as; the Harbour Regeneration Project, including the Shopping Pods and Lobster Hatchery,

bringing Morrisons to Amble, chief negotiator for the new car park behind Tesco, the new SEND school and JCS building and lots of infrastructure projects where he has donated money to support worthy causes over the years. His many roles include:

District Councillor for Warkworth and Amble for the previous Alnwick District Council
Chair for Warkworth Parish Council, member of Amble Town Council and Acklington Parish Councils

Trustee of Amble Drop In Centre for teenage children.
(Their Mini Bus Driver for trips to Beamish)

Rotary Club Member
Amble Development Trust,
County Council Representative
British Legion Chair Warkworth & Amble District

Northumberland Mayor 2021
Northumberland’s Armed Forces Champion representing the County at commemorations and events

Cabinet member responsible for upgrading all Northumberland’s Leisure Centres, Libraries, Archives and Culture.

Treasurer, Warkworth Harbour Commissioners

Amble and Warkworth have thrived under his stewardship. Big boots to fill for our new representatives. I hope that they will continue his work and provide the same level of commitment to the area going forward.

June Watson, via email

Acklington memorial unveiled



On the afternoon 10 May, I was honoured to represent my father at the unveiling of this memorial at HMP Northumberland.

The memorial was erected by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust. The



short Service was attended by Representatives of the Trust. Squadron Leader Mike Roberts of RAF Boulmer. Dad served at R.A.F. Acklington 1939 in Uniform till 1947 then it closed in 1969. The photo is of my dad when he was Officers Mess Caterer in the mid-1960s.

*Peter Proctor Cannon
Amble*

The Big Knit 2025

THANK YOU to everyone who spent time knitting these cute little hats. All together we have collected 1,137 and delivered them to Age UK in Ashington.

Innocent smoothies will give 30p per hat to Age UK Northumberland, so that is a grand total of £341.10p. A big thank you to everyone who helped.

Co-op Funeralcare Amble



How to get in touch with our MP

David Smith, MP for North Northumberland has been sharing his team’s casework success stories.

These included: helping one constituent who had £1,600 in self-assessment penalties and having these fines withdrawn; supporting a family on low income to get their council tax reduced by £300; helping a pensioner to get their full pension, and arrears payment for the months when their pension was paid at a lower rate; and representing a constituent whose neighbour had innocently taken



over their internet line.

North Northumberland constituents with issues like this can contact David’s office by emailing david.smith.mp@parliament.uk or calling 01670704099

Centenary event for Amble war memorial



The band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers paraded through town. Photo: Bart Rippon

An appreciative crowd watched the Memorial Clock Tower centenary service in the Town Square on 10 May. The event also commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers paraded along Church Street and Queen Street to the Town Square, after which the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Janette Milburn and others unfurled Union Flags which had covered the names of the fallen from both World Wars.

A service took place with readings and hymns from Coquet Churches Together, followed by a speech by the Mayor Craig Weir, who described how the clock tower came into being.

He explained that the land had been donated by Edward Lawson-Smith whose two sons had died in WW1. The memorial itself had been paid for entirely by public subscription and fundraising.

The clock tower was unveiled on 9 May 1925. At the event, the regimental band of the

Northumberland Fusiliers paraded through the town, supported by the bands of Amble and Radcliffe. A guard of honour was provided by 36 men from C Company, Northumberland Fusiliers.

It was therefore fitting to welcome the Fusiliers regimental band to the centenary event.

Music including the Last Post and the National Anthem was played by the band. A reception was then held at the Parish Hall for invited guests.

Anna Williams

A warm welcome for St Cuthberts' new vicar



Rev Rachael Dines (right) and the Bishop of Newcastle, Right Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley

Rev Rachael Dines is the new Priest-in-Charge of St Cuthbert's, Amble and St John's, Chevington.

Rev Rachael was officially licenced by the Bishop of Newcastle at a service on 3 July.



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Rare marine plant is focus of new arts project



A series of banners made by local artists can be seen in Amble Town Square

The rare marine plant seagrass is the subject of a new arts project centred around Amble.

Arts organisation Dovecote Street Arts, based in Amble, has partnered with the Stronger Shores Team working within Durham Wildlife Trust to deliver a new creative programme that will raise awareness surrounding seagrass.

Stronger Shores Engagement Officer Blair Watson said, "Alongside the other habitats investigated through Stronger Shores, kelp forests and oyster reefs, seagrass meadows are a key focus for understanding how we can protect our coasts against the effects of coastal erosion and flooding."

He added, "We've chosen to work with groups in Amble, as alongside Lindisfarne, it is one of the only areas in Northumberland, and the wider North East, where you can find seagrass."

"Seagrass is important as it helps to retain sediment which slows coastal erosion, provides a vital habitat to marine life, and is also extremely effective at carbon capture, aiding in the fight against climate change."

Dovecote Street Arts co-director Luke McTaggart adds, "We're thrilled to be working with Stronger Shores to raise awareness surrounding seagrass in our local community."

"We've been exploring lots

of ideas through our network of artists and monthly 'Crit' meetings and it's clear there is a real depth of response to the

issues we've been raising. Being from such a beautiful part of the world it's natural that people are keen to work to protect the landscape and environment."

The project launched with a series of banners featuring artwork from local artists displayed during the town's Puffin Festival.

Over the coming months Dovecote Street Arts will be running a series of free workshops both for local art groups in the area, as well as for members of the public that are keen to take part.

Anyone interested in taking part is urged to email: dovecotestreetarts@gmail.com or follow Dovecote Street Arts on social media.



Mauretania Day and Harbour Village celebrations



MAURETANIA DAY this year co-incided with the tenth anniversary of the opening of Amble Harbour Village.

Entertainment was provided by singer Brian English, Amble Sword, Jayess Brass Band, Harbour Lights Choir and Tribe Zuza dancers.



Vintage Morgan cars also added to the day.

The cake was cut by Ann Burke representing the Coastal Communities steering group (which



secured the money for the Harbour Village), Lynne Morelli representing Amble Development Trust, and Bart Rippon, Harbour Village co-ordinator.



Amble marine tragedy remembered in Bridlington



A plaque commemorating the crew of RAF Pinnacle 1386 who died in Amble, has been unveiled in Bridlington Harbour.

The tragedy took place on 29 September 1969, when RAF Search and Rescue craft Pinnacle 1386 overturned while approaching Amble harbour in severe weather.

Now a plaque has been unveiled in Bridlington Harbour, honouring the 1104 Marine Craft Unit based in Bridlington, including those who died during bombing in WW11, and those involved in the Amble tragedy. A wreath was laid by a member of the Marine Craft Unit.

At the time, Amble lifeboats, together with HM Coastguard and the Search and Rescue squadron from RAF Acklington spent hours attempting to rescue the crew of the stricken vessel. Local divers also joined in to help free the men.

One crew member survived after Royal Navy divers managed to create a hole in the upturned hull, from which he managed to escape.

There is a plaque commemorating the incident at Amble's Little Shore.

Photo: The Bridlington Echo

Lily Tibbitts' *Student Life*

By the time this article is published, I will have graduated. Hopefully I won't have tripped and fallen on stage while going to collect my very expensive piece of paper, but that remains to be seen. What it does mean is that this will be my last Student Life piece - after this, I'm not a student anymore!

I was thinking about all the things I'm going to miss about uni life, and I ended up making a list of the things I'm most sad to be done with:

- Seeing my friends every day - in lectures, in seminars, or even just bumping into them around campus.
 - Learning something new every single day and being exposed to all sorts of new ideas.
 - Having a fixed structure to my week with loads of time to chill!
 - Participating in so many different activities and having the opportunity to do things I never would've considered doing before.
 - Existing in a little campus community - like a small town built into the city.
- It was only as I was making



this list of things that I'd miss that I realised I can have all of these things outside of uni. I can make the effort to see my friends, to learn something new, to structure my weeks, to take part in a variety of activities, to build a community. It might be more difficult than it is in a university environment, but I think it's worth a go.

Thank you to everyone who has read my student life pieces over the last three years - I can't wait to see what comes next!

Lily

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WELFARE?

WE ALL WENT to visit the Welfare and we were very disappointed that the playground surface has been damaged for the third time after repairing it. Also we found that the see saw is broken. People think its okay and only they use the park, but it's for everyone. We need to keep the park safe and use it respectfully, as if this keeps happening the park will be closed and we won't be able to use it.

"I think it's unfair that the kids who are destroying it don't have to face consequences, whereas there are people who want to play there and have to put up with what they've done. It's not an enjoyable place when it gets destroyed." says Issy.

Julia Aston from Amble Development Trust said "It is so disappointing this has happened again. It cost £70,000 to replace the damaged play surface last time. There won't be any more money to replace it and should the play area become dangerous then it would have to be closed."

How to book the Playzone

The Welfare Playzone should be open for booking via mobile phone by the time you read this.



Matthew Connolly from Amble Development Trust said "We've worked with the Football Foundation and NCC to get the signage installed so people can scan a QR code to book the new Playzone.

"They'll be able to play netball, football, basketball, dodgeball etc. Booking will guarantee you the court at a specific time. It will be £10 per hour. There can be long term booking for clubs such as walking football, walking netball etc, or for parties. Alternatively, the MUGA will remain free to use on the usual first come first served basis."

We found out you can book the Playzone right now via this link: tinyurl.com/ambleplayzone

Personally we think although you have to rent the Playzone, people will climb over the fence and sneak in.

By Eden and Issy



WHAT WE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE BOSS OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL



Glen Sanderson (Leader of Northumberland County Council); Guy Renner-Thompson (Councillor for Children's Services); James Andriot (Head of JCSC) with Issy, Nina, Skylar, Eden, Esme and Indie

WHEN WE SAW that the plans for our new school had been changed, we decided to ask the people responsible for making the decisions. We were hyped when Councillor Glen Sanderson who is Leader of Northumberland County Council offered to come and meet us, together with Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson, and some of the team. We decided to take the opportunity to find out more about him and what he does.

Eden: What was it like when you were growing up in Northumberland?

Glen Sanderson: I've lived near Felton nearly all my life. I'm a farmer. I spent some time in America and went to university there. Then I worked for Farmer's Weekly magazine. I wrote an article about someone I didn't like. They complained and I lost my job.

Skylar: Did you like school? What was your favourite subject?

Yes I loved school. I went to Felton First School, then to a boarding school in Gosforth but I didn't like boarding. Then I went to a different school. (He later told us this was the same school where the actor who played Hagrid in Harry Potter went.) I believe the more you work

at school, the more you ask questions, it's the best way to get on in life. My favourite subjects were History and English.

Indie: What was your dream when you were younger?

My dream was to have children and a close happy family.

Maisie: Why did you want to become a county councillor?

The county council closed a road! There was an opencast coal site near where I lived and the council closed the road without telling anyone. I didn't want that to happen again. I enjoy helping people and I wanted to join so I could get things done for the people I represent.

Nina: Tell us about your job; are you the boss, and do you get to decide what happens?

Guy Renner-Thompson: Glen is the boss, but he doesn't make all the decisions. Councillors are advised by the council officers. But it's the councillors you elect who make the final decision, although they have a team behind them.

Issy: What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do as Leader of Northumberland County Council?

GS: There's been a range of difficult things. Sometimes deciding on a way forward that's not always what people want, but you feel it's right. It's never been a huge problem. I try to talk things through, try to find a compromise. 5,300 people work for NCC; every decision you make counts. We have £1billion spend per year. More people are getting older, they need more care. People with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) need extra care. There are increasing costs to NCC and we have to pay staff the right amount.

Indie: What is your favourite part of Amble?

GRT: Food, Amble has fantastic restaurants.

GS: I love the sounds at the Marina, of the boats and the rigging.

Esme: What would you do for Amble if you had £100 million to spend here?

GS: If we had that amount of money – I wish we had, I would build a new Leisure Centre.

Nina: What's the naughtiest thing you did as a young person?

No-one would go on record to answer this, although GS and GRT admitted that when they were young they had sometimes been naughty boys.

New school plans: we ask NCC - what happened to our pond?

WE NOTICED THAT the county council want to change the plans for our new school. In the plans which were agreed in November, there were lots of outdoor things such as a wildlife pond, outdoor learning areas and quiet seating areas. These seemed to us like good things to have, especially for students who learn better outside or need quiet spaces at break. We asked the team responsible why they now want to remove them.

Along with Councillors Glen Sanderson and Guy Renner-Thompson, we met Sue Aviston, Head of School Organisation & Resources, and Roddy Graham, Senior Project Manager at Kier Construction.

Skylar: Why are we having a new school (rather than just fix the old one)?

GRT: The decision to build a new school in Amble is a big one for NCC. We've built new schools in Ponteland, Hexham, Seaton Delaval, Berwick and Amble. We think a new school is best for children in Amble. We have the best schools in the NE. A new school is good for both children and teachers. There are cheaper running costs in a new school.



Pic: The green plan. These plans were approved by NCC in Nov 2024, they included growing areas, an amphitheatre, a wildlife pond and landscaping



Pic: The grey plan submitted in April 2025. The building footprint is now smaller and outside features have been removed or simplified

Nina: We would like to know why you put the green plan (which is nicer) to be approved, then you just changed it to be the grey plan (which is smaller), when you already started work on building it? Why promise things then you discard the idea and do something else?

Sue Aviston: The green plan went into planning. The grey plan has been simplified to create more value for money

Eden: Why is there not a pond anymore, or the outside learning areas? Also where are the other outdoor ideas e.g the canopy/shaded seating area to let people stay outside more, or the quiet seating areas for people who enjoy time in smaller groups?

GS: This is very important. I hate being stuck inside. We will have a discussion about this.

SA: The pond is a safeguarding issue. There would need to be fencing. The needs of young people are different than in the past. We need to run the building to be cost effective.

RG: We are building the grey plan. We build the plan we are instructed to build. The costs for the green plan were made three years ago. They are not reflected in 2025 prices.

We say: It looks like money is the reason that we won't get our pond in the end, and we think that is a shame.



Reports from our County Councillors

Arty.Hume@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143949

Here is a brief summary of myself and what I can offer as your county councillor.

I stood as a Reform UK candidate because I could not see another political party close to representing the values I hold dear. I stated at a town council meeting, I am putting Amble first and party second, I stand by this.

Our Reform UK commitment is 'Family-Community-Country' which places local values first, as in family and community, which leads to the success of the country.

Some will not agree with this statement, my aim is to take Amble to a higher level. With help from the Town Council, Amble Development Trust and my colleague Cllr Pauline Davidson, we will do what is right for our town, people and workforce. We cannot do this alone, so we need support from everyone.

We have a unique situation, as the town is represented by councillors of the same party, believing in the same ethos. We are both retired, but chose to come and do our civic duty, to

give our town what we think is a better chance of success.

Already we have worked with Amble Development Trust to discuss the revised plans at JCS College and while doing so discovered that King Edwin School is needing help from the County Council, this is something we will be working on. We attended a planning meeting about JCSC and are waiting for results while actively working towards a resolution acceptable to Amble.

We have contacted Aldi store to put a case for a store in Amble, hopefully this can come to fruition.

As new councillors we will not get everything right, no one does, but we will work with our partnership groups to get the best possible deal we can for our town.

I am hoping to host surgeries in Amble Library so people can ask questions or seek advice. I will not know everything, but can assure you I will make enquiries to find out and give answers and reassurances.

Cllr Arty Hume

Pauline.Davidson@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143980



Hi, my name is Pauline Davidson; I am the new County Councillor for Amble West & Warkworth. I am a retired Nurse Practitioner having worked for the NHS for 37 years. I have lived in the NorthEast most of my life. I am happily settled in Acklington village where I have been for the past 15 years.

Arty and I are working closely together, particularly because our borders meet in Amble. We have a few joint programmes on the go right now, and we are working tirelessly to try and achieve our goals. I cannot say that its easy, as we are dealing with long standing issues together with new ones, but we will get there.

Our projects are especially important to us as we just want to help our residents in any way we can. So far, we have several requests which we are responding to and tackling all workable issues such as:

- Speeding through Acklington village.
- Illegal parking of camper vans and motor homes, Amble
- Cyclists shared path, Beal

Bank.

- Planning application dispute, James Calvert Spence College.
- Renovation/restoration of King Edwin School playing field.
- Dangerous junction, the Wynd/Riverside Park
- Closed footpath behind Coble Quay

This is just a small selection of issues in progress, and the list grows daily! We attend meetings at County Council Town Council, and Parish Councils, and many others in-between, where we can offer support and take appropriate action.

Arty and I are hoping to hold surgeries very soon. This will give us an opportunity to meet more of our residents, and as their representatives, we will do our best to help.

Money is tight, therefore some of the more major projects on our to do list unfortunately may have to go on hold, but rest assured, we will use our resources sparingly!

Cllr Pauline Davidson

Warden's update from Coquet Island

At the time of writing, the season is in full swing, with eggs hatching and small fluffy tern chicks running around shouting for their fishy supper. Puffins are flying in with sand eels stuffed in their beaks dodging the Black-headed gulls to make it back to the pufflings waiting in the burrows.

Currently the wardens are undertaking the annual censuses and doing productivity monitoring for many of the birds. Whilst it is too early to say how well everything has done, there seems to be a good number of all our breeding birds.

Previously I have spoken about the hard work that the island staff and volunteers had put in on rebuilding North Terrace, an important area for the breeding Roseate Tern. Now halfway through the breeding season it is satisfying to see that work being appreciated by the birds, with more breeding Common Tern recorded in that area than last year and roseate

terns using the new boxes directly behind the wall.

Restabing the terrace means that we have no fear of the



Arctic Tern and chicks. Photo: Rebekah Goodwill

ground collapsing beneath our feet ensuring that we can safely undertake crucial monitoring of the only UK breeding colony of Roseate Terns.

The Puffins have also taken to the artificial burrows that we installed to prevent digging in areas prone to collapse and whilst the box with the camera unfortunately wasn't successful, it has shown that these boxes can

provide necessary safe breeding spaces in areas of fragile ground.

With a dry early season dominated by northerly winds

we didn't get many unusual spring migrating birds stopping off. However, we were treated to a male Ring Ouzel in April and several Black Redstarts were seen enjoying the areas where we had cut the vegetation back for the terns. The northerly winds also meant that we have been seeing hundreds of Manx Shearwaters passing, along with some great views of Arctic

Skuas. These birds don't breed in the area and are normally only seen whilst flying past or sitting on the water. We have, however, seen the return of the very rare Bridled Tern which stopped on 13 June for a few hours and it was spotted further south the next day. This is the second year this incredible bird, usually found in the tropics, has turned up.

The recent warm weather has seen an explosion of butterflies on the island with Red Admirals seen wherever we look. The resident Rock Pipits have been loving these tasty snacks. Nature doing its thing. Whilst we have yet to see the Orca off Coquet Island we have enjoyed sightings of Bottle-Nosed Dolphins along with our first few minke whales of the season. Hopefully, the nice weather will continue and our breeding birds will have a successful season.

*Rebekah Goodwill
RSPB Warden Coquet Island*



Hello everyone, welcome back to Trust Life as we look forward to summer and sunshine – we're always hopeful!

Playzone - At long last the Playzone is now finished, with the long awaited signage complete with QR code for bookings, now in situ.

Community asset transfer - In the last edition I outlined an idea we had mooted with NCC to retain the existing gym on the current site at JCSC. The Trust has submitted an Expression of Interest for Asset Transfer, subject to receiving a copy of the Building Condition Report – which will outline the state of the building so we can evaluate any works that may be required. This has been requested and is waited.

Town Square market - The market that has been operating in the town square seems to be well received by the majority. Comments received are 'the more that is happening the better, and will attract more people here'. Fingers crossed it works.

Neighbourhood Development Planning (NDP) - The Housing Needs

Assessment was received at the end of May and while it is a large document, the identification of need for affordable homes is shown in stark figures (in excess of 900), which basically means that any future housing development in the town should be 'affordable or social housing' only, as there is little space for other types of development within the town boundaries. Of course this cannot be applied to developments that already have planning permission.

There is also information that assists with limiting the number of holiday and second homes within the conservation area – again this would only be for new builds and cannot be used for what already exists. But it may help in the future.

As is the way of these things the government has now decided to withdraw NDP funding in their spending review. So we wait to see what the next steps are and how the remainder of the Amble Plan can be funded. For future updates, log on to the website (www.ambleplan.org) which will be populated with news as well as posts on social media, and in The Ambler.

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

Congratulations Hildi!

Many congratulations to Hildi Wehr who is this year's Good Young Citizen of the Year.

Hildi attends Amble Links Primary school and was nominated for the prize by headteacher Paul Heeley.

"Hildi really is everything that you could hope for in a good citizen as well as just being a lovely young person who is a credit to her family and to her school.

"She is so naturally caring and considerate that she does things to help without even being asked. DIY is one of her many talents; a recent example of this was fixing a tap in the bathroom without her mum even knowing.

"Hildi just loves life. She has no big desires for material things, finding joy in even the smallest things. She is unconsciously always on the lookout to help people. She genuinely cares about and does a lot for the community of Amble and the wider environment."

Hildi was presented with a goody bag with presents from local businesses and both Amble and Warkworth Town Councils; the main prize of a scooter was donated by Tulip Designs.



Hello Amble,

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Amble Town

COUNCIL

Town: 6pm in Council Office 14 Aug, 11 Sept, 9 Oct.

Amenities: at 6pm in Council Office 31 July, 25 Sept, 27 Nov.

EAST WARD:

Ian Parks,
33 Warkworth
Ave, Warkworth.
NE65 0TP
01665714695
Ian.Parks@
amble.gov.uk

Ciara Dawson,
c/o Fourways2,
6 Dilston Terrace,
Amble NE65 0DT
01665714695
Ciara.Dawson@
amble.gov.uk

Jenny Richards
35 Puffin View
Amble
NE6502E
07956308815
jenny.richards@
amble.gov.uk

CEN. WARD:

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

Michael Joyce
c/o Fourways2,
6 Dilston Terrace,
Amble NE65 0DT
01665714695
Michael.Joyce@
amble.gov.uk

Vacancy

WEST WARD:

Ivor Rackham
c/o Fourways2,
6 Dilston Terrace,
Amble NE65 0DT
Tel: 01665714695
Ivor.Rackham@
amble.gov.uk

Luke McTaggart
c/o Fourways2,
6 Dilston Terrace,
Amble NE65 0DT
Tel: 01665714695
email tbc

Claire Connolly
c/o Fourways2,
6 Dilston Terrace,
Amble NE65 0DT
Tel: 01665714695
Claire.Connolly@
amble.gov.uk

NEW COUNCIL

There are a number of new faces on the Council since the May elections. See <https://amble.gov.uk/2025/06/meet-your-new-councillors/> It is the intention of your new Council to arrange some community engagement events so that you have the opportunity to meet your new members and raise any issues you have. Watch this space for more details soon.

PERCY DRIVE CROSSING

We are pleased to note the crossing for Percy Drive is in the final stages of the design phase. We continue to push for this to be installed as soon as possible so that this stretch of road can be crossed safely by all.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Neighbourhood Development Plan continues to be worked on by the Steering Group. It is expected that there will be further community engagement events planned once the plan is at a more advance stage. Check out the website for more information: <https://www.ambleplan.org/>

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC AND GARDEN AWARDS

This year our awards ceremony takes place on 22 July 2025. There are a number of awards up for grabs, including best garden for each ward (judged by Alnwick Garden judge), best allotment, and an adult and junior civic award, and this year we also have The Peoples Choice award. To find out who won, check out our website. <https://amble.gov.uk/2025/06/amble-town-council-awards-2025/>

COMMUNITY SPACES

There are a number of community spaces available for hire, whether that be private hire or for any clubs or hobby activities that may be looking for a home. We have compiled a list of what is available on our website. Take a look and contact the venues direct for availability.

<https://amble.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/EXISTING-COMMUNITY-VENUES-INFO.pdf>



A councillors' walkabout took place in June with representatives from Amble Town Council, Northumbria Police, and NCC Housing and Neighbourhood Services

TOILET REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

Councillors have met with officers of the County Council to discuss a better provision than originally intended for both sets of toilets in Amble. This will most likely come at an extra cost to which Amble Town Council may be expected to contribute. As the block most in need of improvement, temporary toilets have been installed next to the Harbour location until work there is complete. The toilets in the town centre remain open for use presently but will have temporary ones installed when work commences there. It is expected that work will last into late Summer.

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month and start at 6pm. These meetings are open to the public and there is a section at the start of every meeting for residents to raise concerns or ask for something to be considered. If you don't have anything you would like to raise you are still welcome to come along to observe and find out about what we are doing.

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

Want to be part of a dog loving community?



Missing the Patter of Paws in Your Life?

Become a Dog Holiday Host with Barking Mad Northumberland.

Do you miss the companionship of a dog but know full-time ownership isn't right for you anymore? Perhaps you're retired or semi-retired, enjoy a good walk, have a secure garden—and would love a wagging tail in your home now and then?

At Barking Mad Northumberland, we connect dog lovers just like you with friendly, well-behaved dogs who need a loving temporary home while their owners are away. It's the joy of having a dog—without the long-term commitment.

Whether you used to have dogs or simply enjoy their company, becoming a Dog Holiday Host offers the perfect balance. You get all the cuddles, fun, and fresh air—while we handle the rest.

Caroline and Barbara, who run the local Northumberland Barking Mad team, personally meet every host and dog to ensure the perfect

fit for your lifestyle. Most hosts are active, retired individuals or couples who love the outdoors and the companionship a dog brings—but value their freedom too.

“It's a wonderful way to fill that dog-shaped space in your life. Plus, you meet so many new people—everyone wants to stop and chat when you're walking a dog!”

If you're based in Northumberland, have a secure garden, have some time on your hands, and love the idea of caring for a dog every now and then, we'd love to hear from you.

- Contact Caroline or Barbara 01665 575981
- Email: northumberland@barkingmad.uk.com
- Learn more: www.barkingmad.uk.com/local/northumberland/alnwick/

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- 🐾 Feel secure with full insurance, 24/7 support, and professional matching.

New bungalows available in Amble

Amble residents who are interested in renting one of the new affordable HUSK bungalows being built in the town are being encouraged to sign up and apply through Northumberland Homefinder.

The fourteen, one and two-bedroomed bungalows are being funded by Northumberland County Council as part of a wider scheme to deliver more affordable housing across the county.

They are situated on old county council garage sites across the town - St Lawrence Avenue (3), Kennedy Road (4), Alndale (4) and Andrew Drive (3).

The properties will be listed on the Northumberland Homefinder - <http://www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk> which also show all homes available for let.

Local residents will need to be registered on Northumberland Homefinder to ensure they can be considered for one of the new bungalows.

Each applicant will be assessed on their housing need and will be given a banding based on this need. This will determine the applicant's position on the list for a property, once they have placed a bid.

Food bank says thank you

We are so fortunate to have such a generous and giving community. We cannot thank everyone here, but we try to acknowledge most of you on our Facebook page.

In this update we would like to particularly thank those of you that purchase the Morrisons pre-packed (green) bags, which are designed around the needs of our local clients. Thank you if you donate this way. Donations are collected twice a week by our volunteers, and these donations form an essential and much appreciated mainstay of food items for the delivery bags our clients receive.

If you prefer to buy your own items, rather than a pickup bag, then you can do so and leave them in our cage by the tills at Amble Morrisons. Alternatively, there are food donation bins near the front doors at the Hadston Co-op and Tesco Express in Amble.

If you are wondering what to donate, tinned baked beans, custard, rice pudding, soup, meat and fish are much appreciated. In date and non-perishable goods only please. We cannot accept items containing alcohol. Thank you for your support, without it we simply would not exist.

How to contact us

To donate: cash and cheques can be addressed to us and posted through the letterbox at Trinity Methodist Church.

Bank transfers can be made to Amble Food Bank, sort code 77-20-04, account number 17925260. We have registered with HMRC so, if eligible, you can Gift Aid any donations (e-mail us for a form).

You can get a referral through the CAB or contact Northumberland communities together on 01670 620015, 9-5pm. E-mail: amblefb@gmail.com

Youth Project's summer activities

Summer Holiday Activities & Food

A programme of events is in place throughout the holidays, with sessions for 8-12yrs such as summertime alive, cricket, watersports and creative activities.

There are also sessions for 13-16yrs such as Football, Escape Room Bus, and challenges. Visit our website: www.ambleyouthproject.org to see the full programme and find out more!

Please note, we have limited places available for activities and you will need to register so please get in touch as early as possible. larap@ambleyouthproject.org

Art Programme - June saw our first three-week special art programme course, on "How to draw animals". Our next programme will be around the art of photography. We aim to launch this in July - visit our website for dates. This three-week photography course, for 13-18 year olds, will be run by professional photographer, photographer coach, and Trustee of AYP, Ivor Rackham.

CCard - aimed at young people between 13-24 years old who can register to get a range of free condoms, information and advice.

The aim of the service is to promote reproductive and sexual health and help young people to access local services. We aim to provide a drop-in service every other Monday Night - 6.30 pm

to 7.30 pm, starting 18 August.

Big Build - We are planning to renovate AYP HQ into an amazing space and in very basic terms, doing a loft conversion.

We have already had a community meeting and have spoken with some very experienced and kind tradespeople/DIY experts who have said they are happy to give us a hand. However, we are still looking for more support so if you think you could help, please get in touch!

An Allotment & A Lot More

- We have an allotment! A very exciting new project for us... Lots of work to be done but our aim is that the young people will be able to grow their own food produce for the community. We are looking for volunteers to help guide and advise us (and maybe get your hands dirty too if you are up for it!).

Our vision for this project is to give our young people the opportunity to gain a real sense of achievement and pride whilst learning important skills from our volunteers.

We have a team ready to clear the site but once this is done, we really need some gardening/allotment experts to help us plan what to grow and how to do this. If you think you might be able to help, please get in touch.

More info on all these at:
www.ambleyouthproject.org

School puffin poster winners

Amble Links Primary



Reception - Millie
Year 1 - Laylah
Year 2 - Florence
Year 3 - Rosie

Year 4 - Bobby - Jo
Year 5 - Niall
(One child not in school for the photo)

King Edwin Primary



Nursery - J G
Reception - Junior
Year 1 - Amy
Year 2 - Poppy
Year 3 - Hunter

Year 4 - Esther
Year 5 - Lacie
(One child not in school for the photo. One child represented by her brother)

Success for Photographic Group



At the Northern Counties Photographic Federation Championships held at Clara Vale on 12 and 13 April, Amble achieved considerable success.

A total of 42 clubs took part, putting in a total of 1,714 images.

Of Amble's images, 17 were highly commended, and three achieved the top mark. These were by Peter Burnham, Helen Holmes, and David Jones.

Individual awards were won by Tony Wright for "Grandma" (above) Richard Booth for "Reflective Egret" and Peter Burnham for "Fiddle and Flute". Tony's picture was selected for the Alliance, and Richard's and Peter's for the Portfolio.

All in all, a very successful competition for Amble. Well done all! See more about our group at www.amblephotogroup.com

Warkworth Film Club

Saturday 6 Sept - Maria

A biographical, psychological drama starring Angelina Jolie as opera singer Maria Callas, following the seven days before her death in Paris in 1977, as she reflects on her life and career. Jolie delivers an impressive performance as Callas as she succumbs to illness and loneliness. Maria broods over her medication and neglects to eat, and she is impossibly difficult with the servants, housekeeper Bruna (Alba Rohrwacher) and valet Ferruccio (Pierfrancesco Favino), who are the witnesses to her decline - and she is beginning to question the idea that she will ever sing again. The story is interspersed with hallucinatory flashbacks to the days of her celebrity pomp, but also further back to her childhood in Greece. (2024 cert 12, 2h 3').

Saturday 4 Oct - Big Night (with British Food Fortnight tasting plates)

In celebration of British Food Fortnight and all things foodie, we are screening comedy drama Big Night starring Stanley Tucci. Set in the 1950s on the Jersey Shore, the film follows two Italian immigrant brothers as they host an evening of free food at their restaurant to help their business survive. The

chef, Primo is a perfectionist who wants to prepare real Italian food for a less than discerning public, while his brother Secundo manages the restaurant. Their rival runs a busy Italian restaurant that compromises its Italian dishes to meet the public half way.

The love interest for Primo (Allison Janney) and Secundo (Isabella Rossellini and Minnie Driver) root the film firmly in the love of friendship, food and celebration. (1996, cert 15, 1h 45').

TASTING PLATES of delicious local cheese, bread and dipping oils will be available at £5 per plate. These were extremely popular last year - if you could email to express your interest so we can guess numbers that would be great, although you don't need to order in advance, we'll make sure there's plenty for everyone who'd like some.

No need to book - just turn up. Doors and cash bar from 7pm. Film starts at 7.30pm.

£5 per person - we are cash only at the moment
Warkworth War Memorial Hall, 40 Castle Street, NE65 0UN
For more info, or to be added to our email list, call Anna on 07758 253104 or anna.willey@cantab.net

ADEA autumn classes

The Amble District Education Association, known as ADEA for short, meet every Wednesday at the Masonic Hall in Amble between 1000 and 1200 for an eight week term in the Autumn and again for an eight week term in the Spring (no Summer term). Their aim is to educate, inform and entertain residents of Amble and the surrounding area across a wide range of topics that attendees may not always get exposure to. Details can also be found on their Facebook page if you have any queries or need to get in touch. It's a great way to meet people and keep informed, and there are tea and biscuits in the interval. There is a small weekly charge per session to cover the costs. They hope to see you there.

- October 8 - Paul Morrison - Coquet Island
- October 15 - Paul Morrison - The history of Amble
- October 22 - Liz Finch - National Trust properties in N/land
- October 29 - Tony Regan - Afghanistan
- November 5 - Ian Hume - Feats of Victorian Engineering
- November 12 - Ian Hume - Feats of Victorian Engineering
- November 19 - Christine Harris - The history of paper / paper making demonstration
- November 26 - David Rowat - Sea Turtles

Landscape team annual review out

The Northumberland Coast National Landscape team has published its annual review for 2024-25.

This report provides information about projects, achievements and aims across the National Landscape. Highlights include the efforts of Conservation Team volunteers, the success of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, planning casework, and recent projects such as Generation Green 2 and Nature Calling.

You can download the annual review over at Northumberlandcoast-nl.org.uk/resources.

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Lifeboat Fundraisers

Remembering Allan

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Allan Wade, one of our fellow RNLI Fundraising Volunteers in Amble. Allan was a loyal volunteer for 22 years and gained his long service award in 2023 along with his wife Vivien. He attended our events with Vivien, and was a well known face at coffee mornings serving tea and coffee with a smile. They were invited to York Minster to celebrate the RNLI 200 service and attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace with their daughters in 2024. Allan was well respected and liked, a true gentleman and is missed by all his friends at Amble Lifeboat Station.



Lifeboat Day - Saturday 16 August 10am - 3pm

Join us at Amble Harbour area for our fun packed event of family fun to support and raise funds for the volunteer crew and station to help Saving Lives at Sea. Lifeboat displays at 11am and 1pm (approx), and entertainment outside the Lifeboat station. Homebakes/refreshments upstairs in the station, RNLI shop, stalls, tombolas, Fun Fair on Little Shore, The Kings Own Yeomanry and stalls in the dock car park. Raffle tickets will be on sale soon for our 2025 Grand Raffle and on the day for some amazing prizes. Follow us on Facebook, Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers

Border Links blooms



Border Links meet regularly at Fourways 2, where a welcoming group of adults come together three times a week to socialise, share experiences, and build new skills in a friendly, supportive setting.

The group has recently been given a wonderful boost thanks to generous funding from the Co-op Community Fund, NCC Chest Fund, Appletree Foundation, and Alnwick Garden. They also received a donation from a local gentleman who wished to remain anonymous — a gesture for which the group is especially grateful.

The funding has helped them realise a long-held dream: creating their very own allotment in Amble. The members have rolled up their sleeves to clear and prepare the ground, and now each person has their own raised bed, with £20 to spend on plants of their choice. The allotment is already blooming with colour, care and creativity.

Callum, one of the members, said: "The best thing about being in the garden is seeing what we've achieved."

Joe added with a smile: "The best thing about the allotment is having a sit down in the sun!"

Looking ahead, exciting plans are growing alongside the vegetables.

Some of the funding was specifically donated for a brand-new community project called Souper Tasty Tuesday, which will launch in October. Using ingredients grown in the allotment, the group will be making delicious homemade soup to be served from their venue at Fourways 2.

There'll be more news on this heartwarming initiative as plans develop — but once it's up and running, everyone in the community will be invited to come along and support the group and enjoy some delicious soup, great company and a very warm welcome.

Rotary update

The last two months have seen a good mixture of social and community-based work by local Rotarians.

Members and friends participated in the Hadrian's Wall Walk in aid of Rotary's 'End Polio Now' campaign. Whilst the aim was to raise funds for a very worthy cause the event proved to be very enjoyable, with stunning views, interesting archaeology, and good company.

Following in the outdoor theme, RAW members also enjoyed an interesting after dinner talk by Leigh Venus on the Kielder Observatory. The talk was illustrated with some stunning night skies shots as Leigh highlighted the work undertaken by the observatory's staff and volunteers.

On the social front, Bill McClement was crowned this year's champion at the recent RAW pub games event held at the Hermitage Inn.

We have been fortunate to have been joined by new members; Graeme Popay, and our fourth corporate member, James Calvert Spence College. The induction took place at the Amble Yacht Club, prior to the launch of the Coquet River Group and Little Shore Bathing Water Public Consultation, which RAW hosted and chaired.

On a sadder note, RAW recently lost long-standing member Lawrence (Lar) Craiggs. Indeed, Lar was the club's longest standing member. Our thoughts go out to his son Ian, another local Rotarian, whose mother Joan, also sadly passed recently. His parents' joint funeral took place in May at St Cuthberts Church.

We had a stand at the Amble Puffin Festival, and our AGM was held on 3 June, followed the next day by an 'educational' tour of the historic pubs of Alnwick led by local historian Tom Allen.

In June, members also enjoyed an after dinner talk from Peter Tracey, the Rotary Regional Ambassador for the International charity ShelterBox. Peter gave a fascinating talk about the work of this organisation and its evolving relationship with Rotary as well as the work it undertakes, providing emergency early response equipment to displaced people from natural disaster and war, including Ukraine and Gaza.

Looking ahead, there are also more social events planned, with a river trip outing and meal in Berwick upon Tweed and a treasure hunt around Warkworth on 5 August which is a fun event for all the family and ends with a BBQ at Warkworth Cricket Club. If interested contact Trevor on 07503 533543 or Alan on 07805 444775.

The RAW Charity Golf Day will be held at Alnmouth Golf Club (Foxton Hall) on Thursday 25 September 2025. Amble and Warkworth Rotary club are still looking for entries of teams of four (Gents, Ladies, or mixed teams). Thanks to the generosity of Alnmouth Golf Club, the entry is only £155 per team (also includes tea/coffee and a bacon roll).

For further information contact Phil Derry philderry@hotmail.com

Contact us via our website www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org or the club Facebook page, Rotary Amble & Warkworth.

Amble Living History Group

September 18 2025

'The History of Reiving'
Michael Thompson

October 16 2025

'Bamburgh Excavations'
Graeme Young

November 20 2025

'Grace Darling Updates'
Andrew Lewis, Heritage Development Manager at the Grace Darling Museum

December 18 2025

'Angels of the North'
Joyce Quin

January 15 2026

'High Rochester Fort and Local Native Populations'
Richard Carlton

Talks are held 7-8.30pm at Dry Water Arts, Wellwood Street, Amble, NE65 0FG. Entrance £3

Amble artist's new exhibition



Luke McTaggart

RePUBLIC, a contemporary art gallery and community space is based on the ground floor of the former Kings Head pub in Blyth. It is set to host an exhibition by Amble artist Luke McTaggart.

The exhibition entitled 'Light Takes the Tree', represents the most recent work of the artist. The title references a line in 'The Waking', a poem by Theodore Roethke.

Luke explains: "When I was thinking about how to tie the show together, I began to look at some of my favourite poetry. I've liked Roethke's work for some time and recognise a similar sense of reverence, and reverie, at nature that I myself feel. The line, 'Light takes the Tree; but who can tell us how' seemed to grow louder each time I returned to the poem. I felt it reflected the mixture of surprise and wonder I feel when light takes over the landscape."

He adds, "Most of the 14 paintings are derived from the landscape in and around Morwick. The landscape there has a really magical quality. I visit often, walking both sides of the River Coquet, usually at dusk when the light begins to wane. It's a really special, personal kind of experience".

The exhibition opens with a special Preview Night on Friday 4 July, 6-8pm and is open until Saturday 2 August. For a full (digital) catalogue, including a list of works for sale with prices, please email Luke at lmctaggart7@hotmail.com.

Working to keep plovers safe

For us here at the Space for Shorebirds team, the spring and summer months can be a very busy time of year indeed as we work to protect the endangered birds that come to our coast to nest, such as Ringed Plovers and Oystercatchers. These struggling shorebirds make their nests on sand and shingle beaches, where their eggs are fantastically well camouflaged to keep them hidden from hungry predators.

Unfortunately, this means that the eggs and chicks can be quite vulnerable on busy beaches, as the nests or chicks can be accidentally stepped on. Our population of Ringed Plovers in this country is falling worryingly quickly, so every fledged chick really matters to the future of these birds.

After a fantastic breeding year last year, this year our Plovers are really struggling to keep their eggs and chicks safe from predators, especially from

Crows and other birds. The numbers of predators hunting at our nesting sites can go up and down year on year and this change can be due to lots of things. For example, if the predator is raising young nearby or if there has been a change in the amount of food they can find elsewhere, they might be more likely to come to these beaches looking for food.

While we are working hard to keep our plovers safe, it's more important than ever to keep disturbance from people to a minimum and give them the best chance possible. If you see any of our fenced areas on Northumberland's beaches, please remember to give them as much space as you can and to follow any signs you might find. And if you ever find a nest on a beach that doesn't have any protection, please let us know straight away at spaceforshorebirds.co.uk or through our social media.

Pop up praise event

Coquet Churches Together Pop-Up Praise

Amble Little Shore 1.30 pm Sunday 27 July 2025

Come and sing along with the Salvation Army Band A great afternoon of fresh air and fun with friends and family. Bring your chair/rug and even your picnic There are cafés nearby for refreshments. If wet the Pop-up Praise will take place at Trinity Methodist Hall, 26 Percy Street NE65 0AG

Amble WI activities

At our June meeting, we enjoyed a really fascinating talk on the history of shoes. Susan brought with her some really early and interesting examples of footwear. Some 70s shoes were tried on by our members bringing back some fun memories!

We have also visited The Forge at Red Row, an amazing gem, which is well worth a visit. Steven is a hugely talented specialist.

Some ladies are involved with Water Testing which is still taking place weekly. You may have seen us around! Our dominoes teams have been in action too, so a busy time!

We have events in the pipeline, and would really welcome any new visitors. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7pm in the Dovecote Centre.

Enjoy this lovely weather!

Clare O'Brien President

School art exhibition

Duchess Community High School Creative Arts Summer Show
15 July – 14 Sept 2025

Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery, Alnwick

Art, Textiles, Photography, Music, Drama, Poetry

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- ➔ Volunteering/work experience opportunity

Locations:

- Amble Library
- Alnwick Playhouse



To register, scan the QR Code or email Northern.Directions@groundwork.org.uk



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Amble Film Society: Mr Burton

Mr Burton is a Welsh/British biographical drama film about the early life of Welsh actor Richard Burton. It is directed by Marc Evans, written by Tom Bullough and Josh Hyams, and stars Harry Lawtey as Burton, alongside Toby Jones and Lesley Manville

Date: Friday 25 July
Doors: 6:30pm
Talk: 7:00pm Screen: 7:10pm
Cert: 12 Run Time: 124 mins

Mr. Burton tells the true story of the relationship between Port Talbot schoolmaster Philip Burton (Toby Jones) and a wild young schoolboy called Richard Jenkins (Harry Lawtey), the son of a wayward drunk.

Richard dreamed of becoming an actor, but his ambitions were in danger of being derailed by a combination of family trouble, the pressure of war, and his own lack of discipline.

A moving, untold story of how Rich Jenkins became Richard Burton the biggest star Wales has ever produced.

The film being shown in August will be *The Railway Man*, starring Colin Firth as a former Japanese POW.

As a reminder, we ask for a suggested donation (initially £5.00, more if you wish) on the door. Cash only until we get a replacement card reader. The bar also is by suggested donation, cash only.

Amble pupil meets footy idol



Year 6 James Calvert Spence College pupil, Samantha, who plays for Alnwick Town FC

Juniors U11's team, was recently selected by the club to participate in a special event hosted by the FA's Football Foundation.

At the event the newly refurbished clubhouse in Alnwick, was renamed the "Lucy Bronze Pavilion" in honour of the locally born football star and the part she played in the Lionesses lifting the UEFA Women's EUROs trophy in 2022.

Commenting on the event, Samantha said: "We had a training session with Lucy Bronze and she signed my shirt. I loved the speech she gave, she is really inspiring and I hope I have success like hers."

Upcoming concerts at Warkworth

Celtic music and song from "Ape House" on 9 August.

We have an evening of string quartets on 17 October led by the "Bradley Creswick" an internationally acclaimed violinist who has previously led the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

The "Tweed River Jazz Band" will bring us their infectious brand of Dixieland jazz on 15 November.

We end the year with an evening of choirs with both "Werca's Folk" and "Voice Male" on 21 December.

Further concert details available on our web site at www.wwmh.uk Tickets should be pre-booked, for payment

on the door. Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Further details and to book tickets contact Peter Burnham, preferably by email to peter.burnham@gmail.com. Alternatively telephone him on 01665 711388.

For those wanting to do their own thing, our afternoon music and song sessions continue at 2pm on the second Monday of the month. Tunes and songs (accompanied or unaccompanied) welcome. There's no bar, but tea and coffee are available or bring your own refreshments. Cost £2 just turn up, no need to book, you don't even have to perform.

Warkworth Show 2025

At this year's Show there will be lots of new classes to enter, as well as some new and exciting entertainment on offer **Saturday 16 August 10:00 am – 5:00 pm**

In the Castle Grounds and Courtyard

Look out for our annual Fun Run, Dog Show and, new for this year - a Sheep Show!

You can enjoy a variety of refreshments while you take in the atmosphere, visit the Trade and Craft Stands, or watch the demonstrations.

The Warkworth Show is run by volunteers from the community, for the community and visitors alike. It relies on ticket sales, entry fees, advertising, sponsorship and donations to cover its costs. We hope you will come along and join us at this year's Show which is a truly great day out for the whole family

For more information, including how to enter your exhibits, please visit our website <https://warkworthshow.co.uk/>

Far Horizon Voices 'Go Overboard'

An Adriatic cruise following this successful cancer treatment helped inspire Dave Stockwin to pen a comedy for the Warkworth based acting group Far Horizon Voices.

The script-read play 'Going Overboard' will debut at Warkworth's Memorial Hall this summer.

The play features reluctant cruiser Ken whose holiday preference is Whitley Bay and his devoted wife Liz who is desperate to visit foreign towns and cities on board a luxury liner.

Liz's persuasive power wins the day and the couple fly to Corfu to join fellow sea-going passengers, notably pretentiously snobby Fiona and her well-nagged wine loving husband Charles.

The back-and-forth conversations between the couples are punctuated by Cruise Director Johnny's comic announcements of the ship's entertainment goodies.

Said Dave, who will be directing the play with Paul Mein: "My intention in writing 'Going Overboard' was to explore the importance of a positive attitude and a sense of humour after my own cancer treatment in 2019.

"The play reflects my first experience of a cruise holiday and is also an affectionate tribute to my late father - a typical Northern male - on whom Ken is loosely based."

'Going Overboard' will be staged on Thursday and Friday July 31 and August 1 with both performances starting at 7.30pm. (Doors open 7pm). Tickets are £10 (cash only) and will be available in July at N & F Young of Amble, Warkworth Village Store and Post Office, and at the door on the night. A licensed bar will be open at 7pm.

A donation from the shows' proceeds will go to a local cancer charity.

Pin Cushion workshops

Forthcoming workshops at the Pin Cushion can be booked through the shop or the website: <https://amblepincushion.co.uk/product-category/workshops/>

Saturday 19 July 10.30am – 3.30pm £55 Learn to Knit Socks
Thursday 31 July 1.30pm – 3.30pm £28 Improvers Crochet – Jug Cover

Thursday 7 August 10.30am – 12.30pm £28 Button Making from Polymer Clay

Thursday 21 August 1.30pm – 3.30pm £5 Craft and Chatter (Drop-in crafting group)
Thursday 28 August 1.30pm

– 3.30pm £28 Beginners Crochet – Granny Squares

Friday 29 August 10.30am – 12.30pm £25 Improver Knitters – Tube Socks

Wednesday 3 September 10.15am -1pm £60 Beginner Sewers - Tweed poncho wrap

Thursday 18 September 1.30pm – 3.30pm £5 Craft and Chatter (Drop-in crafting group)

Saturday 20 September 10.15am – 3.45pm £45 Get to Know your Sewing Machine

Thursday 25 September 10.30am – 12.30pm £28 Crochet for Absolute Beginners

Deaf awareness awareness football match



Amble AFC Magpies were recently involved in a charity friendly. We played the U10 Amble Saturday team in a game with a difference. As part of deaf awareness week, we played in complete silence with both teams wearing ear defenders to experience what it is like for players who play with hearing difficulties.

It was a brilliant game of football. Both teams played with complete freedom and flair. We went down a goal but a bit of magic happened. A brilliant through ball from our number 11 allowed our number 8 to work his skill, getting through on goal with a lovely finish.

Our number 1 was out with a knee injury so we relied on

our number 4 to stand in on goal. What a performance! He played with true grit and passion making some outstanding saves.

In the end we went down a couple more goals but the team didn't give up. They fought like warriors. Finally, a just reward: our number 8 burst through from half way, getting past the defence with a cheeky chip and

landing a brilliant second goal. Everyone was a winner and a deserved victory to the U10 Saturday team.

Most importantly the charity was the biggest winner as we raised £365 for a brilliant cause.

Our players of the match went to our number 4 who stepped up in goal and our number 8. A massive thank you to Ellington Primary school and Red Row school for lending us the ear defenders and to our main sponsor Coquet Island Shellfish for their continued support.

More players needed

We need more players for 9vs9 so hoping to attract a couple of new players. We train on Thursdays and we will be playing in the Northumberland League. Matches will be Sundays. Contact coach Charlie Macleod, 07734579232.

Stacey Boyle
Amble AFC Magpies U10's

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The Colony: a brilliant atmosphere at the Little Shore



Above: Festival favourites Six Card Trick. Middle: Bear Park played some of their new songs. Bottom left: good vibes from Rick & Yiota.

It's the time of year when weather reports are checked double checked and if not happy with forecast, checked on every app available...and we all know, it's not The Colony without a refreshing offering from the skies.

DJ Jamie Mac started the party and kept it going all day with high energy and varied music collection. Scanning the growing audience for inspiration and hitting the right notes, his back catalogue was spun into action with hits through the ages.

The opening act of any festival is always difficult for the most seasoned of performers, but to do it as a solo at 18 takes some talent. That was not a problem for Lyra who has been perfecting her craft for this exact moment. A great debut.

Rick and Yiota continued the good vibes and rocked The Colony like a "Wagon Wheel". The crowd pumped up with a classic singalong joined in the

country vibes with their unique rendition of "Zombie".

Another debut this year was PARRK. Great musicality and

addition to the lineup, and they delivered with so much choir sound power that the wind tried but failed to push them back.

an unfamiliar crowd, but Amble embraced them with loving arms and danced away to these fresh new tunes.

Due to a vocal injury the much loved Odels had to withdraw late. Who else could step up but Six Card Trick, who needed to "know when to hold them and know when to fold them" when extending their set into a two hour music marathon. They are a festival favourite who never fail to deliver.

To our amazing bands and performers, Six Card Trick, Bear Park, Parrk, Rick & Yiota, Alnwick Allstars, Lyra, and DJ Jamie Mac — your talent, energy, and passion lit up the stage and brought joy to everyone in attendance. Your performances created a brilliant atmosphere that truly captured the spirit of the event.

It's through collaborations like this — between community, local business, and local talent — that we're able to celebrate what makes our area so special. We are incredibly grateful for your involvement and hope to work with you again in the future.
The Colony Festival team of volunteers



a voice that grabbed everyone's attention and never let go, they had the youth bouncing to a performance of "Love Story" that Swifty would be proud of.

Alnwick Allstars were a new

Next up was a return to the Little Shore for Bear Park. Last time out, their performance was rewarded with a contract the next day. We're not saying the festival provided the main reason for that, but being the best Colony music festival in Amble, we probably helped a lot. Banging out a medley of their own hits is always hard to

