



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 154 Autumn 2025

Just a spot of light house keeping



Preparing for changes to the Coquet
lighthouse Photo by Steven Banks
Back page

Shock at graffiti on Amble's Little Shore



Graffiti at Amble's Little Shore appeared over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Photo: C. Connolly

Graffiti painted on the breakwater at the Little Shore has left people shocked and sad, with families using the beach saying it had spoilt their enjoyment of the area. Vandals had painted a 'stop the boats' message in large letters on the sea wall, along with a St George's flag and the number 28000.

Comments on social media were in the most part very critical of the act. The Ambler asked several people for their views; on the understanding they would remain anonymous.

One person described how they felt at seeing the graffiti: "The

first thing that came into my head was that I was both saddened and disappointed. We were on the Little Shore this afternoon with our granddaughter enjoying the weather with many other families, but sadly that gross graffiti was staring us in the face."

Some were of the opinion that whatever views people might have on the subject, the graffiti was not acceptable.

Some blamed social media for attempting to stir up hatred and division.

One said: "As a majority white, working class demographic who's never seen a migrant crossing you

have to wonder why people feel so strongly about this? Social media algorithms have been weaponised by bad actors to distract regular people from the real issues facing us. Home ownership, food prices, access to health services are not the fault of asylum seekers but that of the politicians and the mega rich. The same people now who use these means to turn us against each other - with real life consequences - and sadly, this is evidence in and of itself that they are succeeding."

Another person expressed their feelings of disgust at the graffiti: "I reported this as a hate crime to the police. I think some people on social media in positions of power have been sharing xenophobic rhetoric which has emboldened people who share those discriminatory views. It disgusts me. When I think of my child who plays on that area every week, it breaks my heart. A few weeks ago I brought some friends of mine who are Iraqi refugees to Amble. We came to the beach, we had ice cream, we all had a lovely time. If they saw this they would be frightened."

The Ambler also contacted

Amble's two county councillors asking for their views on the matter. Cllr Pauline Davidson said, "I don't condone the damage, but it represents the feeling of the people."

Cllr Arty Hume told us, "The graffiti on the breakwater is criminal damage. It's not the place for that kind of thing. I'm shocked at seeing this in Amble."

Warkworth Harbour Commissioners who own the land have begun the task of removing the paint.

A spokesperson said "We are very disappointed at the graffiti to the Port. This is taking a lot of time, effort and financial cost to try and remove which is unfair on Warkworth Harbour, as we are a Charity with limited resources. We are here for the benefit of the people of Amble and work hard all year to keep the place clean and tidy for everyone. This incident has been reported to the Police, and CCTV covering all the Harbour area will be shared with the Police when incidents occur."

Anna Williams

(See open letter to Cllr Pauline Davidson p6)

Fun and fundraising at Lifeboat Day



It was fun all round at Amble RNLI Lifeboat Day, as thousands of visitors took the opportunity to take a peep behind the scenes of a busy lifeboat station - and helped raise over £7,000 for the charity in the process. The all-day event took place this year on 16 August, and was opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, with the service by Reverend Rachel Dines.

The event organiser said: "Lifeboat Day once again provided the local community and visitors with the opportunity to find out more about the lifesaving work of our volunteers, the lifeguards and our emergency services colleagues.

"We had a really good day, the lifeboat displays were great and the whole atmosphere was wonderful - a big thank you to all involved for their help and to everyone who kindly donated."



80th anniversary of VJ Day marked in Amble



A commemoration event for the 80th anniversary of VJ Day saw dignitaries, veterans, cadets and members of the public pay their respects in Amble Town Square. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant Lucia Bridgeman attended on behalf of the King, Wreaths were placed at the clock tower and a short service was given from Coquet Churches Together. The event was organised by Amble Veterans' Breakfast Club and Fuselier's Association NE.



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New Harbour Master: my door is always open



Gary Paxton

As the new Harbour Master, I thought I would let you know a bit about me and my role. Firstly, I must say a huge thank you to my predecessor Alan Punton who retired in June, leaving huge boots to fill!

I've been made to feel incredibly welcome since I arrived at the harbour. I was previously Alan's assistant, and I've got to know and appreciate the close, caring community in and around the harbour.

It's a busy environment with very hardworking folk

who successfully balance the pressures of a modern working harbour with thriving tourist industry.

It's been a very warm and busy summer – the weather has definitely drawn in more visitors, and it's been a joy to watch families enjoying a traditional British seaside holiday with fish and chips and a dip at the Little Shore.

That said, it's been ongoing battle for Eddy and me to keep on top of the litter and general detritus around the harbour. We all have a role to play in keeping the town and

harbour as clean as possible to protect our urban and marine environment, instil good habits in the next generation and encourage visitors to enjoy the town.

We achieved our dream of moving to Amble at the start of the year and it's everything we hoped – friendly, warm and fun! I spent many years as a soldier in the British Army serving in operational tours all over the world. I loved the army and many of the skills and discipline I learned are transferable to my new role.

I most recently taught junior soldiers at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate and it was a pleasure to watch so many fine young men and women fulfil their ambition.

I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many people – and our two West Highland Terriers seem to have their own fan club. I'm looking forward to working with different groups in the community to hear your views on the future of the harbour, and my door is always open for a chat and a brew.

Gary Paxton

Greener Amble fair

We would like to invite you to our first Greener Amble Community Fair, on Saturday 18 October at three Amble venues. This is being jointly organised by the Greener Amble Network, Dry Water Arts and Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Next-Door Nature Northumberland Project. There will be something for all ages so drop in to find out more about what the local community are doing to help the environment and help make Amble a greener place.

- St Cuthbert's Parish Hall, Dovecote St 2pm - 5.30 pm Stalls, information, children's and other practical activities. Free refreshments. Find out about volunteering in local activities. Also, tell us what is important to you in the local environment and find out ways you can help to combat climate change, whatever your circumstances.
- The Dovecote Centre, Dovecote St 2.15pm - 5.15pm Free talks and workshops on Wildlife Photography; the Climate Change Game and Stronger Shores Project.
- Dry Water Arts Centre, Wellwood Street Amble NE65 0FG Come and try green themed printmaking activity for all the family as well as view the current national touring exhibition 20:20 Print Exchange. Printmaking drop in workshop 10.30am - 1.30pm. Exhibition Viewing 1.30pm - 3pm

If you would like to have a stall or find out more information about the day please contact: Sue or Natasha about events at St Cuthbert's Parish Hall and Dovecote Centre: sue.greeneramble@gmail.com or Natasha: natasha.hemsley@northwt.org.uk or ring 07393 571998. For Dry Water Arts events, it's Frances and Paula: info@drywaterarts.uk

County Council denies vote, approves own plans for Amble school

Northumberland County Council have denied a request for a committee decision on Amble's controversial new school plans, instead allowing planning officers to decide.

A decision was due on an amended design, which has a smaller footprint, internal changes and fewer outdoor learning facilities than the version approved in November 2024.

The request to call in the decision was made by Cllr Arty Hume (Amble ward) after community concerns and objections were raised about the changes.

Granting this request would have allowed councillors on the Local Area Planning Committee to scrutinise the plans and vote on whether they should be approved.

But the Chair of the Northumberland Local Area Planning Committee, and the Director of Planning instead



delegated the decision to officers, who approved the amended plans, which, co-incidentally were being built anyway.

The £50M Amble schools investment project includes a new senior school building for James Calvert Spence College, plus renovations and improvements to schools in the wider Coquet Partnership, at

the same time as the education system changes to two-tier.

Amble Primary and Barndale by The Sea are now situated in the old Amble Middle School, although problems with the building have affected their first months.

The entire project budget was increased by £11M earlier this year. When local children

asked why plans for a reduction in the facilities were being made after building work had commenced, they were told that costs had been made three years ago and were now out of date, and that the amended plan was the one already under construction.

Anna Williams

Savage dog attack at Hauxley nature reserve

Staff at Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Hauxley reserve have been left traumatised following a barbaric dog attack on a resident deer.

The Hauxley reserve is home to weasels, rabbits, hares, stoats, foxes, mice, red squirrels and roe deer. Over one hundred and fifty different species of birds from across the world touch down on the reserve throughout the year. Due to its abundance of wildlife,

Two adults in their early twenties, together with a terrier and lurcher dog entered the top end of the reserve from Low Hauxley through the back of the reserve's woodland at 3pm.

Witnessed by two members of the public, in a split second the lurcher chased a young male (buck) roe deer into the small pond at the public entrance to the centre, grabbed it by the back legs and pulled it down.

the pond, brought down and pushed under the water then savaged. The innocent animal didn't stand a chance during the sustained attack which ultimately resulted in its death.

The shouting alerted members of staff in the visitor centre who ran out, just in time to see the two young men take off in the direction of Hauxley beach. Further reports confirmed by members of the public that the men were spotted in the water, washing the blood off the dogs before running down the beach.

Back at the scene of the attack, Lee Rankin, Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Boost Project Officer had the heartbreaking task of wading into the pond and taking photographs of the dead deer before removing it.

Northumbria Police were made aware at the time of the incident and the incident has been referred to its Wildlife Crime Unit.

The Trust asks the public to report any poaching directly to Northumbria Police via the 111 number and to advise them that it happened on a Trust reserve.



Male roe deer. Image by Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography

there is a strict ban on dogs onto site apart from guide dogs and assistance dogs.

At the beginning of August the no dog rule was broken in the most savage way imaginable.

Despite shouting at the youths to stop the dog, they did nothing to call their dogs off.

The attack and lack of action by the owners resulted in the terrified deer being chased into

Heron's to move to old Co-op store



Heron Foods has announced that the current Amble store will be moving to a new unit at the top of Queen Street on Thursday 23 October.

They have also announced an opening day treat - the first 100 customers who spend £15 or more will be offered a £5 voucher.

A spokesperson from Heron Foods said: "We're thrilled to be re-locating on Thursday 23 October. Heron Foods stores add to the local community, so we're delighted to be refreshing the store, and we look forward to welcoming customers through the doors."

The store will stock the stable products customers have enjoyed over the years; however, the store will also add some new additions, with a food to go meal deal and much more.

The current store will stay open until the new store opens on Thursday 23 October.

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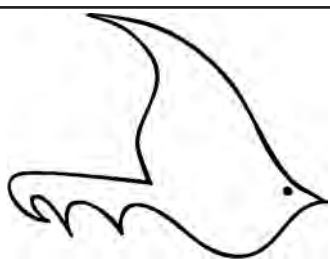
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2025 Submissions dates:

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

Congratulations to Luke - is he the youngest Mayor in the UK?

With all the upheaval in regional and international politics, it's pretty surprising that Amble can contribute, and with a lovely local interest story. Luke McTaggart, who only joined Amble Town Council in May, is now our Mayor - and as far as we can tell, aged just 24, is currently the youngest Mayor in the UK. Luke says, "I can't wait to get stuck into the role."



WHAT YOU SAY...

Irresponsible dog owners should be fined

I am angry at the irresponsible dog owners who don't pick up after their dogs.

Today I slipped on dog poo outside Lawrence's on Bridge

Street. I was lucky I didn't fall. Whoever let their dog do this has known and should be fined.

I don't blame the dog, I blame the owners. If you can't

pick up after your dog, then you shouldn't have one.

Mary Henry
Amble

Amble's repair cafe: what a great idea

Thank you so much to all involved with the first Dry Water Arts Centre repair cafe on weekend of 19 July.

What a great idea! We managed to salvage an item costing over £400, which was previously destined for the skip.

It was great to see so many varied items being repaired:

teddy bears, kettles, toasters and ceramics.

I think the repairers enjoyed it as much as anyone else!

Repair Cafes are becoming very popular across the country, as people look to reduce waste, cut costs, and stop throwing perfectly good things out.

This is just such a perfect

idea for the community in Amble, and I very much hope it will be repeated.

Thank you - Chris D
via email

Ed: another repair cafe will take place at Dry Water Arts on 22 Nov. See p12 and 17

Harbour commissioners should not have to pay

An open letter to Cllr Pauline Davidson

Dear Pauline,
Please could you explore potential funding from NCC to remove the highly offensive and ugly graffiti from the little shore breakwater.

Amble is proud to call itself the Friendliest Port. CRAG is applying for bathing water status for Little Shore and the appearance of this graffiti is

utterly counter productive to making Amble a welcoming place.

Many (if not most) of us in Northumberland have friends, relatives and colleagues who are mixed race, Black, foreign born. We also readily welcome refugees from places such as Ukraine.

The 'small boats' campaign is symbolic of wider frustrations in society but that's not an

excuse to offend local people who are trying to bring up their children to respect other people, oppose racism and live in a peaceful society.

It is not fair that the harbour commissioners should have to pay for removing this graffiti - please could you investigate NCC funding options.

Name and address supplied
(See "Shock at graffiti on Amble's Little Shore" Page 2)



Thanks to Pat Keen who shared this photo of Cross Street School from 1904. Her Great Aunt Bessie is pictured third row, second left.

Hugh's views: Flying visits

Until next summer arrives, July and August this year will be remembered for the number of heatwaves which this area has enjoyed (or endured, if like myself, you happen to have an allotment in urgent need of cultivation).

The higher than usual temperatures have at least benefited some wildlife particularly those which travel longer distances requiring more favourable conditions.

July saw an influx of Hummingbird hawk-moths, a species of day flying moth which originates from the Mediterranean/North Africa region. Well known for its ability to hover perfectly still while feeding with a long tongue from trumpet-shaped flowers, the individuals I saw fed mostly from lofty verbenas, but also sampled buddleia and honeysuckle. Their swift, powerful and somewhat unpredictable flight made it difficult to follow their progress. Their remarkable levels of energy is fuelled only by nectar.

One mid-July day I was gazing from our living room window and suddenly noticed that the martins which had been weaving their care-free patterns outside against a clear blue sky one moment had suddenly disappeared from view the next. Simultaneously, six starlings loafing in our cherry tree suddenly took off, flying away low and close together as one. The cause of these sudden departures soon came into view. Much higher up, with strong, deliberate wingbeats, a hobby appeared, cutting across the sky on narrow pointed wings, elegance and power combined. This migrant insect eating falcon seemed unaware of the consternation caused by its passage among the local avian population below. Within five seconds it had gone.

Another avian visitor, this time one produced locally, hung around for a while longer. A fledgling house sparrow covered in almost pure white plumage appeared in our garden one July



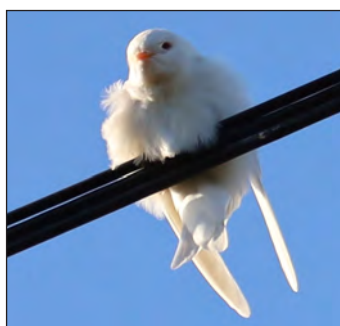
A white fledgling house sparrow appeared in Amble in July

morning among many others of its own kind. One count stopped at just over fifty, mainly young birds accompanied by overworked parents trying to fulfil the constant demand for food.

The white bird, not a true albino, at first seemed content to sit around and be waited on by a very attentive male. Within a day or two it had become noticeably

more active but still seemed to favour staying close to its main food source, a sunflower seed feeder which its parent visited at regular intervals. Then after six days, having gained its flying certificate, it disappeared. So far it has not reappeared, but being positive, perhaps dispersal of the young is a good strategy for survival.

Hugh Tindall



L: Thanks to Stephen Golding for sending in this image of young white swallow which was seen at High Hauxley at the end of August.

R: Peter Redpath found a Nightjar in his Amble garden in mid September. He said: "These birds are not normally seen this far up in Northumberland. They are crepuscular, normally flying and feeding at night. They should have started their migration south to the Congo in August. Happily the bird stirred and flew off shortly after 5 and hopefully is now down on the south coast preparing for its channel crossing."



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Coble Quay: Amble's salt path lost in myths and mystery

This land of snaking sea mists which swirl along the estuaries, mud flats and salt marshes, engulfing passers-by, may prove a wonderful source of inspiration for all the creative people who live along and around the River Coquet.

Some may write about avoiding the lure of the mysterious Simonside duergars*, who trick people into taking paths which suddenly disappear, while others may retell the saga of Amble's Coble Quay walkway, which partly exists... and yet does not.

We have reached the fourth anniversary of the closure of this public walkway. It has now been shut almost as long as it was open. It's as if time itself, in the guise of a mythical sea monster, has gnawed away at the edges of this sliver of land.

Old photos show the strip as a worn-down margin, barely traversable, propped up with shingle and sea washed wooden posts. A salt path in the literal sense.

Then in 2014 the good people of Amble were bestowed with £1.8 million of taxpayers' money, to create a Harbour Village, including £87,000 for an enchanting new public walkway.

And as if by magic, in 2016 the quayside walkway was transformed into a charming attraction, and walkers were encouraged (lured?) to enjoy the glorious views along the harbour. Angels practically sang. Or was that the kelpies?

Then suddenly in 2021, the fences went up and the walkway was blocked to the public. Locals, visitors and councillors began to ask why.



So did The Ambler. We discovered that the landowners of the blocked section are Amble Marina, and that a 20-year lease was taken out by Northumberland County Council (NCC) in 2014.

Over the last four years the responses to us from Amble Marina have been virtually non-existent. Those from NCC have been opaque, shifting subtly.

The railings are broken, we were told. The walkway is unsafe. It's got nothing to do with us. It's not a public footpath. Ok it sort of is, but it's complicated. We are in talks with the landowner.

But The Ambler keeps digging: When are you going to fix the walkway? This was paid for with public money. We know there is a lease - why is it taking so long? Why will you not tell us what is really going on?

Occasionally we get a reply -

and here we are in late summer 2025, when the story of fixing the walkway now apparently includes fixing a car park (co-incidentally also owned by Amble Marina).

A spokesperson for NCC told us: "We understand the concerns of local people and work has been ongoing behind the scenes for some time."

"We are pleased to confirm that following complex and protracted negotiations we have agreed heads of terms with Amble Marina for arrangements that will secure the reopening of the Coble Quay walkway to the public, as well as providing some extra town centre parking on land off Coquet Street."

This sounds promising, we thought, but then...

"We need to undertake some ground investigation works on the land next to Coquet Street that will be made

available for public parking, before concluding the legal documentation with Amble Marina. Once this is finalised, we will then be able to undertake the repair and maintenance works to the railings on the Coble Quay to ensure that the route is safe for the public before it can be reopened.

"Until the legal documentation is concluded we can't give firm dates for reopening of the Coble Quay walkway, but anticipate this should be reopened by spring 2026."

And so we drift on through to another autumn, when the haar rolls in, the songs of the seals on Coquet Island echo dimly along the water, and the path of ghosts disappears into the salty mist once again.

Anna Williams

* look them up!



l-r: Ian Mackenzie and Audrey Jones (shop volunteers); Colin Heathcote (cast member); Dave Stockwin (playwright)

Boost for Amble HospiceCare shop

North Northumberland HospiceCare's shop in Amble has been presented with a £300 cheque by a local acting group.

The donation comes from the proceeds of two nights' takings at Far Horizon Voices "Going Overboard" a play staged at Warkworth Memorial Hall.

Dave Stockwin's funny and poignant production was well received by more than a hundred people who attended on July 31 and August 1.

Dave said, "We are delighted

to make the donation. We place great value on the activities of HospiceCare which works tirelessly to serve local people."

The charity provides expert nursing care and support to adults living with life-limiting illness: high quality end-of-life palliative care to people in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes is a major feature of its work.

North Northumberland HospiceCare also has fund-raising shops in Berwick and Wooler.

Congratulations to all the JCSC students who are off to university after their A Level results.

Allarna is heading to Newcastle University to study Zoology.

At Northumbria University, Kieran will study History and Politics; Lexi will pursue Criminology and Psychology; Scott will study Biology; and close friends Summer and Grace are excited to start Business and Management and Social Sciences respectively – even planning to live in halls together. Joshua will also be joining Northumbria to study Finance and Accountancy.

Further afield, Lyla, who achieved excellent results in Biology, Chemistry, and Maths, will study Biomedical Science at the University of Sheffield.

Another high achiever, Libby, also excelled in the sciences and plans to take a gap year before studying Dentistry.

Year 12, T-Level Childcare student Paige, received brilliant results for her external assessments.

Grace and Cerys from Year 12, also achieved brilliant results for their T-Level childcare course which they will complete next year.

In addition to university, other students are securing apprenticeships, joining the armed forces, or moving directly into employment.

JCSC exam results 2025



Left & Above: Allarna, Joshua, Lexi and Kieran
Below: GCSE students opening their results



In GCSE results, this year, pupils have achieved more of the top

grades, particularly in French, Geography, Maths and Physics.

Many pupils were delighted as they opened their envelopes, celebrating with friends, family, and staff.

Some examples of the course combinations pupils will be pursuing in the JCSC sixth form:

- Ava, Scarlet, Harry and Isla will be using their top grades to study Biology, Chemistry and Maths.
- Megan will also be combining high grades to study Biology and Chemistry with Business.
- Alexya will be studying applied science, Business and IT.
- Corey will be studying Sport, Business and IT.
- Jake will be studying Sport, Business and Applied Science.

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D

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We heard that the police do a “pop up” event in Amble library, so we went around to find out more about it

The police do these events every two months. We found that anyone can go, and that you can talk to them about any concern that you have.

The most common things that people ask about are anti-social behaviour, speeding and housing concerns.

We found out there are two police in Amble, although you can ring 101 or 999 if you have a problem.

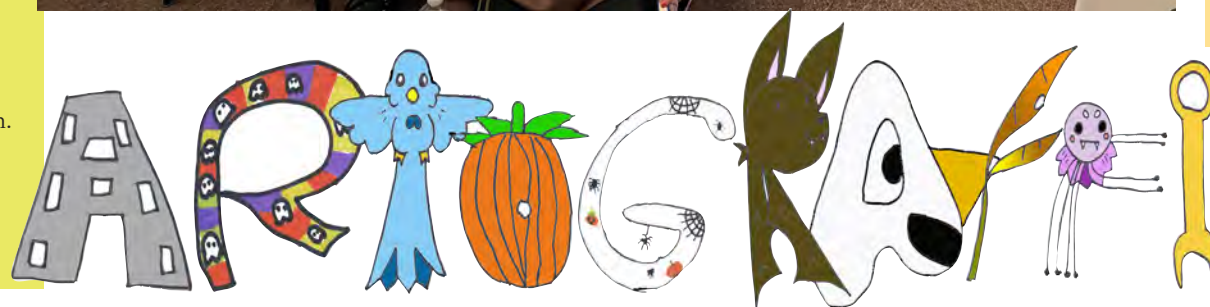
They said that Amble is a “safe place” but personally we think it’s not, because we have seen druggies outside Tesco, under the pier and in our streets. Sometimes the police don’t even come out.

If you want to ask the police anything come and talk to them. The next event is on Monday 3 November 1500-1800 at the library.
by Eden

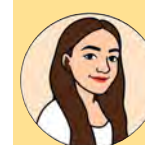
Is Amble a safe place?



Artogracchi with PCSO Darin Fawcett and PC Rob Younger from Northumbria Police Neighbourhood team, David Bewley from Amble Town Council, and Vicki Kelly, Community Safety Officer with Northumberland County Council



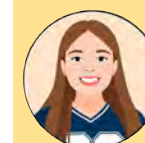
Where are the play areas at Hauxley Grange?



We discovered that Hauxley Grange estate in Amble is supposed to have been provided with TWO play areas for all ages with natural play items.



Persimmon started building the estate in 2020 and now they have nearly finished.



We walked around the whole estate and didn’t find anything, so we tried to find out why they have not been built.

Esme says “I am familiar with the estate because I live there. This is a busy estate and there are kids playing on the roads, especially in the summer when kids need to go outside and get some fresh air. We can make the community a safer place by providing the play areas for the kids.”

On the plans we saw there are supposed to be 3 stepping stones sets, 1 balance beam,

1 balance slalom, 1 double v balance and 1 walk and stretch posts.

We asked Northumberland County Council and Persimmon when they will be built and what they will look like.

A Persimmon North East spokesperson said: “We are making progress with preparing the land for the opening of two play areas on Hauxley Grange.

“Landscaping will soon be undertaken to enable the completion of the play area at the south-west of the development this autumn. The land for the second play area will also be prepared simultaneously and will be opened once the nearby plots have been completed this winter.” Northumberland County Council didn’t give us a comment.

Esme says “I will keep a look out of my window and if I don’t see them building the play areas I will let everyone know.”

By Esme, Skylar and Maisie



Skylar and Maisie went looking for the play areas

How to make Amble a better place



Here are some ways to help clean our town:

- If you see a piece of rubbish pick it up so an animal doesn’t get hurt or killed.
- If you’re bored maybe organize a litter pick on the beach or on a field.

- Consider checking labels on bottles to recycle them.
- Don’t drop litter! Put in your pocket till you find a bin or carry it
- If a bin nearby is full, find another - there are a lot in Amble.

By Issy

We need ‘green bridges’ to save wildlife



Over the summer, I have been on the A1 a lot. Sadly I have seen a lot of road kill. This makes me feel upset, because the animals are trying to cross over but they haven’t been able to get across in time.

Hitting a large animal like a deer can be dangerous for the animal and the car. I think there should be more places where wildlife can cross.

In Canada and the USA there are over 1000 wildlife crossings but in the UK there are only ten. Here they are called green bridges. In the Netherlands there are some which are planted with trees.

In a report from 2021, by Go Compare, small mammals are

most commonly hit animals on the roads in the UK. (about 8580 per year) Then birds, (4,652) then large mammals - about 1000 per year.

We asked Emily from Coquet Vets if they treated many wild animals hit by cars or lorries.



She said “We treat loads of wildlife - difficult to know how many but probably 2-3 per week. As to how many of those are struck by vehicles is an unknown. Generally if something small is hit then they are

killed outright. Many of them are birds so I’m not sure how wildlife crossings would work/help !”

There is a green bridge in Australia which was planted with eucalyptus trees, and a study found that twice as many species of bird were flying over the bridge as were flying over the road.

I think in this country there should be barriers around the side of the road, or there should be more wildlife crossings and green bridges for them to get across busy roads safely. It won’t work for all animals but it might help some.

Also I think it would be better if people drove with more care.
By Skylar. Image by Lexi



Checking out the new school



We were luckily invited to go explore the new school building site. When we arrived we got fixed up with safety gear and then headed into the site. We all were supplied with safety glasses, a helmet, steel toed boots, gloves and a high viz jacket. It felt unusual and uncomfortable.

The new school is on track to open in September 2026. When we went there was only the steel frame for the sports hall but

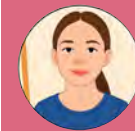
now the whole steel structure is finished. All the steel frames are fire resistant. The lift shaft is nine tons. The building site was very noisy and busy. We didn’t see any women working on the site on our visit.

When it is finished, the school will have solar panels, and a MUGA (multi user game area) will be included in February-March 2026. We have been promised more trips to visit the new school, and are excited for when it opens.
By Nina

Our hero: David Attenborough



Sir David Attenborough, is a famous nature researcher who travels around the world to discover different species of animals. He is a hero to many because he educates children and adults on the amazing world we are surrounded by.



Indie says “Me and my Nanna love watching his show. Sometimes I stay over at her house, we get our favourite snacks and get comfy and watch the show.”



Indie has watched his TV shows since she was little and she has learnt so much about the world just by watching his shows. David Attenborough was 39 years old when he started making his TV show, now he is 99 years old.

Donovan’s dad Graham Hall works on the RRS (Rapid Response System) Sir David Attenborough which is a survey ship that goes around Antarctica. He has met David Attenborough, so we asked him what it was like. “It was a privilege to meet a national treasure. He is also a great inspiration” said Graham.

We hope to interview Graham and learn more about his job on the RRS Sir David Attenborough very soon.
By Eden, Indie and Donovan

More than a quick fix

The inaugural Amble Repair Café was hosted at Dry Water Arts on 19th July. The success of the event highlighted several of the ambitions of the wider global repair café movement.

Rather than adding items to the vast amounts of stuff that go to landfill, our nine menders tackled a range of tasks resulting in items such as lamps, fans, a vase, gardening shears and even a much-loved teddy bear, getting a new lease of life.

As well as people appreciating the value of their fixed items, many also had a sociable experience, getting to know others and kindling enthusiasm for our local sustainable community - new friends and connections were made over coffee and cake.

Our range of skilled menders got appreciation for their invaluable practical skills and were able to share their skills and knowledge with each other too.



Altogether a win - win scenario!

Why don't you give it a go? The next cafés are at Dry Water Arts on 27 September and 22 November from 2.30-4.30pm. If you would like more info or would like to offer a repair skill contact Amblerepaircafe@gmail.com

Change of petrol station opening hours

The petrol station at Morrisons has been granted planning permission to remove a jet wash bay, extend the petrol station building, and install an EV charging zone.

As part of the decision, the petrol station's hours have been reduced - they will now be open 6am to 8pm, after residents complained about anti social behaviour in the Morrisons car park. A previous planning application by the owners to allow them to become a 24-hour service has been withdrawn.

The highs and the lows on Coquet Island



RSPB wardens wearing PPE, after bird flu was confirmed on Coquet Island

Wardens on the tiny bird sanctuary of Coquet Island are juggling mixed emotions, celebrating a heart warming success story, while also seeing the worrying return of a deadly virus.

First, the good news: For the very first time, two Razorbill chicks have fledged on Coquet Island. Although a small number of Razorbills have been seen attempting to breed here since 2021, this marks the first successful fledging. Up to 12 Razorbills have been spotted here this year. The breeding pair chose to nest in a quiet, rocky slope, an area shaped by natural erosion to form ideal crevices for nesting. Four eggs were laid in total, with two chicks surviving and successfully fledging by mid-July.

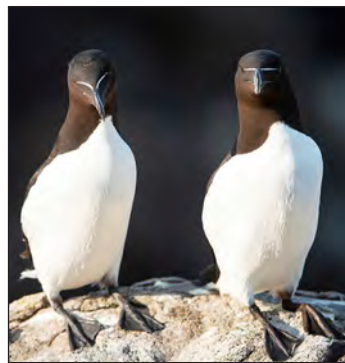
Coquet Island is not an obvious choice for Razorbills, as they are usually a cliff nesting species, favouring steep cliffs like those at Bempton Cliffs in East Yorkshire. They incubate their eggs for around 35 days before hatching. After hatching the chick will grow until it has moulted off its down, usually around three weeks, and leave at night with the male adult.

They cannot fly at this point so the chicks are called 'jumplings' as they will normally jump off the cliffs into the water. But in Coquet Island's case they would have had to jump (fall) about one metre onto a path and then off the jetty into the sea.

Thankfully, according to

RSPB Coquet Island Warden, Rebekah Goodwill, they are very bouncy at this stage!

Rebekah said: "After seeing them make several unsuccessful breeding attempts over the past few years, it's incredibly rewarding to finally see these Razorbill chicks fledge. It gives us hope that Coquet continues to offer a haven for a variety of seabirds, including new colonisers like the Razorbill."



Razorbill adults. Image Ben Andrew

Return of Bird Flu

Now for the bad news: Bird Flu has returned to Coquet Island, although wardens say its effect so far has been much less deadly than in previous years.

Stephen Westerberg, Senior Reserve Manager, RSPB Coquet Island, told The Ambler: "Avian Flu is sadly still impacting wild birds. We are now more than halfway through the breeding season and most birds are doing well. The colony has experienced some mortality though, including several hundred

Sandwich Tern chicks. Samples from them tested positive for Avian Flu. We have also seen positive confirmations in Arctic and Common Terns, as well as Black-headed Gulls and Herring Gulls. "It is important to note that while adult birds may have developed some immunity from prior exposure, as HPAI (Highly pathogenic avian influenza) is circulating in the UK, there is concern about what impact this could have on young birds and chicks this year."

The extremely rare Roseate Terns on Coquet Island were badly affected by bird flu in 2023, although last year numbers recovered, with 191 Roseate Tern chicks hatching and 92% going on to fledge. However, recovery for the Tern population as a whole could take many years, and wardens will continue to monitor the birds throughout the breeding season.

Of course the virus is not restricted to Coquet Island. There have also been reports of bird flu affecting Tern chicks on the Farnes, and several hundred Kittiwakes have succumbed to the disease on the Isle of May. HPAI is believed to spread through infected saliva and droppings.

The Ambler understands researchers from Edinburgh University have now found antibodies in some species including Puffins, and early indications suggest that some birds may be developing resistance to the virus.

Public toilets refurbishment: why has no work begun?

There has been a great deal of exasperation over the state of the public toilets in Amble and the length of time it is taking to upgrade them.

The facilities at the Harbour were locked earlier in the year, with temporary toilets installed, while those at the Town Square are still in use.

Regular readers will know, Northumberland County Council (NCC) have promised to upgrade Amble's public toilets for several years now, but no work has yet been carried out.

We asked NCC for an update on the situation.

A spokesperson said: "We are very sorry for the delay in refurbishing the public toilets in Amble. We are currently in the closing stages of the procurement process for both sites in Amble, and until this is complete, we won't know exactly how much the refurbishments are costing, but the estimated total value of the works will be around £180,000."

The timetable for the refurbishment was amended, said NCC, as costs and the scope of works had increased significantly.

"Initially we were looking at



Amble's public toilets have come in for a lot of criticism

tackling all essential maintenance and giving the toilet blocks a general spruce up, but this has been enhanced to include a much broader range of refurbishment works including new cubicles, toilets, urinals, mirrors, wash basins and hand dryers.

"Earlier in the summer, the condition of the Harbour toilet facilities had deteriorated to the point where they were no longer suitable for regular use, so they needed to be closed. The Council did consider closing them and signposting people to the nearby alternative [Town Sq] facilities, but given the period of closure was through the busy summer

months, decided that temporary provision was needed at the Harbour. The costs of hiring these facilities will depend on the actual start date of the works, but are likely to be in the region of £12,000.

"We have listened to the concerns of local people and have removed the modular toilets and replaced them with five Porta-loos and a disabled toilet. As was the case with the old toilet block, these are open all day but locked every evening from 6pm until 6.30am. Each morning, they are cleansed, and toilet roll replenished. They are also serviced weekly by the supplier."

"As with all facilities of this nature, we ask that users leave them in the same condition as they found them for the benefit of the next user. Sadly, this isn't always the case despite there being adequate numbers of temporary facilities available which are being thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis."

They added: "At a time when many local authorities are closing their public toilets due to budget pressures, Northumberland County Council is doing the opposite and is making a significant investment in the facilities to provide a better service to residents and visitors alike as we recognise their importance".

Anna Williams

TOILET TIMELINE

- In 2023 NCC told The Ambler that the toilets at the Harbour and Town Square had been scheduled for work that winter.
- In October 2024 they said work would be completed by the end of March 2025.
- In mid April 2025, the Harbour toilets were closed and temporary toilets were installed.
- Sept 2025, NCC in final stages of appointing a contractor

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Reports from our County Councillors



Arty.Hume@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143949

Our first surgery at the Dovecote Centre gave residents the chance to raise issues. My thanks go to NTC for allowing us to use their facilities. I hope people will continue to take advantage of these bi-monthly surgeries, see my councillor Facebook page.

I promised to represent the Reform Party in Amble, and to work to make our town a better place. That work is now underway, and people are beginning to see the benefits of their ballot decision.

The state of the town's public toilets was raised. I will be contacting the British Toilet Association, yes it does exist, to get their help on how to resolve this matter. The situation is unacceptable and has dragged on too long (two years). The harbour block and the town square block could have been demolished and rebuilt in less time; and for less money. We need answers, why will it cost so much and why has taken so long! I will be looking into how this project was budgeted, who submitted applications, and whether the final bill represents value for taxpayers' money. With £180,000 available, we are right to ask tough questions. It may well be necessary to take this matter to a higher governmental level. I will be speaking on this subject at the next full council meeting at County Hall.

At the meeting there was concern about the medical surgery

situation in Amble, Pauline and I will be addressing this matter.

I have been working with ADT and ATC to get the best outcome for James Calvert Spence College. Their correspondence to the County Council has too often been ignored or met with "word salad." I have challenged the officials responsible for the "new" build, and have arranged meetings between the Trust and County officials. Following a strategic planning meeting, I made clear my objections to the demolition of the old gym. I asked for a practical solution to retain it. Happily, this has resulted in ADT being presented with documents for an asset transfer.

I have contacted Advance Northumberland to enlist their help in bringing an Aldi to Amble. They said they would keep me informed.

Finally, I want to thank the residents who have contacted me personally. It has been a pleasure to listen to your views and to know that you feel your voices are being heard. I do not have a magic wand, however I do have a key to open the right doors! Pauline and I will keep working together to get the best deal for Amble.

I look forward to hearing from you at the next Reform councillor's clinic on Saturday 11 October at 11am - 1pm. Together we can make the changes necessary to improve our town.

Cllr Arty Hume

Pauline.Davidson@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143980

We're delighted to share that our very first surgery was a great success! We had some lovely conversations and made meaningful connections. It was a great opportunity to meet new faces and let people know we're here to help.

It was held at the Dovecote Centre, a perfect spot. We are planning sessions at Warkworth Memorial Hall and Acklington Village Hall, dates to be confirmed.

• A resident raised an issue about Coquet Medical Group, about the availability of doctors across the two sites. At times Amble residents have to travel to Hadston for appointments, which isn't always ideal.

Many residents are also facing difficulties just trying to book an appointment. For those who don't have smartphones or internet access, booking appointments online is not an option, and with the phone lines constantly busy, that isn't easy!

Arty and I are arranging a meeting with the Practice Manager to discuss these concerns.

• Motorhome, Caravan and Campervan Parking: Illegal parking continues to be a headache.

The police can't intervene, and with only three parking enforcement officers covering North Northumberland, resources are stretched. However there's

a bid in for additional officers.

• Planning Matters: King Edwin and Barnsdale-by-the-Sea. We've been in touch with County Hall regarding the King Edwin School playing field.

Unfortunately, the repairs that were meant to start over the school holidays haven't kicked off.

To make matters worse, the roofs across both schools need attention. This issue has been pushed to next year's capital projects list, which is not acceptable.

It's crucial that we address this before the winter. We'll continue to apply pressure.

• VJ Day Memorial Service.

Arty and I were privileged to attend the 80th VJ Memorial Service in the Town Square. It was a deeply moving and heartfelt event.

• Arty and I attended the "Golden Bolt" ceremony at the soon to be new James Calvert Spence College. The final tightening of the golden bolt using a golden spanner, represents the completion of the framework, the first stage of the building.

We had our photograph taken standing in what will become the sports hall. It looks as if it's going to be huge!

Cllr Pauline Davidson

Young adventurers making waves in Warkworth

Children at Warkworth Church of England Primary School swapped exercise books for paddleboards as part of a unique water safety and adventure programme as part of their summer tradition.

With the River Coquet on their doorstep and the Northumberland coastline just minutes away, pupils are learning vital life skills in the water from the moment they start school. Formal swimming lessons begin in Year 1, meaning that by the time they reach Key Stage 2, the vast majority of children are already far ahead of the national swimming requirements.

Each summer, pupils take to the river and sea for kayaking, paddleboarding and coasteering, under the guidance of local



water sports experts.

For Warkworth's young adventurers, growing up by the water is not just about scenery. It is about learning skills that could one day save a life, while also creating experiences they will never forget.

A coastline bursting with life

It's that time of year again when, despite the colder, shorter days, the Northumberland coast is bursting with life! Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds are currently calling Northumberland home, having travelled here specifically for the fantastic feeding habitats along the coast.

Rocky and muddy habitats are favoured by the birds as these provide an all-you-can-eat buffet of marine creatures such as crabs, small fish, worms and shellfish. This food source is essential, as the fitter they are going into the winter months, the higher their chances of survival. One of the best types of muddy habitats on offer are estuaries, and the Coquet Estuary is one of the most important places for shorebirds in the county.

When the tide is out, vast

expanses of mud flats are exposed – mud which is full of nutrients from both river water and sea water, therefore supporting an extremely diverse mix of invertebrates living within the sediment. It is so rich in life that the animals living within 1 cubic metre of estuarine mud provides a shorebird with the same amount of calories that 16 Mars bars would provide us! That's around 3,650 calories!

It's no wonder that the mud flats of the Coquet Estuary are always jam packed with birds! It is one of our favourite spots to visit, and we are running free guided walks here to help people learn more about these incredible birds. If you are interested in joining us, please visit our website for full details of all of our upcoming events – www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk/upcoming-events



At the Welfare we have retained the free access for the Playzone throughout the school holidays, but unfortunately, we now have to comply with the funding conditions and begin charging where required. As we have explained previously, as a condition, we have to provide proof of usage and payment received, to pay for the booking system.

Fair to say the site has been well used over the holidays. Our only disappointment is the amount of litter left which could so easily have been deposited in the bins. This, the vandalism of the seesaw in the children's play area, and tearing up of the play surface are annoying and expensive to replace. You have to ask why; what possible enjoyment could anyone get out of the senseless destruction? Some are quick to complain but forget that the majority of areas are free to use and not paid for by council or from council taxes. The Trust have to find money to replace by other means. With

limited funding it either has to go on replacements or be used for new amenities – the choice of which is down to those who seem determined to spoil things (the minority) for the majority!



Our sincere thanks go to a volunteer who has taken responsibility for cutting the grass around the orchard to use as weed dampening on the ski slope – a long-term mission he has to enhance the area.

Now to more positive matters: NCC have reviewed our Expression of Interest to retain the existing sports hall at the current JCSC site along with

a full business case. As time is short, (our submission has to be submitted by the end of November,) we have set up a questionnaire to gather information, ideas and support. (See back page). If you feel retention of the sports hall is a good idea and something you would use, please complete the simple questionnaire and forward to anyone you know who would also support the idea.

There is a lot of work and information gathering that needs to be done to build up a viable business case, so it's sleeves rolled up now!

On Neighbourhood Planning – The steering group have been working hard on the various policies required for the Plan and have set dates for the next consultation days so the community can view the draft plan and offer comments. (See article, right) Come along and share your views.

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

Neighbourhood Plan consultation

Amble's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been meeting for the last year and working hard to develop policies for the whole of Amble over a range of concerns.

This is a project to represent the community in Amble and how we want development to occur. We want to show you what we have done so far and get your views on the plan.

We are proposing an early-engagement consultation event where the aim is to get feedback from the community on the scope, vision and objectives of the plan which we have now honed and revised. We want to give people a flavour of the proposed policies and to see what comments they draw.

This is an 'informal' event and not a full formal consultation on the pre-submission draft which we have pencilled this in for hopefully early 2026.

EVENT:- Thursday 9 October 4pm - 7pm and Saturday 11 October 10am - 1pm in the Conference Room, Fourways2, Dilston Terrace, Amble, NE65 0DT.

Hello Amble,

Our caring and professional teams are here to help, guide and advise you through the best ways to say goodbye.

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Amble Town

Town: 6pm in Council Office 9 Oct, 13 Nov, 11 Dec
Amenities: at 6pm in Council Office 27 Nov, 29 Jan

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Vacancy

Vacancy

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COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

We have Councillor vacancies on Amble Town Council. If you would like to give your time and get involved in what happens in your community, contact the office on ask@amble.gov.uk for an application form.

TOILETS

Amble Town Council are disappointed that the toilet refurbishment so desperately needed in the town is yet to take place. Work was expected to start in September however at the time of writing there had been no progress. We have urged Northumberland County Council to make our refurbishment a priority given how long we have had to wait and share the concerns and frustrations of residents and visitors alike at the lack of suitable and acceptable facilities.

GRANT POLICY

Keep your eyes peeled...Councillors have been taking part in working party meetings to streamline our grant application process and are excited to share it with you once finalised and agreed in due course.

MEMORIALS

Due to Health and Safety guidelines, unstable memorials can only be 'staked' for a short period of time to give owners the opportunity to rectify the problem. Some owners have not responded to previous requests and therefore a programme of laying down of these memorials has begun. Whilst this is not ideal, the safety of all those entering the cemetery must take priority. If you have a memorial please make sure your contact details are up to date so you can be informed if it needs any work carried out. Those erecting memorials in the future will be reminded again about taking out insurance for them as for a relatively small sum it can give you reassurance for a number of things.

CHURCH STREET BUS SHELTER

Councillor have approved repair works to the Church Street Bus Shelter. It is likely the shelter will be out of use whilst these works are completed. We will endeavour to keep you updated once a timeline and more information is known.

IT'S YOUR TOWN – FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS.

Whilst we continue to liaise with NCC on matters such as toilet facilities, planning matters and highways issues, we do welcome feedback and suggestions from all members of our community. If you would like to know more about what we are doing for the town or would like to know how you can get involved in our work please contact us on 01665 714695 or ask@amble.gov.uk or call into the office.

COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Did you know that we have developed a Community Website. A one stop shop where you will find out about lots of goings on in Amble. The website will continue to grow as new information is uploaded and its not too late if you have something you would like added as we are always on the lookout for more to add. Please contact admin@amble.gov.uk You can visit our website here: <https://sites.google.com/view/amble-town-council/hub>

SAFER AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Safe & Resilient Communities (formerly Northumberland Communities Together) is available to keep you safe and well by providing help and connecting you to support in your local community. The team can assist with welfare and financial support, advice to households and care within the community. The team can also provide one-to-one support where appropriate, support community groups with assistance to help with funding and sustainability, and there is also support available for housing, environmental and enforcement issues. You can also self-refer. They can be contacted on 01670 620015 or nct@northumberland.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Despite central government cutting funding for Neighbourhood Plans we are pleased to hear that Northumberland County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to the plans and intends to assist Town and Parish Councils with financial support. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is working on a draft plan for consultation. Public consultations will take place 9 Oct 4-7pm and 11 Oct 10-1pm in Fourways2 conference room.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We continue to experience anti-social behaviour within the Town and more recently at Amble West Cemetery. We take anti-social behaviour very seriously and urge anyone who experiences or witnesses any incidents report these directly to Northumbria Police. On that note, the Town Council was saddened by the recent graffiti on the Breakwater. Warkworth Harbour Commissioners dealt with the incident in a prompt and professional manner, for which we thank them. As previously stated, Amble Town Council wholly rejects this kind of behaviour in our town.

TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

Councillors have been working on the development of a 4-year plan to drive Council priorities forward. We intend to consult with residents once the plan is finalised and are keen to hear your view on its contents. We will be holding public consultation events for this – watch this space for more information.

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

Margaret and John Calder Memorial Trophy

The first Margaret and John Calder Memorial Trophy was held on Sunday 31 August at Amble Bowls Club.

John passed away in October 2024 and Margaret in April 2025. Their main passion was bowls and their son Neil and daughter in law Joanne wanted something fitting to remember them by.

Neil said "My parents were very passionate about the game of bowls and I was extremely



proud that my Mam represented the county. They made a lot of friends and Joanne and I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all members of

the club for the support they have given us not only with being allowed to hold this annual event but also with the guard of honour at my late parents' funerals. It was also very fitting that the work my Dad did at the club was recognised by the committee naming the locker room Calders

Cavern. It means a great deal to both my wife and I.

This year's winners were John Coxford and Graeme Wilkie (pictured).

Dry Water Arts Creative Community Programme

Participation is free in the below events. For more information and booking see www.drywaterarts.uk

Shadow Puppet Workshop for age 16 & over - Friday 3 October 10.30 - 3.30pm

Songs of the Afro-Cuban Orishas, 5 October 2- 5pm

Drop In Family Printmaking Event - 18 October 10.30am - 1.30pm

Creative Writing with John Kefala Kerr, 25 October 1pm- 3pm with refreshments

FRAY audio visual performance 25 October 7pm

Open Mic Spoken Word Night 22 November 6.30-8.30pm

Repair Cafe Saturday 22 November 2.30pm - 4.30pm

At Dry Water Arts workshops, Wellwood St, Amble, NE65 0FG Tel 07542 141411

Highlights Touring Theatre in Amble

Friday, 17 October: Wild Visions, Untamed Myth Created and performed by Katy Cawkwell and Lucy Lill. A double helping of ancient myth that sets the women firmly centre stage.

Friday, 28 November: The Deadcoats The Deadcoats is a two-man interactive comedy show that fuses vintage light entertainment with ghostly horror. Performances in St. Cuthbert's

Church Hall, Dovecote Street, Amble. Tickets available from N&F Young, Queen Street, Amble, £15 or via www.highlightsnorth.co.uk Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Bar available.

Annie wins silver in national competitions

Readers may remember Young Amble swimmer Annie Falkous who qualified for the British Nationals last summer.

This year, she has competed in three major events, finishing in the top ten at the British Nationals, and winning a further two silver medals.

Thirteen-year-old Annie (pictured right) is a student at JCSC, and swims for Morpeth Swimming Club. She ranked third fastest in Great Britain

during the qualifying period, so was invited to compete in the British Nationals, where she came 10th in the 1500 free, and 7th in the 800 free categories.

Mum Rebecca said "To be selected to swim in the Great British nationals is a huge achievement, and the highest achievement for a young swimmer."

Annie then competed in the Swim England Open Water Nationals - 3k event where she won silver.

She competed in the Swim England National Summer Meet, where she competed in four categories, reaching the finals in three events: She won the silver medal in the 400 freestyle, she came 4th in the 400 individual medley; and finished in 5th- just missing out on a medal in the 200 fly.

Rebecca said "It's been a very tiring but rewarding two weeks in Sheffield for Annie. We are all very proud of her hard work and dedication."



Rotary Club update

held at the RYLA camp in the wilds of Teesdale.

On the 12 July, local Rotarians enjoyed a late afternoon guided boat trip up the river Tweed and finished with an Italian meal in Berwick.

Other recent social events have also included a treasure hunt around Warkworth.

In July members enjoyed a presentation from Northumbria Blood Bikes on their life saving service.

Members also recently enjoyed an after-dinner presentation by local Rotarian Alun Morgan on the Aquabox scheme. Alun brought an example of the simple pump which filters dirty water into clean, a lifesaving device in disaster hit

areas.

On the 19 August, members helped host a presentation on the proposed Northumberland Community Tapestry by Dick Quinby at the Harbour Commissioners office in Amble. The project is at an early stage, and the meeting was well attended with a wide variety of local groups represented.

Local Rotarians were also busy supporting other local events over August, including running the car parking at the Warkworth Show on the 16 August.

Rotarians were also busy over the late August bank holiday weekend at the Red Row vintage club rally at Druridge Bay Country Park, running a Rotary fund-raising

stand as well as assisting with the marshalling and clear up at the end of the show.

The RAW Charity Golf Day was held at Alnmouth Golf Club (Foxton Hall) on Thursday 25 September 2025. Finally, the hard work of the Amble and Warkworth Rotary club has been officially recognised via the Rotary 'Club Excellence Award.' The club has achieved all its 24/25 objectives, including increased membership, both individual and corporate, as well as supporting the local community.

If you are interested in finding out more about what our Rotary club has to offer, contact us via www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org or Facebook, Rotary Amble & Warkworth.



June ended with a fund-raising Bingo and BBQ night at Warkworth Cricket Club raising money for local student Aimee Davison's Student Minds appeal (a UK based Student mental health charity). £500 was raised supplemented by a further £100 donation from RAW members.

Congratulations to William and Grace, two students from JCS College have recently completed the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. A challenging programme

Warkworth Drama Group

Two One Act Comedies.
Luvvies - Lynne Brittney

The Horbridge Amateur Dramatic Society Guild has organised a quiz. Debbie has arrived with allergy problems; Roger's menopausal wife has taken to her bed, so the team is one short; Mike is in a bad mood, and the Dalbridge Strollers' team is being rowdy. To cap it all, Shirley has put a swear box on each table to raise money for the church. Promises to be an eventful night.

Womberang - by Sue Townsend

Rita Onions breezes into a drab gynaecology clinic waiting room and her verve and energy, combined with a complete lack of respect for authority, gradually spreads an infectious, joyous anarchy throughout the patients as she demolishes officious staff and generally sorts out the patients' personal problems.

At: Warkworth Memorial Hall
On: 27, 28, 29 November Time: 7:30 pm. Licensed bar opens 7:00 pm. Tickets: £10 Available from: N&F Young Amble and Warkworth Village Store

Warkworth Film Club

Saturday 4 October - 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. (1996, cert 15, 1h 45').

Tasting Plates of delicious local cheese, bread and dipping oils will be available at £5 per plate. No need to book - just turn up. Doors and cash bar from 7pm. Film starts at 7.30pm.

Saturday 1 November - Hunt for the Wilderpeople

Another oldie but goldie, The Hunt for the Wilderpeople is a comedy drama set in New

Zealand and features a really entertaining combination of satire (of social workers and police officers), adventure, and building friendship in the face of adversity (and there's a lot of adversity). Starring Sam Neill, this charmingly offbeat tale unites a solid cast, a talented filmmaker, and a poignant, funny, deeply affecting message. (2016, cert PG, 1h 41').

£5 per person - we are cash only at the moment Warkworth War Memorial Hall, 40 Castle Street, NE65 0UN

For more information, or to be added to our email list, call Anna on 07758 253104 or anna.willey@cantab.net

Amble Art Group

The Amble Art Group is gearing up to start a new term and they are hoping new painters will be joining in the fun. Based at the Dovecote Centre, Dovecote Street, this small group caters for every expertise level from beginners to experienced artists; classes are held on a Friday.

Tutor Pauline Thompson guides the group, encourages

and helps everyone develop their own style of painting. To keep their hand in, the group have painted outside in a member's garden during the summer; gaining confidence and trying new techniques. Pauline is an experienced artist, both indoors and outdoors.

For further information contact Pauline by email: paulinemthompson@gmail.com

Alnwick & District Choral Society

7pm Sat 8 November at St Paul's Church, Percy St Alnwick
CONCERT AT A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE
FIVE MYSTICAL SONGS: R Vaughan Williams
REQUIEM: Maurice Duruflé with short works by S S Wesley, G Fauré & P Brown

Conductor: Peter Brown
Organist: Linden Innes-Hopkins
Soprano: Vicky Johnson
Baritone: Patrick Owston
Cello: Stephen Orton
Tickets (Online or at door): £15.00—Students Free
ticketsource.co.uk/alnwick-and-district-choral-society

3 Actors, 2 Shows, 1 Night!



Amble's very own theatre company is on tour again across the North-East and the Borders, taking theatre to thousands of people every year, many of whom have very limited access to the arts through geographical constraints.

Northumberland Theatre Company will premiere a brand-new production in Amble at the beginning of September and then hit the road throughout September and October with the final performance on November 1 back home in the Dovecote Centre.

The production is a Robert Louis Stevenson double-bill with "The Body Snatcher" and "The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde", having both been adapted by local writers for the stage. "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" was premiered at Duns Playfest in the Borders in May and "The Body Snatcher" went to the Durham Fringe 2025 for three nights at the City Theatre.

After an evening's premiere in Amble the production team of three actors and one stage manager will load the theatre van and take to the road visiting venues across the region before returning to Amble.

Just three actors are on stage and will play all the parts.

They are Philip Harrison, Chris Connel and Steven Stobbs.

Philip is in his 6th outing for NTC and has previously performed at the Bristol Old Vic and Newcastle's Northern Stage. Television work includes Vera, Emmerdale and The Dumping Ground.

Chris with over 30 years as an actor and television presenter is best known as the original Oliver Kilburn in Lee Hall's "The Pitmen Painters", including on Broadway. Steven Stobbs is the face of Lilidorei at the Alnwick Garden as well as being a successful actor of stage and screen. He made his debut for NTC earlier this year in the first showing of "The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde".

The shows will be produced by NTC Artistic Director Lewis Matthews and directed by Alice Byrne.

Alice, who is also Associate Director of NTC, explains: "People are going to get two shows in one night. Everyone in the company is involved at every stage of the production."

"The plays are familiar tales told in a new and interesting way, and both offer a unique interpretation of Stevenson's original stories"

Lifeboat coffee mornings

10am - 1pm at Amble Lifeboat Station

Sunday 21 September

Sunday 19 October

Sunday 23 November Christmas Fair and coffee morning

Sunday 14 December coffee morning with Christmas Raffle and Tombola

Amble Christmas Lights and Parade is Sunday 23 November



Free business clinics

Start your business with support from the Rural Design Centre

The Rural Design Centre are hosting monthly Business Clinics at 8 communities across Northumberland. Funded by Enterprising North, we offer free, 1 to 1 advice and guidance for those wishing to start a business or in the early stages of trading.

At the Rural Design Centre, our speciality is supporting rural enterprise. We understand the additional challenges rural business can face, including access to markets, digital connectivity,

finding skilled labour and networking.

We offer a range of services:
• One-to-one support • Business planning • Financial support • E-learning • Rural Business & Enterprise clinics

Drop-in sessions can be accessed locally at Amble Development Trust offering business advice. You can visit us, float your ideas and discover what business support is available in your area.

Please visit www.ruraldesigncentre.com/enterprise

Amble Photographic Group

Amble Photographic Group held an exhibition on Lifeboat Day. We sold a number of prints with 50% of the revenue being donated to Amble RNLI.

Club meetings in August were limited to away days; amongst places visited were Chain Bridge Honey Farm, Berwick, John Manners combined Harvester Graveyard,

North Shields Fish Quay, and Blyth Beach Huts.

The autumn meeting began with the judging of the George Hodgkinson Trophy for architecture.

New members are always welcome we meet every Friday 10:00-12 noon. check out our 2025 programme. www.amblephotogroup.com or Tel: 07721 408920

Prestigious musician performs at Warkworth

Bradley Creswick was first violin and leader of the Royal Northern Sinfonia and subsequently leader of the London Philharmonia. He has played in all the great concert halls of the world and has played with or accompanied the greatest classical musicians of the last 40 years. We'll be delighted to welcome his string quartet to Warkworth Memorial Hall on **17 October**.

On **15 November** we'll be treated to the "Tweed River Jazz Band" bringing us their infectious, enthusiastic brand of Dixieland jazz.

Further details on our web site: www.wwmh.uk. Tickets should be pre-booked, for payment on the door.

NB October's music and song afternoon session, previously arranged for 13 October, has been cancelled.

WW1 remembrance reflections

New works by Far Horizon Voices writers centred on World War 1 are to be performed by the Warkworth-based acting group to mark Remembrance Day.

Hauxley Nature Reserve's Poet in Residence Paul Mein and Dave Stockwin will be staging the event at Warkworth Memorial Hall on **Thursday 6 and Friday 7 November**.

The poems and narratives are punctuated by songs sung

by acclaimed folk artist Peter Burnham.

Tickets, £10, for the two shows, which begin at 7.30pm, from N&F Young of Amble, Warkworth Post Office and store, fhvtickets@yahoo.com or on the door on the night. Doors open at 7pm and a licensed bar will be available.

A donation from the proceeds will go to the Help for Heroes charity.

Meet us, before you need us

Help your loved ones tomorrow by setting out your wishes today.

We're here to help you write your Plan of Wishes.

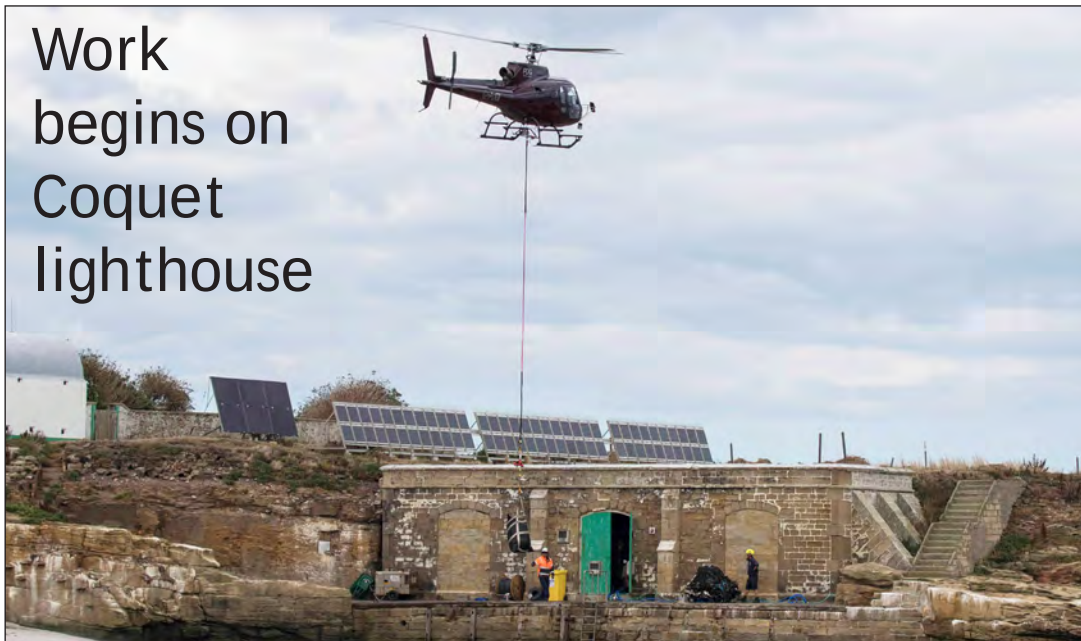
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Work begins on Coquet lighthouse



Above: The 'Squirrel' helicopter moves equipment onto Coquet Island to upgrade the electrics in the lighthouse. Photo Steven Banks. Below right: The Pan Bush bouy. Photo Paul Morrison

You might have recently seen a large ship moored off Amble, and a helicopter moving equipment onto Coquet Island. This was in preparation for work to upgrade the lighting on Coquet Lighthouse.

The main light has now been replaced; observers may notice the shoreward light appears more like a pulsing headlight rather than the old sweeping red light.

The whole project is estimated to take a year, so teams have been bringing in equipment, water and fuel, with Trinity House Vessel Galatea providing sea and heavy lift

helicopter support. Amble's Puffin Cruises will also be involved in transferring people and equipment.

Galatea also laid temporary buoys around the island, before the light was switched off and a temporary beacon installed on the island.

Steven Banks from Puffin Cruises told The Ambler "The Coquet Lighthouse was last modernised in 2006; the new project will see the old traditional sweeping light of Coquet Island replaced with a new low maintenance LED light.

"THV Galatea has also had

the heavy lift helicopter known as the 'squirrel' flying from their decks lifting the new heavy equipment onto the island so a team of engineers can begin the first phase of the project."

A spokesperson for Trinity House told The Ambler the project was designed to blend heritage conservation with modern sustainability goals.

"As part of the modernisation works, Trinity House will fit a modern LED light source inside an historical lens, and will also upgrade the audible hazard warning system and the solar power equipment on station.

"Upgrading the solar array helps reduce the station's reliance on diesel power, thereby significantly lowering its carbon footprint on the island.

"Trinity House has structured the project across three phases. The first phase involves— among other things—the delivery of key equipment and the establishment of a temporary light system. The second phase involves Trinity House engineers installing new aids to navigation equipment, and upgrading the solar array. The third phase—scheduled for September 2026—involves installation of the replacement optic lens and subsequent trials."

Martin Hamilton, Captain of THV Galatea told The Ambler, "It was a very busy but successful visit, and we're proud to support such important projects for the community and the wider maritime industry."

Anna Williams



Some progress for Amble's sporting visions - can you help make the case?

Northumberland County Council have told Amble Development Trust (ADT) they are happy to progress to the next stage of the Community Asset Transfer process of the old James Calvert Spence (JCSC) sports hall.

This means ADT now need to produce a full application and business plan to support the bid.

This is a very positive move that could benefit the whole community in Amble and increase opportunities for health lifestyles to be enhanced with a vast range of activities.

The Trust will be pushing the project forward and seeking support from key partners in the area.

In the past, Amble Town Council have pointed out that Amble really needs a facility offering a mix of recreation pursuits. They and both Amble's County Councillors have



The old sports hall at JCSC is destined to be demolished unless NCC agree to a Community Asset Transfer

supported the bid.

The community made suggestions at the recent election hustings saying a sports centre brings jobs to the town, encourages community activity and hopefully helps to improve the social, physical and mental health of local people.

Recently the Rural Design Council have offered support for this start up idea, and Northumberland Community

Energy Limited want to try and lend a hand with helping reduce the energy costs of the building.

The Trust is inviting your input into the kinds of things you would like to see. It is part of a wider vision for a sporting village based around the Acklington Road site to include the Welfare football facilities, the skate park, children's playground and the PlayZone multi use games areas.



Anything offered would be additional to and different from any plans from the new JCSC build. We hope to work together with the school to benefit all in Amble.

Please contribute your ideas to the survey which you can find on the above QR code or this link: <https://forms.gle/jR9humbXnai7GCZ98>

Paper copies of the survey are available from ADT office at Foursways2.

*Matthew Connolly
Amble Development Trust*