



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 156 Feb/Mar 2026

Nailed it!



Amble Men's Shed project

Organisers are delighted at the reception to this new project, which offers a friendly space for men, along with small woodworking tasks.

Serving up something new in the Friendliest Port

A Ukrainian/British restaurant has just opened in Amble, bringing a new food offering to the Friendliest Port.

LumiVero is run by Liudmyla Vorobiova and her daughter Veronika, who have lived in Amble for the last year. The war in Ukraine forced the pair to leave their home city of Zaporizhzhia in the south east of the country, which has sustained heavy attack by Russia.

Liudmyla told *The Ambler* why she decided to open a restaurant here in Amble. "I feel it's right for me now, and it's something new, something different for the people of Amble. We'll try to have a mix of Ukrainian and British food."

Ukrainian dishes will include borscht, a hearty soup made from beetroot, and vareniki, traditional Ukrainian dumplings, as well as cheese pancakes called syrniki.

There will be a mix of British



Liudmyla and her daughter Veronika are running a Ukrainian/British cafe

food on offer too, including breakfasts and burgers. There are also Ukrainian cakes – a definite must try!

The café/restaurant caters for vegetarians and is dog friendly. They are open 9.30am-6pm Mondays – Thursdays and 9.30am-8pm Fridays – Sundays.

After moving to the UK

three years ago, things are very different now, as the pair have had to learn English and start new lives. Liudmyla worked in a restaurant in Hexham and then in Newcastle before she and Veronika moved to Amble.

Liudmyla said she still has the heartache of all they had to leave behind; in particular she

misses her mother who is still in Zaporizhzhia. But she looks to the future.

She thanked people for all the support she has had since moving to Northumberland.

"I am grateful to my English family for welcoming me, my daughter Veronika, and our cat Tayson into their family. We currently have two cats, one from Ukraine, Tayson, and one girl, Luna, which we adopted in England.

"I thank Dot Charlton for helping me. I am grateful to my daughter Veronika for her support; I love her very much. I worked in a cafe in Newcastle for more than two and a half years. It was a great experience in this field. I really love my colleagues at this café."

LumiVero is on Queen Street next to the Town Square. You can find them on Facebook.

Anna Williams

The Helm

Our Story

The Helm is a true family effort, run by myself - Alice, and my husband, Aelfred, alongside my parents, Lesley and Darren (pictured). We've pooled our collective backgrounds in management, finance, food, and hospitality to bring the business to life. We really feel that our combined experience has been the secret to navigating our first few months so successfully!

Reflecting the Spirit of Amble

Our main goal for The Helm is to be a cafe that truly reflects the town of Amble itself: friendly, adaptable, and a genuine part of the community.

We have been blown away by

the response from the locals over the winter months; getting to know our regulars has been the highlight of our journey so far.

While we're excited to welcome holidaymakers this summer, we hope the local community knows we are here for them all year round.

Food and Specialities

Our menu currently focuses on breakfasts, soup, sandwiches, and toasties, with a strong influence on using different cheeses and interesting flavor combinations. We are especially proud that our menu is highly adaptable. We can easily cater to most preferences and dietary requirements, ensuring that



everyone can enjoy a meal with us.

The Pantry: While we work hard to keep our food menu affordable and high-value, we use our Pantry shelves to champion other small, independent businesses, stocking a great selection of gifts and treats.

Opening Times

We are in the process of hiring more help right now and will be moving to seven days a week very shortly to gear up for the summer season.

The Helm deli, coffee shop and cafe is at 73 Queen St, Amble. See more on Facebook. *Alice Clark*



'Summer Night', Luke McTaggart, Acrylic on canvas, 80x60cm

Local artist's exhibitions and talks

Amble artist Luke McTaggart has had his work selected for the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour Annual Exhibition for the third consecutive year. The exhibition takes place at the Royal Scottish Academy galleries on Princes Street in Edinburgh from 15 Feb until 11 March.

Luke is also mounting a new solo exhibition closer to home at the Playhouse Gallery in Alnwick. Entitled 'Between Dusk and Waking,' the Alnwick show runs from 11 February until

8 March. This exhibition builds on his recent work, focusing on colour and evening light. The show includes local views such as Amble Links, the Braid, and Black Bridge in Warkworth. All featured work is available for purchase. Request a catalogue by emailing lmctaggart7@hotmail.com.

Additionally, budding artists are urged to keep their eyes peeled as he will be launching monthly art workshops and talks in March: See <https://lukemctaggart.wordpress.com/workshops/>

New Men's Shed opens doors

A new Men's Shed project has begun in Amble, and organisers are delighted at the reception.

The project is based at the Dovecote Centre, and is already drawing a good deal of interest from volunteers, and filling with equipment thanks to the support of local groups.

An open day in January proved very popular, and Dave Cook, one of the organisers for the Mens's Shed told The Ambler they were all encouraged by the support and interest.

He explained what the project hoped to achieve:

"The objective of Amble Men's Shed is to provide a well equipped workshop where men can go and enjoy the company of others, whilst undertaking small, mostly woodworking projects.

"We will need to focus on fundraising initially to cover our overheads so we will be offering a sharpening service, and will also be making various items to sell, such as bird boxes and hedgehog houses. We would like to thank all the people that have



made it possible for us to get to this stage and look towards a great future."

The project has received great support from: NTC Touring Theatre Company, Amble Town Council, The Hermitage Inn (Warkworth) Pub Quiz Team, the Rural Design Centre, the North East Business & Innovation Centre

(BIC) and Hav Koffe.

Opening times for the shed are still to be finalised, so if you are interested or want to find out more about what they are doing, check out their Facebook page.

Jim Donnelly, chair of NTC was happy to see the project at the Dovecote Centre. He said "We're really pleased to have a Men's Shed back in Amble. It's a

great community project."

Dave said "We're really excited to get this started and very pleased to see the turnout. Ultimately Men's Sheds are about connection, conversation and creativity, which hopefully leads to Happy and Healthy Men!"

Anna Williams

Local Flooring Specialists

- Design, Supply & Install
- Carpets, Cushion Vinyl, Luxury Vinyl Tiles and Laminate Flooring

92 Queen Street Amble



Please contact us on 01665 252090
or email us at info@evolution-flooring.co.uk



Remembering Martin Homer



and always will be, a reflection of Martin - his work ethic, his kindness and generosity towards others, and his genuine love for coffee and the community. His legacy lives on in every bean we roast and every cup we serve, and while we deeply miss him, we will continue Mocha Mondo in his absence, carrying his vision forward with the same care and passion he poured into it every day.

We would also like to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone for their kindness and support following Martin's passing. Your orders, emails and many kind words of encouragement have not gone unnoticed. It has meant more to us than we can fully express.

The Mocha Mondo Coffee Team

Ed: The Ambler sends our condolences to Martin's family and friends and to all the Mocha Mondo team

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our CEO, Martin, who passed away on 31 December 2025.

From a coffee van at Alnmouth Train Station in 2010, Martin's enthusiasm and dedication built Mocha Mondo Coffee into what it is today. He was the heart of the business and will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and all who knew him.

Mocha Mondo Coffee is,

New streets in Amble

Do you know where Mauretania Close is? This is one of the new addresses in Amble following the building of the new bungalows by HUSK and Northumberland County Council.

The 14 new eco bungalows were built on the site of old county council garages (See p5). The new bungalow addresses on St Lawrence Ave are designated Mauretania Close, those on Kennedy Road are Staithes Court, while those on Andrew Drive are Keel Court. The Alndale bungalows' address remains Alndale.

SeaWaves Jewellery's Global Award

Congratulations to Karen Watmough, owner of SeaWaves Jewellery in Amble Harbour Village, which has been recognised with two major honours celebrating both innovation and excellence within the jewellery industry.

The business has been granted a Global Award at the Prestige Business Awards, for Innovation and Excellence, recognising not only the distinctive coastal-inspired jewellery SeaWaves creates, but also the journey behind the brand.

winning the Global award!

Furthermore, they also won the Regional Award for the North of England, celebrating the strength of the wider team behind the brand.

Recognition was given to Chelsea Wilson (pictured), SeaWaves' manager and talented silversmith, whose skill, leadership and creativity have helped steer the business forward during periods when Karen, has had to step back from daily operations.

Both awards mark a very



The award was accepted on behalf of Karen, who lives with severe Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), a long-term neurological condition causing extreme pain and debilitating neurological symptoms, often resulting in long periods of being housebound.

The judges acknowledged the huge challenges which Karen has overcome to build and sustain the business, which led to SeaWaves

important milestone - recognising not only beautiful design, but perseverance, teamwork and the power of adapting and succeeding even in the face of long term illness and disability.

SeaWaves Jewellery operates from its coastal studio and Pod, which will be re-opening February half-term after a short winter break. You can also shop online at seawavesjewellery.com

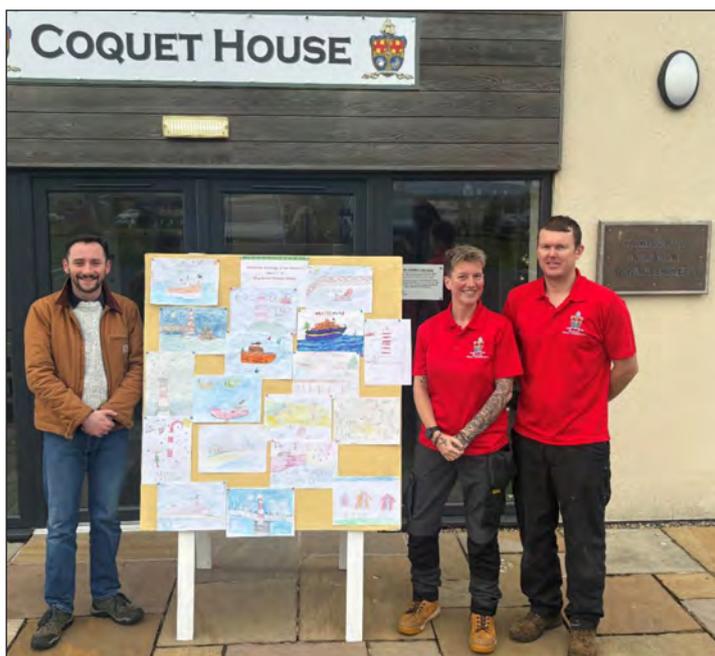
Keeping our harbour one of the best in the North East

It's been a busy start to the year at the harbour as we continue our rolling programme of maintenance, general repairs and doing our utmost to keep the site looking as clean and welcoming as possible.

The lighter nights are around the corner which is something we will all welcome after the long winter.

We also welcomed a new member of staff - Rachel Armstrong - to the team last year and she will be a familiar face to many who work in and around the harbour. Rachel is also a member of the lifeboat crew here in Amble.

The Mayor Luke McTaggart popped in to judge the artwork from King Edwin School pupils who visited the harbour last year and drew some fantastic festive pictures of the site which we displayed in the foyer.



The Mayor Luke McTaggart & Warkworth Harbour Staff Rachel Armstrong and Eddie Longstaff selecting the best of the drawings by the children from King Edwin Primary School.

We hope to host several further visits from local schools in the coming months as part of a small education project to help our youngsters understand the importance of safety around the harbour, keeping the area clean and using the litter bins, and learning about the abundance of marine wildlife.

Looking forward, we have plenty of work to keep us busy, and to keep the site as one of the best kept working harbours in the North East - balancing the needs of the local fishermen, the business economy and our visitors at the forefront of our thinking.

As ever I welcome a chat with residents and visitors to hear their views and as always, the team and I appreciate your support.

*Gary Paxton
Harbour Master*

Amble public toilets refurbishment now complete



County Councillors
Mark Mather and
Arty Hume

The public toilets in both Queen Street and at the Harbour have been refurbished and reopened as part of a county-wide programme to improve the standard of public toilet provision across the county.

Both facilities underwent thorough refurbishment, with new cubicles, sanitaryware, floor coverings and wall finishes.

Both male and female toilets have baby change facilities. The work was estimated to have cost £180,000.

Amble Mayor Cllr Luke McTaggart told the Ambler, "I'm pleased to finally see these long-awaited refurbishments completed. Whilst it's disappointing it's taken so long, I'm glad the facilities are now

open for the benefit of residents and visitors. Amble Town Council is aware of the reported damage that took place soon after the facilities were open; the issues have been raised with the police, and are in hand."

The Ambler understands the damage occurred to one of the doors in the town centre toilets, and it has since been repaired.

Cabinet member for Roads and Highways, with responsibility for public conveniences, County Councillor Mark Mather said: "We're pleased to get this refurbishment complete as part of our ongoing programme of works to improve the standard of all 54 public toilets in the county for which we have responsibility.

"In a time when some councils are cutting back on their public toilets we are continuing to invest. Northumberland County Council is proud of the county and the people, so it's only right we invest in the area.

"Public toilets are important facilities which support the local town centre and visitor economies and play a crucial role in supporting independence for many people."

At the opening Amble County Councillor Arty Hume added: "Amble is a busy and popular town, not just with residents, but as a destination for day visitors and holiday makers. I'm pleased to see both sets of toilets are now open."

Anna Williams

Take-up of Amble's new affordable bungalows

Five of 14 newly built affordable bungalows have been let to people with a connection to Amble, The Ambler has learned.

Built by HUSK, the eco properties are owned by Northumberland County Council, and leased at an affordable rate.

The bungalows were constructed on the site of old council garages on St Lawrence

Avenue, Kennedy Road, Alndale, and Andrew Drive. (See also p4). They were offered to residents via the county council's Homefinder site and bidding has now closed.

NCC told The Ambler there had been 578 applications in total, although as the bungalows were advertised in address batches, the same applicants may have bid on multiple adverts.



THE MAD JAM WOMAN & Pride of Northumbria



Award winning Preserves & Relishes

As seen on James Martin's Saturday Morning show

Fourways One
Bridge St, Amble NE65 0DR
07766 857680

Also available at the Seafood Centre
www.madjamwoman.com

edie pebble

Pod 14 Amble Harbour Village



Beautiful handmade gifts, vintage treasures and nautical decorations

Quality of life is important for everyone and we know that care is better at home.

PHILIP PARKINSON Homecare

We provide compassionate care and support for adults in Northumberland. Day or night, our friendly professional team can help.

Call Julie on 0797 169 1631 to arrange an informal chat and see if we can meet your needs.



Could you join our team? Come and work for us and love going to work!



Call Julie now on 0797 169 1631



Make it look pretty again!

Design - Build - Maintenance

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

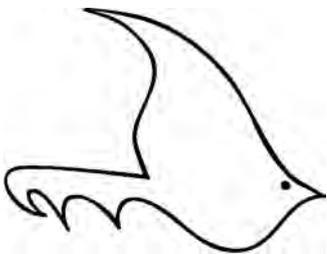
Coast & Country Garden Service

01665 798543

AMBLE

staintonel@gmail.com



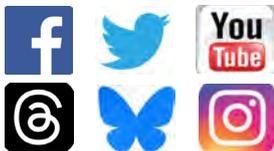


The Ambler

COMMENDED at the Newspaper of the Year awards 2023

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, Ian, Janette
Richard, John, Gill & Ira

Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

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

Thanks to all our contributors,
sponsors and advertisers:

George Young



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

The Ambler is a project of
Amble Development Trust



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

2026 Submissions dates:

#156 - 5 Jan #159 - 3 Jul
#157 - 6 Mar #160 - 4 Sep
#158 - 8 May #161 - 6 Nov

A gathering to remember Mike Yarwood

Residents may remember the search for Amble man Mike Yarwood who went missing in November last year. Despite extensive searches by search and rescue organisations and members of the public, sadly he has not been found. His granddaughter Ellie has put out a message which she is happy for us to share here.

As we are unable to hold a funeral, I was thinking of bringing family and friends together on 7 March, (Mike's birthday) to remember and celebrate his life.

In place of flowers, I will be doing donation boxes available to raise funds for the Lifeboat

Team who have been incredible and truly did everything they could.

I will look into booking a pub and will put a plan together for food and arrangements once confirmed. The dress code will be smart black. I would really appreciate it if all Mike's friends

could join me on the day.

I just want to personally say a massive thank you to all of the community who helped me and support me, truly thank you!!
Ellie Lorimer

Ed: Please check The Ambler's Facebook for updates on this event.

WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p9

Christmas jumper fundraiser for Amble Food Bank

The staff of 1911 coffee house ran a Christmas jumper fundraiser for Amble Food Bank. All the tips received for three days were donated.

The photo shows Marion and Terry from Amble Food Bank accepting a £100 donation from 1911 staff, Angela, Ria and Shania.

Thanks to all the generous people in Amble for helping to raise this amount.

*Patricia Bettaney
via email*



News from Amble Club Ltd aka The Top Hoose

As a year draws to a close it is natural to reflect on all that has happened over the past 12 months and longer.

This time last year the Board of Directors of Amble Club Ltd were preparing to close the club premises on Bede Street because the business was in financial difficulty, due to the unprecedented rise in fuel costs, as well as a diminishing customer base.

The board had sounded the alarm in August 2024 and there followed months of meetings with interested shareholders whose decisions helped to shape the future of the club. In October, a prospective buyer of the premises was found and it was thought that the sale would be completed before the end of the year (but it has taken quite a while longer than that).

Shareholders were reluctant to turn their backs on the 122 year history of Amble Club Ltd and asked the board to explore the possibility of downsizing into smaller premises – the empty Mason's Arms. This

was thought to be a good idea because of the premises having rental rooms, whose income would supplement the bar sales. A verbal agreement was made with the owner, subject to the sale of the club. Shareholders voted on a name change, to reflect a new beginning for the business. By a narrow margin, the name chosen was 'Top Hoose' as that was what the pub had been referred to colloquially.

We closed the premises at Bede Street on 10 January 2025 and moved into the Mason's where we opened for business on 30 January, on a rental arrangement, pending the completion of the legal formalities. The sale of the club was completed on 6 May with the purchase of the Mason's on 16 May. The new signage was erected in August and the rental rooms opened in September.

All in all 2025 was a very eventful one for Amble Club Ltd.

Alongside the day to day operation of the business in my role as secretary, I completed an

audit of the shareholder register and by the end of June I had validated 595 shares which have now been registered at Companies House. (Please note that if you are in possession of, or have inherited a share, then it can still be validated by making contact with me via the Top Hoose).

Notice of AGM

All shareholders are invited to attend the annual AGM of Amble Club Ltd which will be held on Sunday 1 March 2026 at 11.00am at the Top Hoose.

Please note that George Nelson, Chairman and Carol Nelson, Secretary have given notice of their intention to step down from their roles at that meeting. If any shareholder is interested in taking up a position on the Board of Directors, then please let your intentions be known in advance and in writing, thank you.

*Carol Nelson,
Secretary, Amble Club Ltd*

Hugh's views: The woodcock and the pilot

On an overcast November afternoon last year, to my astonishment, a woodcock emerged from the garden surrounding our patio. Noticing my surprised reaction it immediately turned back the way it had come, just time enough for me to notice that a few feathers were hanging loosely on one wing.

By the time I got outside the bird had disappeared and for a small garden it took a while before I located it crouching between a stump and a brick wall, the cryptic plumage blending so well with the ground on which it rested.

I caught it up very easily and popped it into a small cotton bag. The bird didn't seem to be injured the wings and legs were sound. It was probably just exhausted. As well as being native to this country woodcock migrate here from the forests of Northern Europe mainly during October and November to escape the harsher continental weather. This individual had probably just crossed the North Sea and was recovering from the journey.



The rescued woodcock

I took the bird up to Coquet Vets where I left it. Later that evening I was informed that it had been examined, the damaged plumage had been tweaked and that the bird was now in the care of the Blyth Wildlife Rescue Centre where it would be able to complete its recovery.

Woodcock have recently been placed on the Red List here because of a severe fall in their numbers but surprisingly are still classed as a gamebird and can be shot between 1 October and 31 January.

The woodcock was added to our garden bird list and three weeks later we had another surprising addition to make. This time it was a goldcrest which like the woodcock is also a native species which migrates here at a similar time of year from the forests of Northern Europe. Like the woodcock it too had probably just arrived from across the North Sea. This tiny bird, was quite lively and after a few seconds hunting insects in a honeysuckle was soon on its way.

With the arrival of both species in this country at the same time of year it was once a commonly held belief that such a tiny bird could not cross the vastness of the sea unaided and that they must probably hitch a lift in the woodcock's plumage and so the goldcrest became known as the woodcock's pilot.

Hugh Tindall

Thanks from Amble Food Bank

As the dust settles on the seasonal festivities, we at Amble Food Bank would like to take a moment to celebrate the kindness and generosity of our community, proving once again that, at this time of year, we have not forgotten those who have fallen on hard times or are in a more chronic state of need.

With your support we can show our clients that deprivation does not have to lead to despair. We hope that our donors have discovered that kindness is like a boomerang and if our clients can't thank them personally then we can do that on their behalf.

There are institutions to thank including Amble WI, Warkworth WI, James Calvert Spence College and Broomhill Primary School as well as the Farm Shop at Acklington Prison and Alexa's Canine Trust. A fuller list appears regularly on our Facebook page.

As volunteers we took a well-earned rest after Christmas and recommenced deliveries from 6 Jan.

As a famous journalist once reminded us that it is "the everyday kindness of the back roads more than makes up for the acts of greed in the headlines".

Stay Kind. Thanks to you all

How to Donate to Us; 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 (email us for a form)

How to Contact Us; You can get a referral through the CAB or contact NCC on 01670 620015, 9-5pm. Email: amblefb@gmail.com

Banking hub relocation

Amble's Banking Hub will be moving to Queen Street in the next couple of months.

Since the closure of the TSB last year, Amble has had no High Street banking presence - although customers can still use the Queen Street Post Office for financial transactions.

A banking hub was opened at the Dovecote Centre in May and will now move to a more central location - in the building which was previously the TSB.

A spokesperson for the banking hub told The Amblers: "I can confirm the hub will be moving to 75 Queen

Street. The team recently started carrying out necessary works on the new location and it is currently predicted to open in the spring.

Until then, the Banking Hub will remain open at the Dovecote Centre."

Customers of all major banks and building societies can access cash services from the banking hub counter at any time. In addition, you can talk to a community banker from your bank on the day your bank is in the hub. There is a private space where you can talk face-to-face about more complicated

banking enquiries like payments and transfers, managing your account, and how to use online banking.

The opening times will be Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

The community banker schedule should remain the same as it is in the Dovecote Centre:
Mon: Lloyds
Tue: NatWest
Wed: Barclays
Thu: Halifax
Fri: TSB

You can look for further updates on <https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/amble-northumberland/>



Online reviewers help you choose

If you're looking for ideas and ratings of places to visit, you could always check out the reviews on Facebook or TikTok from 'Reviewed The Wright Way'.

Sam and Emily (pictured) who run the site told the Amblers about their venture.

"We're a growing North East review platform where we shine a spotlight on standout places to eat, stay, and experience. We create engaging, honest videoed content that our audience absolutely love."

The pair have recently reviewed Amble favourites

including Osteria, The Helm, and Vistas, and tell us they have plenty more local venues lined up.

Find them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reviewedthewrightway/> or TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@reviewedthewrightway>

Dry Water Arts

Your dedicated Arts and Cultural Centre
has been serving the community of Amble since 2018

LET'S
MOVE
together



LET'S
CREATE
together



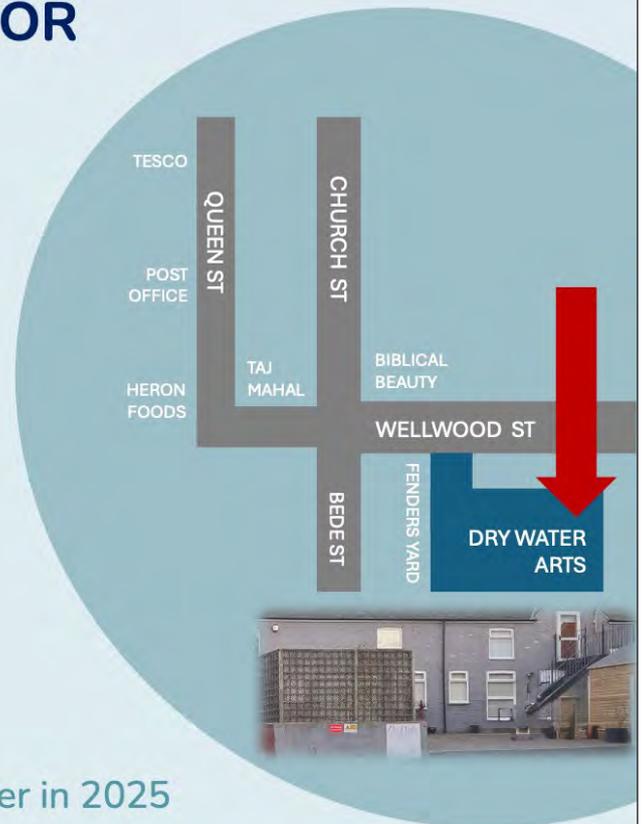
LET'S
THRIVE
together



COME AND JOIN US IN 2026 FOR

LIVE MUSIC
DANCE
PILATES
YOGA
MEDITATION
TALKS
EVENTS
EXHIBITIONS
SINGING
PERFORMANCES
WEEKLY CLASSES

ART
DRAWING
EXPERIMENTING
WATERCOLOURS
JEWELLRY MAKING
PRINTMAKING
CRAFTS
BOOK CLUB
CRAFT
PHOTOGRAPHY



Thank you to everyone who came to Dry Water in 2025

TO BOOK

www.drywaterarts.uk

07542 141411

info@drywaterarts.uk

@drywaterarts  

Dry Water
ARTS CENTRE

Can you help Amble Lifeboat?

All at Amble RNLI would like to thank everyone who supported us in 2025 - individuals, businesses, clubs both from the local community and further afield. We are very grateful for your support in helping Save Lives at Sea, without it we could not provide lifesaving services around our coastline. In 2025 the crew attended 35 shouts.

Our regular monthly coffee mornings start in February, please come along and join us there are wonderful views and tasty home baking for takeaway or sitting in.



Lifeboat Day 2026 will be confirmed shortly, please follow our fb page for information. Wishing you all a Happy and safe New Year from Amble Volunteer Crew, Volunteer Fundraisers and Shop Volunteers RNLI one crew. *See also p19.*

Amble RNLI Crew Vacancies

We are looking for volunteers to join the Inshore and All-Weather Lifeboat crew. If you're interested, please contact us: tel 01665 712460 or see our Facebook pages:- Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers and RNLI-Amble Lifeboat Station.

Baptised in Amble at age 50

I was baptised at Amble Methodist Church, by Minister Christopher Wood-Archer, on 18 January this year, just after my 50th birthday.

For many years I had always planned to return to Amble, where I grew up, and return often to visit my sisters Yvonne Moore and Karen Welsh as well as my school friends. I originally left Amble at 19 years of age to go and study in Barnsley, where I still live today. I turned 50 this year and thought to tie my baptism in with my mam's birthday.

Sadly my mam Marjorie Moore passed away in 2016, and to make her feel part of my special day I chose her birthday, 18 January.

It was a very happy day, I was surrounded by family and friends, and the parishioners of the church.

For the celebration, I chose Hauxley Village Hall, as my mam used to spend a lot of time there as a child, where her grandparents used to take in bed and breakfast for extra income, Mam and her cousins would help their grandparents to dry the washing on the dunes in Low Hauxley. Hauxley was always where mam was at her happiest.

Lindsey Moore

Celebrating 100 years of dance

My pupils recently took a Dance Exam with Northern Counties Dance Teachers Association, to celebrate 100 years of Dance, 1925 to 2025.

Everyone excelled in their exams, the school gained 23 Honours and 13 Distinctions. All candidates received an award and a certificate in Freestyle Dance. Very Proud of all of my Dancers.

The next event will be taking part in the Annual Scholarships with N.C.D.T.A Ltd in February. Good Luck and here we come.

Carol Gray, CG Dance School, Amble

Sponsored content

Dry Water Arts: Your creative home in Amble

Tucked away in Fender's Yard, just off Wellwood Street, Dry Water Arts has been a vibrant part of the Amble community for eight years. We're proud to be helping put our lovely town firmly on the creative map. Run by professional artists Paula Turner and Frances Anderson, we offer a warm, welcoming space where people of all ages can enjoy a rich mix of arts, wellbeing activities, and good company.

Do you remember the spectacular outdoor event hosted at Little Shore in 2024? That was us in our element, bringing people together with music, performance, banners, kites and plenty of community spirit. We're passionate about offering unique experiences you won't find anywhere else in Amble.

Every week, we run a lively programme of classes. Our watercolour, drawing, and printing classes are expertly led by visual artist Frances. In a relaxed setting, you can build your confidence, pick up simple techniques and enjoy the satisfaction of seeing your skills grow. No experience is needed, and there's no pressure at all.



For movement, our Yoga, Pilates, Meditation and Dance, Better Balance and Barre sessions are led by dance artist Paula in our beautiful, purpose-built yoga/dance studio. Every class is carefully shaped around the people in the room—nothing is ever formulaic. Paula helps you build confidence in your body at your own pace, often surprising you with how much you're capable of. People leave feeling genuinely uplifted, enjoying

movement in a way that feels natural and joyful.

Research shows that creative activity — whether drawing, dancing, or enjoying live music — can do wonders for your health. It can lift your mood, ease stress, sharpen the mind, and help you feel more connected. It's good for mind, body, and spirit.

In a world where so much happens online, stepping into a room full of friendly faces can

make all the difference. Many people who first came along “to try something new” have now found lasting friendships via Dry Water Arts

Culture and Community for Everyone

On top of our weekly activities, we regularly welcome exciting visiting artists to Amble — hosting exhibitions, live gigs, workshops, and performances. We believe everyone should have access to creativity and culture.

We want Dry Water Arts to be accessible to all. Our premises are wheelchair accessible, including a wheelchair-accessible bathroom, and we have a stairlift to ensure everyone can enjoy our space.

So, whether you're looking to get moving, try your hand at something creative, or simply enjoy a warm, welcoming place to be yourself, Dry Water Arts is here for you. Pop into Fender's Yard and discover what we're all about — you might just find your new favourite place to be!

*Frances Anderson
and Paula Turner
Co - Directors Dry Water Arts*



Jobs - powered by AI

AI is starting to take over people's jobs and people are worrying if their job will get taken over in the future.

I think humans are better than AI because they have common sense whereas AI can make mistakes. Especially with medical issues when someone's life is in danger. These are some AI robots we already use: Cici AI, ChatGPT, Google AI, Gemini

Good things about AI

You can use it to change your appearance on a photo (e.g. Hair colour eye colour)
Helps with homework
Answers queries for customers.
It can create other AI jobs

Bad things

They're beginning to take over people's jobs
They can mislead people
The energy they need is bad for the environment.

Conclusion

It depends on why people are getting concerned. As AI develops, people are worried that they'll lose their jobs to AI. But at the same time it can create a few jobs for running the AI. People make mistakes as well.
By Lexi

How to understand inflation



Nowadays, if you go to shop and you want to buy a packet of crisps or sweets it costs about £1.25. We have noticed for a while that the price keeps going up but the amount of product is going down. This is annoying as £1.35 is very expensive for a packet of M&Ms. Or crisps which have like 10 crisps in.
By Eden Grace and Indie

We don't like our PE changing rooms



Every school kid has to get changed for PE, but, the problem we have at JCSC is the changing rooms are really small, and there's only four private places to get changed. No-one likes to get changed in the open area with the benches, because it's not private enough. Everyone queues up to go into the toilets to get changed instead. It can make us late for PE.

So we hope our new school will have more privacy with the new changing rooms. We hope there will be separate cubicles for students so people don't feel uncomfortable, when they get changed.

By Maisie and Sklyar

We meet the youngest mayor in the UK and find out what Amble Town Council does for young people

We visited Amble Town Council to find out what they do – and what decisions they can make especially for young people. We met Mayor Luke McTaggart, Town Clerk Vicki Smith and Cllr Ciara Dawson.

Maisie: Can you tell us what Amble Town Council does? How is it different from Northumberland County Council?

LM: The Town council is a lot smaller than the county council. We work at a more local level, we manage the areas under our control, and we're a voice for local residents.

Eden: What is Amble Town Council in charge of?

Vicki Smith: We are in charge of litter bins, seats, bus shelters, two allotments, the High Street garden and the Memorial garden, Paddlers Park and the Play area at Philip Drive. LM: Your parents pay their council tax, some of that goes to NCC, and some (called the precept) goes to us. We receive around £265,000 per year. We have to think carefully how we spend the money and it's never a popular decision to increase the council tax.

Donny: What can Amble Town Council do for young people? What has it done recently for young people?

LM: we regularly meet the head teachers of all four schools (Amble Links Primary, King Edwin Primary, Barndale and JCSC). We work with the Youth Project, we give out grants to support different groups. We also host our annual civic awards and there's a junior section for that.

Lexi: Do the town councillors get paid? How many are there?

Ciara Dawson: There are nine councillors; 4 for the East ward, 2 in the Central ward and 3 in the West ward. and no we don't get paid. We are all volunteers. There are three admin workers (two part time) who do get paid.

Indie: Luke, we heard you are the youngest mayor in the country - how old are you? How does it feel being the youngest mayor?

I'm 25, no I don't really think about it. I just crack on

Maisie: We heard you went to our school - How long were you there? Are any of the teachers who taught you still at JCSC? Has the school changed much?

LM: I went to the Middle School, the High School then was called Coquet High School. When I was there Druridge Bay was lumped in as well. Some staff are still there; Mr Moore, Ms Bailey, Mr McNally. I was always bottom of the top set.

VS: I went to Coquet High as well, but there's no-one still there from my time.

Esmé: What did you do in your free time when you were our age?

LM: I was pretty boring, I used to draw or read a lot. I never played video games.

Eden: What is the mayor's job? Do you have a lot of power?

LM: I have two roles; I'm the Mayor which is a ceremonial role – I



Artograffi and Luke McTaggart with the Mayor's chain of office

have to represent the town, which is when I wear the chain. I'm also the chair of the council so I have to manage/chair the meetings, keep things on track and make sure everyone's being heard. Together with Vicki we run the council and make sure we are doing things right and money is spent correctly.

Nina: What did you do before becoming joining the council? Why did you want to join the council or become mayor?

LM: I am an artist. I sell my work, put on exhibitions and help run events etc at the Dovecote Centre. I got involved with Amble's neighbourhood plan and I enjoyed that so I decided to join the council.

VS: My previous job was working at Northumberland County Council, my last job I was working as a PA to the Deputy Chief Executive, but I left to have a baby. I joined Amble Town Council because I wanted to help local people.

Anna: What do you think needs doing to make Amble better?

LM: We need a sports hall so we can have sports and leisure community facility. There's not enough community facilities. We've allocated £40k toward that if it gets the go ahead.

VS: We are working on transport and connectivity, making the town more walking and cycling friendly.

LM: We're working with NE Mayor Kim McGuinness's office too. You don't always get an answer so you have to be persistent, tenacious. Regarding the site next to Morrisons, we're encouraging them to market it. What would you like to see there?

[FYI: We'd like a B+M, Primark, JD Sports, Home Bargains, Aldi]

Donny: How do people get to be a councillor? Would you recommend other young people go on the town council? How many people voted for you?

VS: You have to be 18. You fill out a form. If there's a vacancy we send the application form to NCC.

LM: We didn't have an election for my ward. There were three vacancies and only two candidates, so we didn't need an election.

Lexi: Do you agree with the voting age being lowered to 16?

LM: Yes. VS: Yes, it's going to be a young person's world

Esmé: Does it stress you out, making decisions?

LM: It can be stressful, but I'm fairly level-headed. I sometimes get stressed before a decision has to be made because there's often a lot of documentation to be prepared. I like to make sure people are well informed.

VS: Yes it can be stressful being the Clerk. Sometimes people get angry and it can get quite stressful when they don't accept a decision. The Town Council can get blamed for some things that are not in our remit.

Indie: Pizza or burger? LM+VS: Pizza

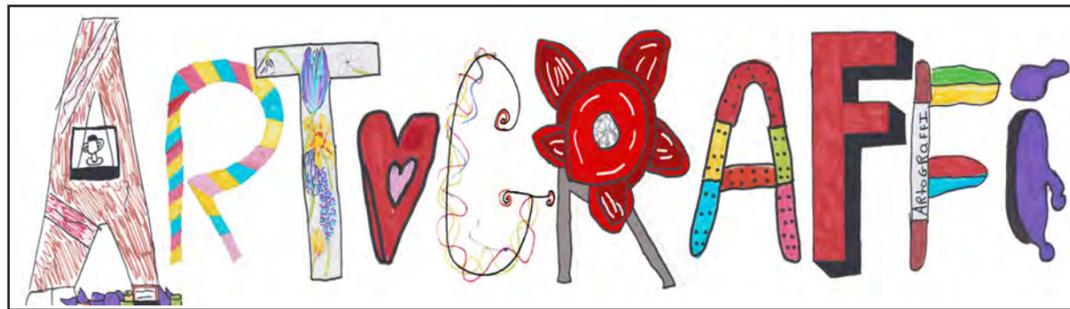
Sklyar: Cats or dogs? LM+VS: dogs

Indie: Stranger Things or I'm a Celebrity?

LM +VS: Stranger Things. CD: Neither, I'm a Trekkie!

Nina: Do you have the power to sack teachers?

VS No! LM (laughing): Was there someone you had in mind?



It's not about love: How Valentine's Day shouldn't be just spending money



I hate Valentines Day because it's annoying! People think that Valentines Day is about buying presents for people you love. But in my opinion, it's really not. Valentines Day is a celebration to spend time with people you love and appreciate, not about wasting money on "Valentine's baskets". Instead of buying unwanted, useless cards you could give someone a hug, tell someone you love them, spend time with people you love, or tidy your bedroom. So don't worry about not having a Valentine gift because true love isn't about buying presents, it's about spending time with those who matter. By Eden Grace

Thinking of a new future?



Start a rural business with Enterprising North



Amble Business & Enterprise Clinic

Fully-funded support and advice on starting or growing your business, from rural enterprise specialists. Drop-in to find out more from rural start-up advisor Dr. Charlotte Hope.

We can help you:

- Write your business plan
- Find new customers
- Develop your ideas
- Access financial support



Dr. Charlotte Hope
Rural Start-up Advisor

charlotte.hope@ruraldesigncentre.com

Amble Development Trust

Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace
Amble, NE65 0DT

- **Wednesday 4th of February**
- **Wednesday 4th of March**



Drop-in without appointment between **10:00am** and **10:50am**.
Private appointments can be booked online.

ruraldesigncentre.com/enterprise



Individual support

Access 1-to-1 support at days, times and locations that work for you.



Specialist rural knowledge

Advice on how to start-up and grow within your existing community.



Access to E-learning

24/7 access to our simple-to-use online learning tools.



A programme for YOU

From kitchen table ideas to businesses with multiple premises, we can support you.



Funded by
UK Government



Rotary update

Late November and December are always busy months for Rotarians. The Rotary sleigh and Santa were in attendance at the Warkworth Christmas lights switch-on and the Amble lights parade. The sleigh visited Togston, Hadston, Broomhill, Amble, and Warkworth, culminating outside Morrisons over several afternoons. Despite tough times, local people have again proved to be very generous towards the RAW Christmas fund raising efforts with around £4,600 raised this year.

This money will be used to support local good causes. Some has already been used to support local families over the Christmas period. Working with nine local schools across the area, hard-pressed families were identified and supplied with Argos Christmas present vouchers. A total of eighty-one local children were assisted via this scheme.

Local Rotarians were involved in the marshalling of the Carols on the Bridge event in Warkworth on Christmas eve. Again, people proved extremely generous and over £700 was raised.

In early December, we had a visit from Callum Donnelly, Tash and Raven from the Northumberland Wildlife Trust who talked about a range

of local initiatives involving citizen science and community engagement in the work undertaken by the Trust, as well as the threats that litter poses to wildlife.

In November we welcomed Aimee Davison back to the club. Earlier this summer RAW assisted Aimee in organising a fund-raising night at Warkworth Cricket Club. Her fund-raising efforts on behalf of Student Minds, also included a charity climb up Mt Kilimanjaro. Aimee successfully met the challenges of this demanding trek and gave an impressive account of her adventure.

RAW members and President Trevor Robertson, joined local groups and volunteers at a reception at which the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland Dr Caroline Pryer presented Amble Development Trust with the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

RAW members and guests attended a Christmas drinks party at Shortridge Hall. Many thanks to local Rotarians Mike and Rachael Wyllie for hosting this event.

Looking ahead 2026 promises to be another busy year with more community events, interesting after dinner speakers and fun social events. Further information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

The real reason for the season



Goats, sheep, donkeys, singing shepherds and even a real baby in the role of Jesus; all part of the Third Annual Living Nativity Scene community event presented by Harbour Lights Church.

The grass area outside the Radcliffe Club became first century Bethlehem for three hours on 6 December, although the weather was typically British. Yet the enthusiasm of both the participants and the assembled crowds was not dampened, as the birth of Jesus was reenacted accompanied by a carol singing choir.

Engaging with the children queuing to enter the Radcliffe Club Christmas party and drawing people from as far away as Rotherham or as near as Alnwick this Amble annual event provides a real Christmas experience for the whole family. A huge thank you to everyone who made the event possible with your generous donations and to all who took part and portrayed the real reason for the season. www.harbourlightschurch.com

*Pastor Neil Sayers
Harbour Lights Church*



Expertise Wills and Wealth

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY ASSETS

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

LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY in areas of
Property and Affairs • Health and Welfare

Make sure you have them in place while you're fit and healthy

WILLS Simple Wills • Trust Wills • Free Reviews

PROBATE Call us for Expert Help and Advice

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

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



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

CBSWorld

Complete Business Supplies 



Printing Services

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

www.cbsworld.co.uk

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





Reports from our *County Councillors*



Arty.Hume@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143949

Pauline.Davidson@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143980

Happy New Year to everyone in Amble and the surrounding areas. It was a very busy end to the year, and I have been working closely with Amble Town Council and the award-winning Development Trust. This work has been extremely rewarding.

There is too much to cover in this short report that has not already been mentioned, and I do not wish to bore you with repeats. You can see regular updates on our Reform UK Facebook page or via Amble A.C.T. Suffice to say, both Pauline and I continue to deliver for our town and surrounding areas for the betterment of residents.

My casework remains very busy, and I endeavour to reply to residents within 24 hours. Serving on seven committees requires a great deal of management and commitment. I have also made numerous attempts to explore ways of establishing a Community Hub for Amble, and I will be speaking to Cllr Glen Sanderson early in the new year to see what can be achieved.

Please remember that Pauline and I hold regular surgeries at the Dovecote Centre, where anyone is welcome to come and talk to us about ideas, problems, or suggestions. We are always willing to listen, offer advice, or

seek further assistance where needed.

The next surgery will take place on 14 February 2026 – Valentine’s Day, which should be easy to remember.

You can contact me via my work email at arty.hume@northumberland.gov.uk or by phone on 07889 143949. Emails are preferred, as they are forwarded to NCC and ensure a response – your details are required for this process.

For everyday enquiries such as potholes, please use Fix My Street, (yes, I know, but we were told it has been improved) which is NCC’s preferred reporting method. For housing issues, please use Home Finder (see above). We were informed at the last council meeting that both systems are currently being updated to improve efficiency. However, if you experience any problems, please let me know and I will try to resolve the matter.

I would also encourage residents to check the Amble Town Council Facebook updates. I will be working closely with Luke and Jenny to try to secure cameras to address ASB issues in our area.

That’s it for now. Hopefully, I will see you at the upcoming surgery on Valentine’s Day.

All the best for the New Year from Pauline and myself.

Cllr Arty Hume

Looking Back at the Festive Season

Amble enthusiastically embraced Christmas, hosting a variety of events such as Christmas Fayres, carol concerts, and church services. The town truly entered into the festive spirit, but now life is returning to normal.

Recognition for Community Service

The Amble Development Trust is a proud recipient of The King’s Award for service to the Amble residents. This prestigious honour reflects the hard work and dedication shown by everyone in the Trust making the award truly well deserved.

Information from Police

You can report non-emergency crime, share information about something you have seen or heard, or get information and advice by sending Northumberland Police a direct message on Facebook, X or Instagram.

If you would rather not use social media, you can also speak to a member of their team via Live Chat on their Website, or contact them using the Online Reporting Form. For more information about the digital reporting options available to you, visit: <https://www.northumbria.police.uk/digital-contact/>

In an emergency, always call 999.

Dentistry in Northumberland

Most of us are aware that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain an NHS dental appointment, especially with the growing number of housing developments in our area.

Help is at hand. The dental strategy for 2026–27 aims to increase access to urgent care. There are now centres in Alnwick, Blyth and Hexham, and residents can ring 111 to book an appointment. Additionally, there are plans to expand the network of Urgent Dental Access Centres across the region.

Pharmacy First

Sometimes it can be challenging to get a GP appointment, particularly during the winter months when colds and flu are common. Pharmacy First provides residents with the opportunity to receive advice, help, and treatment.

In addition to colds and flu, common ailments such as earache, impetigo, insect bites, shingles, sinusitis, sore throat, and urinary tract infections are frequently treated through this service.

Cllr Pauline Davidson

Amble - Thinking of a new future?

Start your business with support from the Rural Design Centre.

Do you have a business idea but don’t know where to start? Do you want to move your passion from the dining table to the market place? We want to help you!

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

The programme is funded by the UK Government and brings together business support from across the region to provide expert advice, guidance

and opportunities to help your business idea or early-stage venture into a reality.

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’re on hand to help make it easier, with our specialist rural business advisors.

We offer a range of services, both in-person and online, to help you achieve your aims and make your new business succeed.

One-to-one support

Free, tailored and delivered within your community. Our rural start-up advisors

work in locations throughout Northumberland and the rural parts of Gateshead. If online appointments are more accessible, we offer those too.

Business planning

We’ll help you identify the needs of your customers and design the products and services that succeed. We’ll support the development of your ideas, considering what’s needed to make them a reality.

Financial support

We can help you examine your finances, to ensure your business will meet your financial needs and succeed in the future. If you need startup funding, we can help you access this.

E-learning

Access flexible, on-line business training; it’s packed with insights you can apply to your businesses straight away.

We can help you:

- Develop your ideas
- Write your business plan
- Access financial support
- Find new customers

To learn more please visit <https://www.ruraldesigncentre.com/business-enterprise-clinics> We will be in Amble Development Trust, Amble, from 10am to 11.30am on - Wednesday 4 February - Wednesday 4 March

We can’t wait to work with you!

*Charlotte Hope
Advisor, Rural Design Centre
See also p12*



Hello everyone, welcome back to Trust Life, and as I write this, lots of snow!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to a busy, happy and fruitful new year.

Sports Hall

The Business Case for the retention of the existing JCSC sports hall was completed and submitted within the timeframe NCC asked for, so now we wait to see what transpires and what their decision will be.

The submission was a very detailed piece of work outlining several options: how we could work with JCSC and NCC in partnership or independently and how each scenario could be worked, operated and funded.

We hope this will be more than a sports hall, but will also offer exhibition space, leisure and cultural activities, act as a music venue and offer support services.

The support of the Town Council has been heartening. Knowing they understand the



vision we are trying to achieve for the community and are willing to support us to reach that goal has been encouraging.

Their support is currently 'in principle' until we know the outcome and we are then able to provide them with more detailed information to allow them to make a formal decision regarding possible funding towards any renovations or equipment

required.

NCC haven't given a decision date so far, other than the date they needed to have the submission received.

Neighbourhood Planning

The steering group volunteers have had a break over Christmas with the next meeting scheduled for February. The timeframe being worked towards still stands so please keep a look

out for future community drop in sessions. The Town Council website also offers updates. It is your chance to have your say.

The King's Award

Following the announcement of the Trust being awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Organisations (KAVO) for its work with volunteers, a celebratory event was held on 15 December, where the Lord Lieutenant handed the Trust chair a scroll and an inscribed crystal (see photo and page 20).

These were accepted on behalf of all those who volunteer with the Trust and for all other organisations who depend on volunteers in the town to enable them to function and provide vital services. Many were invited and those who managed to come along enjoyed a light lunch and a glass of fizz. Once again we offer our thanks to you all.

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

co op

Cromie PHARMACY

NHS Providing NHS services

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

and treatments not routinely offered by the NHS
 To discuss any of our services in private, speak to a pharmacist

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



Amble Town

Town: 6pm in Council Office: 12 Feb, 12 March, 9 April, 14 May
Amenities: at 6pm in Council Office: 29 Jan, 26 March, 28 May

COUNCIL

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| EAST WARD: 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 | Tony Regan c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Tony.Regan@ amble.gov.uk | CEN. WARD: Michael Joyce c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Michael.Joyce@ amble.gov.uk | Kath MacColl c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Kath.Maccoll@ amble.gov.uk | Lee Osborne c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Lee.Osborne@ amble.gov.uk | 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 Luke.McTaggart@ amble.gov.uk | Claire Connolly c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT Tel: 01665714695 Claire.Connolly@ amble.gov.uk |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|

PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

We have recently met with key stakeholders addressing issues such as the NECA Child Poverty Action Plan, Northumberland County Council for Highways and Regeneration opportunities with Advance Northumberland, we are also working with Northumberland County Council on Active Travel corridors within the Town with the intention of increasing connectivity throughout and linking the Town Centre with the outlying areas of the town. We hope to continue these positive relationships into 2026 and beyond to create more opportunities and investment for Amble.

JCSC SPORTS HALL COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Town Council agreed to support the retention of the existing JCSC Sports Hall as a Community Asset Transfer between Northumberland County Council and Amble Development Trust subject to the outcome of a successful Community Asset Transfer decision by Northumberland County Council, and pending the receipt of the full Business Case and related data for scrutiny by Councillors, Amble Town Council resolved to grant Amble Development Trust up to £40,000 over 3 years to contribute towards the development and running costs of the current JCSC Sports Hall building as a Community Sports and Leisure Hub. We are awaiting the outcome of the decision from Northumberland County Council.

CONGRATULATIONS AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

We would like to extend our congratulations to Amble Development Trust for being awarded the Kings Award to Voluntary Service in December 2025. This award, the equivalent of an MBE for an organisation recognises the extensive work being done by committed volunteers for the betterment of the Amble community.

AMBLE WEST CEMETERY

After seeking advice from NAMM, weedkiller will no longer be used around the memorial headstones at Amble West Cemetery. These areas will now be strimmed. Unfortunately, this raises the possibility of damage to commemorative items and grass cuttings on the Memorial itself. Operatives will ensure to take every step to prevent this from happening.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There continues to be anti-social behaviour blighting the lives of residents in the Town, most recently vehicular anti-social behaviour. We are working closely with partners on these issues hoping to achieve a suitable resolution as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We will be soon working on new events for 2026. Watch this space for more information

Sign up to our mailing list here:

<https://amble.gov.uk/2025/07/sign-up-to-our-mailing-list/>



CHRISTMAS RECEPTION 2025

We were pleased to host the annual Christmas Reception this year at James Calvert Spence College. It was a pleasure to present three long serving former Town Councillors with certificates formally recognising them as Honorary Freeman of the Town. Thank you to Craig Weir, Helen Lewis and Kate Morrison for their combined 50 years of service to our local community.

Pictured above: Previous mayors, Robert Arckless, Audrey Jones, Helen Lewis and Craig Weir with current mayor Luke McTaggart

COUNCILLORS CORNER

Our thriving Amble community is built on the collective efforts of its people. Through quietly volunteering in a role such as a member of the Coastguard Search and Rescue team or the Amble Lifeboat, helping with a local sports team, Christmas lights, food bank, church, youth group or charity, you are contributing to our town. Even simple acts like picking up litter or clearing the snow and ice from outside your house fosters pride and unity in our community.

By quietly engaging in community projects and supporting local businesses, we strengthen the social fabric that binds our community together. These usually unsung efforts create a ripple effect, inspiring others to invest in the community too. Moreover, giving back to your town cultivates a sense of belonging.

If everyone here, for a couple of hours once a week, did something for our community without thought of self-promotion or personal gain, just think how great our town could be. Thank you for your contribution.

Cllr Ivor Rackham

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

The History of the "Night Hide" on Coquet Island

Up until the original automation of the lighthouse on Coquet Island in 1990, the bird wardens had lived in a two-roomed shed every summer from the 1970s. The limited facilities in the shed became second nature to island staff and volunteers who enjoyed the Robinson Crusoe lifestyle, feeling deeply connected with the seabirds around them.

It was possible to observe the nesting birds from the shed but there were no hides until an egg theft incident in 2007 changed everything. The wardens were off the island on their weekly shop when egg thieves struck and some rare roseate tern eggs were stolen.

The wardens and volunteers vowed to prevent that happening again. The immediate response was to build a temporary hide overlooking the nesting terraces. It was no more than a low scaffold tower covered in tarpaulin. Night shifts were organised, and a 24/7 system of guarding began. Night duties were cold with illumination (and a tiny bit of heat) being provided by a Tilley lamp.

Stephen Lunn, the local blacksmith artist, joined the



The Duke of Northumberland and RSPB wardens at the hide

team and built a sectional shed complete with a mini woodburning stove, seats and a tiny table. The circular windows were upgraded the following year with shutters on the windows and the flat roof modified with a circular Perspex dome, resembling a mini lighthouse. The use of Tilley lamps was now part of daily life as there was no electricity, not even in the quarters.

That hide lasted until

2016 when the island staff and volunteers pooled their ideas and it could now be used as a base for conducting night watches and reading bird rings, but also as a cosy base for the team to enjoy and relax during their breaks.

This unique new "night hide" was also built by Stephen, with funding from the EU Roseate Tern Project, and featured a stainless steel frame and roof, proper windows, seating and

a folding table that could be raised and lowered from the ceiling, an efficient mini wood-stove that had a hot plate and even a built-in boiler for making hot drinks.

It was fully dismantlable and built on a rotating base frame so the door could face away from prevailing winds. It was so well balanced that one person could turn it.

The hide became quite a feature on the island and the wardens jointly decided to paint a giant mural on one side, during their downtime, to celebrate the nesting successes of the birds under their care. The other side was adorned with artwork of puffins and terns, painted by the reserve student, Laura Morris.

The following year a solar panel and battery were fitted so lights provided illumination and a radio for listening to the weather forecasts.

It was always a joy to see all that creativity being focussed on enhancing the bird population that makes Coquet such a special place.

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

Amble and District Education Association

We offer a fascinating programme this term: from Turtles to Colliery Banners to Musical Memories to Diplomacy in Columbia. All talks are held in Amble Masonic Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10am until 12 midday. £5 per session or £30 for all eight sessions. Refreshments included.

- Feb 11: David Rowat - Turtles to Terrapins
 - Feb 18: Allan Sutherland - Northumberland Colliery Banners
 - Feb 25: Bartle Rippon - Amble's Railways
 - Mar 4: Luke McTaggart - Portrait of the Artist
 - Mar 11: Isabel Morrison - A Piano Journey
 - Mar 18: Ian Hume - Isambard Kingdom Brunel
 - Mar 25: Tony Regan - Columbia
 - April 1: Liz Finch - National Trust in Northumberland
- Her talk will be followed by our AGM, inc refreshments.
Find us on Facebook: Amble & District Education Association

Lent & Easter with the churches

Shrove Tuesday 17 February
10am Pancakes in Church - St Cuthbert's C/E
2pm Pancakes in Church - St John's Chevington C/E

Ash Wednesday 18 February
10am Holy Communion with ashing St Cuthbert's
10am Service Trinity Methodist Church
7pm Holy Communion with ashing St John's Chevington

LENT

from 25 February, Wednesdays in Lent 4.00pm Stations of the Cross lay-led Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert's R/C

Saturday 28 March 5pm Blessing of Palms in Church Hall and procession into Church Sacred Heart and Cuthbert's R/C

Thursday 2 April Maundy
Thursday No Mass in Amble 7pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper St Paul's Alnwick R/C
7pm Holy Communion Trinity
7pm Service St Cuthbert's C/E
7pm Service St John's Chevington

Good Friday 3 April
10.45am Good Friday witness in Town Square (coffee and hot cross buns to follow in Trinity Church)
11am Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert's R/C
2pm Service St Cuthbert's C/E "An hour at the Cross"
2pm Service St John's Chevington "An hour at the Cross"

EASTER

Easter Eve Saturday 4 April
7pm Service St Cuthbert's C/E
7pm (no Amble service) Easter Vigil at St Paul's Alnwick

Easter Day Sunday 5 April
6am Sunrise Service Little Shore followed with bacon butties.
9am Holy Communion St Cuthbert's C/E
10am Easter Celebration St Mark's URC (at Dry Water Arts Centre)
10.30am Holy Communion St John's Chevington
10.30am Holy Communion Trinity
12pm Mass of the Resurrection Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert's R/C

Hospice Care fundraiser events

North Northumberland Hospice Care fundraising events. An opportunity to help raise money for this important cause. More info including tickets via the following links.

Once Upon A Tea Time. Fancy dress afternoon tea at Linden Hall. Sat 14 Mar 12:00noon - 5:00pm <https://buytickets.at/hospicecarenorthnorthumberland/1993136>

Holy Island Hike. Sat 11 Apr 11:30am - 6:00 <https://buytickets.at/hospicecarenorthnorthumberland/1989420>

Choral Society concert

Gioachino Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle
Soloists: Claire Boulter (Soprano), Heather Jill Burns (Alto) Austin Gunn (Tenor), Paul Gibson (Bass) Conductor: Peter Brown,
Piano: Margaret Watchorn Harmonium: Linden Innes-Hopkins

Saturday 28 March 2026
St Michaels Church Alnwick 7.00pm
Admission £15.00 Students Free
Tickets online or at the door. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/alnwick-and-district-choral-society>

Amble Pin Cushion workshops

Friday 6 Feb 1.30pm - 3.30pm £30
Beginners Knitting next steps - Cowl

Saturday 7 Feb 10.30am - 3.30pm
£70 Experienced Knitters - Double Faced Double Knitting

Thursday 19 Feb, 19 Mar, 16 April
1.30pm - 3.30pm £5 Craft and Chatter (Drop-in crafting group)

Saturday 21 Feb 10.15am - 12.45pm £35 Make a Lampshade

Thursday 26 Feb 10.30am - 12.30pm £28 Crochet for Beginners / Improvers Scarf or Cowl

Friday 6 March 10.30am - 12 mid-day £25 Knitting for Improvers - project TBC

Amble Youth Project

A very Happy New Year to you all!

We warmly encourage everyone to come along, enjoy, and benefit from what's on offer at Amble Youth Project even if you haven't been for some time.

Activities are weekly during term time, with additional school holiday events, and some new projects running throughout the year. Please visit our website at www.ambleyouthproject.org. If you are on Facebook or Instagram, follow us there to see our latest updates. Below is a brief outline of what's coming up.

Weekly Term Time Activities

For Children Aged 8-12

Mondays - S.A.U.C.E 18:00 - 19:30 Parish Hall, Dovecote St
An open space for energetic and fun games.

Thursdays - NEW! Discovery Zone Club (Grow & Connect) after school until 17:30 AYP, Dilston Terrace

For School Year Groups 8-11

Mondays THE BASE Drop-in, after school until 17:00 AYP, Dilston Terrace

Young People with additional learning needs

Tuesdays - S.A.G - Social Action Group.

We do manage the introduction of new young people carefully, so please contact us if you would like to know more about this session. Coming soon.....

12-15-year-olds

Keep an eye out for news on a new Saturday drop-in, as well as a new session for children with additional needs.

Programmes

Young Leaders Programme (Aged 13-18) Started in late January, please contact us for more information if you are interested

School Holiday Programme (Ages 8-16 years)

We are currently planning an exciting programme of activities for the Easter holidays and intend to offer an extensive Summer Holiday Programme as well.

We are grateful for the funding received from the Local Authorities Holiday Activities and Food Programme, but we do require additional support to ensure that everyone who wishes to participate can join in the fun. We hope to bring you more information soon.

Projects

Allotment - And a Lot More!

A chance to build skills in landscaping, construction, gardening, and simply enjoying the benefits of being outdoors and hands-on activities.

Unpalletable - A project to turn old pallets into usable masterpieces.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Lara Young (CEO) and The Amble Youth Project Team

Saturday 21 March 10.30am - 3.30pm £60 Make a Bow Fascinator

Thursday 26 March 10.30am - 12.30pm £30 Granny Squares Crochet

Saturday 25 April 10.30am - 3.30pm £60 Fair Isle Knitting Workshop

To book your place, please pay your deposit either in the shop or via the website <https://amblepincushion.co.uk/product-category/workshops/>

Amble Pin Cushion
20-22 Queen Street, Amble, info@amblepincushion.co.uk

Warkworth concerts

Concerts have been planned for much of 2026 with details available on the Hall's web site at www.wwmh.uk.

Our first concert of the year is on Friday the 27th February when 'Squabble' will be providing a mixture of Jazz and Blues along with a sprinkling of funk. This trio consists of Steve Chambers on Hammond Organ, Paul Wight on drums and Jude Murphy on vocals and bass. The Hammond Organ has had a lasting influence across musical genres. Come and hear it in full swing with music, song and perhaps a tale or two along the way.

We currently have no concert planned for March, but you might want to book early for

an evening with the Gambling Janes on Friday the 10th April. Jacqui Wicks, Jude Murphy and Sarah Gray have combined forces to bring you songs of hardship and heartbreak with more than a smile or two along the way. Expect a mix of Bessie Smith and Edith Piaf, with a hint of western swing. You might recognise Sarah as the vivacious leader of Amble's Harbour Lights choir.

Tickets (£10) for either concert should be pre-booked, for payment on the door. Doors and bar open at 19:00 for a 19:30 start. For further details and to book tickets contact Peter Burnham, preferably by email to peter.burnham@gmail.com. Alternatively telephone him on 01665 711388.

Lifeboat fundraisers coffee mornings

2026 Coffee Mornings upstairs in the Lifeboat Station 10am to 1pm

Sunday 15 February, Sunday 15 March
Easter Coffee Morning
Sundays 19 April, 17 May, 21

June, 19 July.
Follow us on FB Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers and RNLI-Amble Lifeboat Station

See also letters p9

Womens Institute

Firstly, on behalf of all our ladies can I wish you a happy and healthy 2026.

We had our usual busy time leading up to Christmas, a Carol service at Newcastle Cathedral, a craft evening, party and lovely meal out.

This month we welcome back a very popular local speaker, Barry Mead, who as some of you may be aware was recognised, very

rightly, in the New Year Honours List.

February's meeting will include a police puppy dog trainer. Along with this we are planning various activities and events for the future.

We meet on the second Monday of every month, 7pm at The Dovecote Centre, and warmly welcome visitors.

Clare O'Brien

Greener Amble Network

We are a community volunteer-led group that shares concerns for our Environment, Biodiversity, Nature and Sustainability.

The Network provides a place to find out what's going on locally, share knowledge, information, opportunities and speak up together on issues.

We meet monthly on a Wednesday 6.45 pm for 7pm until 8.45 pm. Our next meetings are on February 11 and March 11 at Amble Youth Project, Dilston Terrace.

For more information about the group and future dates, contact sue.greeneramble@gmail.com

Police pop-in events

Amble Neighbourhood Policing Team: Partnership pop-in events are on 26 January, 30 March, 18 May, 13 July, 7 September and 2 November from 3pm - 6pm. At Amble Library, Middleton Street. Come and have an informal chat with your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and Local Councillors.

Compassion shouldn't cost extra

We don't charge extra to say goodbye to your loved one.
Nor do we limit the number of visits – you get as much time
and space as you need.

We're here to help make a difficult time a little easier.

CALL US

01665 712 277

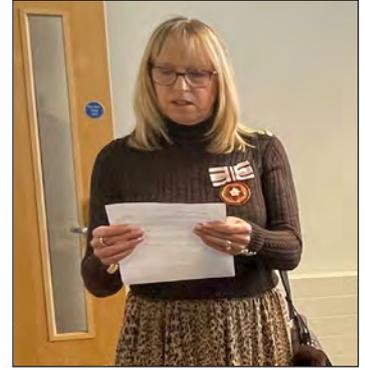
williampurves.co.uk/amble

PWILLIAM
PURVES EST. 1888
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
INCORPORATING ALISTAIR TURNER

Presentation of King's Award to Amble Development Trust



l-r: ADT Vice chair Mady Bond, Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland Dr Caroline Pryer, ADT chair Paul Rigby, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Janette Milburn, ADT Director Julia Aston



The Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland presented Amble Development Trust with the King's Award in December. The prestigious award is the equivalent of an MBE for organisations, and is given in recognition of all the volunteers who have given their time and efforts - to the board of Amble Development Trust, and their community projects - over the last 31 years.

Chair of Amble Development Trust Paul Rigby told *The Ambler*, "It is wonderful that the Amble Development Trust has been recognised at the

highest level. The award truly is a credit to all the volunteers and supporters of the Trust who do so much for the benefit of Amble.

"After the presentation, we had a great party to start off the Christmas season. Caroline Pryer as representative to his Royal Highness, the King was immensely impressed by Amble's community spirit. Dr Pryer chatted with guests, Trust representatives and volunteers, hearing past stories and anecdotes while viewing archive photos and videos. It was a memorable afternoon for all involved."



Julia Aston, Paul Rigby of Amble Development Trust, with the Lord Lieutenant Dr Caroline Pryer and Amble Mayor Luke McTaggart; Artograffi youngsters were invited for their contribution to volunteering with *The Ambler*. Below: volunteers and community representatives were invited to the presentation event. *Photos: Anna Williams, Lindsey Edwards*

