



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 157 April/May 2026

Now it's our tern!



Amble's Town of Culture bid
Why four local parishes have put in
a joint bid to be the UK's Town of
Culture 2028.

Page 2

Going for it: Amble bids for Town of Culture 2028



Luke McTaggart (Amble), Ann Burke (Warkworth), Steven Golding (Hauxley), representing three of the four parishes in the bid

Amble, Warkworth, Acklington and Hauxley have joined forces to bid for the UK's first Town of Culture award.

Amble is one of the smallest to enter the competition, which is open to small, medium and large towns throughout the country. Over 230 towns have so far registered an interest.

The winner and runners up will deliver a vibrant cultural programme via arts, performances and workshops, aiming to encourage investment and develop a sense of pride in the area.

The winner will be announced early in 2027. The overall award winner will receive £3m, while two runners up will receive £250,000 each.

The bid was put together by Amble Development

Trust, Amble Town Council, Warkworth Parish Council, Acklington Parish Council and Hauxley Parish Council.

Amble Mayor Luke McTaggart said: "It's a real privilege to be representing the town at this special time for us, doubly so as I actually work in the arts myself! Both as an artist and as a curator and co-director of Dovecote Street Arts, organising different exhibitions and events.

What do you say to those who think Amble is a bit small to bid for a prestigious award like this?

"I've been born and bred in this town and know how special it is. We've got a resourcefulness and pragmatism that comes from facing the challenges presented by a decline in industry, as well

as a warmth and generosity that binds our community together. I think being one of the smaller towns' bidding puts us at an advantage - everyone loves an underdog and I think we've got exactly the kind of story DCMS are looking for."

What does Amble have that the judges are looking for?

"The competition is all about our story, so we're keen to take audiences on a journey from our bronze age beginnings, through our industrial past, to the vibrant, creative seaside destination we are today!

"Crucially though, we're not doing it alone and we've joined forces with our neighbouring parishes, Warkworth, Acklington and Hauxley, using the common thread of the stunning River Coquet to share the diverse

culture and heritage unique to our part of the region."

If Amble won, what would we see happen?

"We've got an exciting range of projects and a dynamic and engaging programme planned if we were to win the competition. The community would be front and centre in this and we'd work with them to really make sure everyone's voices are included.

We know how reliant the local economy is on tourism and winning Town of Culture would allow us to really broaden our events offering and drive town centre footfall to support local businesses. But crucially also, the prize could be used to leverage and unlock additional investment to tackle other issues across the town."

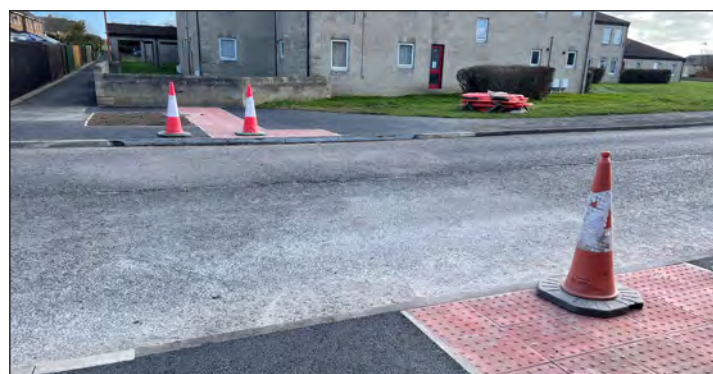
Anna Williams

Dropped kerbs removed, Zebra crossing still waiting for stripes

Pedestrians should take care as dropped kerbs have been taken out while a raised zebra crossing is constructed on Percy Drive.

Pavements have already been adapted, which has seen the dropped kerbs removed ready to align with the raised crossing. The Ambler understands the rest of the work will take place later in April. This will necessitate the closure of the road on 18 April between 8am and 5pm.

A spokesperson for Northumberland County Council (NCC) said:



"NCC is putting a zebra crossing in at the current uncontrolled crossing point on Percy Drive.

Our highways team carried out a survey which found that a zebra crossing is justified on safety grounds due to the

numbers already crossing here, including school children.

"We have taken the opportunity to put the zebra crossing on a raised table which will reduce traffic speeds following reports of speeding in the area."

The need for a controlled crossing across Percy Drive, one of the main arterial routes into Amble, has been mooted for several years. The idea was discussed by county councillors as far back as 2021, a safety audit took place in 2023 and a start date was expected in 2024.

Amble fish proves otterly irresistible



'Larry Otter' helps himself to another fish. Image Amble Boat Trips

A cheeky thief has taken to helping himself to an Amble fish supper - directly from the boat.

Fisherman Kevin Henderson noticed that bait boxes on his boat were being moved in the night. Perplexed, he bought a camera to see what was going on.

Kevin told *The Amble*: "It started about the first week in November, I put the bait on board in the afternoon ready

for going down at 4am the following morning. I noticed the boxes had been moved. It kept happening and I thought it might be rodents, but it would have to be a very big one to move boxes that size. So I got a camera and when I saw it was an otter, I was over the moon."

Kevin runs Amble Boat Trips and has put the video footage of 'Larry Otter' on his Facebook page. On one occasion the otter was followed by a heron, striding

around checking out the deck.

Resourceful Larry Otter finds Kevin's boat *Natalie Kristen II* wherever it's moored - whether it's the harbour or the Marina.

"He knows where we are!" laughed Kevin. "He's a great attraction. We went away for a week and when we got back there he was back on board sitting eating, crunching away. Those fish are bony. If he's not careful he'll need a dentist!"

Anna Williams

Road surfacing work finally agreed

Housebuilder Permission and Northumberland County Council, have agreed to begin works in and around their Hauxley Grange development in Amble. This has been welcomed by the Mayor and Amble Town Council.

A spokesperson for Persimmon said "On the development itself, new trees and shrubs have recently been planted with further seeding due to take place in the spring. Play equipment will then be installed on the development this summer. Work over the winter months was impacted by the unprecedented rainfall."



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New community defibrillator installed at Amble RNLI

A new public access cardiac defibrillator has been installed outside Amble RNLI lifeboat station, to provide essential lifesaving treatment to anyone who suffers a heart attack.

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been fitted in a highly visible protective cabinet outside the front of the station on the quayside. It can be used by anyone, without the need for any specialist training, as any rescuer

will be guided through what to do by the voice commands and display panel on the defibrillator.

The Amble unit has been funded thanks to the Stephen Carey Fund and the efforts of Northumbrian Water's wastewater ops team.

Amble RNLI's volunteer Lifeboat Operations Manager, John Wingfield said: "This will be an important lifesaving asset for the Amble waterfront and we'd like to thank all those who have helped to raise funds."



A new defibrillator has been installed outside Amble RNLI station

Little Shore shortlisted for official bathing water status

News that Amble's Little Shore has been shortlisted as an officially designated bathing spot has been welcomed by campaigners as 'absolutely fantastic'.

The Little Shore is one of thirteen new sites across the country to be considered for official bathing water status, and the only one in the North East.

Julia Chambers, one of the campaigners to get the popular Amble beach officially designated as a bathing site told *The Ambler* the news was "absolutely fantastic."

The government is proposing to increase the number of officially designated bathing sites, and has drawn up the shortlist from submissions by locals which were put forward last year. Now there is a six-week public consultation for those involved, and Julia encouraged everyone to take part.

The 13 proposed new sites on the government's list include beaches, rivers and coastal waters that are already popular with swimmers, reflecting growing public interest in outdoor swimming and connecting with local blue spaces.

North Northumberland MP David Smith told *The Ambler*, "I'm absolutely delighted to see Amble's Little Shore included in these new proposals for bathing water designation. For too long, communities like ours have had to put up with poor water quality and a lack of meaningful action. This proposal marks a real step forward - one that recognises the hard work, passion, and determination that local people have shown in fighting for cleaner, safer water.

"Achieving designated



A campaign to designate the Little Shore as an official bathing site has been gathering momentum. Photos by Jim Donnelly

bathing water status would mean regular Environment Agency testing, clear public information, and real accountability. It would give families and swimmers the confidence they deserve when enjoying one of our most loved family spots, and it would help ensure that any problems are identified and acted upon quickly.

Julia thanked everyone who had helped the campaigners get this far. "It was really wonderful

to work along with so many groups in the community to help bring this about. From the Harbour Commission to the Town Council, Women's Institute to Swimmers, Rotary to business people who aren't shy with their opinions and others who are quietly resolute. All brought energy and thoughts to getting this done."

She added, "Bathing water status is the best protection we can get for our river and it has

been a real pleasure to be part of that."

Amble's campaign

In Amble, a campaign was launched by local swimmers, water users, and Coquet River Action Group (CRAG) a group of citizen science volunteers.

If the Little Shore is granted bathing water status, then the Environment Agency is required to assess the water quality and investigate sources of pollution and recommend measures to improve water quality.

The Local Authority must put up signs during the bathing season providing information about the quality of the water if there is a pollution incident, and warn the public about sources of pollution. Designated Bathing Waters are regularly tested for water quality throughout the bathing season (15 May – 30 September).

Other sites under consultation include Newton and Noss Creeks, Devon, Canvey Island Foreshore, Essex, Sandgate Granville Parade Beach, Kent, Queen Elizabeth Gardens Salisbury, Wiltshire, one of Salisbury's most cherished parks opened in the early 1960s to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, East Beach at West Bay, Bridport, Dorset, Pangbourne Meadow, Berkshire, a meadow and river in the area that inspired *The Wind in the Willows*. River Fowey in Lostwithiel, Cornwall, River Swale in Richmond, Yorkshire, Falcon Meadow, Bungay, Suffolk, River Thames at Ham and Kingston, Greater London, New Brighton Beach (East), Merseyside, River Dee at Sandy Lane, Chester, Cheshire.



Double gold for the iconic Mad Jam Woman



This year Amble's own Sandy Higson, aka The Mad Jam Woman, won the most prestigious Double Gold Award at the 2026 Artisan World Marmalade Awards.

The Double Gold was awarded for her Lemon, Lime and Grapefruit Marmalade with Samphire, Chilli, Ginger and Cumin.

The marmalade was enjoyed for its originality and flavour, impressing all the judges. Sandy also won two silver awards, two bronze awards and one merit for her other entries.

Sandy said "It is exciting to have won this award against such strong competition from all over the world. We have been making our marmalade for years and it

is a great thrill to be recognised among such a strong field."

She told us it was her goal to achieve this status from the very start of entering the competition.

I asked how she came up with the winning formula. Sandy said "You have to be creative, you cannot enter the same marmalade more than once. It was a very time-consuming experiment. I tried to use ingredients that were readily available."

Sandy has been making preserves since the mid 1990s when she began her business from a small upstairs flat in Rothbury. Her first ever entry to the Marmalade Awards was in the home-made class, around 2012.

This year, the Marmalade Awards received over 3400 entries from more than 33 countries.

Beatrice Hasell-McCosh, Director of the Awards said "It is an exciting moment coming to judge the Artisan marmalades every year which are often packed full of innovation and individuality. Every jar is judged

completely blind by our panel with many jars being passed around the tables to be judged as a group. All the award winners make it look very easy to achieve something which we as judges know is very hard to do".

She added, "I know that The Mad Jam Woman will have huge success with her marmalade which was rightly acknowledged as being exceptional."

The Artisan Gold and Double Gold award winners have the opportunity to take part in a workshop and receive their awards at a Presentation Ceremony on Friday 24 April. Dalemmain will stock Gold and Double Gold marmalades in their World Marmalade Shop at Dalemmain. They will be available to taste and buy.

Sandy's marmalade is available from The Fourways, Amble NE650DR TEL; 07766856780/01665 711044 and online. It can also be purchased at Turnbull's of Alnwick and many places around Northumberland.

Vivienne Dalgliesh

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#156 - 5 Jan #159 - 3 Jul
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#158 - 8 May #161 - 6 Nov

WHAT YOU SAY...

Children's charity says thanks

A new group, HD Kidz has been awarded funding to support children with hidden differences, including autism, ADHD, fetal alcohol spectrum conditions, and acquired brain injury. The group gives support by providing fun activities for children, and free training workshops for parents.

Thanks to this funding, we have been able to deliver a range of activities, such as free days

at Lilidorei and Puffin Cruises, giving them opportunities to build confidence, friendships, and skills in an understanding environment. Families have told us how valuable it has been to have safe, inclusive activities that understand their children's needs.

A series of free training and support workshops for parents and carers, such as Makaton, and EHCP are now being

prepared.

If as a parent or carer you feel you could benefit from these workshops, or if you support a child with a hidden difference and would like to get involved, please get in touch.

For more information or to register your interest in the workshops, please contact us at: info@hdkidz.org
Saphire Took
www.hdkidz.org

A poem to remember Maureen Bird

My partner's mum Maureen Bird had lived up in Amble for over 25 years. She passed away last September and we were looking for a poem relating to beaches (she loved walking the dog on the beach) and the sea, that we could include in the funeral service.

We couldn't find an appropriate one, so I asked my

partner Nicky where her Mum used to like to go and what she liked to do and I decided to write one myself especially for her.

Nicky read it out at the funeral and since then some of the people that came have been in similar circumstances with relatives and asked to use it as a remembrance eulogy of a life

lived up in the north especially up around the Amble area.

Maureen loved to read the Ambler and I thought it may be a nice thing to put it in the paper for other people to have a look at and use as they see fit if they wanted to. Please have a read and see what you think.

Paul Shepherd via email

The Beach

Take a walk with me, to be by the coast,
Sandpipers and swallows can be our host,
Low Hauxley, Boulmer and Warkworth beach,
Sea glass treasure, within our reach.

White horses breaking over golden grains,
Feel the sky and the wind running through our veins,
Amble, Beadnell, Howick and Craster,
How fast can you run? well I can run faster

Pebbles and shells beneath our feet
Walking the dog, I wonder who we'll meet?
The ocean breathes..... it's Vast,
There's plenty of time to think about our past

Lifeboats, lifelong loves and friends,
Walks over the sand dunes, that never seem
to end.
Memories of blue skies, smiles and tears
Can't believe we made it through all these
years

Time to go back from where we came
Say goodbye and we'll meet again.
Just this last time, come and take my hand,
And let's see the universe, in a grain of sand

Paul Shepherd 2025

Feeling boxed in

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the planning application for the proposed Togston Farm East Holiday Park (26/00741/FUL), on the outskirts of Amble.

The scale and nature of the development are in my opinion inappropriate for open countryside and risk harming local landscape character, views, and wildlife.

Tourist accommodation in the area has expanded significantly, placing pressure on local communities, infrastructure, and the wider environment.

No evidence has been provided to show a need for additional static caravans, especially when many existing sites operate below capacity.

Traffic and highway safety impacts are also a major issue. The junction serving the site is already dangerous, and increased vehicle movements would add further strain to the A1068 and nearby roads, worsening congestion through Amble, Togston, Radcliffe, and Hauxley.

Consultation has been limited due to the site's location, and the proposal raises broader concerns about

similar development extending further into open countryside around Amble, including areas unsuitable for housing.

While I understand that tourism is vital for the local economy, there must be appropriate balance, otherwise our community risks becoming over-pressured and seasonally unsustainable, characterised by long periods of low occupancy.

A concerned resident, feeling boxed in!

Name supplied
via email

Bank hub open on Queen Street



Hub manager Jonathan Philips, MP David Smith and customer Reg Bond from Amble Christmas Lights

Amble's bank hub has relocated to the former TSB building on Queen Street. Since the closure of the last bank in the town in 2025, there has been a banking hub service at the Dovecote Centre. Now, however, the hub has moved to the main shopping street.

It was officially opened by MP David Smith on 13 March. David said the loss of individual banks in local communities was concerning. It was for that reason, he said, he was a big fan of the banking hub system and was keen for it to be rolled out in other towns.

The Amble hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and offers a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major

banks can carry out regular cash transactions.

A community banker service is also available where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues on allocated days:

Mon – Lloyds, Tue – NatWest
Wed – Barclays, Thu – Halifax
Fri – TSB

At the banking hub, customers can withdraw and deposit cash (notes and coin), deposit cheques, pay utility bills, check account balances and registered business customers can collect change.

Bank hub manager Jonathan Philips told The Ambler they had been really busy since opening on the street, with lots of people popping in to see what services they offered.

How to contact the food bank

Amble Food Bank (AFB) became a registered charity in October 2021 (Registered Charity Number 1196268). It is also now registered with HMRC and donors are able to Gift Aid their donations. It has its base at Trinity Methodist Church on Percy Street, Amble.

AFB is run by a group of 20 volunteers, five of whom are trustees. Clients live in the Amble, Warkworth and Hadston areas and receive a food parcel on a fortnightly basis.

Deliveries go out every Tuesday and Thursday morning, 51 weeks a year.

Members of the public can donate food items at Amble Tesco Express and Hadston Co-op. Or they can purchase a pick-up bag from Amble Morrison's.

There are collection tins at the Farm Bakery, the Boat Shed

Gallery, Amble Pin Cushion and the Farm Shop at HMP Northumberland. The latter also donates fresh produce that has not sold in their shop. Local schools, W.I.s and churches also regularly collect food items that they donate to AFB.

Clients can be referred through a number of channels, including NCC, a GP, social worker, health visitor or school, or can self-refer.

Clients are requested to acquire an official referral after receipt of their initial emergency food parcel. Their referral will be reviewed every three months.

Anyone who would like further information should contact: Lynne Morelli (Amble Food Bank Secretary and Trustee) amblefb@gmail.com / Mob: 07922 739892 / Facebook: 'Amble Food Bank'

Protect nesting ringed plovers

Lengthening days and rising temperatures - it must be the start of the nesting season! Along the Northumberland coast, small shorebirds called ringed plover are returning to nest on sandy and shingle beaches and they need your help!

Ringed plovers are ground nesting birds, and they lay their well-camouflaged eggs directly onto the sand in a nest called a scrape, relying on blending in with their surroundings to stay hidden from predators such as crows and kestrels.

As well as predators taking eggs and chicks, ringed plovers face other challenges including human disturbance causing nesting areas to be abandoned and high tides washing away eggs.

We are looking for volunteers to help give these vulnerable birds a helping hand to raise their families!

The great news is that no previous experience is required as we provide all of the training and resources you will need.

There are a number of ways in which you can get involved, including spending time at some beautiful beaches along the coast to look for potential nesting sites, protecting ringed plover chicks as they take their first steps out onto the shore, and reviewing video clips from cameras set up on nests along the coast to look for any suspicious predator activity.

If you would like to get involved, please send us an email at spaceforshorebirds@northumberland.gov.uk or get in touch via our website - www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk - and we'll provide you with all of the details and dates for upcoming training.

Let's give our ringed plovers the best possible chance at raising their families successfully this year!

Space for Shorebirds



ED: The Space for Shorebirds team will be at the Puffin Festival (see back page)

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Remembering Peter Proctor-Cannon

24/12/1946 to 7/3/2026



Peter didn't want all the talk about his life at a funeral hence direct cremation, as he

put it those who need to know, know.

When asked at the Registrars what was he retired from - boilerman at the prison - my face must have said it all. They said 'well you can choose any job he did, was there a job he particularly loved?'

Paul, our nephew said "being a veteran" - not a job, but we agreed on Lance Corporal, British Army (retired), a job he left in 1979, but that made him a veteran and it's something that was so important to him.

Even on holidays he would carry poppies and poppy crosses

just in case.

When our War Memorial needed repaired, what could he do? He could stand and talk, so that's what he did at weekends and bank holidays a self styled "guardian of the bucket", thanking all for their generosity. He was occasionally accompanied by other veterans and even a Chelsea Pensioner came up from London to help.

He was also proud to be part of the 11 November gathering at the Clock Tower, and slowly with the participation of Brambles, Amble Links and King Edwin schools this became known as

"The Children's Service". He loved that these young people made their own tributes, took part even in the cold and wet and asked questions. Last year unable to organise it himself he was pleased to see Bartle Rippon successfully take it on and to know it will continue into the future in safe hands.

Thank you to all who have been part of Peter's life, especially as a Veteran and the two events mentioned. Peter's Regimental Motto: Merebimur: We Shall be worthy: He was and you are.

Ruth Proctor-Cannon

Coble Quay walkway now dependent on 'complex' land deal

Work to reopen the public walkway on Coble Quay is now dependent on finalising a land deal with Amble Marina, The Ambler has learned.

At the end of last summer, news emerged that negotiations by Northumberland County Council (NCC) to repair the walkway had progressed, but the project's scope now included work on a car park currently owned by Amble Marina.

At the time, NCC said they hoped that all the work would be complete to allow the walkway to open in the spring. However it appears the timeline has been pushed back once again.

Land investigations and legal work to transfer part of the Turner Street car park to Amble Marina, are in progress, before repair work on the walkway can go ahead.

The Ambler understands that NCC is also negotiating a 99 year lease on all sections of the walkway land with the landowners, which would enable the public to access the area once again.

A spokesperson for the NCC told The Ambler:

"The Council is continuing to progress negotiations with Amble Marina Ltd and we have recently carried out ground investigation works at Turner Street to help us better understand the ground conditions as part of a land deal negotiation taking place. This has entailed specialist contractors digging several narrow trial holes and drilling boreholes to take soil samples.



A complex land deal between NCC and Amble Marina needs to be finalised before work on the walkway can commence

"The information collected is currently being analysed to help the Council understand what the ground conditions are at the site to ensure valuations are appropriate as part of due diligence arrangements to help finalise the land deal.

"The proposed land deal is complex and entails NCC taking ownership of land from Amble Marina formerly used for car parking so that it can be brought back into use as a public car park, transferring part of NCC's

existing car park at Turner Street to the Marina to improve the shape/operational functionality of their boat yard and concluding legal agreements to enable the Coble Quay walkway to be repaired and reopened to the public."

The spokesperson continued, "Subject to the outcome of the ground investigation works, we will conclude the land deal and associated legal documentation with Amble Marina. Once the legal documentation 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 whilst there has been a slight delay in undertaking the ground investigation works at this stage we anticipate it being reopened by late spring/early summer 2026."

Investigations by The Ambler showed that the closed section of the Coble Quay walkway is owned by Amble Marina. After an £87,000 government-funded makeover of the area in 2016 as part of the creation of the Harbour Village, a 20 year lease on the walkway land was taken out by NCC to allow public access along Coble Quay. However in 2021 Amble Marina closed the walkway, citing damage to the railings.

Anna Williams



The walkway has been closed to the public for five years

Hugh's views: Helping nature



Great tit. Photo Hugh Tindle

Over the last year or so nature has taken a bit of a battering in Amble. New housing developments continue to reduce the bio-diversity at both ends of the town and one in particular has obliterated a huge amount of plant life in a very sensitive area at Braid Hill.

The loss of such a large green space so close to the river feels like a lost opportunity to protect and encourage nature in Amble.

However, the overall picture is perhaps not quite as bleak as it might at first seem. There are two projects in Amble which

could have a very positive effect on nature in Amble.

The Amble Youth Project has taken on a double allotment at the Percy Drive site and is already making great strides in clearing the site and preparing it for gardening projects. The project will include the development of a wildlife area as well as providing an opportunity to acquire a variety of horticultural skills.

Approximately forty people have also expressed an interest in helping to create a community garden beside the Amble Library in Middleton Street. The project hopes to encourage nature as well as creating an area appealing to people as well.

For my own part I have recently installed a couple of nestboxes at the allotment that I took on last April. I have noticed a number of common garden birds which are present at different times of the year. So towards the

end of February I placed a box for small hole nesters such as blue and great tits in a quiet corner. It was attached to a dead branch which I had kept to one side for such a purpose.

The second box which has a half open front and is suitable for either a wren or a robin has been placed inside a very rustic store shed where it will be safe from the predatory magpies, jackdaws and carrion crows which also inhabit the allotment area but where it can still be accessed safely through several gaps on all sides of the shed.

Nature has a way of trying to adapt to whatever obstacles we put in its way and usually responds positively to any help it receives. Placing a few nestboxes, bug hotels or simple water features in places where previously there were none could help to support the remaining wildlife of Amble.

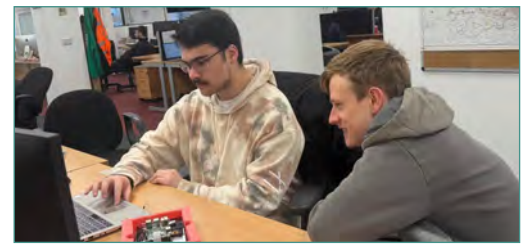
Hugh Tindle

JCSC students' T-Level success

Evan Falkous, 19, from Amble and Liam Murphy, 18, from Widdrington, both students at James Calvert Spence College successfully completed their T-Level industrial placements with local broadband experts Alncom, gaining invaluable real-world experience in the telecommunications and digital infrastructure industry.

Evan and Liam covered practical skills including IT support, software development, and system configuration, providing a strong foundation for their future careers.

Evan particularly enjoyed working with Alncom's CCTV systems, gaining hands-on experience in installation and configuration, while Liam found his passion in coding, contributing to the company's clocking in and out facility. Both students demonstrated initiative, creativity, and a strong work ethic throughout their placements.



Chris Philips, Head of the IT Department at Alncom, said; "Looking ahead, both students have ambitious plans for their future. Evan hopes to use his experience to pursue a career in the police, specialising in cybercrime, while Liam plans to study at Northumbria University and work in cyber security."

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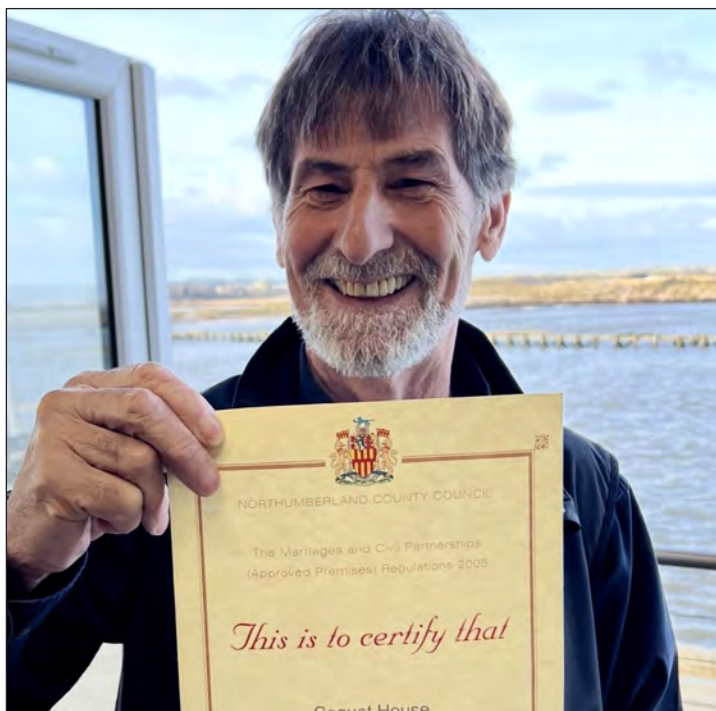
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Maurice Burnett

The Chairman and long-standing member of Warkworth Harbour Commission has retired after 33 years of service.

Maurice Burnett joined the Harbour Authority in August 1992 as a commissioner and by September of 1994 he had taken on the role of Chairman which he has held ever since.

There have been many changes over the years of Mr.

Burnett's chairmanship, both to the infrastructure of the harbour and the transformation from the ex-coal exporting port, to a vibrant tourist destination.

The first completed project came in the late 90s and into the year 2000, which saw major improvements to the quay and restoration of the South Pier, which was completely transformed into a lovely walking route for public enjoyment.

Chairman retires after 33 years of service

In 2001, an agreement was secured with the RNLI for a new boat house and dock, which freed up the old lifeboat house as a commercial opportunity, now the Old Boat House restaurant.

Other significant changes soon followed, including improvements to Coble Quay which paved the way for the Harbour Village, a series of varied and exciting retail units that has become a hub for visitors and locals.

The incoming chairman, Robert Booth said "Maurice Burnett's legacy for the port has been enormous, and over the years of his tenure he has overseen the transformation of what was a harbour scarred from past industry, to a thriving, exciting place to live and visit."

Mr. Booth added "Amble harbour is a trust port and operates as a charity, so all income generated by its diverse activities is ploughed back into the port.

"This in turn helps support the traditional fishing industry with infrastructure such as the ice plant, quayside davits and improved storage units".

During his time at the harbour, there have been major obstacles to overcome. A

storm in 2008 caused a partial collapse of the Broomhill Quay wall, along with damage to the fuel-oil store. The recovery and enhancement work that took place over the following five years paved the way for a new vision for the harbour's future development, which saw the building of a new harbour office, Coquet House, which incorporates retail units and complements the other popular shops and eating places along the quays. Even beach huts were built along the Little Shore, adding to the image of a new thriving harbour and popular marina.

In summary, Robert Booth said "The renaissance of the harbour has been a huge achievement to be proud of, and it's a sad day to see Maurice Burnett step down as a Chairman and Commissioner.

"However, there can be no doubt that the Harbour is a much better place from having Maurice at the helm for so long both from a business financial point of view and most definitely aesthetics point of view. This is credit to the dedication and time he gave over the years, for which the staff and commissioners are truly grateful"

Not just any port in a storm

The start of this year saw Robert Booth take over as Chairman of Warkworth Harbour Commissioners from Maurice Burnett. Maurice has had a fantastic 25 years at the helm, and we wish him well in his retirement and for the future. (See above). We welcome Robert, previously a commissioner, as Chairman.

We continue with grounds maintenance improvements and general repairs following the stormy weather and exceptionally high seas throughout mid-February. Our breakwaters were certainly put to the test during this period. The weather also prevented our fishing fleet from going to sea, a frustrating period for all involved. It has been fantastic to see the boats all go out again and normal service resume across the harbour.

You will no doubt have noticed that the car parks have been resurfaced and new parking

bays and road markings have been refreshed. This all adds to the professional and welcoming site that we want to welcome everyone with. We have installed new benches at the top of the fish dock to allow the public to sit comfortably and enjoy their fish and chips or a coffee.

It has been a pleasure to have some of the children from King Edwin School back to visit the harbour. They enjoyed helping to carry out dynamic risk assessments and their time with the Coastguard and the Lifeboat staff respectively. The children will be back at the harbour soon planting flowers and bulbs for us to enjoy.

As Harbour Master, I was interviewed by the BBC for a programme entitled "Our Town", which gave me the chance to tell the public what a fantastic place Amble is to live and work. To be fair, this is probably the easiest thing I have



February storms saw parts of the harbour closed to walkers

ever been asked to talk about; I don't believe it needs me to sell our brilliant little town to the public. I would argue it does that for itself.

So, we will continue with cosmetic improvements in the coming weeks so that we look as fantastic as we can when we welcome visitors back to the

town in the spring, and so that your harbour looks as good as it possibly can for your enjoyment and pleasure. As always, I look forward to meeting and talking to you when you visit the harbour over the coming weeks.

Gary Paxton
Harbour Master



Remembering Dennis Mitchell

a stone's throw from it and he learnt to swim there, canoe upon it and ran his own leaky little boat on it every summer, hunting and fishing. In the winter there was ice fishing. His brother in law Jerry, 10 years older than him, taught him hunting and fishing skills. Jerry was a member of the Sioux nation, a local art teacher and a great role model.

Dennis finished school in 1964 and like many of the boys eventually enlisted into the Armed Forces. This was at the height of the Vietnam Conflict. He followed in a tradition of his family of giving a number of years to Armed service and in common with them all, he served as a volunteer committed to the principles expressed in the Pledge of Allegiance. He was not a supporter in any way of the more recent decisions made by US government and was distressed by them.

He became a trained medic specialising in the psychiatric care of returning veterans and their families. He met me when he was at USAF Lakenheath in Suffolk and I was a social work student. We married after 90 days of knowing each other.

We decided to return to UK

in 1978. Dennis became a full time father for a time as he had to wait to gain his work permit. He found it difficult at first to be accepted because he was a full time Dad and an American. He started to make his way through gardening and chimney sweeping and later he saved enough to set up Amble Taxis in 1984.

The taxi business grew and he eventually had a regular user group who still remember him fondly and he began to be successful at bidding for school and business contracts. He retired in 2008 as his hearing was deteriorating.

Since then he became involved with his beloved vintage tractor and as a volunteer at Aln Valley Railway.

My husband was my place of peace and comfort. He was the place I came home to every night regardless of where we were. We loved having adventures and driving the back roads of USA and across our own hills here in Northumberland.

Dennis's funeral service showed how many friends this quiet gentle man had who lived so far from his homeland but tried so hard to make people feel welcome.

Sarah Mitchell

Access to GPs

Councillors in Northumberland are to take a detailed look at access to GP provision amid concerns around contacting practices. It comes after a new survey showed almost half of patients said they found it difficult to contact their GP practice on the phone.

At a meeting of the county council's health and wellbeing scrutiny committee, Committee chairman Cllr Georgina Hill proposed the creation of a group to conduct an in-depth investigation, warning that difficulties contacting GP surgeries could cost lives.

The figures from the survey showed just 44% of patients were able to see their preferred health care professional.

However, despite this 79% of patients described their overall experience of their GP practice as good.

The committee agreed to set up a group. Conservative councillor Veronica Jones will act as chairman. She will be joined by Isabel Hunter (Liberal Democrat), Alan Smith (Conservative), Karl Green (Reform) and Vicky Oakley (Labour).

My husband Dennis Mitchell died on 7 February 2026.

He was born in Wabasha Minnesota on 24 December 1946, the last of 6 children and brought up essentially by a single mother, his father having deserted the family when Denny was 2 years old. She had to work very hard just to keep food on the table. Denny went to work by the age of 10 delivering newspapers, on skis in the winter and then in the local marina cleaning boats and looking after the engines. He also drove tractors on his uncle's farm every summer from the age of 12, starting his second great love affair.

His first was with the Great River itself, the Mississippi. The house he was born in was



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Should there be a social media ban for under 16s?



Some people want a ban on social media for young people, because they want to keep their kids away from the dangers. Some of these dangers include: Cyberbullying, youth mental health, exposure to violent or inappropriate content. It's addictive.



Despite all of this, none of us here at Artograffi think they should ban under 16s from social media, especially because we are already on there. We think kids would just find a way around the ban. We think there are rules already on the platforms, so the social media companies should be made to enforce the rules. Parents should be in charge of kids' use of social media.

Skylar (12y 7 months): I don't think we should [have a ban]. Because up to now they are saying it's ok for 13+ to be on social media, so they shouldn't be able to take it away!

Nina (13y 5months): They should ban it for under 13 because under 13s could see harmful or dangerous stuff online and it could be added to the algorithms which could show them more. Most apps have a limit of 13 which should be the ban. According to reports from the BBC, many teens in Australia are still able to access social media and have not been affected from this ban. This shows that it didn't work.

Issy (12y 10 months): I feel social media should be for anyone over 13. I understand why parents are worried. But parents should be in charge of their children's social media and you should put your real age, so content can be targeted to age groups.



Donny (12y 11 months): I think the ban is not okay because I think they are trying to take the law from Australia and bring it to Britain.

Lexi (13y 3months): We rely heavily on social media for research and home learning, such as TikTok STEM feed, and inspiration for the way we set out notes and projects. Personally if they ban socials such as Pinterest [and Spotify], Nina and I will probably die!

I have noticed that some politicians use social media to influence young people and they join in on Tiktok trends. Social media companies are not being held responsible for their security and they don't listen to the public and their opinions such as keeping young adults safer. I don't think the children should be blamed, I think the social media companies should be made responsible for keeping kids safe.

What do you think? The government wants to hear from children and young people about this subject. You can fill in their survey but you must have a parent or guardian to fill in some of it. See: <https://bit.ly/4b0tSap>

By Lexi and Nina



Offline fun for teens



People always say teens are on their phones but it's not true. Obviously I have a phone, like pretty much every teen, but no, I am not addicted to it.

I have many hobbies such as St John's Ambulance cadets, and crocheting.

Some young people are addicted to their phones and should try to find other things to do, but there are many people who I know do many more things than sit on their phone - such as dance, cadets, dog walking, football, swimming and cycling

By Indie



Dancing is a really good sport for people around my age. It's physically good for you and it helps your mental health.

I attend dance classes, I have been doing it since I was six, and it's really enjoyable. I love practicing my tricks and improving my flexibility.

Also, I love different dance styles like freestyle, hiphop and lyrical and different types of movements and how my flexibility goes into it. I go to JCSC Dance Studio on Thursdays 6-7.30pm

By Eden

Do you wonder what our new school will be like?



Are you happy or worried for the new build? I am excited because our school is like over 40 years old and is falling to bits and every time it rains a lot it leaks.

The things I'm most looking forward to in the new school would be no leaks in the roof, new toilets with mirrors too, and new cleanish classrooms.

I hope there will be enough space in SEN learning support as that is important to me.

I hope the canteen and hall

will be bigger with more staff so we don't have long queues. I'm a bit worried that we will have a new school but it will be filled with old tat furniture and ancient computers.

I went to the Community Partnership meeting and saw the school plans. I spoke to Cllr Guy Renner Thompson who is in charge of the new school. I wish young people had been asked more about what they want from a school. I wish Guy could have told me some more about the school. I asked him about the missing outdoor spaces. He said there's no more money in the budget.

By Issy

Why you should keep updated with Artograffi



You should keep updated with us because we are young people who post relatable stuff about the local town, and we make our voices heard about like how high crisp and drink prices are getting in shops, or how we think the council should keep the green outdoor spaces at the new school!

We try to make our voices heard because young and children our age don't get heard often unless we make a big announcement about it, so if local people read our part in the middle of The Ambler, they might help us get heard by people in power.

At Artograffi we went to the county council a few weeks ago and we talked to some important leaders in a meeting about what we is happening to the school and our lives. We also go around Amble trying to help Amble community by noticing stuff that going to be built or happening. For example, on the Braid there will be houses built there soon. But the problem with that is there are a lot of trees and nature there and it will ruin some of the animals' habitats. In Amble there will always be effects of positives and negatives.

You should also keep in touch with us with as well as we don't just talk about Amble. We talk about all sorts of things which concern us as young people, so if you don't think something is fair, get in touch with us at Artograffi and let us know. Email us at editor@theambler.co.uk
By Maisie

Be glad to be a boy!



Did you know that 16 May is International Boys' Day?

This was started in 2018 by Dr Jerome Teelucksingh from Trinidad and Tobago. (He also founded International Men's Day).

The day is to highlight challenges like educational gaps, mental health and safety. Sometimes boys get a negative time, this day is meant to help encourage boys to follow their dreams. It is also important to let boys know they can show emotions. People are encouraged to show support to boys and spend quality time with them.

Sometimes I think it's tough being a boy because I think boys are expected to do a lot of things like building, working hard and, for me, cadets. At cadets you have a lot expected of you, so you have to be in full uniform to get into your division and if you turn up in non uniform you get put into the new entries group in the middle.

You're expected to be the best you can in classes so you can improve and improve and improve until you're at the peak of your career - and then you can rest.

When I get back from school I get changed from my school uniform into my normal clothes, then one hour later my uniform gets ironed and I put it on. Then I go to Ashington till 9 o'clock and then get home for my tea and then go to sleep then get up at 6am for my paper round which is half an hour, then rush back to school for 6 hours, then get back home.
By Donny

International Boys' Day 16 May, International Men's Day 19 Nov
International Girls' Day 11 Oct, International Women's Day 8 March

Our views on school uniforms

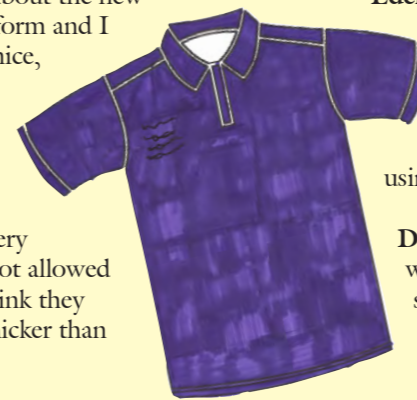


We heard about the new school uniform and I think it is nice, and we are getting rid of the blazers which is amazing, but we are keeping the school jumpers which are very thin. In the winter we are not allowed to wear coats inside, so I think they should make the jumpers thicker than they are.

Here's what our new uniform will be: Navy blue v neck jumper with school logo, Charcoal grey trousers or skirt, White shirt, Tie (different design for each year group.)

We had a discussion about whether school uniforms are good or bad.

Indie: I think we should have school uniform because it could be unfair for people in case they don't have branded clothes.



Eden: I think we shouldn't, because its unfair that parents have to buy new uniform instead of using it again.

Donny: I think that we should not have school uniform, because then everyone can wear what they want.

Esme: I think we should have school uniform, then people won't have to wear a different outfit everyday. Some children may not have clothes as expensive as others, which could make them ask parents for them, which costs money. However school uniform is uncomfortable.

Lexi: I think we should have school uniform because you would be reweaving stuff eventually. Some people would be embarrassed about what brand their clothes are. People hate school uniform because its not 'trendy'



thing, it can prevent bullying for not having the 'best' or 'newest' or 'trendy' clothes that everyone has. It also shows that everyone is a part of the school.



Nina: One reason we shouldn't have a school uniform is inflation on clothes. Like with cheap fast fashion, they aren't made well in factories. On the other hand, with everyone wearing the same thing, it can prevent bullying for not having the 'best' or 'newest' or 'trendy' clothes that everyone has. It also shows that everyone is a part of the school. It is also unfair to parents who have to prepare five separate outfits per week and so on. By having a uniform it shows that everyone goes to the school and it helps with the safety of pupils as if some stranger walks in, they will be easily recognized.

By Skylar
Uniform ideas by Skylar



Reports from our County Councillors



Arty.Hume@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143949

Pauline.Davidson@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143980

FEBRUARY HAS BEEN
an extremely

busy month, beginning with strategic planning meetings, appointments, and economic strategy discussions, also a Police and Crime Panel meeting held at Gateshead Civic Centre.

The following week was largely focused on casework and responding to emails, followed by a constituent meeting at Amble Town Council regarding walkways.

On 12 February, I attended a Teams meeting with planning officers concerning the Gut development, followed by further casework and correspondence.

Unfortunately, our scheduled surgery in Amble had to be cancelled because of access issues. I apologise for any inconvenience; the surgery will be reorganised as soon as possible.

A Full Council meeting took place on 18 February to agree the annual budget. Somewhat surprisingly, our amendments were passed – a first on many levels. This outcome was unexpected and encouraging, suggesting that common-sense policies and carefully considered strategies are beginning to gain wider acceptance.

There have been persistent issues with mud on the road at the Persimmon development. Numerous emails were sent raising concerns, and following the submission of photographs and documented evidence, action was taken.

On 24 February, Councillor Davidson and I arranged a meeting with Warkworth Primary School, where we had a very positive and engaging discussion with the headteacher.

I had a Teams meeting on 25 February, with Gill O'Neill to discuss plans for establishing a community hub. This initiative will be developed further in the coming weeks alongside NCC Leader Councillor Sanderson.

A Community Partnership meeting held at the Dovecote Centre, was well attended and highly productive. Significant information was gathered, particularly regarding the Coble Quay walkway. It is hoped that ownership details will soon be confirmed, allowing repair work to begin following site sampling so that damaged sections can be reopened.

I have contacted NCC seeking assistance regarding ongoing anti-social behaviour around the Morrisons area, where excessive car engine noise is causing considerable distress to residents. I have requested a multi-agency response involving NCC, the police, and other relevant organisations. Persistent offenders who continue to disregard the law should expect enforcement action.

I have been asked why fewer dates and photographs have been shared, highlighting recent work in Amble. The simple answer is that Councillor Davidson and I have been extremely busy delivering casework. Much of what we deal with involves personal or sensitive information protected under GDPR, relating to residents who have sought help and are satisfied with the outcomes. They know who they are – and that is what matters.

As a result, we do not always have time for photographs or step-by-step updates; our priority is getting on with the job we were elected to do.

Local updates will continue to be shared where appropriate on our "Reform UK Amble & Amble West with Warkworth" Facebook page, which is growing steadily – thank you to everyone who has joined. Regular updates are also posted on Amble A.C.T covering traffic matters and other local issues.

Thank you for your time.

Cllr Arty Hume

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT at the Braid continues to be one of the most significant issues facing Amble residents. Recent changes to the plans – most notably the removal of the Independent Supported Living block (ISL) – have raised serious concerns about the impact on local services and the wider community.

Loss of Independent Supported Living Provision

Residents were shocked when the removal of the ISL block was announced at a public meeting. Given the clear need for supported social care in the area, the decision has understandably caused dismay. Instead of the ISL facility, the developer is now proposing an additional 20 homes on top of the 40 already approved within the original planning application.

Key issues raised by the community

I have listened closely to residents, and several major concerns continue to surface.

Planning Process & Transparency

- The developer has been allowed to begin the first phase of 40 homes without submitting a new application for the development as a whole

- There is still no confirmation that any of the homes will be affordable or prioritised for the people of Amble.

Definition and delivery of 'Affordable Homes'

- Neither the developer nor Northumberland County Council has provided clarity on what they classify as "affordable housing"
- If these homes are not genuinely affordable for local people, many questions will be asked as to whether there is a need for further housing.

Flooding and infrastructure capacity

- The proposed site lies on a known flood plain. Riverside Park already experiences recurring issues with flooding, surface water run-off, and sewage overspill

during heavy rainfall.

- Developers have also indicated that well-fell water will be discharged into the old existing combined sewage system, which is already struggling to cope.

Traffic and heavy HGVs

- Concerns have been raised about plans for construction traffic, which include approximately 2,400 movements by 18-ton HGV'S turning right from Riverside Park, onto the A1068 through Warkworth over a 20-week period.

- The full construction provision expected to last up to three years raising long-term worries about safety congestion and disruption.

Recent Site Visit Observations During my visit to Riverside Park, I noted that the site access route was already churned up after a delivery of fencing materials. The delivery resulted in a significant obstruction, leaving residents temporarily unable to access their homes. If such issues are occurring at this early stage, it raises pressing questions about how the community will be affected once construction begins. This qualifies as a serious Health and Safety Hazard. I have contacted the fire department to request an assessment to determine risk factors in case of an emergency i.e. Fire, flood or need for an emergency ambulance.

Lots of meetings and discussions will be taking place over the coming months. The planning department may not necessarily award planning permission for the new application of 20 houses. It is almost certain that this will go to committee.

For further information see our Facebook page; 'Reform UK Amble & Amble West with Warkworth' Cllr Arty Hume and I will keep this page updated.

*Cllr Pauline Davidson
Amble West with Warkworth*

Concerns raised over Duke's controversial housing scheme

Councillors have raised concerns over potential changes to a controversial planning application in Amble.

Northumberland Estates – the Duke of Northumberland's property company – was granted planning permission for 98 new homes in October 2024.

The scheme consisted of 58 supported living apartments and 40 standard homes built on land at Braid Hill south of the Gut.

However, at a meeting of Amble residents in January, developers Wynyard Homes announced they were dropping the Independent Supported Living (ISL) block. At the time, Wynyard told The Ambler; "We have done some soft market testing for the 58no. supported living apartments and we just don't think there would be enough takers for that quantum of development."

However in later comments,

Northumberland Estates has given other reasons, namely, they have been unable to secure an operator, and that delivery would require a bigger building.

At a Northumberland County Council meeting in February, Cllr Pauline Davidson raised concerns that the developer could build further homes on the site in place of the ISL.

Cabinet member for housing

Cllr Colin Horncastle said, "Northumberland Estates can't change the supported living element by any means other than a new planning application... The county council can't tell an applicant what the application is going to be – they can only decide it when it comes in."

At time of writing, no new planning application has been submitted by Northumberland Estates.



Get active at Amble Playzone

Hello everyone, welcome back to Trust Life, and after the rain comes the sunshine!

Sports Hall: previously I have outlined the process and timeline for the Community Asset Transfer. We had expected to hear back from NCC with a decision. However due to unforeseen circumstances this has been delayed.

We have been told this will be discussed and decided on 20 March at the meeting of the Strategic Property Asset Management group and we will be informed of the decision from 23 March – we still have our fingers crossed.

Work continues on the **Neighbourhood Plan**. The majority of work that steering group volunteers have been involved in is almost done. However, there is still the tedious task of preparing background papers for each area and element that is included.

Once these are completed, everything will be handed to the consultant so she can do her work prior to the next official

community drop in, and then scrutiny by NCC.

Following the government's announcement of Town of Culture competition, as you would expect, we have decided to throw our Amble 'hat' into the ring partnering with Warkworth, Hauxley and Acklington to tell our collective story of our connections through the river Coquet and former railways. Given our history can be traced back as far as the Bronze Age, there is a lot to scribe into the limited 400 words per section!



UK TOWN OF CULTURE

The winning town will receive £3m to host a series of events, exhibitions, activities

and hopefully capital money for sustainable elements such as creative and culture hub. Two runner up towns will receive £250k to deliver elements of their bid. Before the 'nay sayers' complain of the many things £3m could be spent on, and yes, we know the arguments, but this is the government's criteria and bids have to deliver what the government asks for. As always, we can but try and will keep everyone posted.

Our job search facilities are now open from 9am – 5pm each week day.

If you would like to contact the Ambler or require a CV you can do so by ringing: 01665 712929 or emailing editor@theambler.co.uk or Julie@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk.

If you would like information on the Playzone, email Matthew: matthew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

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

Amble Development Trust is delighted to announce a packed programme of sporting activities starting at the PlayZone, located at The Welfare.

Beginning after the Easter holidays, our new spring schedule includes structured sessions for all ages. We are excited to launch Walking Football (over 50s), Netball, the supportive and social Squad Girls Football (ages 12-14), and the rapidly growing sport of Pickleball.

These aren't just for established teams; we are all about inclusive, community sport. We also have space for your suggestions—if there is demand for Dodgeball or other activities, let us know!

"The PlayZone is an incredible community asset, and this programme is designed to ensure everyone, from teenagers to retirees, has an opportunity to enjoy it." said Matthew Connolly from ADT.

Don't miss out—booking is essential for all structured sessions. Visit our booking portal: <https://tinyurl.com/46uadpth> Or scan the QR code to view the timetable and reserve your spot.



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Amble Town

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6pm Town: 9 April, 14 May, 9 July, 10 Sept
6pm Amenities: 28 May, 30 July, 24 Sept

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NCC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

It was wonderful to welcome the NCC North Area & Castle Morpeth Area Joint Community Partnership Meeting to Amble recently. It was brilliant to see so many new connections being made between different areas of our county and their representatives. Thank you to Chair and Vice Chair, Cllrs. Gordon Castle and Nicole Brooke for hosting and the team at the Dovecote Centre for the venue.

Cabinet Member for Education Cllr Guy Renner Thompson shared an update on the progress of the construction of the new James Calvert Spence school building as well as highlighting opportunities for more partnership working to deliver youth services in our town and local area.

The NCC Director of Transport & Environment, Paul Jones talked about the coming resolution to the long-standing issue with Coble Quay Walkway and leader of the County Council, Cllr. Glen Sanderson discussed some exciting opportunities in the pipeline for Amble to unlock new funding and investment.

DEVELOPMENT ON THE BRAID

Members of Amble Town Council, Warkworth Parish Council, Amble's County Councillors and members of the Amble Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group met with NCC officers, including Director of Housing & Planning, Rob Murfin, to receive an update on the changes proposed by Wynyard Homes to the scheme located on the land south of the Braid known as Braid Hill.

Rob Murfin explained that a new application would be subject to full appraisal and public consultation. He confirmed that the County Council would be able to refuse or approve any proposed change. Amble Town Council plays no formal role in the determination of planning applications other than acting as a consultee. However we remain committed to facilitating public discussion and engagement surrounding this development and will continue to work closely with local stakeholders to enable this.

COUNCILLORS CORNER

The theme for this year's International Women's Day, was 'Give to Gain'. It emphasised the power of reciprocity and support. When people, organisations, and communities give generously, opportunities and support for women increase. Giving is not a subtraction, it is intentional multiplication. When women thrive, we all rise. Amble is incredibly lucky to have so many wonderful women in leadership.

I don't think I would be where I am without the women of this community. Thank you to the amazing female friends I have made here who show selfless acts of care, love and support every day. We would be nowhere without the mams, grandmas, child minders, shopkeepers, bakers, care workers, health workers, sisters and daughters. To all the women of our community, we see your never-ending hard work, we thank you and we celebrate you.

Cllr Ciara Dawson

A longer version of this can be read on The Ambler's website.

AMBLE LITTLE SHORE – BATHING STATUS

The Little Shore is one of 13 new sites across the country to be considered for official bathing water status, and the only one in the North East.

The government is proposing to increase the number of officially designated bathing sites, and has drawn up the shortlist from submissions which were put forward last year. A six-week public consultation phase is now live - Consultation on Designation of 13 Sites as Bathing Waters - Defra - Citizen Space

The 13 proposed new sites on the government's list include beaches, rivers and coastal waters that are already popular with swimmers, reflecting growing public interest in outdoor swimming and connecting with local blue spaces.

DEVELOPMENT OF 3G PITCH

Amble Town Council and Amble Development Trust representatives recently met with leader of Northumberland County Council, Glen Sanderson, to look at solutions to bring forward the timeline for the development of the 3G pitch in Amble. The meeting was very positive with solutions proposed for Northumberland County Council to consider.

NORTHUMBERLAND LIBRARIES

You can help shape the future of Northumberland Libraries by having your say on:

- how you use libraries now (or why you don't use them)
- what you think about our proposals (changes to what libraries offer, who delivers the library offer and the hours they are open).

Take part by completing the consultation survey
<https://nland.cc/libraries-survey>

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There continues to be anti social behaviour blighting the lives of residents in the town, most recently vehicular anti social behaviour in and around Morrisons car park and the A1068. We are working closely with partners on these issues hoping to achieve a suitable resolution as soon as possible.

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

We are delighted to report that after years of lobbying Northumberland County Council for a safer crossing point on Percy Drive, nr Fontburn, that works are now finally underway to have this installed. We would like to pass on our thanks to the Councillors involved in making this happen and making this particular stretch of road safer for our community.

Sign up to our mailing list here:

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

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

Folklore and community at the heart of new museum



Michele Liddle

Amble based Michele Marie Liddle is launching a crowdfunding campaign to create the Northumberland Haunted Museum and is actively looking for suitable premises to rent, particularly in the seaside town.

The project is designed to be very different from traditional haunted attractions, focusing on folklore, culture and local history rather than jump scares or shock tactics.

The museum will operate as a Community Interest

Company and is intended to be a welcoming community space, offering workshops, events, talks and storytelling opportunities. Exhibits will explore historic legends, local paranormal accounts and cultural references from across Northumberland, alongside contributions from residents.

Michele told The Ambler “Unfortunately two [premises] have fallen through in Amble. We would love to have somewhere in Amble and may be looking at using the Dovecote for some pop up events.

“The crowdfunder is an ongoing thing. We are at £930 currently.

“We will be doing an Amble Ghost walk from April and Paranormal investigations around locations of the north East and Northumberland.

We are also working with lottery heritage fund to start our

whispers of a Lifetime project working with people around Northumberland in care homes, residential care etc to create an exhibition of personal accounts of hauntings and folklore from across Northumberland.

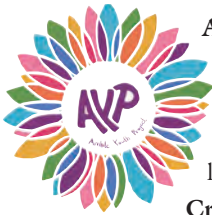
“The website is up and will very soon have some items for sale to help us raise funds; a hunted map, spooky eye spy activity pdf downloads at a reasonable price for families to have a spooky fun day out through different places in Northumberland, as well as merchandise.

“These all help us towards securing artefacts and a home for the museum. We would love its home to be in Amble.”

You can find out more about Michele’s plans, and the crowdfunder link on her website: www.northumberlandhauntedmuseum.com

Easter activities for young people

Easter HAF (Holiday And Food) with Amble Youth Project



Allotmore - Tues 7 April (Ages 13-16) at AYP Allotment in Amble (off Percy Drive) 11 – 3pm Outdoor and practical tasks. Join for the day and contribute to a project that transforms a disused allotment into a place of learning and growing.

Cryptic Easter -

Thursday 9 April (8-11 years olds) at Parish Hall, Dovecote Street 9am – 1pm A range of challenges to work out. Promotes individual thinking and teamwork, unleashing creativity and critical thinking.

Eastertime Alive - Friday 10 April (8-12 years olds) at Parish Hall, Dovecote Street 12 – 4pm These sessions are a favourite of our Holiday Activity programme and celebrated for its inclusive, joyful, teamwork, and building friendly and supportive atmosphere. It provides opportunities for social interaction, creativity, and team games and physical activity, often loved, even by those who may not be fans of sport.

Eastertime Alive - Monday 13 April (8-12 year olds) at Parish Hall, Dovecote Street 1pm- 5pm Our second Eastertime Alive session due to its historical success.

AYP Fundraising at the Amble Inn - Monday 13 April Bake sale 11am -all day and Quiz night 6pm starts £2pp. Booking essential.

Inflata Nation, Newcastle - Tuesday 14 April 8–12-year-olds AND, 13- to 16-year-olds 10am to 2pm Arrive 9.45 for a coach at 10am to take to the venue. We will return by coach for 2pm

Easter/Spring Themed Crafts and art - Thursday 16 April (8–12-year-olds) At AYP Dilston Terrace

Session 1: 9am – 1pm Small group session.

Session 2: 2pm – 6pm Priority will be given to children with SEN associated needs.

Please see our website/Facebook for more details on these sessions

Family Treasure Hunt - Fri 17 April (All ages) 10am-1pm Family group treasure hunt starts with bacon sandwiches (or veg option) at Parish Hall 10am return for buffet and prize giving 1pm.

For more info: <https://www.ambleyouthproject.org>

Parking at the Masonic Hall

Visitors to Amble Masonic Hall will no longer have to pay to park, after a drop in the number of customers was attributed to the parking charges.

The charges were introduced three years ago as a means to help improve the income of the hall. The machines were operated by an external company who collected and oversaw the payments.

However, a spokesperson for Lord Warkworth Lodge who own the hall told The Ambler the arrangement had caused problems for their visitors, and

those who struggled with using apps to pay for parking. When the parking company began to fine people for not paying correctly, it was felt this had led to a drop in the number of customers.

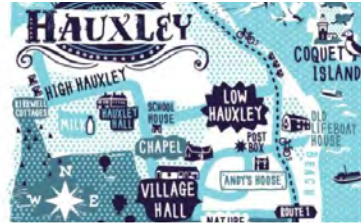
“The result was the Lodge lost a lot of income as people went elsewhere to hire premises for their functions,” said the spokesperson.

Now Lord Warkworth Lodge have decided not to continue with the fees for those hiring the hall, and hope this will encourage visitors to return.





Next meeting: Monday 11 May at 6.30pm in Hauxley Village Hall



Annual Parish Meeting

Please join us for the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 11 May at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, where we will share an overview of the work carried out across Hauxley over the past year. Hauxley Parish Council is an active partner in the Coquet Culture Partnership, working alongside Amble, Acklington and Warkworth on a joint bid for Town of Culture 2028.

If successful this exciting initiative will deliver a programme of cultural events and projects across the area, including within Hauxley Parish. The meeting will be a chance to hear the latest updates, ask questions, and share your ideas for future projects. Everyone is warmly encouraged to take part, and small grants may be available to support community led initiatives.

Bus Shelters

Following consultation with residents, the Parish Council has been exploring new uses for the bus shelters. As a trial, a small community library has been installed in the High Hauxley shelter, and village information signage added to both the High and Low Hauxley shelters. The illustrative village map has been produced by Blinkin IMP.com and Northumberland Wildlife Trust has kindly funded and supplied wildlife information boards along with a Druridge Bay map. HPC have also applied to NCC's Environment and Climate fund to support the installation of living green roofs to both bus shelters. Living roofs will be a positive boost to local wildlife, creating habitat and food sources whilst helping to capture carbon, reduce surface water run off and give the shelters a more vibrant, pretty appearance. We welcome further suggestions for how the shelters could be used; of course, a bus remains the ideal addition.



Cuppa with a Copper

We would like to thank the Northumbria Community Policing Team for spending the morning with residents at Hauxley Village Hall. The session provided a valuable opportunity for residents to discuss local issues and gain a better understanding of policing in the area. It also enabled residents to meet and talk with their County Councillor, Arty Hume.

The birds, bulbs and the bees

Volunteers, supported by Hauxley Parish Council (HPC) and Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) have worked throughout the year to enhance biodiversity across Hauxley's rich natural environment. A programme of installing bird and bee boxes, planting bulbs, sowing wildflower seed, and adapting ground maintenance practices is now producing visible results. Volunteers have also planted 120 trees as part of the NCC Net Zero scheme.

After a long, grey winter, spring is revealing the rewards of the autumn bulb planting, with vibrant colour emerging throughout the villages.

Unfortunately, litter and fly tipping continue to be a growing concern. We are grateful to the many residents who regularly litter pick in the villages, dunes, and beaches. We encourage all residents to report fly tipping via the NCC "Fix My Street" system.

Benches and Fences

The High Hauxley project to replace Topsy's bench and improve access has now been completed. The area has had new planting and wildflower seeding to create an attractive space for residents and a supportive habitat for wildlife. The paving has been upgraded to improve accessibility, and volunteers will continue to develop the planting throughout the year.

The bench at the Low Hauxley bus shelter has been replaced with a recycled street bench, and the stone planters have been repaired, with planting improved throughout the year. We are also engaging with chalet owners regarding the replacement of ageing timber fencing, and we appreciate those who have already carried out repairs.

The footpath access at Kirkwell Cottages has been an ongoing concern. The Parish Council has discussed the issue with the landowner, Northumberland County Council (NCC), and the Police in relation to the unauthorised use of the route by motorbikes and quad bikes. As the land is privately owned, the Parish Council worked with the landowner to address the problem and used the opportunity to upgrade the fencing. NCC, as the authority responsible for public rights of way, confirmed that a gate or stile would not be installed at this location. The new structure has therefore been designed to slow unauthorised vehicles and deter larger vehicles such as quad bikes, while maintaining necessary access for prams, mobility scooters and bicycles. Some unauthorised access is likely to persist, and continued reporting to the Police remains essential.

How to get in touch with your Parish Council

There is a national requirement for Parish Council's to have improved IT security and to have a dedicated council-owned .gov.uk domain for official emails. Hauxley Parish Council will be making the transition from their current gmail accounts, to a new gov.uk domain, from the 1st April 2026. Parish Council correspondence, from that date, will need to be sent to the clerk@hauxley-pc.gov.uk.

There will also be a change to the Parish Council's website, which will be updated later in the spring and can be viewed at <https://hauxley-pc.gov.uk>.

COUNCILLORS: W. Appleby J. Busby R. Callender S. Golding D. Rutley E. Wyatt

Clerk to Hauxley Parish Council: Julie Hall. Contact the Parish Council via email.

Email clerk@hauxley-pc.gov.uk Web <https://hauxley-pc.gov.uk> Facebook: www.facebook.com/HauxleyVillage



Congratulations to local lady Audrey Addis, who celebrated her 100th birthday in February. The occasion was marked by several parties: with friends from Trinity Methodist church, then from St Cuthbert's church, another with Age Concern and yet another with her RNLI friends. Audrey then celebrated with her family, including daughters and husbands, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was particularly blessed with the birth, in Newcastle, of twin great-great

grandchildren, a boy and a girl, arriving on her own birthday.

Not being one for a fuss, Audrey said, "It was a lovely day, I really enjoyed seeing all the family."

As well as receiving the customary birthday card from King Charles, Audrey had previously received a card from the late Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her diamond wedding. Audrey and Trevor Addis had been together for 64 years.

Vivienne Dalglish

Free watersports activities for kids

Coquet Shorebase Trust is delighted to announce a series of grants that will enable us to expand our free 'on the water' activity programme for children and young people across Amble, Alnwick and the surrounding area this coming season.

Support from The National Lottery Community Fund will help us provide free watersports sessions during school holidays for local youth organisations; and to purchase additional equipment to meet growing demand.

We are also grateful for the continued backing of the Nadara Sisters and North Steads Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (via the Community Foundation North East). Their support allows us to offer free watersports activities to all primary schools and youth groups located within a 5km radius of the Nadara Sisters and

North Steads Wind Farm.

Further assistance has been generously provided by Amble Town Council, whose donation will cover the additional licensing fees now required to run youth activities at both our sites: Druridge Bay Country Park and The Braid in Amble.

In addition, we would like to acknowledge the Sir James Knott Trust for their significant contribution towards the removal of invasive weed growth at Ladyburn Lake. Coquet Shorebase Trust remains committed to widening access to watersports for children, young people, and community groups across North Northumberland.

We are always keen to hear from potential volunteers with an interest in watersports and supporting young people.

Anyone wishing to get involved in helping deliver these sessions please email us: info@coquetshorebase.org.uk

Changes at Coquet Island

With another breeding season just about to start, it feels like the perfect time to look back at the last year's season and the changes that have happened since.

One of our biggest changes is the retirement of our Site Manager, Stephen Westerberg. His two years on the island took it in a new direction, with him bringing in more amazing volunteers, upgrades to our living quarters, his bird monitoring and ringing expertise, and of course, his homemade cakes. Thankfully, he will continue to help us on the island. We welcomed Sarah Dalrymple as our new Site Manager last October, she has twenty years of seabird experience at sites across the UK, along with a passion for technology that will help us in our monitoring.

Last year saw over 25,000 breeding pairs of birds from 30 species, the largest of which was the Puffin, with 18,704 pairs. This was a 6% increase on the previous year. Most of our species are starting to show signs of recovering from the devastating losses during the bad HPAI years (2022–2023). The Common Tern increased from 353 pairs in 2024 to 536 pairs in 2025.

Sandwich Terns had their highest count ever, with 2,282 pairs, and the Roseate Terns had another good year with 144 pairs, the third highest count for them. Unfortunately, Arctic Terns had a poor year, with a low of 531 pairs—the lowest count since 1991. This drop in pairs is, unfortunately, part of a similar trend seen in other Arctic Tern colonies in the UK.

On Coquet Island, it was a year characterised by poor food availability for many surface-feeding species such as Terns, Kittiwakes, and Fulmars, with fish such as small crustaceans, flatfish, and 15-spined sticklebacks being observed being brought in. These are not the usual prey species for Terns, as they are too big and bony for the chicks to eat, and are usually only caught when their preferred food source, sandeels, is unavailable. We can only speculate as to why this was a local issue, but with a hot, dry summer and the sea temperature being warmer than usual, it is very likely that the cold-water-loving sandeels moved to deeper waters.

Elsewhere, the lighthouse has been lit up throughout the winter as Trinity House undertakes essential lighthouse upgrades, improving the lantern and engines to ensure the safety



of seafarers. This is a huge undertaking that means they will be on the island on and off for the rest of the year, and with several helicopter drops happening outside of the bird season, it will be a flurry of excitement.

The winter weather has impacted our ability to get to the island, with four weeks in January and February when we could only observe from afar. However, in the short time we have had, we've managed to complete the much-needed groundwork repairs to North Terrace, one of the Roseate Tern breeding areas.

Work has also commenced on replacing the predator fence

that was originally installed in response to an otter sighting in 2019. Vegetation management to prepare the gardens and surrounding areas for the Terns is underway, along with adding more shingle to the terraces as it is one of their preferred nesting materials.

The Roseate Tern boxes have been given a fresh coat of paint and are ready to be placed out. Preparation for the breeding season is in full swing, and I cannot wait to see what this season brings. Hopefully, it will be a good year for the birds that call Coquet Island home.

*Rebekah Goodwill,
Warden, RSPB Coquet Island*

NWT Biodiversity Boost project caught on camera



Goats grazing on the East Chevington reserve. Images by Helen Walsh

Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Boost Project has produced two short films about the project for nature lovers to watch at their leisure.

The £750,000 Biodiversity Boost Project was made possible by a grant from the Species Survival Fund, in partnership with Defra and the National Lottery

Heritage Fund, to increase and enhance habitats across the wildlife charity's Hauxley, East Chevington and West Chevington reserves over the last 18 months.

Both films, produced by Brian Cosgrove and his team from Collingwood Arts and Media College in Morpeth and Helen Walsh, Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Boost Officer, can be accessed via YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHObyDd8c8E and www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWU9eHJC0-4

More films about the project are on the Trust's Biodiversity Boost website page Biodiversity Boost | Northumberland Wildlife Trust

The first film offers an overview of the West Chevington reserve - one of the wildlife charity's most ambitious lowland

recovery sites in the north of England that forms an integral part of the Trust's fight against climate change. The former opencast mine site consists of conifers, mixed woodland, grassland, and arable land.

Grazing is the focus of the second film which gives a potted history of grazing across the natural Druridge Bay landscape before coming right up to date with details of several of the wildlife charity's Flexigraze conservation projects.

From adorable footage of goats grazing on the East Chevington reserve to improve the landscape for rare flowers including lesser butterfly orchids, to an interview with Stephen Comber, Flexigraze manager and footage of Exmoor ponies and highland cows helping to create a wildflower meadow at Hauxley nature reserve, the films are well worth a watch.

Greener Amble Network

We are a community volunteer led environment group, organising local green projects.

- Volunteers are needed for various activities, including community gardening, litter picks, beach cleans, bird counts.

- Help is also needed with lobbying and campaigning.

- Attend 'Show and Tell' events to learn what you can do.

- Make connections with other groups, charities and government organisations show dedication to improving and protecting our local environment.

We meet monthly on a Wednesday 6.45 pm for 7.00pm until 8.45 pm. Our next meetings are: April 8, May 20 and June 17. This year our venue will initially be Amble

Youth Project, Dilston Terrace NE65 0DT. For further details contact Sue.greeneramble@gmail.com

Blair Watson from the Stronger Shores project will be speaking at the June meeting. Stronger Shores has been working in our area and Dovecote Arts and Dry Water Arts have done creative projects linked to their exciting work.

If you ask: 'What can I do today?' Remember the journey of 1000 miles starts with 1 step. Here is a suggestion for that step: search "plastic free living tip swap" on your phone / tablet to find simple things you can do to reduce reliance on plastics. Perhaps order/buy articles such as bird boxes, hedgehog homes, or insect hotels from the talented Men's Shed.

Amble Sword Dancers

Amble Sword Dancers practise at the Warkworth Memorial Hall and Top Hoose, Amble Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm. We are a friendly group who perform outside pubs during the warmer weather and appear at local events.

We dance the style of traditional longsword and the much quicker speed of Rapper. We are also looking for musicians to support our current musician at both practice and events.

Telephone/WhatsApp Susan Urwin for more details: 07914965408 or check out our Facebook page Amble Sword Dancers, and if you like what you see, contact us on there.

DON'T MISS OUR WEEKEND OF DANCE:

6 June in Amble, 7 in Alnwick See our Facebook page for details

Experiencing the story of Easter



St Cuthbert's church Amble welcomed over 180 children from Links and King Edwin Primary schools during March to the annual Experience Easter event. This has been running during Lent for the past 12 years. It takes the children on a journey through the story of Easter.

Experience Easter is led and coordinated by Penny Horseman assisted by members of St

Cuthberts congregation who act as storytellers. The story is related at six stations and the leaders are dressed in costumes of the period to give the children an individual and unique encounter of a central Christian story.

This year, for the first time, three special sessions retelling of the story were created to accommodate children from Barndale Special School.

Menopause support group

A new in-person menopause support group has launched in Amble, offering a welcoming space for local women to talk openly about perimenopause and menopause, and get accurate information, practical support, and reassurance that they're not "just being dramatic."

The sessions are designed to be down-to-earth and inclusive — whether someone is just starting to notice changes, already in the thick of symptoms, or looking for clarity around treatment options such as lifestyle approaches, HRT and non-hormonal alternatives. The aim is not medical diagnosis, but better understanding, shared experience, and signposting to trusted resources.

Women in Amble and surrounding areas are welcome to attend. For details of upcoming sessions and how to join, visit <https://buytickets.at/thatllebthemenopause> or search That'll Be the Menopause on Facebook.

Rotary Club update

Looking back at 2025, the we supported the following local charities: Elpha lodge, Hadston House, Amble veterans breakfast club, Warkworth Cricket Club, Samaritans Northumberland, Citizens Advice Amble, the Oswin project, NEPACS, Amble Women's Workshop and the Northumberland Theatre Company.

Grants have also been awarded to a range of local groups who work with young people, including Amble Youth Project, Shorebase Trust and Amble Sea Scouts, as well as the eighty-one local children assisted by the Christmas voucher scheme.



Grants were also awarded to the Pelican and Ambler community magazines.

Looking forward we want to identify beneficiaries of the money raised over Christmas. Applications from local groups/charities are welcome to contact us for further information via e-mail: secretary.rotaryamble@gmail.com

The charity golf competition in September raised over £4000, with the proceeds going to the Great North Air Ambulance Service, The Sir Bobby Robson

Foundation, and HospiceCare North Northumberland.

On the social side members have recently enjoyed a range of local talks including Colin Dorward's presentation on the Blyth Battery and Sean Malone about the work undertaken by Acklington Parish Footpaths group. In February, Denise Howe gave a talk on the human side of the RMS Titanic sinking.

Trevor Robinson, club President, attended Amble Links Primary school in January to award certificates and book token prizes to the entrants and prize winners in the Rotary Young Writer and Artist competitions. The two winners' entries will now go forward to the regional competition.

Burn's night, at Warkworth Golf Club, included a quiz and traditional celebrations.

Members have also enjoyed a meal at the Taj Mahal in Amble.

In February, RAW members visited West Hartford fire station, the HQ of Northumberland Fire and rescue service. Rotarians learnt about the range of services offered by the fire service, as well as the challenges of operating over a large rural area.

As well as visiting the operational control room, members observed an exercise to free a casualty from a road traffic accident, giving a fascinating insight into the work of the fire service.

Finally, the efforts of RAW members planting thousands of crocus bulbs over recent years can now be seen along Rotary Way highlighting the early appearance of Spring.

Amble Community Choir



Harbour Lights - Amble Community Choir is 15 years old. Started in 2010 by leader Flora Smith, in conjunction with the charity 20,000 Voices. Over the years it has blossomed and developed, growing from a small group into the choir of over 55 people.

At its heart is community, and it is led by vocal coach and community musician Sarah Gray. Sarah is supported by a volunteer committee who are essential in keep things running smoothly.

The choir is committed to welcoming everyone, regardless of musical knowledge and prior experience.

Harbour Lights celebrated this 15-year anniversary by recording two songs written especially for

the choir by the two leaders, Flora and Sarah - who reunited for the day. On 13 March, the choir assembled to sing Sarah's 'Lights' and 'Harbour Lights - Flora's Song' - the latter also featuring the children of King Edwin Primary School.

Tom Wilson recorded the choir, and Amy Langdown documented the day with a video, which included interviews with Amble townfolk and members of the choir.

It is intended that this provides a social history document; showing the people at the heart of the choir. Together with the town itself, it provides the inspiration for the two pieces of music that have been sung by hundreds of people in all parts of the UK.

TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME
01665 710 442
MONDAY TO SATURDAY: 11.30AM-9.00PM SUNDAYS: 11.30AM-2.30PM
***** NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN

£50 fixed price to Newcastle airport from Amble
Pick up night or day
Lady driver only with advanced DBS
Fully electric car
07341 538943
Email: privatehire@juliesupportservices.com

Warkworth Film Club

Our village film club meets once a month in the Warkworth War Memorial Hall on Castle Street to show a mix of drama and documentary films for all to enjoy. Everyone is welcome – just turn up on the night as we have plenty of seating, as well as a cash bar.

Saturday 4 April – F1 The Movie. (2025, certificate 12A, 2hours 29')

F1 is a 2025 American sports drama film starring Brad Pitt as Formula One racing driver Sonny Hayes, who returns after a 30-year absence to save his former teammate's underdog team from collapse.

Filming took place during Grand Prix weekends of the 2023 and 2024 World Championships, with the collaboration of the FIA, the governing body of F1.

Racing sequences were

adapted from the real-life races, with F1 teams and drivers appearing throughout, including Lewis Hamilton, who was also a producer.

Hans Zimmer composed the film's score, while numerous artists contributed to its soundtrack.

The film received four nominations (for Best Picture, best editing, best sound and best visual effects).

Upcoming 2026 films will be screened on the following Saturdays: 2 May, 6 June, 11 July, 5 September, 3 October, and 7 November.

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

£5 per person – we are cash only at the moment

For more information, contact Anna at anna.willey@cantab.net

Warkworth Easter Trail

Between Saturday 21 March and Sunday 19 April 2026 an Easter trail will be available around Warkworth village. The whole community and visitors are welcome to take part in the trail at any time during these dates.

Trail sheets will be available to purchase for £2.50 at several businesses in the village as well as

NCEA Warkworth Primary School (subject to opening times/term dates)

Complete the trail route around the village to receive an Easter treat upon return to one of the businesses involved.

This event is organised by Friends of Warkworth (the PTFA of NCEA Warkworth Primary School)

Toddler football

We are thrilled to be bringing 1st Footy NE to the Hadston and Amble community. After meeting families through our venues and holiday camps, it was clear there was strong demand for toddler football. We're excited to collaborate with the Football Clubs of Amble and Red Row, as well as the local Community and Fitness Centres, to support children getting active and building confidence.

Our new venue at Druridge Bay Community Centre opens on Wednesday 1 April:

- Micro Footy 17:00 (18 months - 4 yrs 6 months)
- Mini Footy 17:45 (4 yrs 6 months - 7 yrs 6 months)

The sessions provide a safe, welcoming environment where children can develop football skills, teamwork, and confidence.

Beyond football, we hope to strengthen local connections with schools, clubs, and charities to make the sport accessible to all.

Co-owner Lewis says: "Growing up in Newbiggin by the Sea, toddler football opportunities were rare. I'm thrilled to give young children in Hadston a fun, supportive place to play and grow from an early age."

Operating for two years, we serve children aged 18 months–12 years across Northumberland, offering PE sessions, after-school clubs, parties, 1:1 development, and holiday camps, including funded camps for children eligible for free school meals.

Follow us on Facebook and TikTok @1stFootyNE for updates. Tel: 07939 697161 email: 1stFootyne@gmail.com

Amble Photographic Group



Last year was a very successful year for Amble Photographic Group. They competed in the Northern Alliance Photographic Group's Annual Competition and gained a very respectable 4th place out of 43 club entries in the print section. In the Northern Area PDI Competition they gained a first place for the second year running, with two of the images attaining a maximum 15 points.

They also achieved a second place in the Northern Area Print Competition.

The club Beginners Champion for 2025 was Barry Davies and the Club Champion was Anthony Wright DPAGB BPE3 pictured holding their respective trophies, as well as the Northern Area PDI Salver.

New members, whether advanced photographers or beginner, will always receive a warm welcome, why not pop in for a coffee and a chat.

Meetings are every Friday throughout the year (except August) from 10:00am to 12 noon in the Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Percy Street Amble NE65 0AG

For more details check out the 2026 programme on www.amblephotographicgroup.com or Tel: 07721 408920

Never Mind the Sherlocks!

Far Horizon Voices, the Warkworth-based acting group, are bringing world famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his loyal but dim-witted sidekick Dr Watson, back to the wilds of Northumberland in a brand new, irreverent comedy by local playwright Dave Stockwin.

During the play, under the disapproving eye of Conan Doyle, the hapless duo must adapt to the arctic conditions of the North East, while battling with local cuisine, an unintelligible villain and a feisty Mrs Hudson in their quest

to uncover the dark secrets of Bluebell End. What could possibly go wrong?

Loosely based on 'The Adventure of the Speckled Band', FHV will be performing 'Never Mind the Sherlocks' on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 June at Warkworth Memorial Hall, with all proceeds going to North Northumberland Hospice Care.

The shows, begin at 7.30pm, tickets cost £10 and will be available at N&F Young Amble, Warkworth Post Office and Store, fhvtickets@yahoo.com or at the door. Doors and licensed bar will open at 7pm.

Pin Cushion workshops

Thursday 9 April 10.30am - 12 Knitting for Absolute Beginners £15

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

Friday 17 April 10.15am - 1 pm Needle Felting for Beginners - Baby Bird £40

Saturday 18 April 1.30pm - 3.30pm Crochet for Absolute Beginners £30

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

Friday 1 May 10.30am - 12 Knitting for Improvers - Notebook cover £30

Saturday 16 May 10.15 - 12.15 Slow stitch Saturday £30

Thursday 21 May 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Craft and Chatter (Drop in crafting group) £5

Saturday 23 May 10.15am - 12.30pm Quilting for Beginners - Scissor Holder £35

1.30pm - 3.45pm Quilting for Beginners - Weighted Pincushion / Tidy Bag £35

Book both workshops for £65

Wednesday 27 May 10.30am - 12.30pm Crochet for Beginners / Improvers - Mini Basket £35

Thursday 28 May 10.15am - 12.45pm Seascape Button Making from Polymer Clay £35

To book your place, please pay your deposit either in the shop or via the website

www.amblepincushion.co.uk

Celebrated new play comes to Amble

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme brings 'The Light House,' to the Parish Hall, Dovecote St. on **Friday, 1 May.**

Love is a complicated business. It gets even more complicated when the person you love doesn't want to be alive.

Tender, funny and defiantly hopeful, The Light House is a real-life story of falling in love and staying in love, even when the lights go out and you're lost in the dark.

With puppetry, clowning and audience participation, The Light House is the highly acclaimed debut play from Alys Williams.

Writer and performer Alys said, "Theatre right now needs

to buzz with liveness. I want audiences to feel seen, and implicated, and held.

A man came to 'The Light House' alone and sat at the back. I chose him to play 'Dad'. Afterwards, he said that he usually hates participation but had found himself hoping to be chosen because he wanted 'to help, somehow.' He said it had been 'an honour.'"

We have a bar, a raffle and accept cash or cards.

Tickets cost £15 or £10 for under 25s. They are available from N & F Young, 8 Queen Street, phone 07724687107, on the door and online at www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Amble Bowling Club Open Days

Amble Bowling Club will be holding Open Days on Saturdays, **April 18 and 25, noon to 4pm.**

We invite anyone - young or old, new to the game or a past player - to come along and give it a try.

Equipment and coaching will be provided by the club. All we ask is that you wear flat bottomed shoes/trainers.

The club entrance is on High Street, next to the dentist.

Weather permitting, we will see you there.

Warkworth Drama Group

Saucy, sexy and very funny Alan Bennett's rollicking and raunchy comedy 'Habeas Corpus' is to be staged in May by Warkworth Drama Group. Directed by Duncan Cooper and Meg Dixon, the play is a pacy and highly improbable romp which pokes fun at the at the ludicrous aspirant aristocracy of middle-class England.

Meg said "It is a satirical merry-go-round of antics at the Wicksteed home: family, friends and the sexual satisfaction of the 'corpus' (body) are the ruling passions in this farcical comedy

of ill-manners and principal characters in various stages of undress.

"Through a series of mistaken identities and carnal encounters, one motto holds fast: 'He whose lust lasts, lasts longest.' "

The play starts at 7.30 and runs for three nights on **May 21, 22 and 23** at Warkworth Memorial Hall. Doors open at 7pm and a licensed bar will be available.

Tickets are £10 and can be purchased at Warkworth Post Office and village store, N&F Young of Amble, and at the door.

Amble Variety Show

Saturday May 16 at 7.00pm
Masonic Hall, Amble NE65 0LN
All welcome. Free entry.
Bar available. Raffle.
Donations for Christian Aid taken on the night.
Further info from Sue Swanston: sue_pergirl2@hotmail.com
01665 711 177

Lifeboat fundraisers

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

Sunday 19 April

Sunday 17 May

Sunday 21 June

We'll also be attending the Puffin Festival this year on **Sat 23 May.**

Follow us on FB Amble Lifeboat

Fundraisers & RNLI-Amble

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Puffin Festival: walks, talks, art, crafts, family fun

For more information on these and any additional activities, please check www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk

You can find us on Facebook: AmblePuffinFestival.

Events and times may be subject to change. Some activities are weather dependent.



Saturday 23 May

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

Seascape photography workshop: with professional photographer Ivor Rackham. Approx 1.5hrs. Meet at 11am at giant puffin sculpture in Paddlers Park. Free.

Guided Bord Waalk: Morning walk with Andrew Gooding around the Bord Waalk sculptures *Please note this will not cover the whole trail. Meet at 11am at steps near Cock + Bull in the Town Sq. Free.

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

All about Puffins: A chance to ask the RSPB and Coquet Island wardens about the Puffins and other wonderful birds and seals on the island. In the Town Sq. 12.30-1.30pm. Free

Puffins ahoy! Realtime* footage of puffins on Coquet Island. In the Town Square. All day. SPONSORED BY ALNCOM *Technology permitting

Family fun at the Little Shore: with Amble Swimmers. Sand castle/sand art competition. Prizes SPONSORED BY SEASIDE TRAVEL. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times. 2-3pm. Free

Puffin-themed crafts. Time TBC. At Amble Library

Live Performances: Throughout the day. In the Town Sq Puffin Theatre. Children's performance Bare Toed Dance Co. Performance, music and 'Come + Try' for children Tribal dancing from Tribe Zuza Live music from sisters Jamie and Georgie Simon Wood drum circle. Music and workshops. SPONSORED BY HOLIDAYCOTTAGES.CO.UK

The Boffs: Psychedelic rock from reformed 60s Amble band

Gansey exhibition and knitting demo: At Dry Water Arts 11-3pm. Free

Meet Tommy Noddy the giant puffin.

Sounds like a Puffin: Can you make the best Puffin sound? Can you walk like a puffin? Fun competition for all ages. 12.15pm in the Town Square **Puffin surprise event.**

Dog show: with Northumberland Dog Rescue. Starts at 12pm with registration from 11pm. On the Braid near the beacon. Details from www.northumberlanddogrescue.co.uk or see their Facebook page.

Lunchtime talk: TBC

Art exhibition: Open art exhibition. Dovecote Centre. All day. Free

Guided tour around Dovecote Street Arts exhibition: With Luke McTaggart. Time TBC. Dovecote Centre, Dovecote St. Free

Afternoon talk: 'The Secret Lives of Northumberland's Nesting Shorebirds' with Space for Shorebirds team. 1pm-1.45pm at Cock + Bull in Town Sq. Free

Afternoon nature walk: Summer Visitors to the Coast - a guided walk to spot and learn about all the seabirds and shorebirds of Northumberland and the habitats they depend on. With Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership, RSPB and Space for Shorebirds. Approx 1.5hrs. Meet at 2pm at steps near Cock + Bull in the Town Sq. Suitable for all. Free.

Rainbow Banners and Interactive Puffin Percussion along the pier: Come and have a go and get ready for some impromptu soundscapes, puffin symphony, a puffin polka.

Evening talk: From Sea to Stitch: Join Deb Gillanders from Proper Ganseys to uncover the history and meaning of the iconic North East fishermen's Ganseys. At Dry Water Arts. Free.

Sunday 24 May

Wildlife photography walk/workshop: with photographer Ivor Rackham. Approx 1.5hrs.

Meet 9am at steps near Cock + Bull in the Town Sq. Free.

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

Puffins ahoy! Realtime* footage of puffins on Coquet Island. In the Town Square. All day. *Technology permitting

Art exhibition: From Dovecote Street Arts. Dovecote Centre. Free

Gansey exhibition and knitting demo: At Dry Water Arts 11-3pm. Free

Puffin Festival Landscape Artist of the Year Competition: Meet at Amble Youth Project at 9.30am, work between 10am-2pm, Judging from 2-3pm. The winner will be announced at 3pm in Town Sq

Meet Tommy Noddy the giant puffin.

Family beach activities: with Coquet Rivers Action Group (CRAG). Meet 10.45am at the Little Shore for the Big Splash at 11am. Sandcastle competition 2-3pm. All children must be supervised by an adult at all times. Free

Puffin Kites: with Dry Water Arts. Make and fly your own kite (weather dependent of course). At the Little Shore. Free

Lunchtime talk: TBC

Live Performances: Throughout the day. In the Town Sq

Folk music from Inglenook

Caribbean Crew: steel band from Cramlington, playing upbeat,

contemporary music

Northern Brass Monkey

World music from street band Meze Mundo

Pete Bell aka 'The Human Jukebox'

Afternoon history walk: The sea, the wrecks and the fishing. With Nick Gibbs. Approx 1.5hrs. Meet at 2pm at steps near Cock + Bull in the Town Sq. Free.

Afternoon talk: All about Coquet Rivers Action Group (CRAG). 1pm-1.45pm at Cock + Bull in Town Sq. Free

Fun run finish. Fun run from Puffins Running Club. Whitley Bay to Amble

Rainbow Banners and Interactive Puffin Percussion along the pier: Come and have a go and get ready for some impromptu soundscapes, puffin symphony, a puffin polka.



PUFFIN AROUND THE FESTIVAL

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

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

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

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

•Children's amusements in the Town Sq.

•Find the Puffin! Which puffin is hiding in which shop? Competition runs from 22 - 29 May. Use festival programme to play.

15 May -5 June

•**Ganseys galore exhibition.** At DryWater Arts. Free

23 May-7 June

•**Dovecote Street Arts exhibition.**

At Dovecote Centre. Free

This is an open exhibition:

Entries by noon Friday 17 April.

Titled *Amble, Northumberland, England*. "We are inviting entries

that respond to the following exhibition brief.

"We want the exhibition to offer a contemporary portrait of England today. Consider how the national presents itself through the local and how current issues are reflected in our communities. Whether it's portrait photography or landscape painting, we want to see it. It's up to you how you interpret this brief, surprise us! Challenge us! We're keen to see as broad a range of submissions as possible."

For more info, and a link to the entry portal, see Dovecote Street Arts Facebook Page.