



# The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 158 June/July 2026



## Ice man feels the heat

### *Little Shore celebration*

Ice swimmer Fenwick Ridley joined celebrations for the Little Shore being awarded Bathing Water Status. The event took place during a sizzling Puffin Festival weekend.

*Page 3 and back page*

## Visit to Amble inspires LEGO Puffin idea

**Q:** What happens when a bird watching LEGO enthusiast visits Amble Puffin Festival?

**A:** He creates a puffin scene made entirely of LEGO bricks and submits it to the company, with the hope that it could become an official set.

An adorable puffin family feeding their puffling has been created from LEGO by Steve Thomas from Gateshead. After visiting the Puffin Festival he came up with the design, and entered it into LEGO's Ideas platform. If it gets enough votes, it could be made into an official set.

Steve is a keen LEGO builder and runs two clubs at the school where he works as a High Level Teaching Assistant. He often takes his own creations to exhibitions around the North East, and has made several animal designs.

Steve told *The Ambler*, "The puffin was developed after visiting last year's puffin festival. I made a puffling and took it to the random object exhibition."

His design is called *Clown of the Sea*. It consists of two puffins watching over the entrance to their burrow, a rocky grassy habitat, where their puffling (baby puffin) is hiding, munching on freshly caught fish. One of the parent puffins even has a fish in his beak which can be changed to a different colour.



Tommy Noddy the giant puffin meeting Steve Thomas at this year's Puffin Festival.

If the idea gets more than 10k votes, LEGO will review it and consider it for production. So far it is proving very popular with voters, with 2.4k votes after only a week, Steve says the support he has received on social media has been incredible.

He said, "I have been taking photos of my puffins up and

down the Northumberland coast to try and promote my idea, and I plan to visit the Farne Islands, hopefully getting real puffins in the background."

To vote for the *Clown of the Sea* design scan the QR code or visit: <https://beta.ideas.lego.com/product-ideas> and search for *Clown of the Sea*



## Shania-Jade wins business award

**S**hania-Jade Allan, the owner of SJA Fitness and Therapy attended the England Business Awards at the Crowne Plaza in Newcastle on 26 April and won the award for 'Best Health and Wellbeing Business' across the whole of Northumberland.

She spent three years at York St John's University studying a BSc Sport and Exercise Therapy Degree. Then invested in Level 3 and 4 Diplomas in Sports Massage, Nutrition for weight management and athletic performance, gym instruction and personal training.

The business started in 2022, beginning as mobile therapy, then moved to Amble Sports Development Centre (Amble Boys Club). Shania-

Jane has a passion for helping others through their journeys of sport, health, wellbeing and rehabilitation, and is now helping people in the community, whether that is the general public, sports athletes or sports clubs.

Accepting her award, she thanked the sponsors for the incredible honour, saying, "What started as a passion for helping people through rehabilitation and fitness has grown into something really special."

She thanked her clients for putting her name forward and for their commitment on their own journeys. She also thanked her family for giving her the confidence to take this path and for their continuing support.

# Now we can celebrate: Little Shore awarded bathing water status

Water quality campaigners in Amble are celebrating as news broke that the Little Shore has been officially designated as a bathing site. It follows a successful application to the government by Coquet River Action Group (CRAG), backed up with strong support from the local community.

The decision means that the Little Shore will now be formally monitored for water quality by the Environment Agency during the bathing season, providing clear public information and stronger protection for swimmers, paddlers, and other water users.

At the Puffin Festival, campaigners gathered with wild swimmer Fenwick Ripley at the 'Big Splash' dip to celebrate the news.

Julia Chambers from CRAG told the Ambler, "Amble's Little Shore has undergone immense change in the last 60 years from coal port to protected swimming area. Bathing Water Status signals change and progress in our growing community. It will help protect and inform everyone who uses the water. Planning



Swimmers are advised to take care when entering cold water.

Ice swimmer Fenwick Ripley at the Big Splash. Photo Jim Donnelly

and perseverance will now lead Amble into the future."

North Northumberland MP David Smith who had backed the application said: "I'm so pleased to see the much-loved Little Shore in Amble open as a designated bathing site. This recognition is an important milestone and a great boost for the town, and is testament to the community in Amble who have made it happen. I was delighted to champion the bid with the Government last year and I'm delighted to see it succeed."

Amble Swimmer Anna Willey said "I think it will definitely raise the Little Shore's profile in the outdoor swimming world. It will give reassurance to kayak and paddle boarders too, so should help our local water sports businesses. It's been a great community effort."

Bathing Water Designation doesn't mean it's safe to swim nor that the water quality is excellent, it means that water users are informed and a plan is put in place to sort out pollution issues. The status

gives legal responsibility to the Environment Agency for identifying and addressing sources of pollution.

A spokesperson for Northumbrian Water told The Ambler "It is great that Amble's Little Shore, is set to be added to this list and will be designated as bathing water later in the year, and we are excited to see the improvements this will make to this beautiful beach."

Jamie Day from CRAG said the group would support the Environment Agency in its work, by gathering and monitoring the quality of the waters surrounding the Little Shore.

"It will take time, but the plan developed by the Environment Agency in conjunction with other water stakeholders will protect Amble's Little Shore for the long term."

He added, "I'm just so happy for the volunteers that have made this happen. Their efforts led to a groundswell of support from the community for the application. Now we can celebrate!"

Anna Williams

## Local Flooring Specialists

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

92 Queen Street Amble



Please contact us on 01665 252090  
or email us at [info@evolution-flooring.co.uk](mailto:info@evolution-flooring.co.uk)



## Sports Hall asset transfer refused



News that the Amble community has been refused use of the old school sports hall has been met with anger and disappointment.

Northumberland County Council (NCC) have refused the asset transfer of the old building, and insist it must be demolished instead.

The project had gained a huge amount of support from individuals, local groups and organisations. It would have seen the old sports hall turned into a facility for additional sports, cultural and leisure events, and run for the benefit of the community.

Julia Aston, director of Amble Development Trust who submitted the community asset transfer (CaT) bid, expressed her disappointment and frustration at the decision.

She said, "We believe that the business case we submitted offered a wide range of opportunities, and addressed all the concerns that had been previously highlighted by NCC. From some of the reasons that have been given to us, I am left thinking our business case has not been fully understood. This would have been an excellent opportunity to address the community's lack of access to sports facilities in Amble.

"The reasons they gave for

denying the transfer are, frankly, disheartening, as we felt we met NCC's policies and strategies on healthy lives, well-being, sport, leisure, culture, as well as the community asset transfer process. The decision is very disappointing, following the effort and weeks of work that went into the bid."

The Ambler asked Glen Sanderson, leader of Northumberland County Council (pictured inset) for a comment. He didn't address

the decision, but sent us this statement: "I have arranged a round table meeting with the Development Trust, the Town Council and the local county councillors around how we might help facilitate options for the future." (See p5 for a report on that meeting.)

A Northumberland County Council spokesperson said: "Our commitment to investing in Amble and surrounding areas remains a top priority for the Council.

### Your comments

Comments from local people ranged from anger to disappointment and exasperation.

- "For God's sake, what's happening in Amble? The council want to feel ashamed of themselves,": *Ronnie Gibbard*
- "It's a kick in the \*\*\*\*\*" : *David Whenray*
- "I'm really disappointed in this, the netball team suffer every year with the loss of players... mainly because of the exam closures. I really don't know if we will have a team much longer": *Joanne Stone*
- "I'm really upset for our community. I think we deserve better provision for our physical and mental well-being. It could have been about families and increasing provision for those who need help the most. They're just going to knock it down? The county council should be ashamed of themselves": *Ciara Dawson*
- "This is sad news for the community of Amble and surrounding district. In the absence of a cohesive sports and leisure plan, retaining the Sports Hall would have ensured the community is well served for sports venues. The new High School will be able to provide some – but not all – provision. Amble has produced many talented sportsmen and women, despite not having the benefit of facilities to which other towns and villages have access. Hopefully this decision can be considered again – Amble deserves better!": *Ryan Jobson*

"Over £51m is being invested in first class education facilities across the Coquet Partnership, including a new sports hall and football pitches at James Calvert Spence College which will be open, not only for students, but for wider community use too.

"While the Amble Development Trust proposals set out a range of positive ideas, they would create significant risks to the delivery and funding, in place for the approved plans for the school. Any changes would impact on planning approvals, contractor and funding agreements, creating major risks and additional costs to the secured investment plans for the town – for which there is not a budget.

"We are keen to work with the Development Trust, the Town Council and other partners in the town to look at alternative opportunities to realise the ambitions and positively develop new proposals for improving the town.

"The Leader of the County Council arranged a round table meeting with the Development Trust, Town Council and local councillors to look at options and how we might work together."

The decision was also criticised by Amble's Mayor.

Cllr Luke McTaggart said, "I'm very surprised and extremely disappointed at NCC's decision regarding Amble Development Trust's community asset transfer application for the Sports Hall. We know how desperately Amble needs and wants a leisure centre, especially so with all the new houses being built. This was a cost effective, sustainable and resourceful solution that wouldn't have cost NCC a penny, I'm really puzzled by their decision."

*Anna Williams*

## Coquet Vets award nomination



Congratulations to Amble's veterinary practice, Coquet Vets, which has been shortlisted for North East Veterinary Practice of the Year as part of the My Local Awards.

Emily Renton, Clinical Director and Partner at Coquet Vets said: "We are so delighted to have been nominated for this award. After opening in March 2020 our team has gradually grown, and we have worked so

hard to create a clinic where our patients come first. The team are so dedicated and to be recognised in this way is really humbling."

Public voting for the North East regional nominees opened on 26 May 2026.

If you would like to vote for Coquet Vets on the My Local Awards website, use the following link: [mylocalawards.co.uk/business/coquet-vets/](https://mylocalawards.co.uk/business/coquet-vets/)

# Community and Council leaders meet to discuss future of Amble

A meeting of representatives from Amble and Northumberland County Council has taken place to discuss future opportunities, including securing investment in the town.

Northumberland County Council (NCC), Amble Town Council and Amble Development Trust met to discuss developing a Town Investment Plan which will include a feasibility study to understand opportunities and develop proposals for improving the town.

The meeting took place soon after NCC announced it would not allow the community access bid for the old school sports hall.

*“Securing investment in Amble is a top priority.”*

and discuss these vital next steps for the town. It is by working together that we understand the needs of residents and businesses, and further outlines our joint commitment, to improving Amble and surrounding areas.”

Council Leader, Councillor Glen Sanderson said: “I am really pleased that we have been able to get together

“We have a strong track record of working together over the years with our partners in Amble - the Seafood Town project and Amble Bord Waalk projects, which boosted the town. We are now looking to build on this with a new pipeline of projects to improve the town together.”

He added: “Our commitment to the Town Investment Plan, I hope, gives reassurance to residents that securing investment in Amble is a top priority and together we can make a strong case for the next wave of improvements to the town”

Amble Development Trust alongside Amble Town Council have proposed a range of positive ideas for future projects that could enhance community, sports, leisure and cultural provision in the town, as well as measures to ensure Amble is well connected. Representatives from both organisations welcomed the opportunity to develop the Town Investment Plan, in partnership with the County Council.

Councillor Luke McTaggart, Mayor of Amble Town Council said: “While we are disappointed at the outcome of the Asset Transfer for the Sports Hall, I am pleased that NCC have listened to



Julia Aston, Amble Development Trust; Cllr Luke McTaggart, Amble Town Council; Cllr Glen Sanderson, Northumberland County Council.

Amble’s concerns and needs.

“Work will now begin on a Town Plan, for which NCC have offered to provide some feasibility funding. This will support the development of the plan, and will explore ideas for community-led sport, leisure and cultural activities that the Sports Hall project sought to deliver.

“It’s important we work on this at pace and secure tangible commitments very soon.”

Julia Aston, Director of Amble Development Trust said: “We were extremely disappointed at

the outcome of the Community Asset Transfer. However, looking to the future, we will be working with NCC and ATC to build an economic plan for the town, investigating projects that will hopefully fulfil community requirements. We hope this process will be developed at pace to ensure momentum is not lost.”

NCC has indicated that as the Town Investment Plan is developed, there will be further engagement with all public, private and community stakeholders in the town and the whole community.

## THE MAD JAM WOMAN & Pride of Northumbria



Award winning Preserves & Relishes

• As seen on James Martin's Saturday Morning show

Fourways One  
Bridge St, Amble NE65 0DR  
07766 857680

Also available at the Seafood Centre  
www.madjamwoman.com

## edie pebble

Pod 14 Amble Harbour Village



Beautiful handmade gifts, vintage treasures and nautical decorations

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

## PHILIP PARKINSON Homecare

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

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

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



**Call Julie now on 0797 169 1631**



Make it look pretty again!

Design - Build - Maintenance

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

Coast & Country Garden Service

01665 798543

AMBLE

staintonel@gmail.com





# The Ambler

COMMENDED at the Newspaper of the Year awards 2023

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

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

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



### Editorial Team:

Vivienne Dalgliesh, Norma Hinson,  
Ian MacKarill

Editor: Anna Williams

### Distribution:

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

### Printing:

CBS World, Alnwick

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

Thanks to all our contributors,  
sponsors and advertisers:

George Young  
Amble and Warkworth Rotary



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

The Ambler is a project of  
Amble Development Trust



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

### 2026 Submissions dates:

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

## Jam packed and full to bursting...

...and that's not just this edition! Amble was filled with happy locals and visitors enjoying the festivities during the hot bank holiday, and it highlights how much tourism is now the prime focus in our town. Hundreds of local people now rely on tourism to make a living. This popularity has positive and negative connotations, especially if you want to drive near the harbour, or need to use the public toilets. Neither seem to cope with an influx of users. What is the solution to Victorian road infrastructure which gets narrower as you draw nearer to the sea?

## WHAT YOU SAY...

>> more letters on p9

### Beatrix's charity haircut

Beatrix Tanner has had 18 inches of her hair cut off for the Little Princess Trust and has raised £1,150 for the charity.

When she was in hospital getting her tonsils out, she met a little girl on the ward with no hair.

She was curious so I explained how some children can lose their hair. I told her about the Little Princess Trust and how I'd donated three times, and straight away she said that she wanted to do the same to help other little girls.

She had her hair cut at Bayside Hair Studio, Amble by her auntie Amanda. We are all so proud of her and would like to thank all of our family and friends for sponsoring her.

Jodie Tanner, Amble



The letters pages are sponsored by



Discover Longstone Manor, a new community blending coastal charm and countryside calm near Amble, brought to you by Persona Homes. Search 'Longstone Manor' to find out more.

### NCC are not listening to the community

I was saddened to hear that NCC decided against the asset transfer of the Sports Hall.

The current sports hall has a climbing wall. This is a costly item. An item the Coast Guard would have liked to train on as it is local, rather than travelling elsewhere.

The climbing wall can be used as a therapeutic tool by those with social communication issues. It develops social skills of listening, working together, improving eye-hand coordination, body schema and strength. It creates further opportunities of transferring those skills out in the community.

This is just one element of how the current sports hall would have benefitted the community. It is disappointing that those at NCC are not listening to the residents of Amble. NCC is negligent in

not enabling and facilitating improved physical wellbeing and/or scaffolding better mental health opportunities.

For NCC and the school to say they are addressing these needs is an outright fallacy. There is no climbing wall in the proposed new build. The new sports hall is not a full-size sports hall for basketball, netball or 5-a-side.

It will not be available for use during exams or when the school itself needs it for their PE sessions. It will therefore NOT be a community resource.

I would like to congratulate ADT and ATC for all their hard work in trying to get NCC to listen to the residents of Amble.

A disappointed Amble resident  
Name and address supplied

### Update on the Christmas Lights team

Following on from a recent letter to the Ambler, (Issue #155) the Christmas lights committee thought we would update you on the team.

The team now consists of 10 men, three of whom have been involved since Amble Christmas Lights started, we think this was around the year 2000, but we could be wrong. This means, yes you've guessed, some members of the team are over 70 with most over 60, but not all, as there are one or two youngsters (in their 50s) who have recently joined the team.

The team has one qualified electrician who



signs off the work, which is carried out all year round. The work entails designing, making and maintaining all the Christmas lights. If you would like to join them, email

amblexmaslights@gmail.com

This year's Light Parade will be held on the 22 November with the Jack Drum Band and Dancers leading the way. If you would like to join in the parade please contact julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk To make sure Amble is ready, the lads will be seen on the street putting them up from around the 21 October.  
Mandy Bond, Amble Christmas Lights Committee

## Hugh's views: Helping Nature Part 2

The ongoing urbanisation of Amble looks set to continue for years to come. Housing developments have swallowed up green spaces at an alarming rate. The Braid remains the greatest loss with the extinction of such a bio-diverse plant community.

Yet there are still several green spaces remaining within Amble which offer potential opportunities for nature to flourish.

The large grassland area surrounding Coquet Vets is a good example. The area used to be mown regularly but has remained untouched for the last couple of years allowing taller plants to colonise. Last year purple flowered knapweed, an important butterfly food plant, appeared in greater numbers in this area along with bright yellow common ragwort, a notifiable weed, unfairly so in my opinion, which is also favoured by many of our pollinators. These wild flowers, if allowed to flourish, could support a considerable insect population which in turn would support many insect eating birds



Small skipper butterfly.

such as swallows, house martins and swifts.

The Coquet Industrial Estate could also help nature if future developments would incorporate nature friendly areas within their footprint. One section of the park which is currently for sale and looks rather neglected has nevertheless developed a very diverse natural community.

The plot contains a shelter belt of willow and poplar trees which were coppiced a few years ago and is now populated by birds and small mammals, as well as a large area of grassland colonised by knapweed, ragwort and some creeping thistle all of which are nectar rich and very attractive to butterflies. The tall

grasses shelter their eggs, caterpillars (larvae) and pupae so that species such as meadow brown, ringlet and small skipper now flourish there. Clumps of bramble provide roosting cover and are also attractive to the speckled wood.

In order to observe these less well-known and not so obvious species just look for the flowers as they appear, usually

creeping thistle first followed by ragwort and knapweed. The adult butterflies emerge as these plants start to flower, so in June and July expect to see small skippers perhaps accompanied by small tortoiseshells which also have a preference for creeping thistle in particular, as they sip the life-giving nectar.

Look out for these small sublime beauties on sunny, less windy days when the males engage in their courtship flights, rarely flying above the tallest stems except on the quietest days, fighting through the tall grasses in this surprisingly diverse habitat.

Hugh Tindle

## SUMMER READING

### New thriller with a contemporary twist

Amble author, Mark Batey, delves into the fast-changing sphere of geopolitics in his new thriller, FINAL HARBOUR, a tense read, set mainly in the UK and Malta.

Mark Batey says, "I set out to explore the shadow networks and mortal dangers that lurk behind the headlines we browse every day. I hope the story will entertain readers seeking escapist adventure with a contemporary twist this summer."

The book is available as a paperback and as an ebook.

### Children's book based on hungry Amble otter

Readers may remember in the last issue of The Ambler about fisherman Kevin Henderson, whose boat became a handy takeaway site for a local otter. Now Kevin's daughter Natalie has produced a children's book based on the cheeky animal. Kevin and the Amble Otter is available at Bridge Street Books, and other outlets in Amble.

## Hi viz fun at Brambles



Bramble's children played at being construction workers thanks to Kier who gave them the hi viz and hard hats. The children built their own obstacle course and had a lot of fun.

Paula, Brambles Childcare Centre

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

**HAUXLEY FARM DAIRY**  
**DOORSTEP DELIVERIES.**  
Hauxley Farm is a family run farm producing quality milk here in High Hauxley.  
We pasteurise our own milk here on the farm before delivering it during the night direct to your doorstep in reusable glass bottles.  
Old fashioned milk with that lovely cream line.

We deliver from Embleton to Stanington please see our website [www.hauxleyfarmdairy.co.uk](http://www.hauxleyfarmdairy.co.uk) for our delivery route.  
Enquiries to [hauxleyfarmdairy@gmail.com](mailto:hauxleyfarmdairy@gmail.com)



# Persona Homes

by Home Group



## Local buyers find perfect home for their family

*From the moment Caitlin and her partner saw the site map, they knew their new home at Longstone Manor was the one.*

It was little more than a plot number on the plans at that stage, but it offered exactly what they wanted - a quieter setting, tucked into a cul-de-sac, and perfectly placed for their move from the other side of Amble.

Caitlin explained: "We actually drove past the site the first time we saw it. It was before anyone had moved in, there wasn't even a sales office yet. But we knew it could be the right place.

"We went down to one of their other offices and met Amber, and she was really honest with us from the off. I took one look at the site map and said 'I want that plot. I know it is going to be forever [until its ready], but it was just right'.

It did take time for their new home to be ready. Delays cropped up with getting utilities connected to the site, but

throughout the process the Persona Homes team kept Caitlin and her partner up to date.

"Amber was so honest with us when there were delays. It made such a big difference. She didn't try to hide anything, and we knew our home was the one. I spent nearly three years envisioning every single room.

"It was quite surreal walking in for the first time, to be honest.

"I sat on the sofa the other day with my husband, and I had thought about that moment for such a long time. We sat there, and it was such a calming moment. It is a new chapter; it is really exciting!"

"We are living in a home where we got to pick literally

everything, from the kitchen to the bathroom tiles. We got to build it exactly how we wanted. It looks smart, there are bigger windows, higher ceilings, all the things our previous house didn't have. It is lovely."

Persona Homes continues to offer two-, three- and four-bedroom homes at Longstone Manor, with the team ready to help more homebuyers in the region find their forever homes.

As Caitlin described: "Throughout, they were great. Amber, the site team, everyone. Everything has been really honest and good; it's something I've really appreciated. I would definitely recommend Persona Homes to my friends and family."

### To find out more

Search **Longstone Manor, Amble**  
or email us [contactus@yourpersonahome.com](mailto:contactus@yourpersonahome.com)



## Remembering Airship 101

When my granddaughter Lucy rang me from London to see how I was coping with being aged 101, it set me back remembering a story from years ago.

One Sunday afternoon when I was about five years old, I set off to visit my grandparents, then living in Gordon Street. Nearby I noticed people looking up to the sky. I turned and looked up too, and saw the huge airship R101 flying over Amble harbour, not very high and not very fast.

My granddaughter then said "I'll Google it." After a few minutes she had the following information.

On 17 November 1929 R101 slipped the mast and flew up the coast of England to Edinburgh. Her moorings were at Cardington in Bedfordshire.

Later, a large envelope arrived from Lucy, it contained information about the airship.

R101 was a British government programme to develop civil airships

capable of service on long-distance routes within the Empire, to South Africa, India, Singapore, Australia and Canada. to transport passengers and mail.

Its length was 770 feet (about 230 meters). It had a crew of 42 working in two watches. Passenger accommodation was spread over two decks - up to 100 passengers and a dining room for 60 people.

After trial flights and subsequent modifications to increase lifting capacity, they added another hydrogen lifting bag.

During its maiden voyage on 5 October 1930, enroute to India, the R101 crashed in France killing 45 of the 54 people on board including Air Minister Lord Christopher Thomson. This crash ended airship development in Britain.

In 1937 the German Hindenburg airship crashed in America with the loss of 32 lives.

*George Young  
Amble*

## Tiff's Big Dip

In December my beautiful daughter Tiffany took her own life after struggling with mental health for two years. She was 20 years old and lived in supported accommodation at The Corn Exchange at Alnwick.

Tiff grew up in Amble and Warkworth and she loved the little shore. She was a talented swimmer representing her County all over England. When she could no longer compete she loved to go in the sea and said it



regulated her moods. She was a keen surfer who loved to be out on the waves.

30 June would have

been her 21st birthday and we'd like people who knew her to join us for a dip in the sea to support us in remembering her.

We ask you to wear something pink as it was her favourite colour. We want it to be a fun event. Trained dippers will be there to support anyone venturing into the sea for the first time and we have sought permissions from the harbor master and informed the coastguard.

*Claire Jones  
via email*

## Volunteer litter pickers making a difference

We recently organised a litter pick on Amble Braid in March. 15 volunteers showed up and between us we collected 19 bags of rubbish along with an old bike! We are continuing to lobby town and county councils to help resolve the rubbish dumped (piano, large bins etc) on Turner Street behind the shops that residents flagged to us when we were out picking. In April, we did a pick around Warkworth. Our 13 volunteers picked four bags, a child's bike and several car parts!

### Individual Litter Picking

If you sign up with us as an environmental volunteer, you will be covered by Northumberland County Council (NCC) insurance while you are out litter

picking. For safety reasons, volunteers should not pick litter alongside roads where the speed limit is in excess of 30mph, as insurance cover does not apply in these locations.

We can provide all the equipment you need, including: litter pickers, Hi visibility vests, gloves, litter bags

This is a flexible, informal volunteering opportunity that you can fit around your own time, helping to make a positive difference to your local environment.

For more information, or to pre-register for a litter pick, please email Julia G at [litterfree@icloud.com](mailto:litterfree@icloud.com)

*Julia G  
via email*

# YOU COULD BE OWED MONEY FROM YOUR CAR FINANCE



**CONSUMER REFUND SERVICE**

Check if you could be eligible for compensation from mis-sold PCP or Hire Purchase agreements



- ✓ Free car finance check
- ✓ Takes less than 60 seconds
- ✓ No upfront cost
- ✓ No win, no fee

**CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY TODAY - IT'S FREE**

visit: [consumerrefund.co.uk](http://consumerrefund.co.uk)



SCAN HERE

You do not have to use a firm such as ourselves to make this type of claim. You can make a claim yourself without charge directly to the relevant lender, if unsuccessful you can refer it to the Financial Ombudsman Service for free, or through an industry wide redress scheme that the Financial Conduct Authority are proposing to introduce in 2026. All claims are 'no win no fee' meaning that you will only be charged if your claim is successful, in which case you will be charged between 18-36% of any compensation you receive. For full terms visit [www.consumer-refund.org/motor-finance-claims](http://www.consumer-refund.org/motor-finance-claims)

Consumer Refund Service Ltd is a CMC authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN: 833275) | 10-16 Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1NJ | 01661 678007

## Going to see Yungblud

Yungblud is really big right now. He's a really decent down to earth person. His music is modern day rock, some of his biggest hits are Zombie, The Funeral.

Two of us have just been to see him; Nina went to Leeds, and Issy went to Glasgow



**Issy:** "It was a big really cool venue. There were thousands of people there. It was better than the Olivia

Rodrigo gig. I got the tickets for Christmas. I like Yungblud, I think he is really creative and honest. My favourite song is Hated.



**Nina:** "That was my first concert, it was really good. I enjoyed the music. I got tickets for my birthday which was a nice surprise. We all sang along. It was a great evening."

## Sometimes we all just need a 'big sister'



Everyone is dealing with something – school stress, friendship drama, family worries, feeling different.

You don't always need advice or someone to solve your problems. Sometimes, when life is messy, you just need someone to sit next to you and ask if you are ok.

A 'big sister' is someone who sits with the person who is alone at lunch and asks if they want advice or just someone to listen. They

might want someone who will be able to keep their secrets (unless they're not safe, then you must tell a responsible adult), or someone who will ask if they are ok, or just make them laugh.

Maybe you can be someone's 'big sister'? You don't need to be related to them; you just need to be there for them. You don't have to fix everything for them, you just need to notice them, and see the positive side of them, even if they can't see it themselves.

By Skylar

## Men's World Cup tickets are so expensive!



The World Cup is important because it brings all the countries of the world together. No matter who wins, all the countries are worth the same amount of money. The 2026 World Cup will be hosted by the USA, Canada and Mexico. It lasts from 11 June - 19 July.

England's first match is 17 June vs Croatia. It will be played in Arlington USA. A ticket for the match is over £600. Prices are higher than in previous world cups. Some tickets for the final are £6000. I think tickets for the world cup are highly expensive. In comparison, tickets for the Womens World Cup in 2023 were around £60.

I really hope England will win, although I think USA will win.

By Esme

## Amazing dance initiative is coming to Amble



Eliot Smith is holding a Youth Dance Initiative in Amble in August

We were really happy to meet Eliot Smith, a contemporary dancer who owns his own dance company, Eliot Smith Dance. Eliot came to speak to us about an exciting new dance opportunity in Amble during the summer.

We asked him how he got into dance. He told us it was when he was nine and attended his first hiphop class, he wanted to become a backing dancer. Later on he got interested in ballet and contemporary dance. When he was 16 he moved to London to train and then when he was 21 he moved to New York.

Eliot told us "Dancing is my life, it is my passion, I believe I have a voice when I dance."

We asked him what contemporary dance is. He explained it's when dancers tell a story through movement. He said it's hard work and they have to train every day.

Eliot is offering an intensive experience in Amble during 5-7 August. This is for ages 8-12 and 13-17, for those young people living in Amble and surrounding areas, who have never done contemporary dance before. He and Yamit Salazar will do a technique class, hiphop and choreography over 3 days. If you take part you will enrol in the first Northumberland Youth Group which will be based in Amble. Eliot hopes that the group will begin in January.

He told us, "I'm very passionate about this area. There were not many opportunities when I grew up in Heaton. You might become the next big thing or make friends, but you will learn confidence. If you're interested, email me any questions. There is a fee but if there are any barriers, please email me. Talent is everywhere; opportunity is not."

By Eden Grace

See more: [www.eliotsmithdance.com/youthintensive](http://www.eliotsmithdance.com/youthintensive)

## When Indie found Dory



At Easter I was in Egypt, and I went snorkelling in the Red Sea.

I saw a lot of amazing fish. The sea was turquoise and clear – not like our North Sea. The Red Sea is one of the saltiest seas in the world. I want to be a marine biologist so I was really excited to go snorkelling.

I saw a rainbow fish, a puffer fish and I even saw DORY! (A Blue Tang).

The coral wasn't as vibrant as I thought it would be. That is because of pollution. Some of the tourist boats pump oil out into the sea. I think that's terrible and I would rather not go than see that happen. I had such a good time.

By Indie



## Why our MP supports the social media ban



We talked to David Smith MP via a Teams chat

We were lucky enough to speak to our local MP David Smith to ask him a few questions. We've been writing about the government's proposed social media ban, so it was good to be able to ask him about it and tell him how we feel.

### About David:

*Please tell us about what it was like when you were growing up. Where were you born? Did you like school? What was your favourite subject at school?*

I was born in Paisley and grew up in West Scotland. I'd say my favourite subject is History - modern British and world history.

*Where do you live now? London during the week, and Seahouses (and Sunderland because my son is at school there).*

*What did you do before you became an MP? Worked for charities to support people. I worked for a homeless charity based in Gateshead, and a peacemaker charity in Northern Ireland.*

*Why did you want to be an MP? Some decisions only politicians can fix.*

### About the social media ban:

*Do you have kids? Are they on social media? Yes, I have a daughter, 20. She's on social media. My son is 14. He has limited access to soc med. [No Tiktok]*

*You said in a video on Facebook that 12 year olds spend 29 hours per week on social media. Where did you get your facts from? (Note: we researched you, using social media!) It was from a Gallup poll.*

*We at Artograffi are not in favour of a ban for under 13s. Do you support a ban and if so, why?*

I do support a ban because we need to balance the good things on social media, like people connecting with the same subjects, but we have to weigh up the harm. I have no doubt we should ban it. All kinds of things have an age limit. I think of the risks

and harms that young people are exposed to on social media, [eating disorders, grooming, suicide, access to children.] I think young people should get access when they reach the age of maturity. It's not just things they can access. It's also about brain development, therefore there should be an age limit.

*Why should the government intervene in this? Are there not more serious problems – homeless kids, kids in poverty – that the government should be working on?*

It's not about if it's more important – government can do more than one thing at a time. My job before was with homeless people. I think when you see things and there's harm, you should do something about it.

*We saw that in Australia kids can still get online. So why make a ban when people can dodge it? I don't doubt that some people will get around it. When society decides something is against the law, some will always try to get around it. But that shouldn't stop us making the decision we think is right. We've got to come up with some tech solutions. It's the responsibility of the tech companies who have made us their products. They make billions per year; they are the ones to be held responsible.*

*Can the government really hold social media companies to account? France and other European countries are looking at a ban. The more countries hold social media companies to account, the harder it will be for them. At the moment they can play one country off against another.*

### Fun Questions:

*What's your favourite TV show? Stranger Things*  
*What's your favourite part of Amble? Little Shore*  
*What's the naughtiest thing you ever did as a kid? Sneaking off with friends when on holiday and I fell in a loch. I was soaking wet. I got into big trouble!*  
 By Lexi, Donny, Skylar, Eden and Esme

## Harbour news: Little Shore spruce up

Another busy spell at the Harbour since the last edition of *The Ambler*. The start of the arrival of tourists and visitors are a welcome sight as is the return of swimmers and “The Swimmers” to the water at the Little Shore. I have mentioned to some of the Swimmers that the Orcas are back; however, this does not seem to deter them in any way!!

Rachel (pictured) and Eddie have made a superb job of renovating the beach huts which have all had new timbers fitted, roof felt put on and painted. The grass to the front has been cut, the weeds removed and I have to say, the whole area looks brilliant.

It was fantastic to see the huge motorcycle rally arrive in

Amble at the start of April. It's only the second time that I have seen this, and I think our town showed great support to these men and women who take part in this fantastic venture each year. I was told by the organisers that they had over 1,200 motorcycles taking part this year. It was truly amazing to see them parked up on Harbour Road car park.

You will all have noticed the large boat which is berthed on the quayside outside the harbour office. This is the dredger which is due to start work within the harbour around the middle of June, so we can expect to see a lot of waste removal from the riverbed during this period.

We have repaired and replaced damaged timbers at the

end of the pier and are about to start work replacing a number of the large timbers along Broomhill Quay.

Later in the summer we are planning to start work on renovating the lighthouse on the south breakwater, so please do not be alarmed when you see scaffolding being erected around it.

So, after the Puffin Festival, and the funfair, we have the Colony Music Festival to enjoy and hopefully, weather to match the fantastic summer we had last year.

For the dog owners, you may not be aware that we provide free dog biscuits, dog bags and drinking water for your canine friends at the front of the harbour office; please help



yourself.

As always, I will finish off by wishing you all a fantastic start to the summer and I look forward to talking to the many people who stop me to chat day to day across the harbour.

*Gary Paxton  
Harbour Master*

## New Businesses.....

### Yin & Yang Reiki healing

A couple newly moved to Amble are offering Reiki healing sessions from their home.

Reiki is a complementary therapy designed to calm and realign your energy. Michelle and her fiancé Martin met when they were both studying for their Reiki Level 2. Michelle said “Our spiritual journey has brought us to this part of our paths to offer a unique Reiki healing practice with both our

masculine and feminine energies.

“This balance of Yin and Yang creates a calming, restorative experience designed to realign and uplift your energy. Reiki has guided us to create a healing space where each session is offered with compassion, intention, and respect for journey. Whether you seek peace, clarity, or energetic renewal, we're here to support you.”

To make a booking, visit <https://Yinyangreiki.as.me/>

### Bridge Street Books

The owner of Amble's new bookshop, Fi McEwan-Thompson, (pictured) has been working hard in preparation for the opening. Originally from Durham, her love for seaside towns has drawn her to Amble and its growing community of independent retailers.

The bookshop is a completely new venture for her, one that she has never considered doing before. With a background in education she is a champion of the need for people to read more, particularly actual books. With the move towards more books finding their way into homes, particularly for young people, this is a positive move which will benefit Amble and the surrounding area.

The building is bright with easily accessible shelves and space to sit and enjoy the book experience.

Inclusive is a word often used by Fi as she is particularly interested in appealing to the Amble community as a whole. There will be the opportunity to enjoy tea and coffee and conversation with other customers in a safe space.

There will be the whole range of books on offer from romance through fiction and crime thrillers. Fi is particularly interested in promoting the work of local authors and these were some of the first books I



saw when we met. There is a section with Feminism, LGBTQ, Well Being, Self Care and Sustainability. Future projects will include Poetry Therapy.

She would like her customers to write reviews about their experience in the shop so that she can learn from their visits.

Fi wants to thank the local community for their support which she described as welcome and incredible. She said that the feeling of being wanted in a town which is obviously expanding was amazing. Amble was described recently in a national newspaper as being the friendliest place in England.

Bridge Street Books is located at 4a Bridge Street, Amble, NE65 0DR and will open for business at the beginning of June.  
*Ray Wilcox*

### Puffin Petals



Welcome to Puffin Petals, a new florist shop on Queen Street. It is run by Kelly Graham and her fiancé Alistair Mackay. The pair moved to Amble from the Durham area two years ago. Kelly has been a florist for 20 years, and she knows Amble very well; visiting regularly since

she was a child, while Alistair knows the Friendliest Port for fishing. The pair are delighted with their reception from locals. “We couldn't have asked for better start,” said Kelly, “Local people and businesses are already supporting us and wishing us well.”

## Franciscan pilgrimage to visit Amble

Each year on 4 October, Christians and many others around the world celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi - the joyful friar whose life of simplicity, compassion, and kinship with all creation continues to inspire many today.

This year is the 800th anniversary of his death, and as we approach this milestone, we celebrate not only the memory of a saint, but a living movement of peace, reconciliation, and joyful love that our world still needs today.

The Society of St Francis (SSF) is organising a pilgrimage which will be split into stages and will visit the Anglican Franciscan Houses starting in Alnmouth and ending at Hilfield Friary in Dorset.

Stage one will begin on the 18 July from Alnmouth Friary and the first stop that evening will be in Amble. St Cuthbert's Church will host the walkers with refreshments that evening in the Church. The next stages are as follows:

Sunday 19 July from Amble to Newbiggin, Monday 20 July from Newbiggin to Cramlington, Tuesday 21 July



from Cramlington to Newcastle Upon Tyne, Wednesday 22 July from Newcastle Upon Tyne to Chester-le-Street, Thursday 23 July from Chester-le-Street to Durham.

You can join any of these stages just for the day. If you want to find out more details about the year of celebration, go to the Spirit of Francis web

site [www.spiritoffrancis.com](http://www.spiritoffrancis.com). For the Pilgrimage itself follow the link to [www.spiritoffrancis.com/2026-franciscan-peace-pilgrimage/](http://www.spiritoffrancis.com/2026-franciscan-peace-pilgrimage/)

The Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage offers a unique invitation to step away from the noise of everyday life and walk a path of purpose, reflection, and renewal.

Each pilgrimage - rooted in history, culture, and spiritual tradition, offers its own sacred rhythm, inviting you to slow down, breathe deeply, and rediscover what truly matters.

At the heart of these journeys lies a powerful call to hope, peace, and reconciliation. In a world often marked by division and unrest, walking together with open hearts can become an act of healing.

The pilgrimages create space for personal and collective transformation, where wounds can be acknowledged, stories shared, and bridges built across difference.

Whether you walk for forgiveness, understanding, or new beginnings, each step becomes a prayer for peace within ourselves and in the world.

These pilgrimages are more than just travel, they're opportunities for reflection, discovery, and personal growth. Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, cultural insight, or simply adventure, the series provides a captivating path to follow.

*Ian Mackarill*

## Expertise Wills and Wealth

### PROTECT YOUR FAMILY ASSETS

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

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

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

**WILLS** Simple Wills • Trust Wills • Free Reviews

**PROBATE** Call us for Expert Help and Advice

**PENSIONS** Do you have pension pots scattered  
here and there? Now coming up to retirement?

**We're here to help you go through your options.**

**Ring Enid: 07772 182 130**

**for a FREE CONSULTATION in your home**



Email: [enid.eww@sky.com](mailto:enid.eww@sky.com)  
Enid Wilson  
Consultant  
30 years of experience

## CBSWorld

Complete Business Supplies



## Printing Services

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

[www.cbsworld.co.uk](http://www.cbsworld.co.uk)

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





# Reports from our County Councillors



Arty.Hume@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143949

Pauline.Davidson@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143980

April began with a meeting at the Amble Development Trust (ADT) to discuss a strategy for Amble's economic future. Followed by a further meeting with ADT, Amble Town Council (ATC) and councillors from Northumberland County Council (NCC). Discussions are ongoing.

I have also given my monthly update to ATC.

## Casework and Resident Support

Many residents have been seeking assistance this month. As your county councillor, I take this responsibility seriously. I aim to respond either the same day or within 24 hours. I also try to obtain a job reference number for each issue so both the County Council and residents can track progress and ensure accountability.

These cases have been varied, and occasionally complex. In such situations, I seek guidance from experienced County Council officers. I remain committed to achieving the best outcomes for Amble and its residents, regardless of political views.

Meetings and Community Engagement

I have taken part in a S.I.M. (simulation) walk around Amble, to highlight the challenges faced by visually impaired residents. Although the simulation glasses were unavailable, we still identified and addressed several issues. Thanks to Luke McTaggart who attended on behalf of ATC. We both submitted reports with suggested improvements.

I have attended an NCC Staff and Appointments meeting and met with Council Leader Glen Sanderson to arrange a meeting to focus on Amble's economic development. This was followed by a Teams meeting to continue the discussions. Recommendations and guidelines were

presented; details will be shared when available.

I took part in a Climate Change Working Group meeting to discuss the council's approach to the energy crisis. For the record, I have since resigned from this committee, as I do not agree with their agenda.

## Community Hub and Development

From the meetings I've attended, it's clear that any proposed community hub must demonstrate clear need. I had suggested repurposing the "Buddy Buys" site on the industrial estate but this was deemed unsuitable. The search continues.

Further meetings are planned, and I will continue working with ADT, the ATC, and NCC to secure the best outcomes.

## Members' Local Improvement Scheme (MLIS)

This is how MLIS funding has been allocated.

- Funding awarded to Amble AFC to support children's football.

- Contribution towards new Christmas lights.

- Funding to update computers for ADT and The Ambler.

I have invited residents to suggest ideas for future funding, but responses were limited. Please remember this is your money, and your input matters. Unspent funds have rolled over, and about £23,000 can be available this year.

I had hoped to allocate funding towards improved CCTV. hopefully this can still be achieved,

Please contact me on my work email- arty.hume@northumberland.gov.uk, this way you know and NCC know I am doing my best to fulfil my role.

Hopefully Reform U.K. surgeries will resume soon.

Cllr Arty Hume - Reform U.K.

I don't have a lot to report this time as I have been recovering from major surgery.

I am pleased to say that I am now gradually returning to my Council duties.

However, I have been able to respond to emails and have successfully dealt with issues raised by residents. I am still fully committed to supporting our residents and communities and I look forward to sharing regular updates soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Cllr Arty Hume for his help, support, and thoughtfulness during my period of recovery.

## Application for Development of Land South of the Gut.

A resident recently contacted me concerning the use of North Street for the delivery and collection of large container skips using Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) These vehicles have caused significant disruption to other traffic and posed a health and safety risk to pedestrians and other road users.

I visited the site, but there was no sign of any HGVs in the vicinity. The building site fencing was back in position, and all skips had been removed. Hopefully, that part of the job is now

complete so that there is no further necessity to use North Street for access.

The planning department in County Hall confirmed that vehicle access has not been approved via North Street.

## Simpler Recycling in Northumberland.

The Government has introduced new Simpler Recycling rules across England. These rules mean that all Councils must collect the same set from all households.

NCC is working to introduce these changes as soon as possible. Infrastructure upgrades are now progressing, and phased introduction is expected to commence with food waste collections from the autumn.

Everyone will be kept informed as to when changes will happen, what service will be included, which materials go in each bin, when new bins will be delivered and where to find further information.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any issues. it doesn't matter how big or how small they are, I will do my best to help.

Cllr Pauline Davison  
Reform U.K.

## Nesting season is underway

Over recent weeks, the Space for Shorebirds ranger team and our brilliant volunteers have been patrolling the coast for nesting ringed plovers. These birds are very well camouflaged amongst the sand and shingle. Their eggs are laid in shallow scrapes on the ground, and look just like pebbles. (See photo). Finding them is no easy task!

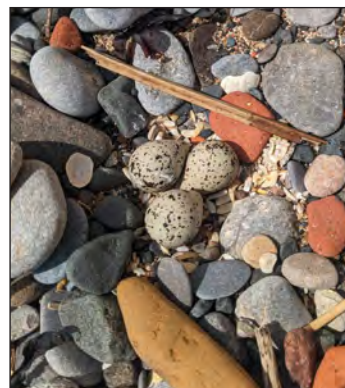
Our efforts have gladly paid off, as we've recorded our first nests at Buston, Dunstanburgh, Beadnell and Seahouses.

With a bit of patience and keen eyes, if you're out on the

coast you might spot some of these birds yourself. (See photo). Ringed plovers are theatrical performers; when a competitor dares step onto their turf, they are warned off with tail-fanning, chasing and sometimes quite aggressive scrapping!

When feeling more flirtatious, ringed plovers show their interest in one another with much friendlier games of chase and paired circular flights.

While looking out for these behaviours, listen for the ringed plover's distinctive calls; their usual 'contact call' is a mellow



'too-lee' with an upward inflection, whereas their alarm call is a slightly lower pitched

and harsher 'too-weep'. When performing display flights, they sing a repeating 'tee-leea, tee-leea' or 'leea, leea'.

If you do spot ringed plovers on the coast, please remember to give them plenty of space. At this time of year, they need all their energy to stay fit and raise their young.

If you see any of our rangers or volunteers, come say hello and ask us all about the birds!

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @SpaceforShorebirds to stay updated throughout the season.



I'm going to begin Trust Life with an apology – an apology for not securing the existing Sports Hall!

I can honestly say we tried and believed we were going to be successful. Sadly the powers that be said no.

We are still trying to understand why, as all the reasons we were given had been addressed within the business case. However after attending several meetings with NCC it does appear to come down to timing; JCSC's new build being too far advanced to change planning.

This is particularly frustrating as NCC decided on the timeline for submitting the business case (and we stuck to that timing) so someone must have known at the time that it was too late to be changed.

The whole process has been so disappointing as we know there were many supporters of the asset transfer within the community - and even within NCC, including the Leader who had asked if

the decision could be overturned.

However we will keep on trying and have several meetings lined up with NCC officers and Councillors to see what can be salvaged and then delivered.

The Trust and Town Council will keep you informed of progress and dates for community consultation. We urge you to come along to ensure your voice is heard.

### Get yourselves in a pickle

More positive news is that Matthew is setting up Pickleball courts at the welfare on the unmarked court. If you are interested in playing please get in touch with him here at the office: 01665 712929.

### Housing numbers

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan is nearing fruition following meetings with several land owners. In addition, some members of the group met with the head of planning at NCC to hear more about

the new government housing strategy and increased housing numbers Northumberland has to deliver. It is an ambitious target and probably not one that will be welcomed by many communities.

### Town of Culture bid

Town of Culture competition: no date has been given for when we will find out whether we have been long listed only that a decision will be made in spring. So we are keeping our fingers well and truly crossed that we get some positive news soon.

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, with two runner up towns receiving £250k to deliver elements of their bid.

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

## Danielle's legacy



Sometimes change comes from an unexpected source. In one quiet, unassuming example, an Amble woman's legacy is helping shape medical research studies.

A medical research protocol which was named after Danielle Cruickshank, who sadly died in 2022, required researchers to formally involve patients and public when carrying out their work.

A new study on the potential use of patient and public involvement (PPI) in the future has now been published.

It confirms the importance of engaging patients and their families, but says a stronger set of terms of reference is needed for how researchers act, engage and verify work done with them. It is not certain the protocol will become mandatory, and even if it did, it may not continue to be named after Danielle, but her name is still proudly linked to the original process.

The link to the online study can be found on The Ambler's website.

**Hello Amble,**

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

Find us at Queen Street, Amble, NE65 0DA, or call us on 01665 710437.  
[coop.co.uk/funeralcare](http://coop.co.uk/funeralcare)

**co op**

**Cromie PHARMACY**

NHS Providing NHS services

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

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

Visit our website for more information:  
[www.cromiepharmacy.co.uk](http://www.cromiepharmacy.co.uk)  
[info@cromiepharmacy.co.uk](mailto:info@cromiepharmacy.co.uk) | 01665 710 896  
158 Percy St, Amble, Morpeth, NE65 0AG

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons



# Amble Town

Town: 6pm in Council Office: 9 July, 10 Sept, 26 Nov  
Amenities: at 6pm in Council Office: 30 July, 24 Sept, 12 Nov

# COUNCIL

<b>EAST WARD:</b> Ciara Dawson, c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Ciara.Dawson@ amble.gov.uk	Jenny Richards 35 Puffin View Amble NE6502E 07956308815 Jenny.Richards@ amble.gov.uk	Tony Regan c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Tony.Regan@ amble.gov.uk	<b>CEN. WARD:</b> Michael Joyce c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Michael.Joyce@ amble.gov.uk	Kath MacColl c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Kath.Maccoll@ amble.gov.uk	Lee Osborne c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT 01665714695 Lee.Osborne@ amble.gov.uk	<b>WEST WARD:</b> Ivor Rackham c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT Tel: 01665714695 Ivor.Rackham@ amble.gov.uk	Luke McTaggart c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT Tel: 01665714695 Luke.McTaggart@ amble.gov.uk	Claire Connolly c/o Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT Tel: 01665714695 Claire.Connolly@ amble.gov.uk
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	---

## Annual Meeting of the Town Council

We recently held our Annual Meeting of the Town Council. This meeting is an opportunity for members to be elected into different roles on the Town Council and its committees.

For 2026-2027 our Chair of Full Council is Councillor Luke McTaggart and our Vice Chair is Councillor Jenny Richards. Chair of Amenities is Councillor Lee Osborne and Vice Chair is Councillor Jenny Richards. Chair of Planning Committee is Councillor Luke McTaggart and Vice Chair is Councillor Jenny Richards.

We continue being committed to serving the residents of Amble and welcome all residents to our public meetings.

## Amble Strategic Plan

We have been working behind the scenes to develop a Strategic Plan for Amble. The plan was presented at the Annual Parish Meeting and is intended to provide a framework for Council to work towards ensuring that resources are effectively managed in order to deliver on the priorities agreed.

Public consultations will be arranged in due course and we welcome input from the community to ensure that the plan reflects what residents want for their town.

## Lets Celebrate Our Local People!

Lets celebrate the fabulous people who live and work in our town. We are hosting our annual Civic Awards and this year this will incorporate the Good Young Citizen Award too. If you know if a deserving nominee, please let us know.

We have the Good Young Citizen category, the Adult Civic Award category and the Community Team Spirit award.

Please contact the office on ask@amble.gov.uk with your nominations – closing date 30 June 2026.

## Grants

As our new financial year has begun that means we have a new grant budget available to help support community groups. If you or if you know of a community group or organisation who could make use of our funding visit our website for a grant application pack.

## Amble Little Shore – Bathing Status update

The Little Shore has officially been designated as a bathing site thanks to the hard work and dedication of CRAG and other volunteers and community support.

This will ensure that the water quality is tested regularly and users of the Little Shore can be confident when using the site. We were delighted to see the Little Shore packed with people enjoying the sun over the May Bank Holiday Weekend.

## Councillors Corner

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected Chairman of the Town Council for another year. I look forward to continuing to work with fellow councillors, staff and our community on the Town Council's priorities, delivering on the promises we have made around grounds maintenance and service provision, and making sure Amble is firmly on the map.

I am fully committed to ensuring our town receives the serious consideration it deserves at County level, so we can secure the investment and infrastructure needed for Amble's future.

*Cllr Luke McTaggart, Chairman, Amble Town Council*

## Amble West Cemetery

We have noted concerns from residents about the bins at Amble West Cemetery not being fit for purpose. We have installed 10 new 240L bins at Amble West Cemetery which are larger than the previous ones and added an extra two. These are emptied on a regular basis and we will monitor the situation to determine what further actions are required.

Please be reminded that dogs are not permitted within the cemetery grounds, with the exception of registered guide dogs and assistance dogs. We kindly ask all visitors to respect this policy to help maintain the dignity, peace, and cleanliness of the cemetery for everyone.

## Grounds Maintenance

As has previously been reported, the Town Council has resolved to bring the provision of its grounds maintenance in house.

We are currently in a transition phase and hope to be fully managed in house by September. We ask that residents be patience with staff and members while we bring this project to fruition.

We always welcome feedback and ideas from residents to help us improve the service.

## 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.

Once again, we are also experiencing anti-social behaviour in and around the Memorial Gardens and Clock Tower. If you see this type of behaviour taking place, please report it to Northumbria Police.

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](http://www.amble.gov.uk)

Email [ask@amble.gov.uk](mailto:ask@amble.gov.uk) Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil](http://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

## Amble RNLI Lifeboat Day: 8 August

Join us on Saturday 8 August 10am -3pm at Amble Harbour for our fun packed event to support and raise funds for the volunteer crew and station to help 'Saving Lives at Sea.'

Luke McTaggart, our local Mayor, will be opening the event. The volunteer lifeboat crew will be performing their life saving skills at 11am and 1pm (approx.).

Entertainment and stalls will be outside the lifeboat station, with refreshments upstairs and

a Fun Fair on the Little Shore. The King's Own Yeomanry, Fire Service and stalls in the dock car park. Raffle tickets will be on sale for our 2026 Grand Raffle. We can accept payment/donations by cash, card, or QR code.

We would be grateful for tombola or raffle items, No electrical items, clothing or books. Thank you,

Future coffee mornings Sundays 21 June, 19 July, and 16 August all 10am - 1pm Follow us on FB.

## Amble Women's Institute

May proved to be a busy month. Along with our usual meeting and coffee mornings, we have had some fun events at Warkworth Cricket Club. We held a Picnic at Cresswell Gardens, the rain held off, and we had a great afternoon.

We held another Fashion Show on 15 May. We joined in The Puffin Festival's Big Paddle at the Little Shore. A number of our members have been involved in water testing which has

helped towards gaining Bathing Water Status.

Finally, on a sad note, we lost one of our members, Joan Marshall. She was a longstanding member of our WI; she will be greatly missed. She always had a kind word, a smile, or an offer of support. Our thoughts are with her family.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month, 7pm at The Dovecote Centre and visitors are more than welcome.

*Clare O'Brien*

## Rotary update

In March RAW welcomed Prof Joy Palmer Cooper. Joy is the Immediate Past District Governor for the Northeast of England. Her thought provoking talk focussed on the challenge of how Rotary can increase its membership.

We were happy to induct the latest corporate member, Red Row Vintage Rally Group. David Rowat and Stephen Lunn attended the induction on behalf of this group. We also welcomed Sean Malone, Jeff Newton and Peter Fearey into the Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club.

Also in March, Grace and Will, both pupils at James Calvert Spense College, on their experiences at the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp in Teasdale last August.

They described a challenging week with high winds and rain, whilst undertaking a range of outdoor activities. It was fun and allowed them to understand their own strengths and weaknesses as well as developing leadership and emotional skills. The importance such events was reinforced and hopefully, next year, other

local young people will again get the opportunity to benefit from attendance on the RYLA programme.

Another after dinner speaker who recently entertained our members was David Baker, who gave a talk about expeditions he organised and led taking young people to remote areas of Peru and Fiji, as well as tall ship expeditions sailing across remote areas of the Pacific.

Colin Durward returned to give us another talk about unusual events and characters who feature in the history of Blyth.

The evening was made memorable with the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship to Eddie Chritchlow in recognition of his contribution to Rotary and to the local community.

On the social front, there were evening meals out at the LumiVero restaurant in Amble as well as the Taj Mahal. Other social activities included a bowling night in Lesbury.

Further details at [www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org](http://www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org) and our Facebook page.

## Eiders of Coquet Island

Eider ducks, locally known as Cuddy ducks, have been closely associated with Northumberland since the era of St Cuthbert in the 7th century. They remain a significant presence in the region.

Eiders are the largest and heaviest ducks in the Northern Hemisphere, and more surprisingly, they are also the fastest flyers, with documented speeds of up to 70 mph in level flight.

Normally, however, you will most commonly see them feeding around the shoreline or in Amble harbour. Male eiders display striking black and white plumage during the winter and early summer months. They moult in late summer. The females are a beautiful speckled brown, a useful adaptation that helps provide camouflage when nesting.

Their diet mainly consists of shellfish, which they swallow whole. Although their favourite food is considered to be mussels, which they dive down to take off the rocks.

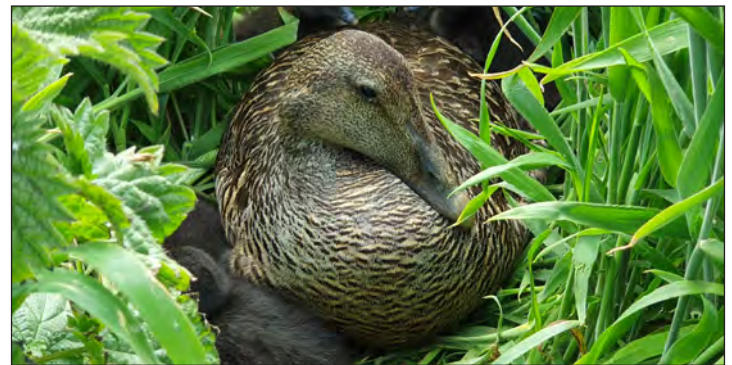
During the spring the males make their iconic a-woo call as they search for a mate. This year, our first nest was discovered on

the island on 15 April, and since that time more have appeared.

Currently, at the time of writing, on Coquet Island we are about to undertake our first Eider census of the season. This involves us walking the entire island, including the shoreline. This typically takes us the whole day to complete. Following this, we will undertake a second Eider census 25 days later, focusing solely on counting birds on nests. Last year, in 2025, we recorded 333 nests, which was the highest count since 2018.

The average number of eggs that an eider will lay in a clutch is between four to six. We have observed clutches containing up to nine eggs, which is likely the result of egg dumping; this is when another female lays her egg in the same nest. This can happen easily, as the females won't sit on their nests until they have a full clutch.

Once the eggs hatch, the females leave their breeding sites quickly, usually within two days, and head back to the mainland with their ducklings in tow. With ducklings the size of a small fist, the journey to the safety of the



harbour is no easy feat.

Females often group into creches to help look after the young, or non-breeding females may join as 'aunties' to help watch out for the young. You may see examples of their protective nature as they lunge at aerial predators or chase after other ducks.

The population trend of Eiders cannot be measured by the number of nests each year, as they are a species where there may be years when females decide not to breed, along with the fact that females will often share nests and there is still much that we don't know about how Eider ducks use this area.

You can help us. As we

move into summer, we are on the lookout for reports of Eiders along the Northumberland coast, whether adult ducks, duckling creches, or disturbances happening around them. Anyone can become a citizen scientist by recording their Eider sightings into the Eider Aware Survey 123 mobile app, which will help us monitor the populations of Northumberland's Eiders more closely.

For more information about this project and other ways to report Eider sightings, the Eider Aware North East page can be found on the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership website.

*Rebekah Goodwill  
RSPB Coquet Island Warden*

## Warkworth Film Club

The village film club meets once a month in the Warkworth War Memorial Hall on Castle Street. Everyone is welcome.

### Saturday 6 June – Rental Family

American actor Phillip Vanderploeg lives in Tokyo and constantly searches for work following his success in a toothpaste commercial seven years earlier. He is stuck taking minor roles until he is hired by Rental Family, a company that provides actors to play stand-in family members and friends for strangers. Initially reluctant due to its seemingly absurd premise, Phillip, desperate for funds, takes the job after the company's owner, Shinji, insists that they need a "token white guy". This is a sweet natured comedy drama about artificial and genuine human connections. (2025, certificate 12, 1 hour 45 mins).

### Saturday 11 July – Hamnet

Based on the New York Times best-selling novel, Academy Award-winning director Chloé Zhao directs a powerful story of love and loss. William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) falls for the free-spirited Agnes (Jessie Buckley). Their whirlwind romance leads to

marriage and three children, but as Will's theatrical ambitions draw him to London, Agnes remains behind to manage the household. When tragedy strikes, their bond is deeply tested—but through grief and resilience, their journey inspires the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet. The film also stars Emily Watson, Joe Alwyn and is produced by renowned filmmakers Steven Spielberg and Sam Mendes. The film received numerous accolades, including winning the Best Motion Picture – Drama and Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama for Buckley at the 83rd Golden Globe Awards, and eight nominations at the 98th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director for Zhao, with Buckley Winning the Academy Award for Best Actress. (2025 certificate 12, 2 hours)

Future 2026 films will be screened on the following Saturdays:  
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](mailto:anna.willey@cantab.net)

## ADCS Summer concert

Following the success of their March concert featuring Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennele" Alnwick and District Choral Society will be at the Alnwick Playhouse in July for a contrasting concert of Folk-songs and Shakespeare from both sides of the Atlantic. There will be music from Rutter, Vaughan William, L'Estrange, Bernstein and Gershwin.

### "Celebrate Summertime" at Alnwick Playhouse

Conductor: Peter Brown  
Piano: Linden Innes-Hopkins and Margaret Watchorn  
4 July 2026 7.00pm  
Tickets £18.00 Box Office 01665 660550  
[www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk)

## Coquet Churches Together

On Sunday 19 July you are invited to bring the family and visitors along to Amble's Little Shore.

Bedlington Salvation Army Band will play for us.. You can sing along and hear contributions from our local community.

Please bring your own chair and if possible, another for someone else. We look forward to a sunny afternoon, starting at 2pm. If the weather is unkind we can meet in Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Street NE65 0AG

## Amble Film Society

Screenings every month at the Dovecote Centre. Entry £5.00 (you can donate more if you wish) on the door. Cash or card. The bar is by suggested donation, cash only. Email Jim: [anaxa@postmaster.co.uk](mailto:anaxa@postmaster.co.uk) to be put on the mailing list.

## Hot Club Jazz comes to Warkworth



On 19 June Warkworth Memorial Hall welcomes a return visit from Emma Fisk's Hot Club du Nord.

Focussing on the original repertoire of the Hot Club de France with inspiration from the swinging, musically inventive approach of Reinhardt and Grappelli.

This repertoire consisted of instrumental versions of contemporary popular songs such as J'Attendrai/Tornerai, Si Tu Savais and Undecided; jazz standards of the 1920s and 30s - It Had to be You, Body and

Soul, Ain't Misbehavin', Lady Be Good and Sweet Georgia Brown, and Reinhardt /Grappelli originals such as Minor Swing, Sweet Chorus, HCQ Strut, Nuages, Oriental Shuffle and Belleville.

Tickets (£15) should be pre-booked, for payment on the door. Doors and bar open at 19:00 for a 19:30 start.

For further details and to book tickets contact Peter Burnham, preferably by email to [peter.burnham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.burnham@gmail.com). Alternatively telephone him on 01665 711388.

## Greener Amble Network

We are a community volunteer led group that shares concerns for our Environment, Biodiversity, Nature, Sustainability and Climate Change. The Network provides a place to find out what is going on in the Amble area by sharing knowledge, information, opportunities and speaking up together on issues.

We meet monthly on a Wednesday 6.45 pm for 7.00pm until 8.45 pm. This year our venue will initially be Amble Youth Project, Dilston Terrace NE65 0DT

Upcoming meetings:

### 17 June

Guest Blair Watson from the Stronger Shores project  
Stronger Shores <https://strongershores.com/> has been working in our area and supported creative projects

in Amble linked to their exciting work. This is to make the British Coastline and communities stronger in the face of flooding, coastal erosion and climate change. Blair is going to explain the project and update us on their progress.

### 15 July

Visit to Amble Women's Workshop, Coquet Industrial Park, NE65 0PE

Network member Angela Davis has invited us to visit the Workshop's Environmental Project.

It is a chance to see all the great sustainability work they are doing and the progress they have made since we visited last year. This is open to men too.

For more information about the group and future dates, contact Sue Rzepczynski [sue.greeneramble@gmail.com](mailto:sue.greeneramble@gmail.com)

## Creative health programme

A free Creative Health programme at Dry Water Arts Centre to keep our community connected, active, and feeling good.

Dry Water Arts run a rolling Creative Health programme on Monday afternoons. It changes each week, so there is always a variety of things to enjoy and some free refreshments.

- **Sing As You Are:** We sing for the fun of it, and the group chooses the songs. No experience is needed, just bring yourself.
- **Hush:** A lovely, gentle session. We explore simple breathing patterns and easy ways to find a bit of calm that you can take home and use whenever you need a quiet moment.
- **The Reading Room:** This is a space to share the love of reading. Bring along a poem, a magazine

article, or a bit of prose you've enjoyed. It's a wonderful way to chat about what you're reading, find new authors you might like, and even swap books with others.

• **The Print Collective:** For those who fancy getting a bit more hands-on the group explore techniques and enjoy having a go (Note: There is a small charge for this session to help us cover the cost of the materials.)

**Why Give it a Go?**

Research shows that doing something creative with other people is brilliant for your health. It keeps the mind sharp, the spirits high and it's a chance to meet new people.

You can book online - head to the Pop Up programme on our website [www.drywaterarts.uk](http://www.drywaterarts.uk) or email us [info@drywaterarts.uk](mailto:info@drywaterarts.uk) Or call us 07542141411

## Castles and Islands race

Friday 19 - Saturday 20 June. A unique challenge for teams of sailors and runners visiting five castles (Alnwick, Warkworth, Dunstanburgh, Bamburgh, and Lindisfarne) and the islands of North Northumberland

(Coquet, The Farnes and Holy Island). To be completed in 24 hours. The challenge starts at Alnwick Castle. There is a limit of 15 boats this year. More info: [castlesandislands.co.uk](http://castlesandislands.co.uk) or email [candi@coquetyachtclub.org.uk](mailto:candi@coquetyachtclub.org.uk)

## The Colony

The Colony music festival is back on Saturday 4 July from 12pm at Little Shore. Help keep this event free by donating via the QR code here. More info via their FB page.



## Mauretania Day

This year's celebration of RMS Mauretania describing Amble as "the kindest port" will be held on Sun 5 July. 11am - 4pm at Amble Harbour Village. Live entertainment including Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band, Tibe Zuza, Amble Sword. Plus Vintage Morgan cars.

## A season of talks at Hauxley

Northumberland Wildlife Trust has launched a new season of Saturday wildlife walks and talks at its Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre at Druridge Bay.

This year, thanks to players of the Postcode Lottery, the talks will be free and there will a 20% discount in the Lookout Café for everybody attending.

Between now and the end of the year, wildlife enthusiasts can spend Saturdays enjoying a summer solstice walk and talk around the Druridge Bay reserve.

In addition, find out more

about the red squirrels of Northumberland, the roseate terns of Coquet Island, bird ringing, how geology has shaped the history of Hauxley and the rescuing and releasing of grey seals off the Northumberland coast.

Dr Martin Kitching, Director of Northern Experience Wildlife Tours and North East Cetacean Project Coordinator will kickstart the new season with a talk about the 21 different species of marine mammals in North East England.

Visit [www.nwt.org.uk/events](http://www.nwt.org.uk/events)

# Compassion shouldn't cost extra

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

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

CALL US

01665 712 277

[williampurves.co.uk/amble](http://williampurves.co.uk/amble)

**WILLIAM  
PURVES** EST. 1888  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
INCORPORATING ALISTAIR TURNER

# Sand, sea and a sizzling Puffin Festival

Bumper crowds enjoyed the heat at this year's Puffin Festival.

A spokesperson for Amble Events Committee said "It was a fabulous weekend of celebrating puffins and the environment, especially our beautiful Little Shore.

"The gorgeous weather was the crowning glory on a packed weekend. We thank everyone who took part, all our valued sponsors, and hopefully we'll see you all again next year."

Live entertainment and stalls filled the Town Square, and there were environmental and heritage walks and talks around town.

Family activities at the Little Shore included sandcastle competitions, and kite making.

On the Braid, the annual dog show was held alongside bird watching and biosecurity dog demonstrations.

The landscape artist of the year was another big success, this year's winner was Janet Moloney.



Above l-r: Caribbean Crew, Inglenook. Photos by Anna Williams. See more on our website.



Above: Puffin Theatre Club, Best dog winner - Blue the Bedlington Whippet (photo Shyan Nelson).

AEC donation



Donate to Amble Events Committee for the Puffin Festival and Christmas parade via this QR code



Above: Simon Wood drum circle, Northern Monkey Brass Band. Below: Kite flyer Freya (photo Lynne Morelli), Amble Swimmers with Fenwick Ridley and Tommy Noddy the Puffin. More on the Bathing Water status celebrations at Little Shore on p3

