



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 159 August/September

Big fun at the Little Shore



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Exceptional Warkworth class results

Year 6 pupils at Warkworth Church of England Primary School are celebrating exceptional results, with 95% achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined and 38% reaching the higher standard in all three subjects.

The results place Warkworth within the top 1% of primary schools in England and among the very highest-performing schools in Northumberland.

The achievement is particularly significant for a generation whose earliest years of education were deeply affected by the Covid pandemic. Yet this class has become known for far more than its academic success.

They are renowned throughout the school for their wonderful behaviour, particularly when representing Warkworth on trips and residential visits, and many have taken on important prefect duties or House Captain.



Headteacher Jonathan Booth said: "These results are the culmination of the school's long-standing academic pedigree. We believe in a traditional, knowledge-rich education, very high aspirations and, above all, ensuring that every child is known, valued and loved.

"For many pupils, this journey began when they joined us at two years old. Others transferred to Warkworth from different schools because their families wanted them to thrive academically. We are enormously proud that, together, we have helped them achieve exactly that.

"They leave us not only with outstanding results, but as kind, confident and talented young people who have contributed so much to the life of our school."

Plans to bring investment to Amble



Amble could soon benefit from new projects to improve its culture, leisure and sports offer. A £35,000 investment has been provided to kick-start development work in Amble, with hopes the town centre can also be improved.

The cash, put forward by Northumberland County Council, will be used to work on feasibility studies for new schemes across the town. The work is backed by the county council, town council and Amble Development Trust. The town has an existing investment plan, which will be developed and delivered by the new town forum, which brings together community, public and private

sector partners with the aim of making Amble an "even better place to live, work and visit".

County Council Deputy Leader and Chair of the new Amble Town Forum, Cllr Richard Wearmouth said: "I am really pleased that we have been able to create the new Amble Town Forum and secure further NCC funding to progress these vital next steps for the town.

"We have planned a range of practical work over the summer and there will be lots of opportunities for partners, business and residents to get involved in this at an early stage before any decisions are made."

The studies will help to make a case for any new projects

where there is a "strong case to do so", and will be subject to future funding applications and approvals for any proposals that are developed.

In a joint statement, Amble county councillors Arty Hume, and Pauline Davidson said: "Amble is a great place already and by working together we can make it even better for everyone to enjoy.

"We are looking forward to seeing the study work getting underway to consider and develop new proposals which ultimately could benefit the town in the future."

James Robinson
Local Democracy Reporter Service



Dick Morris, artist and retired business counsellor celebrated his 100th birthday on 1 July, with his wife Jean, family and close friends. He is currently living in Dolphin View Care home and still paints every day. Dick wanted to thank everyone who had sent him a card, including pupils from King Edwina and Amble Links School – at the last count he had 180!

Dozens of new jobs tipped for Friendliest Port

Two new companies are proposing to invest in the Friendliest Port, potentially bringing dozens of new jobs to the town.

Aldi have announced they are planning to build a new food store on the Enterprise Park next to Morrisons, creating 40 new, full-time equivalent jobs paid at £13.50 per hour, with hiring targeted at the local community.

Aldi is running a virtual consultation until 12 August, where residents can find more details about the plans. See www.aldiconsultation.co.uk/Amble and use the online feedback form.

Helen Simms, Real Estate Director for Aldi, said: "We're delighted to announce our plans for a new food store in Amble."

"This site is well placed to bring Aldi's award-winning, high-quality and affordable grocery offering to the town, while making productive use of a key development site. We believe the proposal will provide greater choice for local shoppers and deliver investment for the area."

"We would encourage local residents and stakeholders to share their views on the plans,



Aldi are proposing to open a new food store in Amble

and we look forward to working closely with the community to deliver a new Aldi store for Amble."

Julia Aston of Amble Development Trust said "We're really pleased to have more new businesses opening in Amble. New employment opportunities are always welcome. It will lift morale. We're aware Advance Northumberland have been working over the years to bring new businesses to the Industrial Estate, while not competing with the businesses in the town centre."

Access to the site would be maintained via the existing entry point off the A1068, leading into the customer car park. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to access the new food store safely via the existing main access

point and pedestrian footways leading into Amble Retail Park.

Greggs making plans

At the same time, bakery chain Greggs have put in a planning application to convert the old Heron Foods' shop on Queen Street. At time of writing, plans have been submitted to install plant and ventilation equipment as well as fascia signage (See below).

Independent businesses are often cited as one of Amble's strengths, and some concerns

have been voiced about the arrival of a national retailer in Amble's town centre.

However, a spokesperson for The Helm café told us, "We're incredibly proud of our loyal customer base who value fresh, locally sourced ingredients and high-quality food. While we completely understand the appeal and convenience of chain bakeries like Greggs, we're confident in what we bring to the table and look forward to continuing to serve our community."



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Remembering John Griffiths: forever an Amble lad

John Griffiths was born in May 1937 and sadly passed away just short of his 89th birthday.

He was born on the corner of Newburgh Street and Leslie Drive just a short step from Trinity Methodist Church and he started there at the age of five.

He did well at Amble Modern School and became Head Boy in his final year. He began work as a plasterer with Harker and Cuthbertson and spent all his working life in the building trade.

He was a quiet man, but very observant, what he saw around him came out in his poetry. He wrote about everyday things in local dialect, and if you want to know about life in Amble in his time, there is a wealth of history and sentiment contained in his



poem's. (But you will need to brush up on the local dialect if you want to understand them.) For those who are interested copies of his poems can be viewed at Curiosity Corner.

He will also be remembered

for his performances as pantomime dame in the Methodist pantomimes. John dedicated many years working with young people in the Junior Guild. The Guild was the place to go back in the day. They got up to all sorts of things, games, outings, quizzes, jigsaw marathons, fund raising and of course the pantomimes.

John was a staunch Methodist, first at Trinity and when it closed, at the church in High Street, coming back to Trinity when it reopened. He served for 40 plus years as a Steward, later becoming a Circuit Steward. He also looked after their finances as treasurer. When Trinity was remodeled he was there to lend a hand with the refurbishment.

He was married to Margaret and they spent 64 happy years together. They had two children, Leslie and Sandra.

Margaret said, "He was a lovely man, and I'm pleased that I had him to share in my life."

John will be greatly missed by friends and family, and particularly by the folk at the Friendly Café and those who lived around him, because he was always on hand to help out with odd jobs like mowing lawns.

At his funeral, donations were collected for Amyloidosis Research. This is a rare condition that clogs up the organs, and John was afflicted by it in his later years.

Vivienne Dalglish

Mauretania Day



Above: Tribe Zuza dancers. Below: Roger Pettican with his vintage Morgan car. Photos Ivor Rackham



The Mauretania itself even made an appearance (courtesy of Amble Coastal Rowing Club).

Another Mauretania Day has passed and this year it seemed better than ever.

Our special attraction was the Mauretania itself sitting in the harbour.

A massive thanks to Amble Coastal Rowing Club, who had re-constructed the boat that had been used during last year's Christmas Lights parade. It was suggested that it should be on the water and today it was.

Along with the 'special attraction' were nine Morgan cars. They had travelled from as far south as South Durham and even down from the Borders, Duns the home of racing driver Jim Clark, to make a wonderful spectacle.

We had our favourite dancers, Tribe Zuza and Amble Sword giving the usual wonderful demonstrations.

We were also entertained by a mixture of music styles. The Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band delighted everyone with their brass band selection. Everyone appears to love listening to them.

There was Georgie, part of the duo Georgie and Jamie who played at our recent Puffin Festival, Amble's oldest playing rock band, The Boffs, and the day rounding off with Brian English, another of Amble's entertainment stalwarts.

Thanks also to Puffin Cruises for their help and the wonderful model of the Titanic. Not exactly Mauretania but helped to give the impression of the size of the ships at the time.

Also a mention to Natalie Sim (Henderson) for bringing her lovely book relating to the otter that had been robbing her father's boat of 'pot bait'. Where the story all began.

We hope that the hundreds of visitors on the day enjoyed what they saw and would take away some happy memories.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day to make it the success it was.

Bart Rippon
Harbour Village Co-ordinator

Landline phone services switch to digital in January

Your landline phone services might stop in January unless you act now.

In January, the current telephone network is being switched over to a new digital system. You must take action to ensure you will still have service.

Firstly, and importantly, the changeover is free. If anyone asks for money or your bank details, it is a scam. Genuine support from your phone provider or BT Openreach will be clearly identified. After you contact your provider, if engineers turn up, they will be in BT Openreach vans and show ID cards. Always verify the credentials before letting them into your house.

You will be able to keep your old number. For most of us, the changeover will mean plugging our phones into the back of our broadband router rather than into the wall socket. Over 90% of people in Northumberland have already done this. If you haven't, contact your landline or broadband provider (e.g., BT, EE, Vodafone, TalkTalk, Sky, etc.). You can do that now. The sooner you contact them, the better.



image: pggouglas/Pixabay

After that, when calling people locally, eg, in Amble, Hauxley, Warkworth and Alnwick, you must always dial the full national dialling code, 01665, before the usual six-digit phone number. Dialling the old six-digit number alone will no longer work.

If you have a phone but no broadband, or an old dial phone or a push-button phone that pulses instead of beeps when you dial, or wired extension sockets, they will all stop working. So, speak to your phone provider now to arrange a free upgrade.

As the new system relies on your broadband, it only works if there is power in your house. Therefore, you are advised to have a backup mobile phone available in case of a power cut. If you are at high risk of needing emergency services, speak to

your phone provider, as they can provide a short-term emergency backup battery.

BT and other providers are making provisions for anyone with additional support needs, whether through age or disability. If you need help with the switchover, their specialist team will assist you. Moreover, if you have vulnerable friends or relatives who need support during this process, please help them through the process.

Other services will also fail after the switchover. You must contact your phone provider if you use a personal alarm or emergency call button, such as Telecare or Careline. If this was organised through a support agency, such as Age UK, the NHS, or Social Services, you can ask them to help you with that. Likewise, if you have a remotely monitored house intruder or fire alarm, you must also contact your phone and alarm providers.

The new system will be much better at blocking scam calls. The calls should also be much clearer.

Cllr. Ivor Rackham

Town of Culture bid rejected

Organisers of Amble's bid to become the UK's Town of Culture for 2028 were disappointed to learn that they were unsuccessful in progressing to the next stage of the award.

The application was submitted jointly between Amble, Warkworth, Acklington and Hauxley, with Amble Town Council and Amble Development Trust leading the bid.

Amble Development Trust director Julia Aston said, "It's very disappointing – and to find that that no one in Northumberland made it to the long list given the cultural heritage that we have, one would have thought that at least one of our towns would have their story recognised."

Amble Mayor Luke McTaggart said, "The analogy I use is that of the Olympics; whilst we are of course disappointed at the outcome, it has afforded us the opportunity, much like Olympic bidding process, to raise the profile of our town and its fantastic cultural offering. We hope it can offer a springboard for future success."

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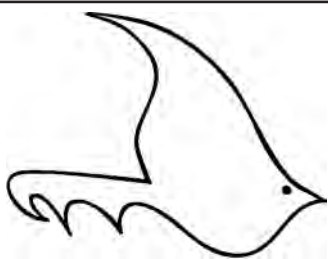
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WHAT YOU SAY...

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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.

Shock at broken glass and litter on beach

My partner, Rachael Pocklington, was walking on the beach behind the graveyard & spire on Links Road at 7am on Thursday 9 July.

Part of the beach up by and in the dunes was covered in litter and also broken glass bottles which were on the sand but also dug into the sand. Rachael picked up all the litter and broken glass and dug out the glass as best she could that had been buried below the surface. There still could be



broken glass there.

Rachael put all the litter and

glass into bags that the miscreants had conveniently left behind in the grass.

I am a keen litter picker in & around Edinburgh @_pickuplitter

We are from Edinburgh and were on holiday in Amble for the week staying in Links Road, we come here every summer.

We have a 5yr old daughter and our friends have daughters aged 15 & 18 who all play on this beach in bare feet.

Alisdair Hogg, via email

Pedestrian crossing needed

Iwould hope that road safety in Amble will be more considered due to the very busy overflow of constant traffic with more to come. This is now like a main motorway without a safe crossing at the Wynd over to the pavement.

With lorries and traffic, only seconds apart, pedestrians cannot guarantee slow gaps, to allow

crossing? This was once or twice highlighted years ago, but nothing has been forthcoming and it is only safe if traffic lights are there for road works.

Surely enough time has elapsed, with more vehicles allowed and consideration of whether it is safe or not!

P. Thompson, Amble resident

Water pollution puts local businesses at risk

Open letter to David Smith MP

Tourism in our area depends on the beautiful beaches and woodlands. Too many times, I have been walking at Druridge or Alnmouth beach with the dogs and the smell of sewage has hit me.

The areas small businesses cannot afford for tourists to be put off visiting our beautiful location by the destructive actions of water companies not

following the policies implemented. Particularly when there is no rain to wash it away efficiently.

Please can you ensure the profits of a water company do not put many of your small businesses at risk, our family homes let out as Airbnbs and rental properties sustain a great many of your constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne McMurray via email

More about the Christmas Lights

Further to the letter in edition 158 here are some more details about the Christmas lights.

In 1992 a meeting was held in the Dock Hotel to discuss ways of raising funds for Christmas lights. It was attended by the late Florence Angus, Stuart Robertson, myself and my son, Gary. We were all traders on Queen Street at that time. Florence served for many years as secretary/

treasurer.

Funds were raised from shops, pubs and other organisations. We raised enough money to install electricity on Queen Street. Melvin Flanagan did that job. The boards that went above the shops showing a Snow-White theme were decorated and donated by Acklington Prison.

Bill Little via email

Who remembers Nurse Carruthers?

My aunt was the district nurse in Amble for more than 30 yrs through the war she finally retired in the late 60s. Everyone knew her as Nurse Carruthers, or simply "the nurse" She received an MBE for services to her community. She lived and had her surgery at 1, St Lawrence Way, but was in Percy Street before that. Some of your readers may have memories of her.

I have a couple of photos showing her presented with



gifts when she did retire. One of them shows children of the village that she delivered, most deliveries at home then. Some of the children could be members of your WI, they would be in their 50s/60s now.
Anne Ranger
via email

Jenny honoured for services to ballooning



Image: Liz Isles Photography RAEC Awards

Amble resident and balloon Aviator Jenni d'Alton has been presented with her third award this year!

Her most recent award was presented by Air Vice-Marshall Mark Flewin at Brooklands Museum in May on behalf of the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom. (See photo above).

Jenni has been involved in hot air ballooning ever since she was introduced to the sport by her mother as a 21st birthday present.

"Hot air ballooning has been a large slice of my life for over half a century, and the bonus was marrying a brilliant hot-air

balloon pilot, Richard", she told The Ambler.

Her love of the sport led her to hold various roles within the British Balloon & Airship Club.

She and Richard took their balloon (and three children) all over the world flying for fun and adventures.

"I designed my first hot air balloon; later I got my husband into the sport. We flew a lot in France, we've flown over deserts, even over Chile."

The British Balloon Museum and Library (BBM&L) was formed in 1979 with the purpose of trying to preserve as many items associated with the history

of hot air and gas ballooning, and other forms of lighter than-air flight as possible.

Richard d'Alton has been the Chairman for the last 12 years. Jenni has been a Trustee of the BBM&L for over 40 years and edited its quarterly journal (Trailrope) since 1992. She is also their public relations and press officer.

In addition to all of this she organises the annual luncheons which are always excellent and well supported. In 2023, after a lot of hard work, the BBM&L committee (of which Jenni is a leading light) were successful in its application for a National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant to develop a website to create an online ballooning museum: bbml.org.uk

So far, Jenni has recorded 32 brilliant tales from record breakers, competition pilots, commercial pilots and balloon company owners.

For her many years in the background of ballooning, the BBAC nominated Jenni for a Royal Aero Club Certificate of Merit.

"I was staggered to get this award, and amazed that it was one of three in one year!"

The other two awards she received were, the Debbie Warley Trophy, and also a Diploma of Merit from the BBAC.

Collaboration by local artists celebrates the Friendliest Port

A local photographer and writer have collaborated on a new book about the area. Coquet Tales, Stories of Amble and the Surrounding Area, Volume 1 includes poems and stories by Ali Rowland and illustrations by Jim Donnelly, designed to celebrate the charms of Amble. Readers will also find Warkworth and Druridge Bay in the collection.

Prize winning local poet and author, Ali Rowland, said "Amble has a reputation to maintain as the Friendliest Port, and many of us who've made our homes here recognise this in the welcome that's been extended to us. I wanted to produce a book that reflects the distinctiveness of the area."

"I've enjoyed writing about my experiences here and producing what I hope will one day be seen as modern folk

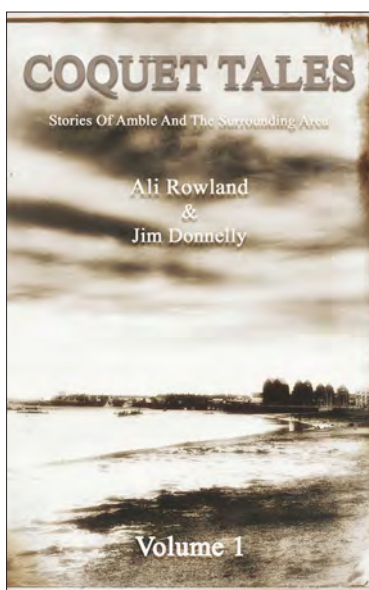


Image © Jim Donnelly/anaXalmages

tales. Having such stunning photography included is the icing on the cake."

"There are some books on the history of Amble available, but very few that reflect on its modern reality. I hope this book will go some way to redress the balance, and be of interest to residents and visitors alike."

Jim Donnelly, local photographer, former Northumberland Open Winner and co-director of Dovecote Street Arts CIC has illustrated the collection, drawing on his practice of taking a picture of the area each day.

Jim said, "Revisiting the same subject time and again always reveals new details that were probably invisible before. It turns the subject into something even more familiar. It fosters a deep, intimate connection that improves the art of the storytelling."

Coquet Tales is available in local bookshops and on Amazon.

Defending his Warhammer world title

Good luck to Charlie Hanley-Nickolls, who is competing for Team England in the Warhammer championships this summer. This comes after last year's resounding success when he helped England win the world title.

Charlie, originally from Rothbury has lived in Amble for the last two years. He's been playing Warhammer since he was a child and he told us; "I grew up playing Warhammer, I'd come back from Uni and continue to play. If you keep doing the same thing a lot you get good."

So good in fact, that after he was asked to play for England last year, they won for the first time. "I went from competing in tournaments to joining the England team, it was deeply exciting."



Charlie Hanley-Nickolls

Warhammer is a hugely successful table top strategy game, played by more than 5 million people worldwide. As Charlie says it's extremely competitive, and a lot like chess. Many people will play for fun with friends in their garages, but if you're able to take part in a tournament, that can take two or three days. Teams consist of eight players. "Each game lasts about 3 hours, and in a tournament we play three games a day. It's very mentally draining."

This year's world championships takes place in Madrid, and Charlie and the whole England team are already practicing. "Hopefully we can do this again and I can bring glory to Amble!"

Anna Williams

Unlocking your move to Amble: Tailored summer incentives and brand-new pricing now live

With fantastic summer price reductions now live across selected house types and tailored incentive packages waiting to be unlocked, the lifestyle you've been dreaming of by the coast in Amble is closer than you think.

A fresh start by the sea

There is something undeniably special about life by the coast. As the summer season arrives in Amble, more people are looking to exchange the fast pace of urban environments for the quiet, slower-paced lifestyle offered at Longstone Manor by Persona Homes. Whether you are a local family looking to move up the property ladder or someone planning a permanent relocation to the coast, the development has quickly become one of Northumberland's most desirable new communities.

To make coastal living more possible this summer, Persona Homes is now offering brand-new, reduced pricing across its remaining phase of properties. This means you can now secure more space, modern design, and premium building quality for even better value. With high ceilings, large energy-efficient windows, and open-plan family layouts, these homes provide a lovely blank canvas for your next chapter.

Incentives tailored to your journey

Persona Homes understands that no two moves are the same. If you're a first-time buyer stepping onto the property ladder, you will face entirely different financial priorities than an investor or someone downsizing for retirement. Because a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't always work, the sales team at Longstone Manor is offering exclusive, tailored incentive packages across selected house types this summer.

Instead of pre-packaged deals, you can work directly with their dedicated team to design an incentive structure that genuinely benefits your specific financial situation. For some, this might mean a deposit boost to make moving day arrive much faster. For others, it could look like a contribution toward legal fees, moving costs, or estate agent fees.



Persona Homes

by Home Group



Your limited summer window

The decision to leave out specific plot numbers from their summer announcement is intentional - with interest rising alongside the temperature, properties at Longstone Manor are moving exceptionally fast this season.

The development's location on the peaceful outskirts of Amble offers the absolute best of both worlds: a tight-knit community, local independent shops, and stunning beach walks, balanced with easy transport connections to neighbouring towns.

With outright sales and flexible shared ownership options both available, luxury living near the water is no longer out of reach. The Longstone Manor sales suite is open Monday, Wednesday - Saturday 10am-5pm for viewings, but opportunities to take advantage of these new seasonal price drops are limited.

Find out more and explore the summer pricing

Selected plots are available now. Search Longstone Manor, Amble or email a sales advisor at contactus@yourpersonahome.com

Scan the QR code to explore Persona Homes website and find your dream home.



Hugh's views: Planning for nature?

After reading the last issue of the Ambler I was left with the feeling that something was missing. Among all the various positive articles promoting plans for the future development of the town both for residents and visitors, namely the Town Development Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, Town Investment Plan and Amble Strategic Plan, there was I felt a bit of an oversight. There was no mention of a plan for Nature. Not a word. Is it really that unimportant a matter to our councillors. What about an Amble Bio-diversity Plan?

The lack of consideration for nature was made apparent towards the end of May when I noticed an orchid flowering on the verge between the Autopoint garage and Coquet Vets. The same day it was mown out of existence. Whatever happened to "no mow May"?

Over the following few weeks, the verge was left unmown until towards the end of June by which time there was a bright and colourful community of wildflowers including more orchids attempting to regrow.

I did attempt to contact NCC through "Fix my Street" but was unable to file a report because my browser was apparently outdated. The County Hall telephone line was too busy to accept my call leaving me with the feeling that communicating with NCC isn't very easy. The very next day the verge was re-mown.

Where they have been left to grow, wild flowers have been quite outstanding in Amble



throughout June this year. The mixed wildflower patches at the entrance of the Turner Street car park have been a vibrant colourful display and where nature has been left undisturbed the show has continued. The mixture of islands of shrubs and mixed wildflower areas along Alnwick Way is not only visually attractive but offers a considerable variety of habitats for wildlife. Perhaps the combination of fine warm weather and just enough moisture has been responsible.

One plant in particular has been quite outstanding and that is the humble self-heal, a low growing perennial with a lovely purple flower which has a carpeting habit. Where this plant has grown in combination with white clover and the bright yellow bird's foot trefoil the effects have been quite stunning particularly on lawns where the grass had been left to grow for just a little bit longer.

There is probably much more that I have missed but if you are willing to share details, mail me at: natureinamble@gmail.com.

Hugh Tindle



More than £200 has been raised by Warkworth Drama Group to support Ashington Samaritans.

The cash comes from proceeds of raffles held during the group's recent successful three-night run of Alan Bennett's comedy 'Habeas Corpus'.

Said Group Chair and show producer Meg Dixon (pictured in her role of the play's Lady Rumpers): "This was the third time we have staged 'Habeas Corpus' which shows a good play never dies.

"Just over 200 people watched the performances and reacted with loads of laughter. It was also lots of fun for the cast. A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.

"Long live local drama!" she added: "With Habeas Corpus touching on the subject of depression, we felt it was entirely appropriate to donate the £232 raffle proceeds to help support the amazing work of the Samaritans."

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Veterinary Practice of the year award for Coquet Vets



Congratulations to Coquet Vets who have been awarded Veterinary Practice of the Year in the My Local Awards 2026. A spokesperson said "We are very grateful to everyone who voted and feel very honoured to have won this award.

"We aim to provide high quality, friendly, and supportive veterinary care for you and your pets at affordable prices. Being a small and experienced team allows us to provide continuity of care, and we can also invest more time in getting to know our patients and clients."

The spokesperson added, "We will be hosting this years dog show at the Warkworth Show on Saturday 22 August and we hope to see all our amazing clients and their pets."

Cafe to transform into bistro

Owners of Gracy's Coffee Lounge & Eatery have taken the plunge to open a new and exciting eatery in Amble.

Owner Thomas McBrearty said "We are currently transforming the space into Lotus and Lemongrass Kitchen, a relaxed bistro focused entirely on delivering simple, hearty, and authentic Thai and Vietnamese comfort food.

The inspiration for this shift actually came from our customers. For a long time, we've been offering a Thai special every Wednesday (and the occasional Thursday) at Gracy's. It became an enormous hit, consistently selling out within hours to both our wonderful local regulars and visiting holidaymakers.

Seeing that incredible demand made us realise that Amble was ready for a dedicated South East Asian dining experience.

Lotus and Lemongrass Kitchen will offer a unique set-menu experience that will change seasonally, focusing on vibrant flavours and beautifully prepared dishes crafted by our incredibly talented new Chef.

We are now beginning the physical transformation of the shop, and we believe our transition from a beloved local café to an exciting new dinner spot is a positive story of growth and investment in Amble's Queen Street.

We look forward to welcoming old and new customers.

Love fashions? Love Lydia

Ladies clothes shop Love Lydia was in business for quite some time before owner Erin Handyside decided to open the premises on Queen Street.

Erin told The Ambler, "We've been online since 2023, but it's hard to compete. Plus I much prefer to go into shops myself, so that's why I decided to open my own.

"It's actually transformed

our business, so I needed more help - my Mam's been roped in to help!"

Love Lydia is open seven days a week, selling ladies fashions, accessories and bags. They currently stock items in a range of sizes, from size 6 to size 24.

Find them also online: <https://www.love-lydia.co.uk/> and on Facebook

Haunted museum opens

Step inside one of Northumberland's most unusual attractions and explore a collection of haunted artefacts, local legends and eerie history.

The museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the haunted history, folklore and paranormal stories of Northumberland and the North East.

During the first two weeks they had 850 visitors. I met Founder and Director Michele Marie Liddle and Sarah East, a trustee (pictured, right).

Each day, when they enter the museum they say, 'Good morning spirits.' When they turn the lights on they say, 'It's only me.' and when they close for the day, 'Goodnight spirits.'

Entry is free. Helen explained that they were able to do this with income from experiences and events hosted by the museum and donations.

Visitors can see the Witchcraft Occult Room, Victorian Scrying Room, Victorian Dolls Room and a Seance Room. There is a library and gift shop.

Michele explained that her

grandmothers, on both sides of her family, were witches and tea leaf readers.

During my time speaking with Michele and Sarah there were 13 visitors including two children.

Michele said "Even if you are skeptical please come in and enjoy the space in your own time. We are here for the Amble community and the acceptance of everyone."



The museum on Queen Street is open 10 to 4 each day apart from Wednesdays.

Ray Wilcox

True life story: Violins and Spoons

This is a true story about three mothers who all experienced sadness in different ways. One who could not have children, another who gave up her child at birth and the other whose eldest child was afflicted with cancer.

The search for a birth

mother in a foreign country highlights mixed emotions of sadness, anger, laughter and love.

Catherine Atkinson is a local author. Violins and Spoons is available from Bridge Street Books, Amble.

New owners for popular pub

Ambles Harbour Inn, which has a 150 year history in the town, is now part of Punch's Leased and Tenanted estate, with the existing team continuing on their journey.

Punch Pubs & Co Head of Acquisitions Andrew Cannons commented: "We're incredibly excited by this acquisition and grateful to Charlie and the team for the smooth transition. This is a fantastic pub that has an excellent reputation, which, supported by Punch's leading industry training and investment, will continue to thrive for many years to come."

The popular pub, renowned among locals and tourists, is



beloved for its focus on seafood. Being within walking distance of Amble Harbour means that guests are spoilt for choice with fresh supply from independent fishermen, alongside their seasonal menus that are available all year round.

Want to catch a bus? Don't have a smartphone? Read on!

In the past you could pick up a timetable from somewhere such as a library. When Covid hit, printed copies disappeared and never returned. In recent time it was possible to download a PDF copy so you could reference it at your leisure. Arriva timetables have been updated every two months in recent times, so when the last one expired on 1 June, I went to find some information and discovered this type of timetable is no longer available.

Arriva are now producing what they call live timetables, I guess that means whatever appears on the app at the time. In my opinion this gives them carte-blanche to remove a service without any comeback.

I was incensed and wrote to my MP David Smith and my County Councillor Pauline Davidson. Here is a summary of the feedback.

David Smith told me he has had a number of emails over the last two years, raising serious concerns about the bus services operated by Arriva. David's office regularly seeks updates on their operation. It was reported that many of the issues stem from the previous owners not investing in new buses. The current owners are investing in new buses and this should become evident across the network.

I am grateful to Geoffrey Crow a fellow bus user and



caseworker for David Smith, who responded very quickly to my correspondence.

Northumberland County Council are responsible for bus stops and there are considerable differences in what is available at the stops around the area. It ranges from a simple sign post with little or no information to a plush indoor area with a digital display giving up to date information.

County Councillor Pauline Davidson has yet to respond.

So, if you are not a regular bus user and you don't have a smart phone, where would you get your information? Amble Library will

print off a copy of local timetables which they access through Nexus.

I contacted Arriva buses for timetables via email; they sent me printed copies of the X20 service (seven sheets of A4) and the X18 (21 sheets of A4). It took a week to arrive and the days of the week were not indicated. Contacting them on 0344 8004411, can inform you if a service is running late, if you can conduct a conversation over the noise of the traffic. Putting this number in your mobile phone could help.

We are encouraged to use public transport, and for some people there is no alternative. All these changes do not help.

If you have a smartphone, you can get advice from Arriva's website. They say, "we've squeezed all of the routes and times into the palm of your hand! Stay up to date when things change, with personalised travel alerts straight to your phone. Avoid delays and last-minute surprises. No one likes disruptions to their journey, but now you'll be able to keep up to date with service changes directly inside the app. Remember to check updated timetables before you travel, as some journey times may have changed."

Good luck if you don't have the technology. Why don't you tell us about your experience?
Vivienne Dalgliesh

In conversation with local authors

Bridge Street Books opened in Amble, in June earlier this year.

As a lover of books, I was surprised and impressed by the number on sale written by local authors from Amble and surrounding areas. They cover a wide range of genres and should attract everyone who love the experience of handling and opening a new book.

With this in mind, and in partnership with Fi McEwan-Thompson, we are inviting the authors to an event 'In Conversation with Local Authors' to be held on 23 September at Bridge Street Books.

The authors can share their journey and writing experience to eventually seeing their books in print, highlighting the many challenges along the way.

If you have a question for the authors, email me at raywilcoxauthor@gmail.com

Ray Wilcox

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WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SOCIAL MEDIA BAN?

As we have heard, next year there will be a social media ban for children under 16.

WHAT'S BEING BANNED

Tik Tok, Instagram , Snapchat, X, YouTube, plus certain features eg live streaming and online chat will be banned or restricted on Minecraft, Discord and Roblox

GOOD REASONS FOR A BAN

Social media and many more apps are getting banned for under 16s as there is concern about the number of suicides and the amount of cyberbullying linked to social media use. According to the World Health Organization and Ofcom, roughly 17% to 20% of adolescents and school-aged children in the UK report being targeted by online bullies. The bullying primarily takes place via text/messaging apps (56%), social media (43%), and online games (30%).

BUT NOT ALL SOCIAL MEDIA USE IS BAD

Some people use social media for good things like talking to friends or family, some people use it for learning, to watch things they like, and there are many more reasons people use social media.

WHAT'S NOT BEING BANNED

WhatsApp, YouTube Kids, Pinterest

WHAT DO WE THINK ABOUT THE SOCIAL MEDIA BAN?

Ok let's be honest. How many hours a day are we online? Some of us admitted to being online for up to 8 hours per day. Some said for them it was more like 2 -3 hours per day.

LEXI – I don't think banning social media is the best idea as I communicate with my friends on it, so I think it is a terrible idea

ESME – I just don't like the idea of banning social media.

DONNY – I think it is a very bad idea as I use social media as I use it for messaging my friends and parents and sporty stuff .

EDEN – I think it is a bad idea to delete social media for under 16s as I use it for lots of things like texting and watching things like Ariana Grande

SKYLAR –I think that it is a bad idea as I need social media for stuff like Tik-Tok and YouTube for watching skz [straykids] and k pop bands.

RHIA – I think that is a bad idea as I use social media to socialize with friends who live far away and I use it to help me with my unfinished school work and homework, I also use social media for entertainment like Youtube, Apple music, Tik-Tok and other online apps.

What do you think? Tell us if you think the ban is a good idea or not. Email Anna: editor@theambler.co.uk

IF YOU ARE BULLIED OR NEED TO TALK– CONTACT SAMARITANS: 116 123 OR CHILDLINE: 0800 1111

LATE FOR SCHOOL

Our new school opening has been delayed for three weeks because of 'minor delays due to utility connections to the new building'.

The new build was supposed to open on 3 September, the first day of Autumn term, but it has been delayed until 23 September. On 21 and 22 September school will be closed to pupils to move the stuff over.

I was looking forward to the new school but now its been delayed its going to be a bit chaotic for the first few days. I feel sorry for the teachers who had to pack everything then unpack it all and then pack it up again.

By Lexi

GOOD YOUNG CITIZEN



Congratulations to Barney Links, who has won Amble's Good Young Citizen Award 2026.

Barney was nominated by his school for how much he helps and supports others, his fantastic swimming efforts, love of karaoke and his genuine kindness towards others!

He was awarded a £100 voucher, donated by Tulip Design, a goodie bag from Amble Town Council and a voucher from Warkworth Parish Council.

The awards this year were part of Amble Town Council's civic awards.

CANNIBAL COWS AT MY CADETS!



You may think I'm crazy but I'm not. But more of that later. I have been doing army cadets for two months and I'm enjoying it. On Mondays at Army Cadets, you do lessons on military knowledge, drills and shooting. On Thursday I have to catch a bus from Amble to get to Druridge bay. There I can do navigation, fieldcraft and PE.

We can go to some camps where you do assessments, promotions and go out for activities like paintballing, laser tag and more! I joined cadets after a school assembly which influenced me into joining.

I go to cadets in Amble but Stephen, goes to the Broomhill Army Cadets. Depending on the day, you do different things like map reading and first aid. Stephen joined because of friend recommendations. If you are wondering whether to join up then he says you should as you learn useful skills like saving someone's life.

Donny does Sea Cadets in Ashington on Tuesdays and Fridays. He has been doing this since September and finds it amazing. He joined Sea Cadets because you can advance into the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, Royal Marines and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Donny has made loads of friends at cadets. They can learn how to control boats, swimming in harsh conditions and being able to have the skill to speak to large crowds including ranking ceremonies and camps. His advice is to just do it and have a fun time because you will make friends and skills for life.

Now for the cannibal cow story. I was at cadet camp and the cows ate a beef burger someone left in the field. And then the person was very upset. The cows started to chase us so we had to run into the forest bit of the field and shut the gate so they couldn't follow us anymore. And then my friend and someone else left their bags in the field and the cows mistook it for grass and began to eat the straps!

Personally, I recommend cadets to anyone who is looking for a career in the Army but even if you don't, you can still join, because it teaches you to try new things even if you get scared because you don't have to be scared for long. I want to be an engineer in the Army and joining cadets gives me a hobby and boosts my chance to getting into AFC Harrogate! (Army college). So, if you are interested in joining Army Cadets, its for year 7s and over!

By Lexi

Sustainable fashion: Why you don't have to be perfect to make a positive impact



Companies like Shein and Temu produce many items with cheap labour, including using child workers.

Their products may be cheap but they're not always sustainable or ethical. One BBC article* from 2025 showed people working in Shein's factories up to 12 hours a day. They told the BBC they get paid less than

\$1 per t-shirt.

Many people buy from these companies without thinking about how the products are so cheap, but if you want to think about the planet or not exploiting people, I would also suggest checking out charity shops and Vinted, or look at <https://goodonyou.eco/> You can also reuse old fabric from tops that don't fit.

I talked to a fashion sustainability professional about what she thinks is important and what we can do to make a difference. She grew up in Alnwick and knows Amble very well. Now she works with journalists to make sustainability issues more accessible and engaging for a wide range of audiences.

Hello, thank you for talking to Artograffi. Can I start by asking what is, in your view, the biggest problem in the fashion industry? For me, the biggest challenge is the fact that the fashion industry is producing far more clothing than our planet can sustain, and many of the systems around us encourage us to consume at an ever-increasing pace.

We live in a world where social media, targeted advertising, and rapidly changing trend cycles are designed to encourage constant consumption. Many of us are in an almost continuous state of "ambient shopping", where buying feels almost effortless.

If we want a better future, we need to slow down and think more carefully about what we buy and why we're buying it.

What is the most positive change you've seen in recent times?

Although there is still a long way to go, I've seen some really encouraging progress. More governments are introducing new laws to make fashion companies take greater responsibility for their impact on people and the environment. That's important because it means sustainability is becoming something businesses have to do, rather than something that's just optional.

I've also seen more brands, designers, and young people asking better questions, moving in the right direction, and genuinely wanting to create positive change. This has also generated lots of exciting new innovations in the industry - think mushroom-based leather alternatives or biodegradable sequins.



Slow down! We don't have to keep buying more and more
Image: Pixabay

I'm a 13-year-old living in Amble - how can I help by being more sustainable?

It's easy to feel like one person can't make much of a difference, but you don't have to be perfect to have a positive impact. There are, however, still choices that can make a difference and send a signal about the kind of fashion industry we want to see.

The most sustainable clothes are often the ones you already own, so wearing them for longer, repairing them when you can, and resisting impulse purchases are all great places to start.

Shopping second-hand is another great option. Charity shops, vintage stores, and resale platforms give clothes a longer life while making fashion more affordable and individual. When you do buy something new, think of it as something you'll enjoy for as long as possible rather than just for one trend. Looking after your clothes by washing them less often, following the care instructions, and repairing them when needed helps them last much longer.

Every choice on its own may seem small, but together these decisions help show brands and decision makers that people value a fashion industry that's better for both people and the planet.

By Eden

* <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cdrylgvr77jo>





Reports from our County Councillors



Arty.Hume@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143949

This month I have decided to share information useful to residents who may need support, or who know someone who does.

There are a number of financial support schemes available through Northumberland County Council and its partners:

- **Exceptional Hardship Scheme** - available from 1 April 2026.
- **Council Tax Support.**
- **Crisis and Resilience Fund** - available from 1 April 2026, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), providing help with food, energy, water and other essential household costs.
- **Discretionary Housing Payments** - available from 1 April 2026, funded by the DWP, to help residents with housing costs.

The Council also commissions Citizens Advice Northumberland to provide free, independent, and confidential advice on:

- Maximising your income
- Debt and monetary management
- Energy costs
- Housing
- Employment.

For council housing tenants, the Council offers benefit advice and financial assessments to identify any gaps in income and ensure residents are receiving all the benefits to which they are entitled.

The Council's website also provides guidance on a wide range of support, including:

- Benefits and financial support
- Cost of Living support
- Household Support Fund
- Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments
- Disability benefit claims
- Budgeting, debt advice, and grants
- Universal Credit housing support.

Residents who are experiencing an emergency, financial hardship or are at risk of their circumstances escalating into crisis can apply to the Council for an

immediate hardship payment. If you need help or advice, you can: access support online, speak to someone over the phone, or come along to one of our surgeries and talk to us in person. Please do not struggle in silence. If you think you may be entitled to support, or know someone who could benefit from it, do get in touch.

Also, as most of you know, I work closely with ADT, ATC, we have been meeting with NCC officers to try and get the best possible outcomes for our town, this includes input into the Local Plan and involvement with Community Partnerships. Also to cover as much as possible in the way of consultation to try and get the best outcomes for our town, both Cllr Davidson and I are arranging regular meetings with The Puffin Lounge and Dry Water Arts. Both these two organisations are working hard to get the best for Amble and its residents; we look forward to exchanging ideas and collaborating where possible in the near future. We will keep you updated as things progress.

My request for Bridge Street to be resurfaced has been accepted and works are to commence in the new year. These things take time, but are worth pursuing; a big thank you to NCC.

During this time, the Reform U.K party has undergone a leadership change which we all hope will prove to be fruitful going forward. However, this has meant both Cllr Davidson and I have had to take on extra responsibilities to fill the void left by the outgoing leadership team.

There has been an uptick in casework recently involving Housing, Antisocial Behaviour, Planning, Theft, and Parking, in and around Amble. Meetings are booked with the respective personnel.

Arty Hume
County Councillor for Amble

Pauline.Davidson@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143980

Communication with the Neighbourhood manager for North Northumberland has assured us that the grass cutting schedule was back on track after the deluge of rain we had in June. Further information can be found on the council website: Grass cutting and ground maintenance/ Northumberland County Council. It is worth noting that the agreements with Town and Parish Councils about frequency of cuts may differ from that of the County Council.

Pedestrian Crossings. Many residents have expressed concerns about the difficulty and danger of crossing the road between the top of The Wynd and Beal Bank. Traffic speeds can be high, making it challenging for pedestrians, families, older residents and visitors, to cross safely.

A pedestrian crossing located at the bottom of The Wynd, close to Riverside Park, would provide a significant improvement to pedestrian safety and accessibility. While it is encouraging that a crossing has been included within future plans, residents should be aware that its installation is tied to the proposed Wynyard development on The Gut. Under the current arrangements, the crossing will only be approved following the first occupation of the development and then will be delivered according to an agreed timetable.

In the meantime, concerns remain about crossing the busy section of road, and many residents will be keen to see progress made as soon as possible.

We are making enquiries on behalf of the residents from Longstone Manor to see if there is also a condition attached to the proposed Tantallon Development. If not, for safety reasons, a request will be sent to NCC for installation of a pedestrian crossing.

Digital Takeover. Digital switchover to full fibre broadband is planned for completion by January 2027. This will replace the old copper wiring system. Digital lines allow for clearer calls, stronger data infrastructure, they can block scam calls, and it is 25 times faster than the analogue system. Everyone will receive a

letter four weeks in advance. An engineer will make an appointment with householders and where necessary, plug your system into the new broadband router. If you or a household member needs in-home assistance, do not wait for the automatic switchover date. Please contact your specific landline provider directly to register your needs and request a technician visit. For further information visit; GOV.UK Guidance on Digital Landlines or check resources provided by Openreach

Proposal of Charges at Coastal Car Parks. County Council are proposing to introduce charges at Creswell Beach, Amble Braid and Warkworth Beach. This is estimated to generate net income of £9k in 2026/27 and an additional £10k in 27/28. The proposed charges are as follows: 1 Hour - free; 2 Hours - £1.00 3 Hours - £1.50; All day - £3.00 The charging proposals will apply from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week. Understandably, many residents are concerned about the impact that this will have on them as they already feel overburdened by their contributions to Council Tax.

Overgrown grass and shrubs on either side of the public footpath in front of the boarded area of the new JCSC development was obstructing the view of drivers exiting Barndale onto the B6345, creating a potential road safety hazard. It appears that Northumberland County Council are not responsible for maintaining this area, until the 28 August when the new school is officially handed over to County Council. Rather than risk an accident, my husband and I took the initiative to cut back the overgrowth, clearing part of the footpath and in front of the bus stop. Since then I have discovered that the responsibility lies with Keir, the construction company. Hopefully they will be attending to this very soon. A huge thank you to my husband for his hard work. Community spirit and looking out for one another can make a real difference.

Cllr Pauline Davidson

Hospice care donation



Following two successful sell-out performances of their latest play, 'Never Mind the Sherlocks', Warkworth based

theatre group Far Horizon Voices, were delighted to present their chosen charity, Northumberland Hospice Care,

with a cheque for £600.

The charity is a person-centred Hospice at Home service offering practical care and support to adults aged 18 and over, living with a terminal illness.

Far Horizon Voices' next production will be a festive comedy, 'Courting Disaster' which will be performed at Warkworth Memorial Hall on 4 and 5 December.



Hello everyone, welcome back to Trust Life.

Well after the disappointment of the Sports Hall last month we now have the disappointment of the Town of Culture bid.

We, along with all the other applicants from Northumberland didn't even make the long list. Surely one of the many amongst us had a good story to share, or perhaps we just aren't good at blowing our own trumpets!

We await feedback from the process and if there is anything to be learnt it can be a lesson we take forward hoping there will be a next time.

So onto something more positive: the Town Forum group held its first meeting in June with a catchup online early July. Attendees agreed Terms of Reference and who would be responsible for each of the tender briefs.

It was agreed we (as in the Trust) would write the brief for Amble Community Sport, Leisure and Culture Feasibility Study and NCC would write the one for the Public Realm

and Wayfinding Study. This will include works to finally bring about the reopening of Coble Quay walkway following these steps:

- Scheme Design has been commissioned.
- Heads of Terms are finalised.

The forum will be updated when a likely programme and delivery timescales are available.

On July 15 we held our 32nd AGM, with guest speaker Julia Chambers giving attendees an insight into the process CRAG have worked through to achieve Bathing Water status for the Little Shore.

Following feedback (or in some instances lack of) from landowners the Neighbourhood Plan has had to be modified to take out some areas that had been included as Employment Land. As the plan won't be 'made' for some months and the group has been informed that planning applications for housing were to be submitted imminently. This was what we had been hoping to avoid.

There was also work carried

out to identify wildlife corridors, however as the definition is vague, the group felt that a generous amount of land would be protected within areas on the plan that would meet the examiners' agreement.

The steering group felt it was better to protect what we have as soon as possible, before the new planning objectives are brought in by the government, which will see a leap in numbers forced on to local authorities to meet housing targets.

Hopefully this will also meet with the community's approval.

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

Julia, all Trust staff and Trustees wish you a happy sunny summer.

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

Work experience: why it matters

For Year 10 students, work experience is a chance to better understand what may become your future career. I arranged my placement at Amble Development Trust (ADT). I expected to spend most of the week doing office work. Although I did help with office tasks, I also helped clean public spaces, build a shed for Amble FC and did some packing for the Mad Jam Woman. Every day was different, which made the week much more interesting.

It showed me that organisations, like ADT, do so much, both in the office and out in the community. Overall, I think work experience is something for every student. It helps you build confidence, learn new skills and get a better idea of what different jobs are actually like.

If I could change one thing, I would suggest having placements at different stages of school. That way, students could widen their experience before deciding what they want to do in the future.

One week is a great start, but I think having more opportunities would help young people make better choices about their future careers.

Stephen Addison

Hello Amble,

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

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Amble Town

6pm Town: 10 Sept, 26 Nov, 28 Jan 2027, 25 March
6pm Amenities: 30 July, 24 Sept, 2 Nov, 14 Jan

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Sign up to our mailing list here:

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

AMBLE GARDEN AND CIVIC AWARDS

The 2026 Amble Garden and Civic Awards were held on 14 July. The event was very well attended as always, with some very deserving winners being recognised for all their hard work. This year also included the presentation of Honorary Freeman of the Town. The Good Young Citizen of the Year Award was given to Barney Falkous from Amble Links Primary School. Well Done All.

A comprehensive results list is below. If you were unable to attend but have won an award please contact the office at your earliest convenience.



East Ward

Winner 39 Puffin View
Runner-up 6 Petrel Place

West Ward

Winner 156 Gloster Park -
Also Overall Winner
Runner-up 170 Gloster Park

Central Ward

Winner 2 Old Coastguard
Cottages
Runner-up 3 Old Coastguard
Cottages

People's Choice

Winner 28 Anne Crescent

Business / Community

Winner St Oswald Court
Runner-up Wellwood Arms

Allotments

Best in West no 27
Best in East No 57
Most Improved No 14 East

Adult Civic Award Julia
Chambers

Team Spirit The Swimmers

GRANTS

As our new financial year has begun that means we have a new grant budget available to help support community groups. This month we were able to support Escape Family Support, Hospice Care Northumberland and The Colony Music Festival.

RECYCLING

Amble Town Council are looking to arrange a public engagement event with the Northumberland County Council Recycling Officer. This will be a good opportunity to learn about the new recycling scheme and ask any questions ahead of its implementation. Keep a look out on our website and social media for the date.

DOG POO BAGS

With immediate effect, dog waste bags will no longer be supplied to Parish and Town Councils or local community centres for onward distribution. Instead, all bag supplies will be delivered directly to designated local libraries. Members of the Green Dog Walker Scheme will be able to collect bags from these locations by presenting proof of their membership to library staff in the form of their letter or Green Dog Walker Badge.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The submission of the plan is becoming increasingly urgent. At Full Council on 9 July 2026, Members agreed on a reduced 6 policy area scope; Local Green Space and Protected Open Space, Economic Development, Regeneration, Sustainable Transport, Community Facilities, Primary Residency. A "wish list" of other areas can be attached to the plan and although they do not carry the same weight as policy areas, they do give an indication around what is important to the Town on a wider scale. Public consultations will be held in due course.

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. Finally, we ask all residents and visitors alike to be considerate to others when parking their vehicles and not to block important access and exit points.

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

“This is our art”: How a humble gansey knitted a community together

A recent exhibition, Gansey Galore at Dry Water Arts became one of the biggest displays of traditional ganseys in the UK, the largest Northumberland had ever seen.

The project was a wonderful collaboration brought to life by the driving force of Linda Williams, alongside Deb Gillanders of Propagansey, and Bob, Willie and Chris Armstrong working hand-in-hand with Dry Water Arts.

Hundreds of people were welcomed to the exhibition — many of whom had never set foot in Dry Water Arts Centre before, or ever thought an “art gallery” was a place for them. The heart of the entire exhibition was captured perfectly by a local resident who looked around and simply said: “This is our art.”

For generations, the gansey was a vital piece of gear for anyone working the unpredictable waters of the North Sea. Amble still proudly maintains its fishing fleet, and



this exhibition gave us a renewed appreciation for the industry and the brave families who live with and support it.

Ganseys are famously robust and hardwearing, designed to keep out the bitter cold and rain. Yet, looking closely at the intricate patterns, you could see they also stood as a testament to something incredibly soft: love, care, and the deep need to protect a family member from the elements. Every stitch

represented hours of dedication. Linda’s deep love for textiles and local heritage gave the town a beautiful way to celebrate this unique creativity.

When the doors opened, the exhibition grew a life of its own. Visitors generously brought in additional ganseys to add to the display, each accompanied by wonderful stories of family connections.

We were loaned family photographs dating back over

a century. The images showed the original owners of the knitwear—hardworking people whose direct descendants are still living here in Amble. It became a beautiful line of connection spanning generations.

A talk by Deb Gillanders at the Puffin Festival was attended by 75 people.

Watch out for Gansey Gatherings at Dry Water Arts. These are monthly sessions for people to meet and share the gansey tradition ensuring that it is carried on.

If you are interested in having a great day out to see more ganseys, head to the Propagansey ‘26 exhibition. This is an annual event showcasing over 100 traditional and contemporary fishermen’s ganseys from around the UK and Netherlands. It will be held at the Fylingthorpe Methodist Church in North Yorkshire and is scheduled to run from 12 to 20 September 2026.

Dry Water Arts

LOVE for CRAG and Julia

The cream of the county’s community work has been celebrated at this year’s LOVE Northumberland awards where schools, community groups, organisations and individuals were honoured.

All those shortlisted were represented at the event held in Alnwick Garden, hosted by Radio Newcastle presenter Anna Foster, presentations were made by the Duchess of Northumberland.

The winner in the Best Coast or Countryside Project, was CRAG Little Shore (Amble)-Bathing Water designation for the Little Shore

The project encouraged DEFRA to designate the Little Shore as a bathing water site enabling regular testing for E. coli by the Environment Agency, and signage with information about suitability for bathing.

The Little Shore was one of 13 sites to make the short list; it has subsequently been designated as a bathing water site.

A core team of 10 volunteers phoned, wrote letters and emails, knocked on doors and talked at meetings to gain business and community support for the application.

The Outstanding Individual

Awards category was won by Julia Chambers who was praised for her community work in Amble and Warkworth.

Judges said “Julia has made a huge difference to the community and the environment where she lives.

“She is a member of Rotary and WI, runs Warkworth Green Matters and the Warkworth and Amble rivers group. She has been instrumental in the creation of a local garden near Warkworth Cricket Club.

“She is Vice-Chair of CRAG (Coquet River Action Group). In two years, this group has grown, now with over 100 volunteers testing the water quality at over 40 sites along the River Coquet from Barrow Burn down to the Little Shore.

“While CRAG volunteers are delivering results, Julia and the committee have worked to set up an organisation, develop standardised methodologies, apply for and receive grants, and communicate to volunteers and a wider audience.

“She is a gifted people person. Her connections made the difference to the application. Without her, [the Little Shore Bathing Water] designation simply would not have happened.”

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 for our delivery route.

Enquiries to hauxleyfarmdairy@gmail.com

RSPB Eider duck census

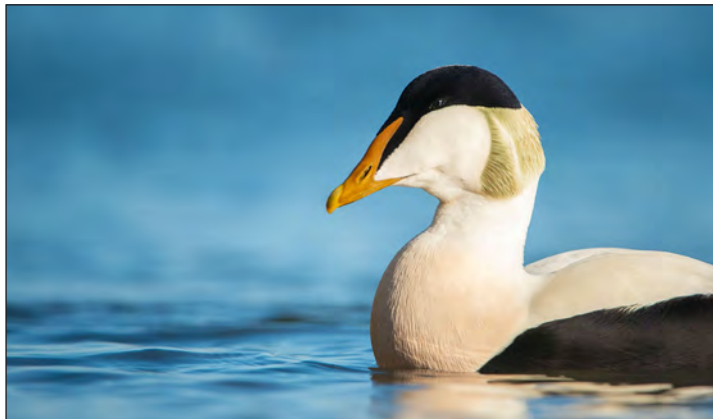


Photo by Ben Andrew

Wardens on Coquet Island have just completed their annual Eider duck census.

The census, carried out in May and June will help conservationists monitor one of the region's most recognisable coastal birds and better understand how Eiders are using Northumberland's shores.

Coquet Island is home to around 45,000 breeding seabirds and hosts the UK's

only breeding colony of Roseate Terns. The island also supports Puffins, Arctic, Common and Sandwich Terns, Razorbills, Fulmars, Kittiwakes and several gull species.

Wardens spent two whole days carefully surveying the island and shoreline to count nesting birds and recently hatched ducklings. Some five other breeding species of ducks were Shelduck, Shoveler,

Gadwall, Mallard, and Tufted Duck.

This year's first Eider nest on Coquet Island was discovered on 15 April, and the latest survey count shows 269 nests, which is a decline on the previous year (333) but similar to 2024's count.

The 333 nests counted in 2025 were the highest total of nests since 2018.

RSPB warden Rebekah Goodwill said: "Eiders numbers can fluctuate year on year, sometimes they share nests, or choose not to nest at all. There's always something exciting about seeing the first nests.

"St. Cuthbert, is said to have cared for these birds over a thousand years ago, and they remain an important part of our coastline today.

"The annual census is a huge task because we cover the whole island on foot looking for nesting birds and recently hatched ducklings, but it gives us a valuable picture of how

the population is doing. We're incredibly grateful to the local volunteers who help support the work we do to protect seabirds on Coquet Island."

As part of wider efforts to better understand the species, the RSPB is working with the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership to encourage members of the public to report sightings of Eiders along the Northumberland coast.

Eider Aware Northeast (launched in 2020) is a partnership project helping to protect and better understand Northumberland's nationally important Eider duck population. The project encourages local people to record sightings of Eiders and ducklings along the coast to help monitor populations and identify threats or disturbance.

For more information on the project, see <https://www.xbordercurrents.co.uk/projects/eider-aware-north-east/>

Lee's challenge to help rescue dogs

Originally from Amble but now living in Spain, Lee Harker is raising money for elderly rescue dogs who live in kennels near him in Spain.

The mission is to raise awareness and funds to help the dogs live out their lives with more comfort and dignity.

Lee says "Why am I doing this? To raise money to create a very special dog rescue called "Paws4Ever." This rescue will focus on giving elderly dogs a loving, safe, and comfortable place to spend their final years. Whether they've been abandoned, surrendered, or just need a home in their last chapter, they'll get the care and love they deserve."

Lee is attempting to run 4500km across six countries, beginning on 1 August. The 126 day route will take him through Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Spain.

Lee has already raised over 13,000 Euros out of his 150,000 target.

You can find out how to sponsor him in this amazing challenge via his FB page Running 4 Paws or www.pawsxalo.com

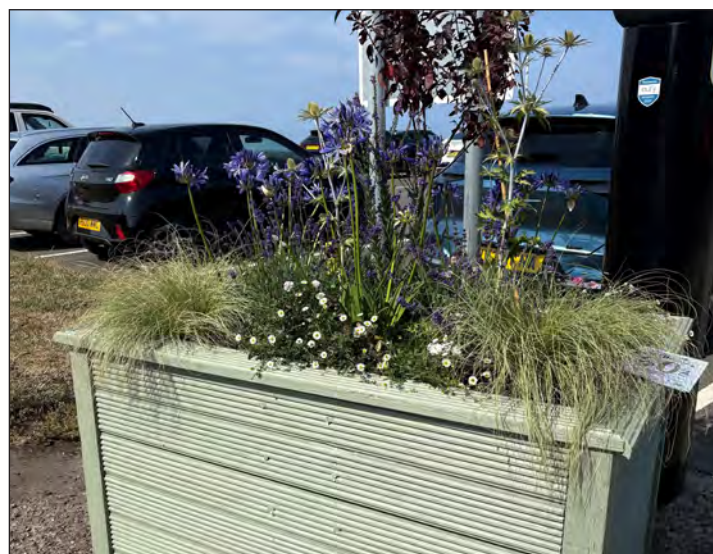
Harbour news: refurbishments continue

The summer is now well and truly upon us and the fantastic weather throughout June has brought large numbers of visitors to the harbour. I seem to spend a lot of my time acting as a tourist information officer and some of the questions I am asked are quite bewildering!! I was asked by one lady how long I had owned the harbour. I wish!!

You will possibly have noticed the south light house looking brighter and fresher. We have all worked hard on its refurbishment both internally and externally and I must say how liberating it feels to be hanging off the side of it attached by a harness and armed only with a paint brush.

The Colony music festival was a great success and I think it is fantastic to see so many people on the green beside Harbour Road enjoying the music, the food, a drink and each other's company. Well done to the bands who played and entertained us all day; great effort guys.

I would ask that you remain vigilant when you are out and about over the summer months. On 28 June, had it not been for the vigilance of one



local gentleman and the quick reactions of Rachel Armstrong, we would have had a serious fire on the pier after three lads decided to set up for fishing and ignite a barbeque halfway along the pier!! Words fail me; however, these things happen and thankfully our pier remained intact.

I would like to give a public thank you here to Kevin and Evie who live on Ladbroke Street for taking time (at their expense) to refurbish the large wooden planter at the junction

of Harbour Road and Ladbroke Street and to plant a beautiful selection of colourful plants and flowers in it. Well done and many thanks.

I'm now heading into my second year as Harbour Master and have very much enjoyed the ride so far. Thank you all for your support and kind words. Please enjoy the rest of the summer and as always, I look forward to chatting with you across the harbour.

Gary Paxton, Harbour Master

Why Pudsey is fundraising from Hamble to Amble

Pudsey bear and his friends called in to Amble as part of a nationwide fundraising challenge.

The Children in Need mascot is sailing around Britain, on a yacht, calling in at 35 ports, and taking in 2,500 miles.

The yacht called Big Bear is owned by Jon Brewin and his wife Jackie. They are hoping to raise £70,000 for Children In Need to mark Jon's 70th birthday.



Children's mental health is a particular concern to Jon and Jackie.

Pudsey and his friends left Hamble near Southampton in May and hope to return at the end of August.

Crewmember David Glenn told *The Ambler*, "We left Hamble and now here we are in Amble! Everyone here is so helpful, welcoming and generous."

Arya, 11, from Warkworth was very happy to meet Pudsey and give her donation. "I love Pudsey, he's so fluffy. They do a great job fundraising!"

To donate to Pudsey's Big Bear campaign, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/team/bigbear>

CBeebies descend onto Northumberland nature reserve

Hauxley nature reserve will feature in an upcoming episode of the CBeebies series this November following a local child experiencing a nature reserve for the very first time.

The reserve teamed up with a production company to film a new episode of *My First...* the long running CBeebies series that follows young children as they encounter big life moments.

Since its launch in 2016, the show has covered more than fifty 'firsts' from getting glasses and opening a bank account to going on a boat trip and having a haircut before starting nursery.

This time, the 'first' is a visit to a nature reserve, filmed

at Hauxley. A local youngster explored the reserve's wildlife, habitats, and Discovery Centre - and there's even hope that Alex

Lister, Druridge Bay Landscape Manager, will appear narrating part of the episode.

The reserve isn't new to the



Alex Lister narrated part of the CBeebies programme

camera as it has already appeared on *Springwatch* the BBC's flagship wildlife series, Ranger Hamza's *Eco Quest* - a CBeebies favourite, Robson Green's *Weekend Escapes* showcasing North East landscapes and *Countryfile* - both of which are also on the BBC.

Alex Lister, the Trust's Druridge Bay Landscape Manager says: "Whenever the Hauxley reserve features on national television we have an influx of visitors onto the site and into the café all to see for themselves what they saw on their screens, and I have a feeling it will be the same when this CBeebies episode airs."

Amble's young people are 'full of ideas'

David Smith MP has praised the "thoughtful, informed and engaged" young people in Amble after launching a programme of youth surgeries at James Calvert Spence College last month.

The visit on 12th June marked the first in a series of school-based sessions designed to give young people the opportunity to raise issues directly with their MP and help shape local and national decision-making.

During discussions with students from across the school's year groups, the North Northumberland MP heard concerns about road safety, transport, opportunities for young people, the cost of living and environmental issues.

The visit forms part of a wider programme of youth surgeries that David is holding in secondary schools across the constituency over the coming weeks.

David Smith MP said: "It was a pleasure to visit James Calvert Spence College and hear

directly from students about the issues affecting their lives. The young people I met were thoughtful, informed and full of ideas."

The initiative comes amid concerns that young people do not feel heard by decision-makers.



David Smith MP with Amelia and Megan

According to the Children's Commissioner's Big Ambition survey, only 22% of children feel that the people who run the country listen to what they have to say.

David added: "Too often, children and young people feel their voices are not heard. Every time I visit a school or youth group in North Northumberland, I am struck by how strongly they care about their communities and how much they have to contribute.

"I want to ensure that every resident in North Northumberland has the opportunity to share their views and help shape the decisions that affect them... the discussion at James Calvert Spence College was an excellent start."

Words of kindness are a gift for Amble Youth Project



Lara Young, CEO of AYP with Ali Rowland, Karen and Nick Gibbs

Amble Youth Project has received a substantial cash donation, all thanks to a poem about kindness.

The donation of £2,000 was made by The Benefact Group, a financial services organisation which gives all its profit to charitable causes.

The Benefact Group held a service at St Paul's Cathedral in London on 3 June to celebrate having given £250 million to good causes.

They asked local poet Ali Rowland if they could use her

poem "Kindnesses" during the service.

In lieu of a fee for this, they offered to make a donation to a charity of Ali's choosing.

"It was a huge surprise to have my poem, which had previously been published in an anthology, picked as a keynote for the celebration. I hadn't even heard of the Benefact Group before, or of the amazing work they do.

"Having a poem read out at St Paul's Cathedral to a huge audience is something writers

can only dream of" said Ali, "but the best part of all was being able to help a local charity in the important work they do for young people."

The service included dancers from The Royal Ballet School performing to a specially commissioned piece of music by composer Alexis Ffrench, and Ali's poem was read by former TV presenter and Chair of The Royal Ballet School, Natasha Kaplinsky.

The poem "Kindnesses" uses the metaphor of falling leaves to

describe how kind acts can touch many people, and the service included a special gold petal drop to symbolise this.

Amble Youth Project, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year has a mission to help young people "grow well and shine" and offers social, educational and leadership initiatives. Lara Young, CEO of the charity, attended the event at St Paul's on Ali's behalf.

Lara said, "The service was an amazing experience. Over 1800 people were there, and the use of Ali's poem and the testimonies from the charities involved made for a very moving and unique experience. We are thrilled to receive this very generous donation which we can use amongst other things to support the ongoing transformation of the Youth Group's allotment on Percy Drive."

Ali said, "I wanted the donation to go somewhere where it would make a substantial difference, and I know that's the case with the Youth Project. Climate justice is something I'm very passionate about, and a lot of my writing is about nature and our coastal landscape. It's amazing what a little bit of kindness can do."

Charity looking for volunteers



Local charity Alexa's Canine Trust (ACT) supports pets and owners in Amble and Northumberland. It has become a lifeline for pets and their owners across the community. What began as a small volunteer led effort has grown into a trusted local charity that steps in whenever an animal or an owner needs support.

Animal rescue is currently in crisis. For this reason, the charity's main focus is helping pets stay with loving owners. This usually means providing veterinary support for animals that might otherwise have to be given up.

Volunteers at ACT work tirelessly to raise the funds

that keep the charity running. Alongside general fundraising, they also run the charity shop on Queen Street.

Over the past four years, ACT has provided £130,000 of support to owners, covering everything from veterinary care to pet food.

To maintain this level of support, we need more volunteers to help in our shop. If you can spare some time, please pop in and ask for an application form.

Please help us continue supporting local pets their owners.

If you would like further information please contact Carole on 07792049081.

Sponsored content

Pharmacy First at Cromie's

If you're suffering from a minor health condition such as a sore throat, an insect bite or a urinary tract infection, your local pharmacy may be able to help.

At Cromie Pharmacy, we are proud to offer the NHS Pharmacy First service, giving local people quick and convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment without the need to wait for a GP appointment.

Through the service, our trained pharmacists can assess symptoms, provide expert advice and, where appropriate, supply prescription-only medicines for a range of common conditions.

The seven conditions covered by Pharmacy First are:

- Acute otitis media - children between 1 and 17 years
- Impetigo - adults and children aged 1 year and over
- Infected insect bites - adults and children aged 1 year and over

- Shingles - adults aged 18 years and over

- Sinusitis - adults and children aged 12 years and over

- Sore Throat - adults and children aged 5 years and over

- Urinary Tract Infection - women aged 16 to 64 years old

Pharmacy First enables patients to speak directly with a qualified pharmacist about their symptoms and concerns in a private consultation.

Pharmacists can then recommend the most appropriate course of action, helping people access treatment quickly and conveniently.

Whether you need advice, treatment or reassurance, the team at Cromie Pharmacy is here to help.

For more information or to book an appointment, contact Cromie Pharmacy on 01665 710896 or visit the pharmacy and speak to a member of staff.

Rotary update

RAW had two good days at the Amble Puffin Festival with the help of some great young people from James Calvert Spence College. Splatting the rats again proved to be a popular attraction. The festival also saw the first public appearance of our new 'motorised sleigh'. Again, the public proved very generous with donations to help finance the essential work on the sleigh in preparation for the Christmas festivities. Indeed, the Christmas sleigh is one of the main sources of revenue that RAW uses to support local good causes.

On the social side RAW members and their families had a memorable evening at Belsay Hall and Gardens which included a pie and pea supper before some members had the opportunity for a behind the scenes look inside hall including some areas where the public do not usually have access. Others of the party enjoyed a wander to the rocky ravines of the quarry garden between the hall and castle. Thanks go to Tony Lamsdale and the English Heritage volunteers who facilitated the evening.

Recent after dinner speakers included Jean Humpries who outlined the ambitious plans to

transform the Northumberland Hall in Alnwick into the new home of the Baliffgate museum collection.

Local Rotarians recently attended an event in May at Hipsburn Primary School for the official opening of their Phase One playground project which RAW has supported.

One Sunday afternoon Rotarians Mike and Racheal Wyllie hosted an Open Garden event at Shortridge Hall in aid of Church Restoration funds with the assistance of RAW members, thankfully the weather was kind and the event was well supported with many familiar faces in attendance. All the donations, which totalled over £1,400, going directly to the St Lawrence church restoration fund.

On the 16 June, RAW president Trevor Robertson, and golf competition organiser Phil Derry had the pleasure of handing a cheque for £1,200 to Jane Stratton of HospiceCare North Northumberland, one of the beneficiaries from the RAW golf competition last September.

Further details about Amble and Warkworth Rotary club can be found via the website: www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org or via the Rotary Amble & Warkworth Facebook page.

Amble Veterans barbeque

Instead of drinks on the first Friday (7 Aug), we are holding a barbeque on Sunday 9 August beginning at 2pm at Warkworth Cricket Club.

£8.00 per head, cash preferred, and bring some more

cash for the raffle! Sunshine guaranteed.

To book your place please send an email to aafvbclub@gmail.com stating how many will be in your party.



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



Amble RNLI Lifeboat Day

Join us at Amble Harbour area and Town Square for our fun packed event of family fun to support and raise funds for the volunteer crew and station to help Saving Lives at Sea.

There will be Lifeboat displays with commentary at 11am and 1pm (approx.), and entertainment outside the Lifeboat station with, stalls, tombola, and home bakes/ refreshments (extended coffee morning) upstairs in the station.

Fun Fair on the Little Shore. The Kings Own Yeomanry, Fire Service and stalls in the Dock

Lifeboat Day

car park. Alnwick Allstars will be singing in the Town Square at 1pm with more stalls to browse around there.

Raffle tickets are now on sale for our Grand Raffle and on the day for some amazing prizes. The raffle tickets for Ant's painting are on sale on the day too. Both raffles will be drawn in the afternoon. We can accept payment by cash, card, or QR code on the day.

If you have any unwanted gifts (sorry no books or electrical items) we would be very grateful for them.

Come along and enjoy the day with us.

Future coffee mornings
Saturday 8 August 10am - 3pm
LIFEBOAT DAY

Sunday 30 August 10am - 1pm

Sunday 20 September 10am - 1pm

Follow us on FB Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers for more information.

Warkworth Film Club

Meeting each month in the Warkworth War Memorial Hall showing a mix of drama and documentary films. Everyone welcome, just turn up as we have plenty of seating, and a bar serving alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks.

Love Cecil Saturday 5 September

A documentary about Academy Award-winning costume designer Cecil Beaton. Photographer, artist and set designer, Beaton was best known for his costumes in award winning films such as

'Gigi' (1958) and 'My Fair Lady' (1964). Dynamic and lyrical, and, at times, critical. Narrated by Rupert Everett. (2017 cert 12, 1 hour 40')

We now have contactless payment. we will be accepting cash and card payments over the next couple of months, moving to contactless/ card only in due course.

Doors and bar from 7pm. Film starts at 7.30pm. £5 per person

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

Harbour Commissioners need you!

Are you interested in becoming part of a small but dedicated management team.

We preferably need people that have skills, experience or involvement in harbour operation, or business. Local knowledge would be advantageous.

WHC offer in return, no salary but the satisfaction that you are contributing your time, skill and enthusiasm to a vital facility providing work and

leisure to the local community and visitors to our town.

Apply in writing to the:-

The Chairman
Warkworth Harbour Authority
Harbour Office. Quayside
Amble NE65 0AP

Mark your application Private & Confidential to be opened by addressee only or alternatively if preferred email to Luann@whc-amble.org. uk marking for the Chairman's attention.

Forage summer market

The Forage Market is returning to the End Hemmel Barn at Rigg & Furrow, Acklington, for two days of thoughtful shopping over the August Bank Holiday weekend, on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 August. Across the two days, around 50 independent makers will come together to showcase the exceptional talent and creativity found across the North East, with a carefully curated selection of artists, designers and makers all under one roof.

Entry is £2 (under 16's, carers and dogs admitted free). The ticket price includes free parking, raffle entry and a donation to charity. Grab your tickets at www.foragelifestyle.com or pay on the door upon arrival.

Opening Hours:

Saturday 29 August 12pm - 5pm (Taproom open until 9pm)
Sunday 30 August 12pm - 5pm (Taproom open until 6pm). See www.foragelifestyle.com.

Proud moment for Amble Vikings



Amble Vikings U13s won the Saturday League Cup in nail biting fashion.

In what was a very entertaining match played in horrible conditions, The Vikings trailed by a single goal at half time before equalising late on to take the match to spot kicks.

The lads and lasses held their nerve and lifted the cup after winning on penalties 5-3.

This is a very proud moment for the team, and we as coaches could not be happier and prouder of every single one of them.

The team has been together

for seven years and this is a massive achievement from everyone involved.

Thank you for the continued support and thank you to our sponsors The Old Boathouse, Vestra Homecare and Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club.

Upcoming local history group meetings

September 17; 'Nautical Phrases, Slang and Idioms' by Terry Walton
October 15; 'The History and Functions of HM Coastguard Rescue' by Ken Henderson
November 19; 'The Eight Paintings by William Scott Bell at Wallington Hall' by Reg Hall
December 17; 'Macbeth Revisited' by Ronan Paterson
January 21, 2027; War Graves in the Graveyard of St Mary the Virgin, Morpeth
Talks 7pm to 8.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Percy St, Amble.
Entrance: £3 to cover meeting and refreshment costs. Everyone welcome.

Starlight Express triumphs



Jamie Shepherd, Ellis McCoy, Michelle Thompson, Kevin Rutherford, Carl Donaldson.

Organised by Coquet Yacht Club, the challenge begins at Alnwick Castle, where competitors set off on the first trail run to Coquet Yacht Club to join their respective yachts. From there, the crews sail north along the Northumberland coast, landing their runners ashore to complete further trail runs at Newton-by-the-Sea, Seahouses and Holy Island, before returning to Amble.

The overall winners are determined by combining

corrected sailing times with the cumulative running times, making success dependent upon teamwork, navigation, tidal planning and efficient transitions throughout.

This year's event saw 11 teams take part, with competitors facing a testing but rewarding weekend of variable sailing conditions and demanding trail runs.

The prestigious 2026 Challenge Cup, awarded for the best combined corrected

sailing and running performance, was won by Starlight Express, skippered by Carl Donaldson, with crew Kevin Rutherford and Jamie Shepherd, and runners Ellis McCoy and Michelle Thompson. The team produced a consistently strong performance to secure overall victory. Rogue Trader finished second, with Bluebird taking third place overall.

The sailing honours mirrored the overall standings, with Starlight Express taking the

title of Fastest Sailors, ahead of Rogue Trader in second and Bluebird in third.

The Fastest Runners awards went to Paul West and Danny Richardson, competing aboard Nina Rose. Rob Holt and James Leiper, sailing with Monkey Business, finished second, while Megan Murdoch and Hamish Quinlan, representing Fantasia, secured third place.

Special mention goes to Megan Murdoch of Fantasia, who was recognised as the Fastest Female Runner.

Sincere thanks are extended to all competitors, the many Club members, volunteers, race officials, marshals and supporters. The Club also gratefully acknowledges the continued support of the event sponsors: Alnwick Brewery, Castle North, Northumberland Design & Build, Quasam, Rix Petroleum, Standard Security Services Ltd and The Tankerville Arms.

Next year's dates are 25- 26 June 2027

Sam Scott

Amble Photography Group

Twenty years ago, a small group of amateur photographers, who had been on a photography course, decided to form a regular group to continue learning and enjoying their hobby. Now Amble Photography Group has gone from strength to strength. The Group are members of Northern Counties Photographic Federation (NCPF) and are regularly highly placed in interclub competitions. We welcome all photographers both experienced and beginners to our weekly meetings at Trinity Methodist Church, Percy

Street, starting at 10am. See our programme at www.amblephotogroup.com/info.html

As part of our celebrations, we would like to contact former members to invite them to a celebration on Friday morning 25 September. If you can put us in contact with them that would be helpful. We will be showing photographs that day from our archives but if you have photographs and memories from any of our deceased members we would love to hear from you as well.

Please contact pennyhorseman@gmail.com.

Solo exhibition for local artist



Self-taught Amble based artist, Kevin Oldham, has lived here for around two years.

Kev said, "Having created art all of my life, I now paint and draw realistic seascapes and urban landscapes in Northumberland and have had artworks at the British Art prize London in 2023, winning a highly commended".

In addition, he told the Ambler he had been one of the top 50 finalists at The British Art prize in 2024, and he entered

the Jacksons Art Prize this year, narrowly missing out on making the last 70 finalists, but still making the top 6%.

"I paint and draw everything from back street gates to harbour views, so something for everyone!" he said.

You can see Kev's work at a solo art exhibition coming up at Baliffgate Museum and Gallery, Alnwick from 1 Sept-1 Nov 2026, where over 25 artworks will be on show.

Beware of the Bull

Beware of the Bull - The Comic Genius of Jake Thackray. Afternoon concert on 20 August starting at 2pm. Doors open 1:30. Warkworth War Memorial Hall.

Paul Thompson brings his celebration of the songs and life of Jake Thackray, a funny and original songwriter. Paul will be singing the Yorkshireman's comical, poetic, irreverent songs

and giving insights into his life. Performing with Nadine, a guitar Jake once owned and named. He is the co-author of the biography, Beware of the Bull - The Enigmatic Genius of Jake Thackray. His latest book is Jake Thackray - The Unsung Writer,

Book tickets £10 by email to peter.burnham@gmail.com or call Peter Burnham on 01665 711388. Details at www.wmh.uk

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You danced, you drank and you didn't disappoint



The Britpop Union (feat Libby). Photo Wobbly Fingers

Amble – what do we want!? “A music festival with no wind and plenty of sun to dance the night away!” When do we want it? “Now!” Well, Saturday 4 July 2026, to be precise. As history has borne out, we know we can’t have it all, so as Steinman would say, “Two out of three ain’t bad.”

With the stage set, the bar flowing, and the DJ — I mean THEE DJ Mac — pumping out the tunes, the festival began. As the music flowed on the wind (the considerable wind), the masses heeded the call and descended in their hundreds.

Master of ceremonies, Will Westwood, lit up the stage and fired up the crowd, enough to tune them into party mode and introduce the first act. Jonathan May made a welcome return to the Colony and showed the crowd what they had been missing, with his rhythmic guitar playing and rasping voice. “Dakota” got the crowd engaged. With the crowd hooked and swelling, we can safely say that by the time Jonathan sang “Blame It On Me”, the buzz and joy could definitely be blamed on him.

Will Westwood returned to the stage to check on the crowd, keep them pumped, and introduce a new act, Scapula and Bones. But this was no new act, just a new name rising out of

the ashes of Corporal Bones... bringing old-school rockabilly back to the masses with the “Ace of Spades”, but not as you know it. By the time they sang “Folsom Prison Blues”, the crowd were firmly under lock and key and going nowhere.

DJ Mac, firing banger after banger into the crowd, got them up and increased the intensity with “Get Out of My Dreams”, a timely reminder we were in dreamland with the sensational atmosphere. That very atmosphere was missed this year for the first time by a festival stalwart. However, nobody misses out at the Colony and, in dedication, the DJ Booth will forever bring him to the party. Party hard, Nathan!

It was now time to introduce a new band to the Colony, and this time it was a debut for Vinilo Velvet. Jason Marshall, Amble born and bred, fulfilled a lifetime dream to bring his music to the port he belongs to. “Valerie” was met with a raucous sing-along to the delight of the increasing crowd. With sing-along rock classics aplenty, “Sweet Child o’ Mine” proved a serious hit, cementing Jason as a sweet child of Amble!

Whole Yiota Love bounded onto the stage and punked (well, perked) up the crowd with “Basket Case”. Proving to be the pearl of the Colony,

they reminded us to be “Alive”, making sure the only “Zombie” around was the song.

Taking us back to the 90s (although I suspect most never left there musically) the ever-impeccable Britpop Union summoned the “Common People” and dancing numbers swelled to bursting, living their best “Parklife”. Proving that the music didn’t die in the 90s, they hit the youth with quick maths: “17 Going Under” and “Not 19 Forever”. With the weather holding out and the SHEDMAN Jeff expectant, the Britpop Union went “Chasing Rainbows”, tempting the rain to make its usual appearance. The rain declined and the temperature heated up, ready for the headliners.

Will Westwood, in his penultimate presentation, grasped the crowd and tuned their levels to oblivion. He managed to do the impossible: introduce the band that needs no introduction, The Range. Showing their commitments (I know, but it’s needed for the poor pun) to an unadulterated rock rampage, “Hard to Handle” was the song; but proving otherwise, they complied with FIFA regs and had their hydration break. Fully refreshed and in the only way they know how, they paid tribute to Shakey and Fairy by rocking the socks

off the crowd. Ian (Fairy) was a performer at the very first, and will keep on performing in our souls till the last.

The Colony 2026 was, for three reasons, amazing:

The Sponsors: Castle North Plumbing and Heating, Coquet Island Shellfish, The Radcliffe Club, The Harbour Inn Bar and Grill, PWG Connections, Warkworth Harbour Commissioners, and Amble Town Council, who provide support financially and practically to make this event happen.

The Committee: To whom we are truly thankful for putting together this amazing festival. Time was spent crossing the t’s and dotting the i’s to allow the event to happen, and then on the day, making sure things were as smooth as “Wobbly Fingers” beard.

And finally, the crowd: You danced, you drank, and you didn’t disappoint. From the amazing, friendly atmosphere to the assistance in cleaning up, you are truly special and deserving of the “Friendliest Port”.

Unfortunately, next year is a fallow year so no Colony..... NOT!!!

See you 3 July 2027... We have booked them, so you’d better come!!!

Aaron Armstrong