



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 160 October/November 2026



Fun with the Fundraisers

All the action from Amble's lifeboat day.
Cover photo: Ivor Rackham

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Heartbreak at whale deaths

Thanks given to the teams of people who tried to rescue the stricken animals.

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More housing on the cards?

A public consultation will be held ahead of plans to build 300 new homes.

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Have we been stitched up again?

As Amble's lovely new school opens, the community understandably look to this £50million project with interest.

The development has undergone several changes since the community consultation at the beginning of 2023 – understandable given the rise in the price of fuel, building materials and the cost of living generally.

Costs for the project grew from £36million to £47million and even at one point £51million. The Ambler was told this extra £4million was for contingencies.

But as a (now retired) member of Amble Town Council said to planners at the 2023 community consultation “Be careful what you promise people. The community will remember.”

Delight at the prospect of a brand new school building with light, bright new classrooms and up to date facilities and no leaky roofs or worn out equipment, was tempered with caution over what access the community

Appendix 2: Availability

Community space	Day	Evening	Weekend/Holiday
Sports hall	Monday 1.30pm to 3.30pm* Tuesday 9.00am to 12noon* Thursday 9.00am to 11.00am*	4.30pm to 10.00pm**	8.00am to 9.00pm**
Activity studio	Monday 1.30pm to 3.30pm* Tuesday 9.00am to 12noon* Thursday 9.00am to 11.00am*	4.30pm to 10.00pm**	8.00am to 9.00pm**
3G pitch (from 2027)	NA	4.30pm to 10.00pm**	8.00am to 9.00pm**
MUGA Grass pitches Assembly hall Meeting rooms Classrooms Seminar rooms Food classroom Performing arts studio Music practice room Library	NA	4.30pm to 10.00pm**	8.00am to 9.00pm**

Above: a list of the times the public will have access to facilities at Amble's new Coquet Community School

would actually be given.

At the same time, people told The Ambler they remembered when the original Coquet High School was built, how similar promises were made, but in reality the public were given curtailed access to the facilities, and often shut out completely.

So will the public be allowed access to these lovely new facilities? Yes, and times seems to have been decided (see above) although, possibly, only if users have a DBS check and relevant insurance (see box top right).

The Ambler wonders how many people this will disqualify. If a couple of locals wanted to hire a badminton court on a one off basis, would they be able to?

We asked headteacher James Andriot. He told us that decisions on DBS checks was dependent on the specifics of the hire.

“We are governed by the rules set out in ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ where there is a specific section on school facilities and external users during the school day. The ‘appropriateness’ of keeping children safe in these circumstances is at

the heart of this statutory document and why each individual booking would have to be looked at by the lettings team.”

Julia Aston, director of Amble Development Trust told The Ambler: “On the Community Use Agreement, the Leader of NCC asked that the Trust and Town Council be included on a steering group to ensure there was independent community oversight. Again we worked with NCC and Amble Town Council to try to attain the

From Coquet Community School Community Use Agreement:

“If there is a chance that those hiring the premises will come into contact with pupils, for example if the hire occurs during school hours, or when pupils may be present in the school (during after-school clubs or extra-curricular activities), we will ask for confirmation that the hirers have had the appropriate level of DBS check.”

“The hirer must take out its own public liability insurance with a reputable insurer approved by the school and, where requested by the school, shall provide a copy of the relevant insurance certificate no less than 10 days before the start date of the licence.”

best access to facilities possible for the community. Sadly we have been informed that the Trust will not be included on this steering group.”

All of this makes NCC's recent refusal to allow a community transfer of the old sports hall even more disappointing.

As one resident told The Ambler: “We believed what we were promised about community access last time. Now it looks like we've been stitched up again.”

Anna Williams

Pilot whales die on Coquet Island

The heartbreaking story of six Pilot whales that died on Coquet Island hit the national news recently.

A team from the British Divers Marine Life Rescue led the attempted rescue and their report is below:

Late afternoon on Sunday 20 September, British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) were alerted to a pod of pilot whales near to shore off Warkworth, Northumberland. Medics were called to the scene and more put on standby while observations were made of the situation and a plan of action agreed.

It was ascertained that there were approximately 40 pilot whales behaving in a distressed manner typically seen prior to a stranding event. Local boats were then launched with Medics aboard to attempt herding them offshore away from the danger of stranding.

Unfortunately the whales did not respond to this and a number of them steadfastly remained tightly packed around one of the



Six Pilot whales have died on Coquet Island. Photo: British Divers Marine Life Rescue

largest animals in the group that was laying motionless on their side. As it got dark the herding attempt had to be stood down as it was no longer possible to see the animals and operate safely around them.

The following morning our team including a veterinarian returned to Coquet Island where six animals remained. An assessment took place on each, which confirmed all were now deceased. They all appear to be female and a mix of adults and

juveniles. In the meantime, the search for the other members of the pod continued, but so far there have been no further sightings. BDMLR spotters are positioned along the coast with licensed and authorised drones plus aircraft from Civil Air Support assisting. Additional vessels along the coast are also keeping watch and will alert us if anything is seen.

We would like to thank our volunteers and the RSPB team who were working under very difficult conditions and time-limited

circumstances for their incredible efforts, to Puffin Cruises for boat transport for our team and equipment, and to Civil Air Support for assistance in checking the area from the air for signs of the other animals.

Sarah Dalrymple, RSPB Northumberland Coast Manager, told The Ambler: “RSPB staff have been providing local support and assistance under the direction of BDMLR and we are continuing to work alongside partners as the situation develops.

“This has been a challenging few days for the Coquet Team and upsetting to witness for all concerned, and we are hugely appreciative of the incredible efforts made by BDMLR.”

Sarah cautioned against people drawing conclusions about the incident: “It would be inappropriate to speculate about the causes of the stranding.

“Any assessment will be a matter for the relevant marine mammal experts and authorities”.

Plans proposed for three hundred more houses

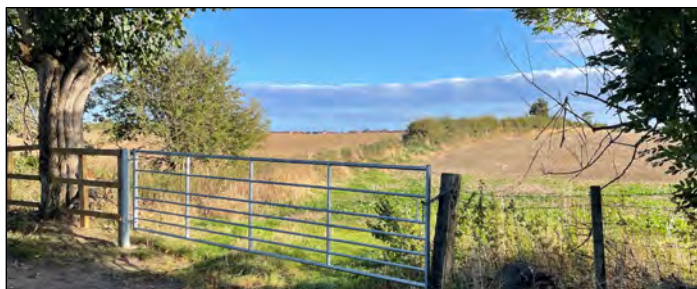
A public consultation will be held in October, ahead of plans for a new 300 housing development on the Amble/Warkworth boundary. The development would be built on land at Gloster Hill.

The 24.7 hectare site is currently comprised of agricultural land, and is bound by existing homes to the east and south. The town has seen significant house building in recent years, with the Taylor Wimpey proposals being the latest in a long line of large-scale housing developments.

At this stage, only a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion has been submitted and published on the county council's website, although a pre-application has been submitted but not publicly released.

Documents contained within the report state that it is the applicant's intention to submit an outline application in "late 2026".

The proposed development



would comprise of "up to 300 residential dwellings" alongside "associated public open space, green infrastructure and pedestrian and cycle connections". There would also be affordable housing provision in accordance with local planning policy.

The council's affordable housing policy states that between 10% and 30% of homes on any developments above 10 or more units must be designated as affordable housing. The final figure depends on the value of the area, with the proportion increasing in higher-value areas.

The proposals have already drawn objections from local

residents despite the fact a full application is yet to be submitted. On Northumberland County Council's planning portal, over 100 objections have already been received.

Resident Simon Haigh wrote: "Amble has already experienced substantial housebuilding over the past five years, and as a small town it cannot continue to absorb additional population growth without significant investment in core infrastructure and public services."

Daniel Holloway added: "The town has grown rapidly in recent years, with the housing developments at Hauxley Grange, Hauxley View and

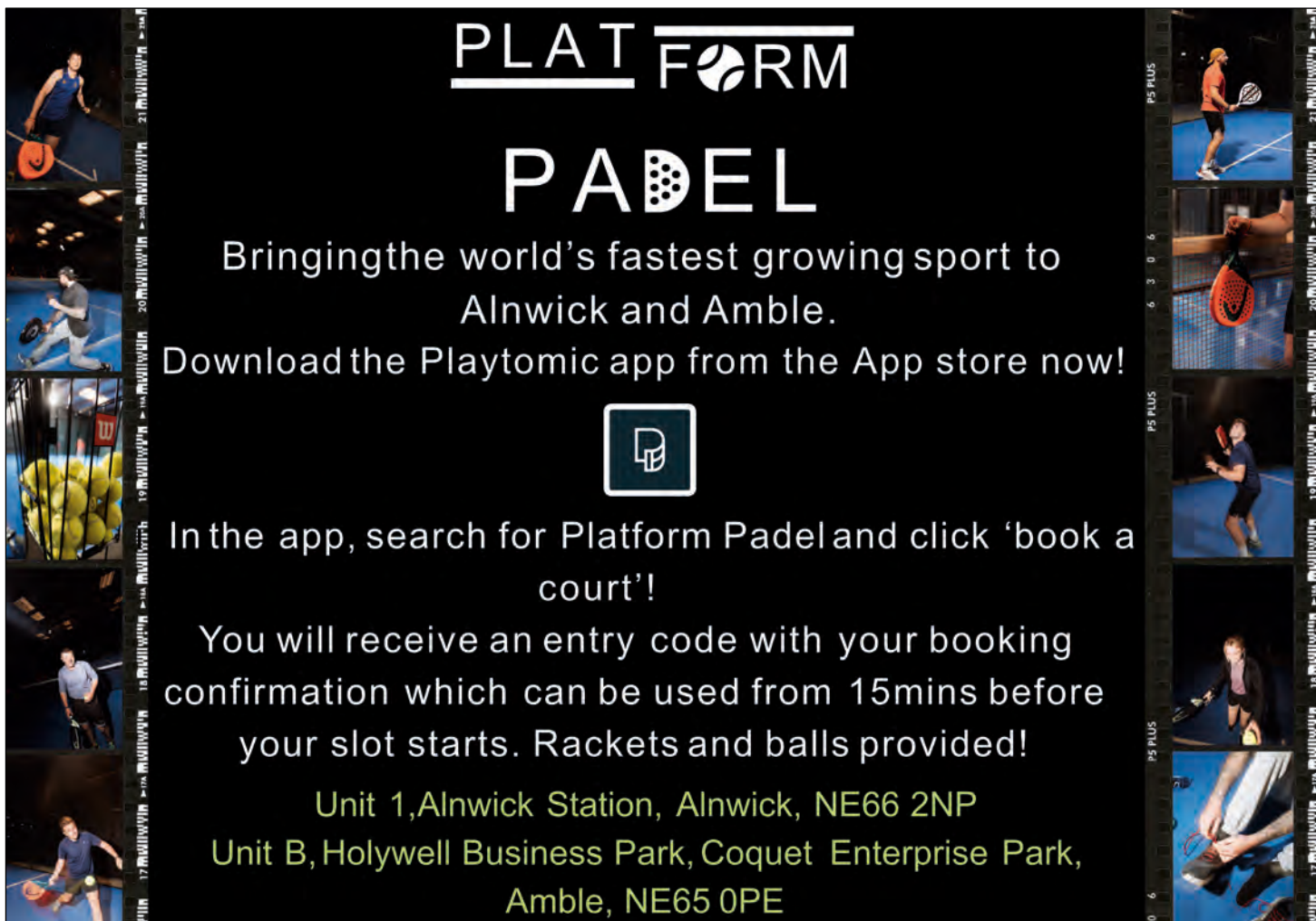
Longstone Manor. Existing schools, health practices and the dental surgery are already under substantial pressure to cope with the increased number of clients.

"Adding 300 houses (at least 600 people) will only increase these pressures to an unsustainable level without significant investment in additional facilities."

More details on the proposals will be revealed when the application is submitted. A range of "supporting documents" will assess "any potential impact of the proposed development to ensure mitigation measures are implemented if required".

Between 2014 and 2023, Amble saw 849 new homes built, while hundreds more have been granted planning permission. This includes ongoing developments at Tantallon Parks (480 homes), Hauxley View (166 homes) and Braid Hill (98 homes).

*James Robinson
Local Democracy Reporter Service*



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French exchange group visits Friendliest Port



Councillor Luke McTaggart, Mayor of Amble, welcomed French guests from the long-running Amicale Héry-Shilbottle exchange to Amble on 22 July.

After a short speech given in French by the Mayor, everyone enjoyed a coffee morning and a delicious spread, thanks to Eileen

and Tony Regan, members of the Amicale Héry-Shilbottle Association, who were hosts for the day.

Afterwards, Eileen led a historical walking tour of Amble. The event was part of a very successful and enjoyable week of cultural activities.

The Amicale Héry-Shilbottle Association is a 63 year-old friendship and twinning partnership between Shilbottle and surrounding areas and Héry in Burgundy.

Although originally the Amicale was for young people it developed into an exchange

between the wider community. Some of the young people who visited France in the 1960s are still involved today.

New members are welcome, for more information, see their facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/17250944000/about



Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew: Brambles' emergency fun

We had an amazing week at Brambles learning all about emergency services and transport!

The children were incredibly lucky to meet the police, explore a real fire engine, and enjoy a special visit to the lifeboat station. They loved discovering how the vehicles work and learning more about the amazing people who look after us every day.

A huge thank you to all our visitors for making this week so memorable.

Brambles Childcare Centre

Musical summer soirée at Coquet House

At the beginning of July students of Amble piano teacher, Isabel Morrison, gathered together at "Coquet House" on the harbour for their annual Summer Soirée.

As usual, there was an eclectic mix of musical styles; classical, jazz, folk and popular music. The students had spent months working on their chosen repertoire and thoroughly enjoyed being able to share their music together and inspire one another in their musical journeys.



Parents advised to think carefully about e-bikes as presents

The illegal use of e-bikes and e-scooters is an issue we are working really hard to tackle.

In a recent bout of activity, we seized over 30 in one week – and we are employing every tactic available to us to bring riders to a stop and keep the community safe.

One pedal bike we seized recently had been converted into an e-bike capable of reaching speeds of 72mph!

We also removed an e-scooter from a youth that showed as reaching speeds of 52mph.

People are getting hurt now – including the riders themselves.

We just need it to STOP.

We often see comments on our social posts asking about the rules around the use of e-bikes and scooters on public land.

We also require parents and carers to fully understand the rules around these vehicles before purchasing them for their children.

Here are a few reminders:

E-bikes: You can ride an electric bike, or an 'electrically assisted pedal cycle' (EAPC), without a license or insurance if you're 14 or over. However, it **MUST**

- Have pedals that you can use to propel it.
- Have an electric motor that can run continuously at a maximum power of no more than 250 watts.
- Have no electrical assistance once you reach 15.5mph.

If your electric bike fails to meet any of these requirements it needs to be taxed and insured as either a motorcycle or a moped. You also need a licence.

Failure to comply with that will lead to prosecution.

E-scooters: It is illegal to use e-scooters on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter in public, you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.



Image: luciana55 pixabay

If you own an e-scooter, you can only use it in on private land, such as in a garden. But you must have the permission of the landowner to do so.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter/e-motorbike, the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you

were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

E-scooters are illegal for use in any public space unless rented as part of an e-scooter rental trial in some parts of the UK.

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Alnwick Neighbourhood Policing Team

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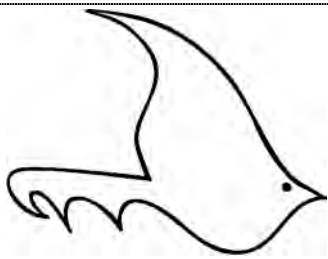
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The Ambler

COMMENDED at the Newspaper of the Year awards 2023

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

The Ambler is a project of
Amble Development Trust



The Ambler is printed six times per
year. The views expressed in The
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2026 Submissions dates:

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

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.
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More memories of Nurse Carruthers

As a child, I remember Nurse Carruthers very well. She was a frequent visitor at my Grandma's house in Dandsfield Place in Radcliffe. Margaret Keen, my Grandma, used to help by waiting at the homes of mothers about to give birth until Nurse Carruthers arrived. Grandma provided

reassurance and preparations for the birth, then stayed on until the baby was safely born.

I know that Nurse Carruthers will be fondly remembered by many people in Amble and Radcliffe.

Susan Smith (Norfolk)
via email

The recent article of the well respected Nurse Carruthers (#150 p6) appears to be taken in Dr Robertsons garden. It seems that it's captured three of my daughters, namely Sandra, Angela and Lynda and possibly their cousin David Thirtle. She was well known to our large family.

Des Thirtle
via email



Nurse Carruthers, (left) receiving her MBE, with her niece Anne (centre) and Anne's cousin Margaret

Agnes Carruthers was the oldest girl from seven children. The family were Scottish, from Glasgow, but moved to Wallsend, her father was a shipyard foreman. She was born in Newcastle in 1902, before the family once again moved back to Glasgow, and then in 1920 back to the Newcastle area.

She trained at Willington Hospital in Manchester and Tynemouth Hospital, she qualified as a midwife in 1930. I understood that she began work as District Nurse in Amble in the 1930s. Initially she lived in Newburgh St, (not Percy St. as I said previously). She had a fully equipped surgery at the front of

the house, and living quarters at the back. I can remember the smell of the surgery, and the equipment, much in the style of the TV programmes we have seen from that era. She moved to 1, St. Lawrence Ave around 1957 where, again, she had a fully equipped surgery attached to her house.

The area that she covered included Red Row, Broomhill, Hauxley, Acklington, including the RAF station. Initially, and during the war she would cycle around the area to her patients, but by the time that I was aware of her she had a small Austin car. I was told that throughout the war she was solely responsible for the medical needs of her

community as Dr. Robertson was away assisting the war effort. This seems like a huge responsibility, especially on a bicycle and on night calls.

She was regularly called out at night, the majority of babies were born at home, and she attended at deaths too. She had a regular surgery and there were often people knocking on her door for medical emergencies, often with fishing hooks stuck in fingers I seem to remember!!

Amble at this time was a pit village and a fishing community, she would receive gifts from grateful patients; salmon and crabs I particularly remember. A carpenter in Amble made gifts of furniture for her, I still have a desk and chair made by this same person. She would get a regular load of coal when the miners got theirs. She was highly thought of, evident when we walked through Amble, everyone greeted her, hello Nurse how are you, I've got a little something for you.

We, as a family, stayed with her every summer, she was a fantastic cook and baker. I would often accompany her when she went out to bath the new babies, a lovely experience for me.

She finally retired in the late 1960s.

Anne Ranger, via email

Money found for other areas

Northumberland County Council constantly tell the people of Amble that there is not a magic money tree to provide a community and sports facility in Amble.

And yet miraculously today

they have committed £1.1m to upgrade an outdoor pool in Haltwhistle.

NCC, the people of Amble would like to know why you do not think that Amble deserves the same facilities that many other

towns have.

I'm sure that £1.1m could have transformed the old Bede Street Club into a Community Centre.

Ken Henderson
via email

WHAT YOU SAY...

Traffic concerns at new Persimmon estate



I often wonder what is the point of complaining about developers, but I can't just ignore Persimmon's ongoing deathtrap construction at the A1068 southern approach to Amble.

Our ineffective councillors and planners couldn't insist on a logical vehicle entrance directly off the Percy Drive roundabout for the Hauxley View development, so instead they've allowed a

dangerous T junction off the 60mph A1068 just 50m further south.

To avoid consequent accidents, they specified a ghost right hand turn lane to enter the estate, a right turn ban to leave it, localised widening of the A1068, a southern extension of the 30mph limit and a 3m wide footway northwards so schoolkids don't have to cross the A1068,

Despite residents already in Hauxley View, ABSOLUTELY NONE of these safety features are provided. Pedestrians consequently take unacceptable risks just to

access the estate as this recent photo shows.

Please will our spineless County Council ensure Persimmon install these measures BEFORE the inevitable road accident occurs.

Tom Lloyd
via email

P.S. They'd also better start saving for traffic lights at the "Top Hoose" junction once Longstone Manor is full and Tantallon start building - the 600 new homes using Acklington Road will drown it in traffic.

Gulls attacked

On Thursday 9 September at 6.30am someone lured birds onto a roof in the lane behind Newburgh street by throwing out bread, with the deliberate purpose of then shooting them.

They shot and killed two beloved seagulls that neighbours and children had watched nesting, being born, and successfully fledging.

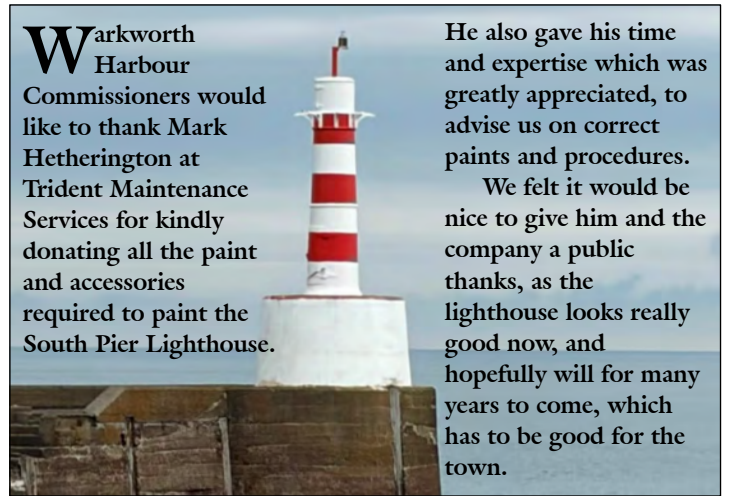
We are all truly devastated by this awful, cruel act. We all

mourn their loss, they might have been 'just a couple of seagulls' to some, but to us they were OUR seagulls, OUR babies.

Police and wildlife crimes have been informed and statements and evidence taken. If anyone has any information please contact Northumbria police and quote crime reference NP 20260910-0538

Kitty, via email

Warkworth Harbour Commissioners would like to thank Mark Hetherington at Trident Maintenance Services for kindly donating all the paint and accessories required to paint the South Pier Lighthouse.



He also gave his time and expertise which was greatly appreciated, to advise us on correct paints and procedures.

We felt it would be nice to give him and the company a public thanks, as the lighthouse looks really good now, and hopefully will for many years to come, which has to be good for the town.

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With 2-4-bedroom homes available and tailored incentives designed to support your move, now could be the perfect time to discover what life at Longstone Manor could look like.

More time for the things you love

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begin to cool, Amble takes on a charm all of its own. Whether you're wrapping up for a walk along the beach, browsing the harbour's independent shops or enjoying a quiet coffee overlooking the marina, life here moves at a pace that encourages you to slow down and savour the moment.

It's this balance of coastal beauty, community spirit and everyday convenience that makes Amble such a special place to call home.

Set on the edge of this thriving seaside town, Longstone Manor combines modern living with the warmth of an established community. Thoughtfully designed homes offer bright, open-plan spaces, high ceilings and large energy-efficient windows that fill each room with natural light, creating a home that feels welcoming from the moment you walk through the door.

Helping you make your move

Every move is different, which is why the team at Longstone Manor takes the time to understand what's most important to you and your circumstances.

"As no two buyers are the same, we don't believe incentives should be either," says Alison Ash, Senior Sales Executive at Longstone Manor. "Whether you're looking to make your move before Christmas, release equity from your current home or simply find a home that's better suited to your lifestyle, we'll work with you to explore the support that could make the biggest difference."

Depending on your circumstances, this could include support towards moving costs, legal fees, deposit contributions or other incentives designed to help make your move feel that little bit easier.

"One of the things people often comment on when they visit is how much space there is between the homes," Alison adds. "The layout has been carefully designed to give residents a real sense of



Persona Homes

by Home Group



privacy and breathing room. It also means many of the homes benefit from generously sized gardens, giving you plenty of space to relax and enjoy being outdoors."

Settle in before Christmas

There is something special about spending the festive season in a brand-new home. From deciding where the tree will go to finding a place for treasured Christmas decorations collected over the years, there's a real joy in making a new home your own and creating new traditions along the way.

For those hoping to be settled before Christmas, there is still time to make your move and enjoy everything Amble has to offer throughout the season ahead.

With outright sale and shared ownership options available, your dream home by the sea could be closer than you think.

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Hugh's views:



One afternoon in June I heard a blackbird alarm calling in our garden. A quick stroll around the garden revealed nothing unusual at first but movement among a clump of anemones allowed a glimpse of a portly, spiny visitor as it turned away to shelter under nearby shrubs.

Finding a hedgehog here was quite a shock as the garden can only be accessed by a gateway at the side of the house leading onto quite a busy access road and beyond that the dreaded Percy

Drive, deadly enough for humans never mind hedgehogs.

At the time the garden was quite dry but at least the shrubs provided plentiful shade so a dish of water was placed on the patio but what about food.

I was equally surprised to discover that proper hedgehog food could be purchased at Morrisons. How did they know?

Some on-line research has revealed almost twenty reports of hedgehogs throughout Amble on the BIG hedgehog map, a project recording the nation-wide

population of hedgehogs organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

The sightings are scattered throughout Amble. How many more could there be?

The map also records road-kills and hedgehog highways of which there are very few in Amble according to the map.

Just how viable the population is must be questionable given the scattered and isolated nature of those recorded so far as well as the continuing loss of suitable habitat and occasional deaths.

Our visitor, a mature male, has continued to show up mostly in the early hours and usually takes refreshments.

Recently, a second slightly smaller individual, gender unknown, has also started to visit the garden but their daytime abodes remain unknown.

Hugh Tindle

There's always someone to help

Everybody has a crisis now and again. When it happens, we don't necessarily know where to turn. No matter how difficult things seem, there are always people happy to help.

PCSO Darin Fawcett, Amble Harbour Master Gary Paxton, Cllr Ivor Rackham met with Siobhan Leen, Health Improvement Practitioner from Northumberland County Council's Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities. Following this, Amble Town Councillors Claire Connolly and Ciara Dawson, our Town Clerk, Vicki Smith, Siobhan and Ivor created a shortened version of the Northumbria Police emergency contact directory.

Amble Town Council has sponsored page 17 in this edition of the Ambler, for you to cut out and keep. Someone you know may need that information.

A longer version is available for organisations to refer to. Amble Town Council has an electronic copy. Thank you everyone who worked together on this important project.

In addition, there will be a drop-in event for mental health support on the top floor of Fourways2, Dilston Terrace, Amble on Friday 30 October 12midday - 3pm. Everyone is welcome.

Cllr. Ivor Rackham

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School celebrates end of one year, now looking to the future



Prom photo by Dru Dodd Photography

Year 11 pupils from James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) (now Coquet Community School from September 2026) marked the end of their GCSE examinations and, for many, their final year of education at the school with a memorable Prom held at The Alnwick Garden.

The Class of 2026, along with staff, gathered for a magical evening of celebration, friendship and reflection as they came together to mark end of an chapter in their lives.

The event was packed with entertainment and special

touches, including mocktails on arrival, a photo booth, caricature artist, 360-degree video booth, candy floss machine, magician and disco, ensuring pupils enjoyed a truly unforgettable evening.

Headteacher Mr Andriot praised the local community for helping make the celebration possible: "We would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing local businesses for their generous support in sponsoring the event. It couldn't have happened without you. JCSC and our Year 11 pupils are very grateful to Tiger Lifting, PWG

Connections, Northern Structures, Alncom, Tony's Ices, T Dawson Electrical, Coquet Vets and Northern Skin Co."

JCSC would also like to recognise the dedication and hard work of staff who helped organise, fundraise and deliver the event, ensuring students could celebrate their achievements in style after completing a challenging examination period. All pupils were gifted a JCSC branded 'Class of 2026' teddy bear from the staff, along with cupcakes donated by a kind parent.

The school extends its sincere thanks to the fantastic suppliers who helped create such a memorable occasion: RD Mobile Discos, North East Magician, Barrie James Art, Crazy Pix, Lux Photo Booths and Candy Floss Events. Their contributions helped provide an evening full of fun, laughter and lasting memories.

Special thanks are also extended to The Alnwick Garden for its wonderful hospitality and to Dru Dodd Photography for capturing the highlights of the evening.

Exam results

This summer saw JCSC students celebrating A Level and Level 3 results, with every student securing an offer at a destination of their choice or progressing into a career they had hoped to pursue.

Their GCSE and Level 2 results saw pupils securing places on a wide range of academic, vocational and employment pathways.

Headteacher, Mr Andriot, praised the hard work and determination of both students and staff, highlighting the wide range of exciting futures now open to the school's young people:

"Today is a hugely proud moment for our students, their families and the staff who have supported them throughout their time at JCSC. What makes today particularly special is knowing that every one of our Year 13 students has a destination ahead of them that reflects their ambitions – whether that is university, employment or a career they have worked towards."

Among the outstanding individual A level achievements is Thea, who achieved an exceptional four A grades in Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics. Thea is "very excited" to now head to the University of Leeds to study Mathematics.

For GCSE students, there was positive news in the number of students achieving a grade 4 or above in both English and Mathematics, with this key measure increasing compared with last year.

Mr Andriot added, "We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students and everything they have achieved. These results represent much more than grades, they reflect perseverance, resilience and hard work.

"It has been wonderful to see so many students collecting results that allow them to move on to the next stage of their education or career, whether that's at Sixth Form, college, apprenticeships or employment.

"We wish each student every success as they begin this exciting new chapter."



Among those celebrating was Isla (above), who achieved an outstanding Grade 9 in English Literature and Grade 8 in Art. She will continue her studies in to sixth form, taking A Levels in Art, History and Psychology.



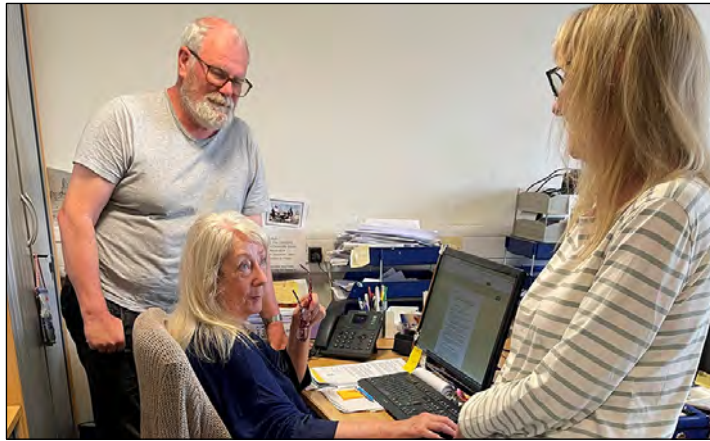
A level students Conn, Alex and Will (left to right)

Who are Amble Development Trust and what do they do?

Earlier this year my wife and I moved to Amble and a copy of The Ambler Community Newspaper arrived in our letter box. Being an avid reader, I enjoyed The Ambler and decided that I wanted to know more about the publication and the organisation behind it. The Ambler is a project of Amble Development Trust and is popular in the area, and I thought readers would enjoy learning more about the Trust and its work for the community.

I met Julia Aston, Amble Development Trust Director and Company Secretary, Matthew Connolly, Strategic Project Manager, and the Ambler's editorial team; Editor Anna Williams, and team members Vivienne Dalglish, Norma Hinson and Ian MacKarill.

Amble Development Trust was formed as a Limited Company in 1994 in response to locally identified issues, and it became a registered charity in 1995. Providing space and support for the community to thrive, the Trust is community-led and firmly rooted in the town. The board of trustees is made up of elected members and representatives of local



Matthew Connolly, Julia Aston and Anna Williams

organisations. They are all volunteers. If you live in the area of benefit, you can apply to join.

As a not-for-profit charity, the Trust works with other agencies and organisations in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors; building trusted relationships that strengthen over time.

The Trust offers assistance with employment advice and services. It has developed four affordable flats above the former Co-operative non food store on Queen Street. The ground floor property was divided into three retail units which are now rented out to form an income stream

for the Trust. The Trust also runs Amble Harbour Village, and rents out offices in the old Fourways on Bridge Street.

Amble Welfare has provided recreational space for the town for over 60 years. With the closure of mines locally the park ownership of the Miners Welfare Park was taken over by the then Alnwick District Council. However in 2007 ownership was handed to the Trust, who began a programme of investment with the installation of a children's recreational area and upgrades to the pavilion. In recent years a skatepark and a Multi User Games Area were created,

drainage was added to the football fields, and most recently a Playzone has added to the facilities.

The Ambler is a community paper and hyperlocal website. It is run by one full time worker and a dedicated team of volunteers. The first edition was published in January 2000, with six issues a year ever since. In 2023 they were Commended as an Independent Community Newspaper at the Newspaper of the Year Awards. The Ambler's stated purpose is to keep local people in touch with local news and events, and to inform and encourage discussion on issues of interest to the community. The paper is delivered free to every house in Amble, and a number to neighbouring communities.

The Trust actively encourages the involvement of volunteers in all its activities. I was impressed by the work of the team and its commitment to the future of the town.

Contact Amble Development Trust, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble, NE65 0DT, julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk 01665 712929

Ray Wilcox

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Vote for us!

There's just been a new election but when we were writing this, it had yet to take place. So

here's what we would do for young people and Amble if we had power.



Councillor Lexi

If I were a county councilor, I would create jobs for teens.

I would make transport free for anyone under 18.

There should be more leisure stuff for teens such as tennis and trampolining.

I would support libraries because people use libraries to support their education and for revision.

I will support careful diagnosis for people with SEN and support for send kids, and I would support young people's ideas for school buildings eg a pond or outdoor spaces.



Councillor Donny

Things I would do for Amble if I ran for county council!

- More new roads because Amble gets too crowded with cars round the harbour.
- Get more sports equipment around businesses and schools.
- I would encourage and help teenagers to get more jobs eg milk delivery, paperounds.
- Have 4 more bin wagons.
- Have a bigger sports hall.
- Create more leisure opportunitues in Amble: eg swimming pools, gyms, bike tracks.
- Have more crew for our Fire and Rescue service.



Councillor Stephen

If I were a county councillor:

people driving via Warkworth.

- I would encourage and try bring more recycling facilities to Amble.
- I would support the building of more sports/leisure facilities.
- I would bring a better and safer road in and out of Amble to the north making it safer and less congested road north of Amble with less
- Get the bus services and train services to line up to improve travel.
- Support more outside of school SEND support
- Encourage and support business into Amble that isn't hospitality.
- Have more social and supported housing built in Amble

Ghosts of JCSC

What will you miss about JCSC? Here's what we think!

The first thing we'll miss is the climbing wall, it wasn't used too much by the school but it was fun when Amble Youth Project used it.

We will miss the holes in the ceiling that we could use for target practice for paper darts!

We will miss the old toilet system because the new one is too restricted with having to have lanyards to



get access. We are uncertain how the new toilets will work out.

We are missing equipment that's packed away - eg

Issy's reader pen. Who knows when we will see it again.

Some people will miss the name James Calvert Spence, he was a great person from Amble, a war hero, children's doctor and science researcher and his family might be sad to lose the connection.

By Issy and Lexi

Victorian Xmas journey

CALLING ALL LOCAL 8-18 YEAR-OLDS — and all Parents, Carers and Grandparents!

A brilliant new project is launching at Amble Youth Project, packed with creativity, teamwork and skill-building.

AYP's Immersive Victorian Christmas Journey will take place on Friday 11 December, and we're looking for young people aged 8 -18 to shine — both on stage and behind the scenes.

We're starting with recruitment for acting roles, and absolutely no experience is needed. Just enthusiasm, willingness to try, and commitment to as many rehearsals as possible around family life.

Weekly rehearsals run every Friday, 6pm–8pm.

Email andrea@ambleyouthproject.org

Call 01665 712742 to register your interest or ask any questions.

We rate the new play equipment at Hauxley Grange



We heard the new play equipment was finally installed at Hauxley Grange, so we went over to see it. Last summer Esme, Skylar and Maisie found out that although they had started building in 2020, Persimmon had not still installed the play equipment, and ever since, Esme has kept her eye on it.

We knew there was going to be 3 stepping stones sets, 1 balance beam, 1 balance slalom, 1 double v balance and 1 walk and stretch posts.

But we were expecting the play place to be a lot more colourful and suitable for kids. And for it to be a lot more interesting too.

We thought the play areas were very depressing. It was boring planks of wood. It we thought it could be a lot better than this. Esme said, "I would like a swing or a slide."

This equipment is what the county council agreed Persimmon should provide and at least it's something. Maybe younger kids would like the play equipment.

Last year, Persimmons made £445.6 million profit.

Our review of the play equipment is 1/10

By Esme, Eden, Lexie and Stephen



Reports from our *County Councillors*



Pauline.Davidson@northumberland.gov.uk 07889143980

In this edition we feature Cllr Pauline Davidson's tribute to her colleague and fellow Amble councillor Arty Hume who died at the end of July, aged 71. At time of writing a by-election has been called which will take place after we go to print. We will of course carry the result on our website.

A tribute to Councillor Arty Hume



By now, most people will have heard the heartbreaking news that Cllr Arty Hume passed away recently. No words can ever seem enough when someone like Arty is lost. Writing these words is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do.

Arty wasn't just an outstanding Councillor, he was one of the most dedicated,

hardworking, and conscientious people I have ever had the privilege to know. No matter how busy he was or how long his day had been, he never stopped.

If a resident needed help, Arty was there. If there was a problem to solve, he used all his determination to try and solve it. He genuinely cared, and that is something that cannot be taught.

One of the many things I admired most about him, was the satisfaction he took from helping others. He was proud when a resident's problem had finally been solved and he had genuinely improved someone's life.

Those moments meant everything to him. I remember the day when a resident and her children were unable to get out of her house safely because of an encroaching prickly hedge on the garden path, extending outside to the pavement. Aware that NCC would be unable to help, Arty, armed with his hedge cutter, marched down, and trimmed the hedge, much to the delight of the resident. That was the measure of the man.

Behind the public role was a devoted family man. Michele, his wife, was the apple of his eye. Adam, his son, of whom he was immensely proud, and his two adorable cats all brought him

great happiness. He always spoke about them with such affection, they were the centre of his life.

Arty leaves behind an enormous legacy. His commitment to our communities, his unwavering integrity, his kindness, and his tireless work ethic have made a lasting difference to countless people.

For me, I have lost not only an exceptional colleague but a true friend. It was an honour to stand beside him and to share the same goals of serving our communities to the best of our abilities. He will never be forgotten. A true trail blazer!
Councillor Pauline Davidson

Memories of Ian Hinson



Ian was born in 1938 in Benwell Newcastle and grew up in Central Avenue in Amble with his parents Archie and Dora, and his elder sister, Ann. Leaving school at 16, he became an apprentice at RAF Locking in Somerset which ignited his life-long fascination with electronics.

Finding that other apprentices were Grammar and Private school educated only made Ian more determined not be outdone. In fact, he came sixth out of his class of 120 in the final exams, and was considered for officer training but Ian turned it down, he was happier in the ranks!

Although they had met at a youth group earlier Ian and Norma's relationship truly began in 1959 at a dance in the Legion Hall. After getting engaged in 1961, Norma headed to Durham to train to become a teacher, while Ian set off for the Far East and postings.

Norma and Ian were married in St. Cuthbert's Church, Amble on 25 August 1962. Their first years of marriage was in Wiltshire as Ian was posted to RAF Lyneham.

As his 12 years of service neared the end, Ian was allowed to choose his final posting. So, with Norma having had dreams

of travelling the world, spending time in exotic and far-flung locations that served as RAF bases, Ian chose RAF Acklington! Stuart was born in 1963 and Jonquil arrived in 1965. Moving back to Amble in 1966, they chose a house in Eastgarth Avenue. As Ian explained, it would always be suitable because they would be two minutes from the shops, a level and short walk to the doctors', and he was just round the corner from the pub! They never left. Future-proofing at its best.

Ian's whole working life was built on his love of electronics working in Medical Physics at the RVI and then at Alcan aluminium smelter, Lynemouth,

In his early 30's he decided to study part-time for a degree in Electronics Engineering. He created a desk under the stairs at home, and spent four years in this tiny space.

After being made redundant from Alcan, over the next 10 years he worked in a charity, achieved teaching qualifications and taught at Newcastle College. He was never one for a gentle,

quiet life! He loved to travel and go walking, both up mountains and on long distance paths, with Norma and with his friends from Alcan.

Ian will best be remembered for his many years spent in local government. He was always determined and passionate in his discussions, although not always diplomatic! But his achievements were clear both in their scale and ambition.

In the last few years Ian was challenged by Dementia and Parkinson's Disease, but even then, he still bore it with good humour. When he was being so well-cared for in Dolphin View, with his room overlooking the Little Shore, he loved nothing more than a 'walk' round the harbour in his mobility scooter and having a glass of red wine while looking up the river to Warkworth, across the harbour to the North Shore and out through the harbour mouth to Coquet Island beyond.

Ian died peacefully, aged 87, with his family surrounding him.

Norma wishes to thank everyone for their condolences, cards and kind wishes.

As always happens at the start of the summer, things slow down, every organisation we work with has staff on holiday so 'out of office' email returns become the norm and progress on everything comes to a virtual full stop!

That said, over the school holidays we have worked with NCC, to try to bring together a solution to the issue of access over the Welfare, for JCSC staff and students.

There are many issues that to an outsider may seem boring and trivial, but are necessary to resolve to ensure the safety of all users. With increased footfall there needs to be a plan in place for maintenance and lighting, which the Trust cannot provide.

The Trust, while owning the land, offers its use (other than the Playzone) free of charge to the community and does not realise an income from it. The land is covered by caveats imposed by the original owner before ownership passed to Alnwick District Council, many years ago. So while the negotiations may appear



tiresome they are necessary. Hopefully all will be resolved soon.

In October we will hold the second Town Forum meeting.

Hopefully, the tender briefs for the two Feasibility Studies will

be finalised. This will open up the opportunity for the community to offer some input into what they feel the town requires in relation to Sport & Leisure and Public Realm works.

We also expect an update on Coble Quay walkway including:

- Scheme Design
- Heads of Terms finalised.
- Programme and delivery timescales.

On the Neighbourhood Plan: this is currently with the consultant, with the steering group awaiting feedback. Given the potential for more housing applications, the group feels it is imperative to have the Plan made as soon as possible.

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

Ed: See also 'Have we been stitched up again?' on page 2

A well-known NE textile artist has produced a kit based on Amble's beach huts. Amble Pin Cushion has worked with Jessica Kinnersley to produce the kit, which is available online and from Amble Pin Cushion on Queen Street.

The kits cost £20 and includes everything you need for your own fabric collage picture, plus spare fabric to do your own

Beach hut textile kit



colour choices: <https://amblepincushion.co.uk/shop/beach-huts-textile-collage-kit/>

Creative textile workshops

Amble Pin Cushion, 20-22 Queen Street. 01665 714584

Thursday 8 October
10.15am - 3.15pm £55
Beaded Ring and Bracelet

Friday 9 October
1.30pm - 3.30pm £30
Beginners / Improvers Knitting - Cowl

Thursday 15 October
1.30pm - 3.30pm £6
Craft and Chatter (Drop in crafting group)

Saturday 17 October
10.15am - 12.15pm £30
Slow Stitch Saturday: Woven Stitches

Friday 23 October 10.15 - 1.15
£35
Hallowe'en / Xmas Lanterns

Saturday 24 October
10.30am - 3.30pm £60
Creative Embroidery with Shells

Thursday 29 October
10.30pm - 12.30pm £30
Crochet for Beginners - Granny Square / mug coaster

Saturday 31 October
10.15am - 12.45pm £45
Upcycled Woollen Mittens

For more workshops, and how to pay and book, see their website: <https://amblepincushion.co.uk/product-category/workshops/>

Hello Amble,

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

Find us at Queen Street, Amble, NE65 0DA, or call us on 01665 710437.
coop.co.uk/funeralcare



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158 Percy St, Amble, Morpeth, NE65 0AG

Hope for England's rarest breeding seabird

RSPB wardens on Coquet Island are celebrating reaching a record number of nesting Roseate Terns, the highest in over fifty years, since taking on the management of this dedicated wildlife sanctuary.

Just a mile offshore from Amble, RSPB Coquet Island is home to around 45,000 breeding seabirds and supports internationally important populations of Roseate Terns, Puffins, Common and Arctic Terns, Kittiwakes, Fulmars, Eiders and several gull species.

Coquet Island's annual seabird census has recorded 155 nesting pairs of Roseate Terns – surpassing a previous high of 154 pairs in 2022 (before Avian flu took hold and caused devastating impacts on the seabird colony). The highest ever number of Roseate Terns was



Roseate Tern
Photo Nicholas Rodd

reached back in 1967 when there were 230 pairs nesting on the island. There were 355 pairs in the whole of England in 1970 but by 1985 numbers had crashed to just 34 pairs.

For over fifty years the RSPB has been working to create the right conditions for these rare seabirds to thrive. Whilst these figures mark a key milestone in

their recovery, Roseate Tern numbers remain low but are showing an upward trend.

As the UK's only breeding colony of this rare seabird, RSPB experts say every additional nesting pair represents another step forward in their population recovery.

So far, numbers of fledglings are looking positive too, with

over 150 Roseate Tern fledglings already counted and more expected in the coming weeks.

The good news continues beneath the island's grassy plateau, where 27,170 pairs of Puffins were recorded in breeding burrows – a 45 per cent increase on last year's count of 18,704 pairs and the highest total since 2018.

"To record the highest ever number of Roseate Terns since we started managing the island is incredibly special" said RSPB Reserve Manager Sarah Dalrymple.

"Just one extra pair may not sound like much, but when you're talking about England's rarest breeding seabird, every pair really matters.

She added, "Seeing the colony continue to grow is a real cause for celebration."

How to help save a life

Would you know what to do if someone collapsed in front of you? A training session on CPR was recently held at the Radcliffe Club and I went along to find out more.

Dougie McEwan from the Stephen Carey Fund, took us through how the charity came into being and how they have installed over 190 defibrillators throughout Northumberland, and numerous lives have been saved.

The first part of the evening concentrated on Heart Attack, Angina and Cardiac Arrest. Dougie spoke about symptoms and the differences between them.

Using mannequins, he described action plans should someone need assistance. He demonstrated how to use CPR on a child and the technique for placing the casualty in the recovery position.

Dougie then moved on to defibrillators; how to open one and how it worked. Using the DefibFinder app will locate defibrillators in the local area.

The evening finished with a demonstration on how to assist someone who is choking. Dougie made the event thoroughly enjoyable and taught us techniques to save a life.

A conversation with a good friend made me realise how we never know when techniques like this will be needed.

Catherine Atkinson used to be a specialist resuscitation nurse at the RVI in the 1960s. She told me how very recently her 81-year-old husband had a sudden cardiac arrest.

"Seconds after my husband collapsed, I phoned 999 while at the same time starting cardiac massage. His heart and breathing had stopped. I gave him a big hard thump at the bottom part of his sternum and then started the regular rhythm of cardiac massage as hard as I could physically manage and never stopping.

"After about four minutes my husband suddenly took a gasp. This coincided with the paramedics arriving at the door. At this point, I was in a complete state of exhausted shock. My husband was taken to the Freeman Hospital Coronary Care Unit. He has now made a full recovery.

"I want to thank the 999 operator, the paramedics and the Freeman Hospital, all of whom were brilliant, professional and so supportive. Immediate cardiac massage was the most important thing in saving my husband's life." Ray Wilcox

Rotary update

The summer months have again proved to be a remarkably busy time for local Rotarians.

In August RAW members organised car parking at the Warkworth show, which proved to be one of the busiest shows in recent years. In addition, RAW had Rotary stands at the Warkworth and the Red Row vintage rally events along with displaying the 'new' Christmas Santa car.

RAW has also sponsored the attendance of five students from James Calvert Spence college at the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards residential summer camps at Baldersdale in Teesdale, Co Durham.

In other local Rotary news, two cheques for £1200, money raised via last year's charity golf tournament at the Alnmouth Golf club, were handed over to two of the designated beneficiaries: the Great North Air Ambulance service, and the Sir Bobby Robson foundation. Next year's golf tournament is booked again for September 30, 2027. Further details regarding team entries/sponsorship can be obtained from Phil Derry: philderry@hotmail.com

Recent speakers at RAW included Matthew Connelly, who gave an entertaining talk on the challenges of involvement in the running of youth football teams in Amble. Karen Park spoke on how Buston potatoes became involved in the potato crisp business. Karen brought a selection of several bags of the five different crisp ranges for members to taste. Members enjoyed a tour of some of the finer pubs in Alnmouth on a tour organised by local author Tom Allen, celebrating his latest publication, 'Alnmouth Pubs, Past & Present.' The evening was rounded off with a meal in a local Italian restaurant.

RAW members also enjoyed a visit to the RNLI station in Amble and were given a guided tour of the lifeboats and the station. The visit finished off with a meal at the Harbour Inn.

The Amble and Warkworth Rotary club has again received a Rotary Club Excellence Award for the second year running. This award makes a fitting end to the presidency of Trevor Robertson, who has handed over this responsibility to Mr Ian Gray. Further details available via ambleandwarkworthrotary.org.

Useful contacts: In case of crises, cut out and keep this page

NHS111 and Police 101 for non-urgent support or 999 in an emergency. Samaritans: www.samaritans.org | 116 123

Northumberland County Council's Support Services: Housing, all children and adult social care, benefits and support, sexual health, cost of living, public health and protection. <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk> | [0345 600 6400](tel:03456006400)

Hub of Hope: Mental health database, suitable for anyone, not just those in crisis. <https://hubofhope.co.uk/>

Healthwatch Northumberland: local health and social care with links to support men, women and young people, mental health, cancer support, ageing, LGBTQ+, substance misuse, dementia, parenting, cost of living, refugees and more. <https://www.healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk/your-health/> | 03332 408 468 | info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk

Safe Haven Ashington (Everyturn): Out-of-hours mental health crisis support, ages 18+. Open 2 pm-10 pm, all year. The Bothy, Ashington. Walk-in or virtual waiting room. <https://everyturn.org/crisis-support/safe-havens/> | 01670 336139

Cygnus Support: Counselling charity in Ashington providing mental health and wellbeing services. <https://www.cygnussupport.com/> | admin@cygnussupport.com | 01670 853977

Mental Health Crisis Team - North (CNTW): 24-hour crisis assessment and home treatment ages 16+ <https://bit.ly/455PZbo> Tel: 030 123 1146 or 0800 652 2861 (both 24hr) | Deaf text: 07887 625 277

Northumberland Frontline: refer to local health and wellbeing services <https://northumberlandfrontline.org.uk/>

MIND Northumberland: Support for aged 16+ plus a range of recovery-focused mental health services. (8 am-10 pm) www.tynesidemind.org.uk | admin@tynesidemind.org.uk | : 0191 477 4545 or 0330 174 3174

Harbour Domestic Abuse Support Service: Safe refuge accommodation, community support, Live chat. <https://www.myharbour.org.uk/> | Email: info@myharbour.org.uk | Tel: 03 000 20 25 25

Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland: Sexual violence support for women and girls aged 13+. Mon-Thu 6 pm-8:30 pm <https://rctn.org.uk/> | support@rctn.org.uk | 0800 035 2794

Kooth: Free mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people, live chat, <https://www.kooth.com/> Papyrus: Prevention of Young Suicide confidential support, preventing suicide in young people under 35. <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/> | pat@papyrus-uk.org | 0800 068 4141 or text 88247 (24hr, every day)

NCOS - Northumberland County of Sanctuary: Volunteer-run charity welcoming and supporting asylum seekers. <https://northumberland.cityofsanctuary.org/> | benh.ncos@yahoo.com | 07500 689 674

Azure supports people with learning disabilities, long-term illness, physical disabilities, or mental health difficulties to live independently, <https://www.azure-charitable.co.uk/> | Tel: 01670 733966

Citizens Advice Northumberland: offers free, confidential, and impartial advice on debt, benefits, housing, legal matters, and more. <https://www.citizensadvice-northumberland.org.uk/> | 0808 278 7944

Age UK Northumberland: advice, advocacy, health, wellbeing, and befriending services for people aged 50+ on-Fri 9 am-5 pm. www.ageuk.org.uk/northumberland/ | info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk | 01670 784 800

Veterans' Support - Op COURAGE NORTH NHS mental health and wellbeing for veterans, serving personnel. <https://www.cntw.nhs.uk/opcourage> | Email: via website

Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS) support services for adults bereaved by suicide <https://uksobs.org/> | Email: email.support@uksobs.org | Tel: 0300 111 5065 (Mon-Sun 9 am-7 pm)

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) helpline and webchat: anxiety, relationship issues, money worries, or suicidal thoughts. Open 365 days a year. <https://www.thecalmzone.net/> | 0800 58 58 58 (5 pm-midnight, every day)

Escape Family Support trauma-informed support, counselling, advice, and wellbeing services for families, carers, children and others affected by a loved one's drug or alcohol use across Northumberland. 24-hour Helpline: 07702 833944 | <https://escapefamilysupport.org.uk/>

NHS Northumberland Talking Therapies psychological therapy, ages 16+, depression, anxiety, stress, and couples therapy. <https://www.mhm.org.uk/talking-therapies-northumberland> | tmn.info@nhs.net | 0300 3030 700

NECA Gambling North-East: free, confidential advice, support and treatment for people affected by gambling harms, Tel: 0191 562 3309 | Email: gambling.northeast@neca.co.uk. <https://neca.co.uk/neca-gambling/neca-gambling-north-east/>

Northumberland Warm Hubs and Warm Spaces: Safe, warm, friendly community spaces offering refreshments, social activity, information, and advice <https://ca-north.org.uk/supporting-individuals/warm-hubs>

For local organisations, a more comprehensive list is available through Amble Town Council: ask@amble.gov.uk



Amble Town

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

COUNCIL

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

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We continue to experience levels of Anti-Social Behaviour that do not belong in our town.

We strongly urge anyone who witnesses or knows of anti-social behaviour taking place to report this to Northumbria Police. It is only with this information can we ensure that data is logged and supports our call for additional police support.

Similarly we are experiencing increased fly tipping. If you see this taking place please report this to Fix My Street via the Northumberland County Council portal.

PADDLERS PARK WATER FEATURE

Council has agreed to remove the water feature at Paddlers Park due to the excessive costs associated with running the water feature and also its impact on the environment and water usage. At the time of writing, Members are considering what to have in its place and as soon as this information is known, we will let you know.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

This year, Remembrance Day takes place on 8 November and will be held in the Memorial Gardens, Amble. We expect there to be a tremendous turnout as in previous years where hundreds of our community turn out to pay their respects. If it is your intention to lay a wreath on behalf of yourself or an organisation, please ensure that you order your wreath directly and let the office know that you will be attending the ceremony.

Thanks to all who work so hard to make the event a success.

CRISIS SUPPORT

We know that everyone needs a helping hand at one stage or another. The Town Council has commissioned a special page in this edition of The Ambler which gives a directory of crisis and support available for anyone who needs it. See page 17. The information is also on our website: www.amble.gov.uk

GROUPS MAINTENANCE

We are pleased to report that the Council's ambition to bring its ground maintenance in house is well and truly in progress. We now have a dedicated groundsman looking after the Town Council's land and assets and we are committed to raising the standard and quality of our spaces while securing value for money long term.

As Remembrance Day approaches one of our initial priorities will be working on the Memorial Gardens. We know there is much to do, please bear with us.



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

Sword dancers plan ahead

Amble Sword's dance out season is now at an end and now we are planning for the coming year.

For those who don't know - we dance Longsword and we are beginning to rehearse Rapper. A little bit of history: in the 1930's Amble had their own Rapper Team (a sword dance completed to traditional music - quite a fast dance using bendy double handle swords) danced by the Flanighan Family, a local family. This dance, thought to have originated in the North East through local mining communities and spread up and down the country, was often danced out for performance as part of the local community events, entertainment, for extra money and for competition.

Rapper is thought to have developed from longsword dancing; as the name suggests: long firm single handle swords, a slower dance with records as far back as the 1700s.

The Amble Sword Revival is rekindling; Sword Dancing is now very much alive and back in Amble; danced to good Northumbrian traditional tunes via our fantastic musicians often on melodeon and the brilliant Northumbrian Pipes.

In 2026 we had our third Weekend of Song and Dance showcasing some of the local Sword, Step, and Morris teams of the Northeast and some from beyond; and threw a Ceilidh. We are looking forward to finishing off the season with one of our favourite events: the Amble Lights Parade - a true celebration of the town and its local groups, businesses and their creativity and pride.

We have big plans for 2027, with the Longsword Dances being thoroughly worked on and better than ever, and practice well under way to bring the Amble Sword Rapper Dance back to Amble (last danced out in Amble in the 1930s) as well as good traditional Northumbrian songs and music.

We are planning our fourth weekend of song and dance in June 2027 and we hope to see you there.

You can find us practising at the Top Hoose (was Masons), Public House, Function Room, Woodbine Street, Amble NE65 0NH every Tuesday from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. If you would like to join in and be a part of this time-honoured tradition and part of Amble's heritage then please get in touch! We are looking for musicians and dancers so please come and have a go.

You can get in touch by contacting us on Facebook, "Amble Sword Dancers" or email amble.sword@yahoo.com

New heritage project with strong Amble roots



Amble Sword Dancers, c.1920. Photograph courtesy of Phil Heaton

A new project to save and celebrate a North East tradition with strong links to Amble is coming to Dry Water Arts this year.

Dry Water Arts has been awarded a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project to save and celebrate the tradition of rapper sword making - the specialist craft that has enabled generations of rapper sword dancers to perform their distinctive dance.

Rapper sword dancing is the miners' dance: a lively sword dance first performed by miners in Northumberland and Durham and now danced all over the world. Amble was one of the early homes of rapper sword dancing, with Amble Sword Dancers associated with the Flanighan family of Amble.

The sword dance tradition has been revived in the town in recent years by Amble Sword. While rapper sword dancing continues to flourish in the North East, across England and internationally, the specialist craft of making the swords is now in the hands of just one man, Frank Lee of Cumbria, and is in danger of disappearing.

Frank, who is 80, is an exceptionally skilled craftsman and has spent 49 years making the swords used by rapper sword teams. At the heart of the new project is the recording of Frank's knowledge and expertise. He will demonstrate his sword-making techniques for a film

which will document his craft and preserve this knowledge as a resource for future generations.

The project will also celebrate the living tradition of rapper sword dancing and its connections with the communities in which it developed. Activities will include an exhibition at Dry Water Arts, talks and demonstrations by

Frank, a concert celebrating rapper dance music, and a range of community workshops and performances.

The project runs from August 2026 to September 2027. It will be launched at Dry Water Arts Centre on 15 November 2026 with a launch event and the opening of the exhibition "The Miners' Dance".



Joseph A Donkin
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Life, Illness & Family Insurance Advice

Business Protection & Corporation Tax Planning

Estates, Trusts & Legacy Planning

Get in touch if you would like to know more:
 Email: joseph.donkin@sjpp.co.uk
 Phone: **07469396964**

Associate Partner


"Joseph A. Donkin Financial Management is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website <http://www.sjp.co.uk/products>. The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives."

Start a rural business with the Rural Growth Programme

The Rural Growth Programme will be running monthly business and enterprise drop-in clinics at the Amble Development Trust on the first Wednesday of every month.

Come along to chat to Charlotte between 10 and 11.30 about new ideas and becoming self-employed. We provide targeted support to rural businesses across the North East, helping them to start, grow and become more resilient.

We can help with

- Business planning
- Marketing and promotion
- Accessing finance

We will be in Amble on the following Wednesdays: 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec, 6 Jan, 3 Feb, 3 Mar.

For more information please contact charlotte.hope@ruralsdesigncentre.com

Harbour Lights Church baptism

Amble Links Coastal Holiday Park swimming pool was the location for a baptism service held by Harbour Lights Church. Members of the congregation followed the example of Jesus and were fully immersed in the water symbolising death of the old self and being raised up to a new life, full of purpose and potential. Pastor Neil stated "It was a joyous celebration as the candidates gave testimony to what Jesus had done in their lives. Harbour Lights Church continues in its mission to be a beacon of help, hope and healing to the community of Amble and beyond. It is a privilege to be a part of this vibrant town and serve its people."

harbourlightschurch.com



Getting ready for Amble's Christmas lights and parade



You may be surprised when the Amble Christmas lights are switched on this year to see a display showing a spider's web and spider.

Although it may seem more suitable for Halloween, in parts of Ukraine and Germany spiders and webs are traditional Christmas decorations. Often made from straw and hung in homes, they are said to bring good luck and prosperity for the coming year.

The decoration is inspired by the traditional Christmas spider legend, a folk tale that links spider webs with kindness, good

fortune and the sparkle of tinsel.

Legend of the Christmas Spider

A destitute widow and her children lived in a cold hut. One day, a pinecone fell from the roof and took root, growing into a beautiful Christmas tree. The children were thrilled, but the widow wept because they had no money for ornaments.

The spiders living in the hut heard the mother's cry and decided to help.

Overnight, they crawled all over the tree, spinning intricate webs from branch to branch.

On Christmas morning, the

first rays of sunlight touched the tree. The spiders' webs instantly turned into glittering gold and silver. From that day, the family never lived in poverty again.

There are variations of the story, one being that St Nicholas (Father Christmas) visited the home with presents, smiled when he saw what the spiders had done and changed the web into gold and silver strands.

Another that it was the baby Jesus.

And this is why we decorate our trees with tinsel today

Ray Newell

Amble Christmas Lights

Do you want to be in the parade?

Amble Christmas Parade and Lights switch-on will take place on **Sunday 22 November**. As usual, the parade will leave the Wellwood at 5pm and travel down Queen Street into the Town Square.

This year, the parade will feature music and dancing from Jack Drum Arts, and as usual, local community groups are encouraged to take part in the procession.

A spokesperson from Amble Events Committee said "This Christmas, Flocks & Shoals celebrates the joy and magic of coming together. Take inspiration from the Christmas story with hosts of angels or gatherings of shepherds, step into fairytale and fantasy, or look to nature and the sea with flocks of birds and shoals of fish. It's a theme about gathering, belonging and celebrating together, with plenty of room to



be festive, wintry, coastal, cultural, magical or fantastical. However you interpret it, think colour, light, movement and joy – and the wonderful things that happen when we come together.

"We're inviting community groups, families, friends, schools and organisations to play their part, join the parade and light up the night in the Friendliest Port – because Christmas is brighter when we come together."

Santa will once again drop in to meet local children in his grotto in the Harbour Village, while there will be stalls and entertainment in the Town Square.

Please let Julia Aston know if you'd like to join in the parade and she will assign your group a good place. Ring her on 01665 712929 or email julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Adam's 'iconic performance'



Cricket is a special game, where unforgettable moments define every match. On Saturday 25 July 2026, was no different when Warkworth Cricket Club icon Adam Jobson arguably produced the best batting performance at Castle Field.

The Green and Golds were staring at defeat until Jobson walked into the crease, he stared his team mate Ritchie Carruthers in the eyes and stated 'I'm winning this'. He was to be proved right.

The hosts were 168/4 with 7 overs to go chasing 226. The home side put on 67 and Jobson

got 53. Adam later described this iconic performance as 'I felt like Stokesy at Headingley'.

This win now should keep Warkworth Cricket Club Seconds in the division after a couple of Yo Yo seasons of promotion and relegation before sealing another promotion last season.

Adam said 'I was feeling fatigued, we had good conversations with the board and we feel aligned and hopefully we can succeed and if we stop up at the end of the season, because make no mistake about it we're not out the woods yet, I will be naturally delighted'.

Urban Fitness coming soon to Amble

Urban Fitness was started by Jonny and Joanna in 2024, when we took over an existing gym in Alnwick and completely transformed it into Urban Fitness. Our aim was to create a friendly, welcoming gym that offered great facilities and a community feel, while still being accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels.

Since opening, Urban Fitness Alnwick has been a huge success and we've been really proud to see the community we've built. We've also noticed that a significant number of our members travel from the Amble area to train with us. This made us realise there was an

opportunity to bring the Urban Fitness concept to Amble.

We're therefore excited to be opening Urban Fitness Amble, in partnership with our good friend Gary Howard. We're looking forward to bringing the same atmosphere, facilities and community-focused approach that has made Urban Fitness Alnwick so successful, while becoming part of the Amble community ourselves.

We're really excited about the new venture and look forward to welcoming both existing Urban Fitness members and lots of new faces from Amble and the surrounding area.

Jonny Packard

Brewis Beer Running Club

Run, Walk and Socialise in Amble. What started as a simple idea has quickly become one of the highlights of the week in Amble. Brewis Beer Running Club, hosted by Brewis Beer owner Louise Bould and runner Lucy Cowell, has created a welcoming community where everyone can get active, meet new people and enjoy a great social atmosphere.

The first session saw an incredible 90-plus runners turn up, and those numbers have remained steady throughout the summer, with a fantastic crowd joining every Wednesday.

The club is all about inclusivity. All abilities are welcome, whether you're an experienced runner, just starting out, returning to running or prefer to walk. There's no pressure to race or chase a personal best – it's simply about enjoying a 5K around the friendly port of Amble with a great bunch of people.

And best of all, it's completely free to join.

From September, the club is moving from Wednesdays to Thursday evenings, keeping the momentum going as summer comes to an end. It's the perfect opportunity for anyone who hasn't joined yet to come along, lace up and give it a try.

The fun doesn't stop when the 5K finishes. Runners and walkers can head back to Brewis Beer afterwards to enjoy discounted drinks, good conversation and regular social events.

So whether you run, walk or simply want to meet some friendly faces, Brewis Beer Running Club is ready to welcome you.

5K, all abilities, running or walking, free to join – and a great social waiting at the finish.

Come along and be part of the Brewis community!

Lucy and Louise

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www.nicholsonclark.co.uk

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Fun for older people

If you are free on the second Thursday afternoon of each month, why not come along to Amble's O.P.A.L. (Older People Actively Learning - "Learning Through Fun") Music Appreciation group? You don't need to be a musician or even be able to sing; but rather simply enjoy finding out about different types of music and meeting new like-minded friends. ALL ARE WELCOME!

8 October 2026 IRISH MUSIC
12 November MENS VOICES
10 December N.H.S

Location: FOURWAYS 2 (3rd FLOOR: LIFT AVAILABLE) 6, Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT
1-3pm in the conference room!, entry fee £3.00 per person (tea & coffee are provided).

For further information contact Eileen & Mel Brown on 01670221924 or eileen.opal77@gmail.com

Fitness and wellbeing group



Bethan Ashton trained as a dancer and has been in Amble for 15 years. She holds Body Electric Fitness and Wellbeing classes in St Cuthberts Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Wednesday, 2-3 pm, concentrates on balance, inner alignment and graceful strength. Booking is recommended.

Friday 10-11am is Dancemix Gold. This is a fun

dance fit class for everybody to improve neurological and cardiovascular fitness. Advance booking is not required.

Bethan chooses music to help people 'feel' and get the most from their exercise. There is no floor work in the classes and exercise can be enhanced using light weights and drum sticks.

Bethan's philosophy is that exercise should be a joyful

experience for all. She offered this message, "As an instructor with Crohn's disease and chronic fatigue, I respect different capabilities. I want to encourage others to embrace their body, keep moving and celebrate life! Moving together makes it that much better. The good vibes aren't just down to me, it's a collective from the amazing people in the class! The classes attract the more mature movers but are open to all ages. I noticed this year an increase in people new to the area, retired, widowed; Any body looking for a safe space to connect and find joy."

Visitors are welcome to come for a dance too. bodyelectricbethan@hotmail.com ; www.facebook.com/bodyelectricbethan or ring 07503 212 469

Ray Wilcox

Film Club needs people to help

Our village film club meets in the Warkworth War Memorial Hall on Castle Street to show a mix of drama and documentary films.

After 5 years in charge Jon and Anna are looking for people to help or perhaps take over the running of the film club. To find out more, please contact Anna on 07758 253104 or anna.willey@cantab.net.

Upcoming shows

Saturday 3 October The Devil Wears Prada 2

Fab-u-lous 2026 comedy drama film a sequel to the 2006 film The Devil Wears Prada, it sees Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, and Stanley Tucci reprising their roles, joined by Justin Theroux, Lucy Liu, and Kenneth Branagh. Funny, great cast and amazing film locations to enjoy. (2026 cert 12, 1h 54').

Friday 16 October Cloudline: Where Women Rise (2pm start)

Astounding documentary following 17 extraordinary women as they climb Mount Kilimanjaro. The climbers battle sub zero temperatures and physical limits to reach the summit of Africa's highest peak. These are women who have been told, or felt, that their bodies were broken. In this film they prove that life after surgery or injury isn't just possible; it can be peak-shattering. Hosted by Warkworth WI this event includes a talk by Gill Castle of Chameleon Buddies, teas and coffees and a raffle. Please note **the film starts at 2pm** (doors open 1.45pm) and the event finishes at 4pm. Entry £5 per person to raise funds for Chameleon Buddies. (film has not been certificated, duration 33').

No need to book - just turn up. Doors and bar from 7pm. Films start at 7.30pm. £5 per person. For more info anna.willey@cantab.net

Poppy organiser wanted



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will need a volunteer organiser from 2027.

After five wonderful years supporting the event across Amble, Warkworth and Hadston, 2026 will be my final year as local organiser.

It has been a real privilege to support such an important cause, but due to growing commitments, the time has come for me to hand over the role to someone new.

We are therefore looking for a friendly and committed Volunteer Poppy Appeal Organiser to take on this rewarding role from 2027 onwards.

No formal qualifications are needed — just enthusiasm for the RBL Poppy Appeal and a genuine interest in supporting the Armed Forces community

and their families. A small amount of storage space would be helpful, although additional space is available at a unit in Morpeth.

Access to transport is essential, as the role involves delivering and collecting donation boxes at the beginning and end of the annual campaign.

You would not be doing this on your own. Excellent support is available from Steve Wilson, Regional Support Manager, as well as from a dedicated team of local volunteers who help staff the collection table in Morrisons, Amble, during the campaign each year.

If you are interested in getting involved, or would simply like to find out more about what the role involves, please get in touch:

marionlong68@gmail.com or SWilson3@britishlegion.org.uk

*Marion McKenzie-Long
Poppy Appeal Organiser
Amble, Warkworth and Hadston.*

Double murder at Warkworth

A double murder in 1930s England features in the latest staged adventure by Warkworth Drama Group.

Emlyn Williams's psychological thriller 'Night Must Fall' is to be performed at the Warkworth Memorial Hall in November. Directed by Joann Evans, the three-act melodrama is scheduled to include two evening shows on Thursday and Friday 19 and 20 November with a 2.30pm matinee on 21 November. See www.warkworthdrama.org.uk

Concerts at the Memorial Hall

Sally Ironmonger and Brian Carter will be playing at Warkworth Memorial Hall on Sat 31 October. Quirky & Unique - rooted in folk music, but including hints of jazz and blues and other genres. Expect a joyous and entertaining evening. Tickets £15.

Local band PARRK will be playing on Saturday 14 November. Recently described as "the best band on the pub circuit" by a venue in Chester Le Street. Tickets £10. Full details at wwmh.uk.

Tickets should be booked in advance by email to peter.burnham@gmail.com. Alternatively telephone Peter Burnham on 01665 711388.

Award winning comedy show

Stones in his Pockets by Marie Jones.

Local company NOMAD's Claire Barber and Keith Shotton return in this thought-provoking and witty story of Hollywood's impact on a small Irish village. Skilfully portraying 14 different characters between them, they present a fast-moving display of life on a film set. This 'Best Comedy Olivier Award' winner is overtly funny at times, poignant and touching throughout – a must see!

At Warkworth Memorial Hall Saturday 17 October 7.30pm £10. For tickets, please email playinapub@gmail.com

A moving, immersive experience

Standing in Line on Sunday, 8 November, Remembrance Sunday. Standing In Line is the story of the Great War, but specifically about Albert Scrimshaw, who died at Passchendaele. The performance is centred around original songs as well as songs from the time. The narration includes poems of Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and Rudyard Kipling and is accompanied by a series of projected images for a moving, immersive experience.

At The Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, Amble starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £15 or £10 for those Under 25. Available online at highlightsnorth.co.uk, on the door, or from N & F Young, Queen Street Amble.

Richard, Nicole, Linda, Hugh, Meg and Mike

highlights@stcuthbertsonline.com

100 mile charity challenge

On Saturday 10 October, I'll be attempting to run 100 miles (161km) in a single day around Druridge Bay Country Park in Northumberland, raising money and awareness for Tiny Lives, a charity supporting premature and sick new born babies and their families. The reason behind the challenge is very personal to me. Both of my daughters were born prematurely. Maya was born at 31 weeks and Millie at just 27 weeks, and as a family we experienced first-hand the incredible care and support provided to premature babies and their families.

My fundraising page is here: 100 Miles for Tiny Lives – <https://www.justgiving.com/page/alistair-douglass-4>

Alistair Douglass

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'Fantastic day' as thousands raised for Amble RNLI



Above: Inshore lifeboat crew. Photo Ivor Rackham

Below: Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers. Photo Bart Rippon

Bottom, Amble RNLI crew and fundraisers with Rev Rachael Dines, Mayor Luke McTaggart. Photo Bart Rippon



What a fantastic 2026 Lifeboat Day! The event raised £10,800 for Amble RNLI. The weather was perfect for Lifeboat displays by the Volunteer Crew who were joined by crews from Craster RNLI, Seahouses RNLI, and Newbiggin RNLI demonstrating the teamwork between stations. We hope you all enjoyed this and the entertainment, stalls and cakes as well.

There are many people to thank for helping to make this such a successful day; all the individuals and businesses in the local and surrounding area, everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and tombola, those who came to support us on the day and many others.

We would like to thank Revd Rachel Dimes for conducting the service and Amble Mayor Luke McTaggart for opening the event, and again donating a painting for our raffle.

Amble RNLI would not be able to continue Saving Lives at Sea without the amazing support we receive. We very much appreciate it. Again, a very big thank you from Amble RNLI Volunteer Crew, Fundraisers and Shop Volunteers.

Don't forget our monthly coffee mornings from 10am to 1pm at Amble Lifeboat Station:

Sunday 18th October

Sunday 15th November

Coffee Morning and Craft Stall

Sunday 6th December

Christmas Coffee Morning with Santa, Raffle and Tombola.

Follow us on FB Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers for more information.

