

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

**2 May 2024**

### **Present:**

Jim Donnelly – NTC / Dovecote Street Arts CIC, Luke McTaggart – Dovecote Street Arts, Sue Saltmore – Amble Food Bank, Eric Davidson – Amble Food Bank, Melanie Deans – Border Links Ltd, John Young – Amble RNLI, Doug Shepherd – Amble Christmas Lights Committee, Natalie Barnes – NTC, Louis Matthews – NTC, Louise Little – Amble Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Christine Fraser – RNLI, Matty Cairns – Fire and Rescue, Matthew Connolly – Amble Youth Project, June Rine – Age UK, Clare O'Brien – Amble WI, Julia Lyford – Womens Workshop, Carolyn McDonald – Coquet Churches Together, Michael Joyce – ATC, Kate Morrison – ATC, David Bewley – ATC, Helen Lewis – ATC, Ian Parks – ATC.

Craig Weir welcomed all to the meeting.

Those present were informed that the Parish meeting is not a Council meeting but is a meeting required by law and as no other organisation has taken on this responsibility, the Town Council must facilitate this on behalf of the community. All community groups are welcome to these meetings to give an annual update and to share their ambitions for the next 12 months.

### **Report from Amble Town Council**

This year has been another busy year for the Town Council. We have continued to lobby NCC and local County Councillors to ensure that Amble is included in any NCC projects.

We have continued with our multiagency / organisation work with Neighbourhood Services and Northumbria Police during our Estate Walkabouts. This ensures collaborative awareness for those involved in making Amble a better place to be.

Despite repeated vandalism to some of the play equipment at Paddlers Park, the Town Council has continued to repair this. It is shame that the actions of so few can impact so many others' enjoyment.

We are also liaising with Amble Development Trust regarding the new PlayZone facility and we continue to meet with JCSC on a termly basis. JCSC students are currently developing a Town Website on our behalf, and we hope to be able to share more on this soon.

The Town Council has registered an Expression of Interest in Amble First School once the building becomes vacant. This may be available to provide desperately needed space as a Community Hub. The process is in the very early stages, and nothing has been confirmed yet but all avenues are worth exploring.

In terms of Events for the Town, the Town Council is working on a D Day event on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024, in the Town Square. The Remembrance Day Service continues to be very well attended and is growing in popularity every year.

As many of you know, the Town Councils monthly meeting is open to the public. We appreciate it may not be possible to attend these meetings every month but there is now a monthly roundup published after every meeting so that you can keep up to date on what is happening even without coming to the meeting. We do try to share our news on Facebook and the Town Councils website however we do appreciate that not everyone has access to the web.

Our meetings with Northumbria Police have provided a direct link to the officers for Amble and it is useful to receive updates on the information that they are able to share. It may be that these meetings are extended to include other emergency services.

We meet regularly with the Highways Infrastructure Manager at NCC and this provides a direct line of contact with officers within NCC. We continue to ask questions about Coble Quay Walkway, the toilet refurbishment and safer crossing points.

The Council continues to be members of NALC – an advice and guidance body for Town and Parish Councils.

The Town Council works closely with Amble Development Trust and has recently approved the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Amble. A Steering Group has now been established and although in the very early stages, keep your eyes peeled for some updates on this – community input is vital so that the plan reflects what the people of Amble want.

The Town Council has representatives on a number of community organisations, including the Amble Youth Project who are continuing with their youth offer.

We also have a rep on the Northumberland Theatre Company board and assist the running of the Cinema Screenings.

Each year the Council supports a number of community groups and organisations. This year grants have been awarded to:

- Amble Juniors
- Dovecote Art Show
- Hospice Care North  
Northumberland
- Kate Morrison
- Hadston House
- The Colony
- Army Cadets
- Northumberland Theatre  
Company
- JCSC
- Amble and Warkworth Rotary
- Alnwick and District Sports  
Award
- Great North Air Ambulance
- Bailiffgate Museum
- Coquet Shorebase Trust
- Amble Youth Project

We do still have Councillor vacancies and if you feel this is something you would like to be involved in then please contact our Clerk for more information.

We are always looking for willing volunteers to make a difference to the lives of those in the Community.

For this coming year we have developed an action plan which highlights some of the work that you can expect to see from us this year. As always, there is a very busy year ahead for your Council.

### **Report from Women's Workshop – Julia Lyford**

The workshop is based in Coquet Enterprise Park. Funding has been received to upgrade the entire site including the garden area. Women continue to be underrepresented within the construction, build and technology sectors and the women's workshop aims to help develop skills and support networks to bridge the gap. Although based and committed in Amble, there are outreach projects.

The straw bale trailer is currently going through the planning permission stage. An outdoor kitchen is available for families, and it is hoped that quarterly / seasonal events will be held. The project does not exclude men, who are always very welcome to attend as well as families too. The Women's Workshop is also working on another project regarding mental health alliance and provision of therapeutic courses. The workshop is also able to provide accredited training and has recently helped some young people in the town with attaining accredited qualifications. The workshop also assists with advice and guidance mentors.

Recently the mural has been completed, and everyone is welcome to come and take a look at it. The Women's Workshop are Investors in the Environment and looking at how they can reduce their carbon footprint. The workshop is currently looking to support neurodivergent and autistic women.

The Women's Workshop are keen to work in partnership with other agencies and are happy to speak at other events. Contact Julia Lyford - [info@womensworkshop.net](mailto:info@womensworkshop.net)

### **Fire and Rescue – Matty Cairns**

The Amble Fire Station consists of 1 pump station and fogging unit with 16 crew members. New appliances were received next week – feel free to come and take a look at the new equipment. The Fire Service do much more than respond to 999 calls and are looking to engage more with the community and schools to see if there is anything they can help with. They work closely with the local authority and carry out many safety and wellbeing visits and well as prevention / protection services. The team is working on building relationships within the schools and hope to be able to visit the schools soon to chat to the children. In 2022 Amble was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Northumberland regarding deliberate fires however there has been a dramatic decrease in that due to the outreach work taking place. The Fire Service also plan to visit the Youth Project on Friday nights and will talk about road safety and water safety.

As of 1 April 2024 increased safe and wellbeing visits will be made and these will be more in-depth than before. As well as checking wellbeing they will also sign post to partner agencies, partner referrals and other safeguarding matters. An open day is being planned for 2024 – date to be confirmed. Contact Matty Cairns - [Matthew.Cairns@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Cairns@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **Amble WI – Clare O'Brien**

It has been ten years since Amble WI reformed. A lot of trips and fundraising activities have taken place, and they are always looking for new members. The WI help out with Lifeboat Day and helped to create the wonderful Poppy Curtain for Remembrance Day. Come and say hello if you see them out and about – contact Amble WI - [amblewomensinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:amblewomensinstitute@gmail.com)

### **Age UK – June Rine**

Age UK have free coffee mornings for over 50s and welcome any speakers who would like to attend. They are keen to make their own visits to local groups and organisations to see what they can do to help and support. They can help with advocacy, counselling, scam advice etc. Although headquarters is in Ashington, there are two Amble based representatives happy to help – contact June Rine - [junerine2012@outlook.com](mailto:junerine2012@outlook.com)

### **RNLI – Christine Fraser / John Young**

Main activities include fund raising to support the station and others around the country especially the smaller ones across the County. The 200-year anniversary is approaching and there will be celebrations within the County to mark the occasion. The lifeboat scroll will be in Amble at around 3pm on 13 June 2024. The RNLI have regular coffee mornings and everyone is welcome. They also operate a gift shop and do lifeboat visits. There are currently 18 crew volunteers, and they are always on the lookout for more. There are 20 volunteer fundraisers.

Lifeboat Day this year is on 18 August 2024 and they are looking for stall holders.

### **Coquet Churches Together – Carollyn McDonald**

Churches Together are a national initiative to help churches work together. There are 7 churches which form Coquet Churches Together and they meet 3/4 times a year to plan and review. A number of events are arranged each year including World Prayer Day, Good Friday Witness, Experience Easter, Christian Aid and Amble Variety Shoe, Picnic and Praise, Monthly Café Church, Christmas Carols and Christmas Lights. Coquet Churches Together also publish news in The Ambler and The Pelican. This year CCT helped Hauxley Parish Council with their Neighbourhood Plan consultation. After a difficult time in Covid they are up and running again. Contact Carollyn McDonald - [revcarollyn@gmail.com](mailto:revcarollyn@gmail.com)

### **Amble Food Bank – Eric Davidson and Sue Saltmore**

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

AFB is currently run by a group of 21 volunteers, five of whom are trustees of the charity. We are in the process of recruiting new volunteers to our team.

We are a voluntary organisation serving Amble and its surrounding communities.

Our clients live in the Amble, Warkworth, Hadston and Broomhill areas and most receive a food parcel on a fortnightly basis.

We have a team of drivers and packers. Clients do not collect from our food bank base. Deliveries go out every Tuesday and Thursday morning, 51 weeks a year with a significant number of ad hoc deliveries and enhanced deliveries (see below) in addition to this.

The total number of clients fluctuates, but overall demand is increasing.

In 2023 AFB delivered to 1984 households, an average of 38 deliveries per week. We are currently delivering to 80 households fortnightly, an average of 40 deliveries per week. AFB has evolved greatly since its early days when a handful of parcels were left at CAB by a couple of volunteers on an occasional basis for clients that may be suffering hardship.

Perishable food that is reaching its 'best by date' at the Co-op is donated to us at close of business on Sundays (Co-op Fare Share) and distributed to families on Sunday afternoons on a rotational basis. In 2023 AFB delivered to 208 households via the Sunday deliveries.

AFB has robust referral and review policies. Clients can be referred through a number of channels. These may include Northumberland Communities Together, a GP, social worker, health visitor or school. Clients sometimes self-refer. No individual or family is refused a food parcel, but after receipt of their first one, clients are requested to acquire an official referral – usually via Northumberland Communities Together, unless they have a key worker. All clients are reviewed on an approximately 3-4 monthly basis and require a fresh assessment and referral in order to continue receiving a food parcel. Records of all clients and referrals are kept in accordance with GDPR.

All volunteers coming into contact with clients have gone through Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks, and volunteers also regularly refresh their safeguarding awareness training, along with any other relevant training. In addition, there are two named Safeguarding Designated Leads who have also undertaken specific Designated Person for Safeguarding Adults and Children training. We make it our duty to care about the welfare of our clients, and there have been a few occasions when we have had concerns about individual clients that we see on a regular basis, and we have referred them to the One Call team to be assessed by them.

Food parcels are designed to supplement an individual's, couple's, or a family's general food shopping. They contain staple ambient goods such as pasta, rice, cereals, pasta sauce, and a variety of tinned items, such as soup, meat, fish, vegetables etc. They will also receive toiletry items if these are available. We always find out if new clients have any specific dietary requirements or allergies. We supplement parcels with extra items for families with children during all the school holidays. Not infrequently we receive referrals informing us that clients are in severe food hardship. In this instance they receive an enhanced parcel containing fresh goods and, where required, toiletries and household items. Where possible we try to deliver an enhanced parcel on the day of referral. In some circumstances existing clients may reach crisis point and we will deliver an emergency parcel to them (this can include weekends too).

All our food is stored at our base. We were inspected by Environmental Health in April 2022 and received a five star Food Hygiene rating and were deemed to be "a well-run food bank."

We rely on our very generous local communities for donations of food to AFB. Members of the public can donate food items at Amble Co-op, Hadston Co-op, Amble Tesco Express or they can purchase a pick-up bag from Amble Morrison's. AFB works very closely with all supermarkets, and volunteers collect this food several times a week.

AFB has also signed up to the Neighbourly scheme and we have linked up closely with Aldi in Alnwick and collect weekly from them, as well as placing a weekly order with them. There are also collection tins at the Co-op, the Farm Bakery, The Boat Shed Gallery pod at Amble Harbour Village and the HMP Northumberland Farm Shop. Local schools and churches regularly collect food items that they donate to AFB, especially around Harvest Festival. Recently Heatherdale Care home in Broomhill have also started to collect food donations for us in conjunction with Iceland Morpeth. There are also some small local businesses and organisations who donate food regularly to AFB, including Amble Women's Institute, and Warkworth Women's Institute. A number of local organisations and businesses regularly hold fundraising events on behalf of AFB.

We have also been fortunate to receive generous donations from a number of North East businesses through their community funds. In addition we are fortunate to receive some one off monetary donations to our bank account and some individuals have set up monthly standing orders.

Despite the generosity of our local communities donating both food items and money, due to increasing numbers of referrals we still have to purchase food items on a regular basis to supplement these donations, including placing large orders at a wholesaler's. In 2023 we spent in excess of £30, 000 on food and other items.

Since June 2023 we have been working in partnership with the Farm Shop at HMP Northumberland run by the charity The Oswin Project. This is a great cause that creates chances for individuals with criminal records through training and employment and helps to give them a sense of achievement from learning and working. Every Friday we receive any unsold fresh produce from the farm shop. This may include baked goods such as bread, cakes and pastries and also fruit and vegetables (grown in the prison market gardens by prisoners), plus sandwiches. These then go out to our clients. Feedback has been extremely positive since this collaboration started.

In addition to the above AFB has developed strong community links and works closely with a number of professionals who know our communities well. We work closely with Social Prescribers at the local health centre (Coquet Medical Group), Citizen's Advice and local schools and churches.

We also support families who have pets in their household. We continue to work closely with the charity Alexa's Canine Trust (ACT) who regularly donate pet food to us. Along with ACT we firmly believe that it is in the pets' best interests to remain with their owner(s). Providing pet food for them makes this all the more likely and helps to reduce pet poverty.

We continue to have a strong social media presence and regularly post useful 'signposting' information for our communities. We regularly publish thank you posts to individuals and organisations for their support and donations. We have built up AFB's social media audience over the last 2 years – again these social media sites are run solely by volunteers. We do receive a number of self-referrals and enquiries via our Amble Food Bank Facebook page. We provide regular Food Bank Updates to the Ambler and Pelican Community Newspapers.

We have recently recruited more volunteers to Amble Food Bank and have a reserve list of people who are keen to offer their services. We may well need to recruit further volunteers in the future if the number of clients on our caseload continues to rise and the extra time commitment required by volunteers to support enhanced parcel deliveries continues to increase at the current rate.

We are currently reviewing our base accommodation requirements. Our current location is small and challenging in relation to space for ambient and fresh food storage and with regard to space for packing of food parcels.

We continue to explore ways of enhancing our social media and other communication channels to facilitate food and monetary donations to AFB.

Contact [amblefb@gmail.com](mailto:amblefb@gmail.com)

### **Northumberland Theatre Company – Natalie Barnes – Louis Matthews**

NTC aim to provide access to the arts to those who may not be able to access art otherwise. 36,000 people have seen a show created by NTC! The NTC is a charity and is not funding wholly by the Arts Council but do have a number of main providers. NTC took over the Dovecote Centre in 2018 and in that time has created a cinema screening, many many shows and xmas pantos as well as offering community space for hire. The building has been affected by a number of large storms of late but is now in a position to reestablish itself as a thriving community hub. There is also the possibility of creating much needed studio space in the rear of the building. NTC supported exhibitions of local artist works and also in support of monthly crit sessions held by Dovecote Street Arts. NTC are still looking for trustees and volunteers – contact Natalie Barnes - [natalie@northumberlandtheatre.co.uk](mailto:natalie@northumberlandtheatre.co.uk) and Louis Matthews - [louis@northumberlandtheatre.co.uk](mailto:louis@northumberlandtheatre.co.uk)

### **Melanie Deans – Border Links**

Borderlinks provides training and social opportunities for those with social and learning disabilities. Borderlinks has an allotment which has proven very popular. Borderlinks often work from Amble on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays however are happy to accommodate alternative dates if required. Although based in Amble there are a number of other centres which offer sessions throughout the week. A disability hub in Berwick provides support and opportunities for the North East and looks at keeping and maintaining skills that users already have. Please contact if you would like to be involved. Please see attached posted for more information. Contact [admin@borderlinks.co.uk](mailto:admin@borderlinks.co.uk)

### **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

On 4 December 2023 Amble Town Council received confirmation of the designation of the Civil Parish of Amble as the 'Amble Neighbourhood Area' for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

Although the Town Council is the responsible body for neighbourhood planning because the work involved in producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) requires wide-ranging support from people in the local community, in addition to that provided by councillors, the Town Council chose to establish a steering group to agree the scope of the project and manage the tasks involved.

The main role of a steering group is to provide effective project management for the preparation of a NDP.

The steering group will be responsible to the Town Council which remains the responsible body for neighbourhood plan.

The steering group report to the Town Council on a regular basis and the Town Council must ultimately agree the content of a draft plan prior to consultation or its submission to the County Council. The steering group are developing a project plan and consultation plan to produce the NDP.

We operate within budgetary constraints set by the Town Council, which is accountable for expenditure on the project. In addition, there are many other tasks that the steering group lead or undertake, such as:

- Providing a forum for discussion and debate.
- Motivating the community to be involved throughout the process.
- Raising the profile of the plan or order locally.
- Setting up sub-groups to focus on themes that arise through the consultation process.
- Collecting and managing the collection and presentation of evidence to justify policies or proposals.
- Providing day-to-day support and management to any consultants engaged in supporting preparation of a plan.
- Providing and co-ordinating feedback to consultants and others in the local community involved in creating evidence to justify policies and proposals.
- Identifying ways to gather the views and opinions of as many individuals, groups and organisations in the community as possible.
- Determining the types of survey and information gathering to be used.
- Co-ordinating the collation and analysis of the consultation feedback in accordance with Data Protection legislation.
- Undertaking and producing the complimentary material such as consultation reports.
- Reporting back to and receiving endorsement from the parish council on progress, issues arising and outcomes throughout the process.

The Steering Group have met twice so far and have established the Terms of Reference which create the formal agreement allowing the group to act on behalf of or provide advice to the Town Council.

Contact Matthew Connolly (Chair) [matthew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk](mailto:matthew@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk) Louise Little (Vice Chair) ([llittle292@aol.com](mailto:llittle292@aol.com))

### **Amble Youth Project**

Since the last parish meeting Amble Youth Project has had some challenging times with regard to funding. In common with many other charities and voluntary groups funding streams have become very tight with many good applications for projects rejected not on the nature of the project but due to too many demands on too smaller pots. At times like this we have relied on the support of our local community. We have had support from Amble Town Council, Ember Butler via Councillor Jeff Watson, from NCC via Terry

Clark members small budget, WI and Rotary as well as generous local businesses and philanthropists. At time of writing, we have an online auction of works of art from local artists with the total heading toward £700+. This is a great example of the support we engender but a more sustainable program of funding will be needed for our work to continue.

Easter saw over 70 young people benefit from our Holiday Activity Food program. This is invaluable to families who not only get great food for their young people but have them enjoy activities like an inflatable assault course or mechanical go carts. We used the climbing wall at James Calvert Spence sadly for perhaps the last time as the new build has no climbing wall and the old Sports hall is due to be demolished. It would be great for this to be retained for community use.

We have continued to run our after school club on Wednesday and Friday afternoons but we will either need funding support or to introduce charges for this if we are to sustain it further. Our Friday night Youth Café has received funding from the Police VRU for which we are grateful again however this was only for a 12 week period and the group needs to continue as it has a key role in engaging teenagers in purposeful activities in a safe and supportive situation.

We are proud to have developed our social action group, a smaller project for young people with additional needs for whom some of the larger groups and activities are challenging. They have been supported by Northumberland Wildlife Trust in their activities for which we are again thankful.

Drywater Arts have also developed a girls art group to support some talented young girls in creative activities.

Sadly Tina our Delivery Manager left at Christmas and we are still trying to recruit a replacement, however finding well qualified experienced youth workers is difficult.

We have exciting plans to expand into the roof space in our building and would welcome additional quotes and support from local builders.

Volunteers are always welcome and we can provide support and training. We hope to restart our young leaders training program when a new manager is in post.

We have a very innovative project due to start soon bringing photos of old Amble to life with stories from the heritage we share. Young people will work with older members of the community to build an Augmented Reality and Podcast resource connecting how Amble is now with what happened there in the past. We need young and old to make it work as well as some digital technology gurus to help. If this is you, please make contact to join in.

Contact Matthew Connolly - [matthewconnolly@ambleyouthproject.org](mailto:matthewconnolly@ambleyouthproject.org)

### **Dovecote Street Arts – Luke McTaggart**

The timing of the Annual Parish Meeting serves us well, it was in May last year that we were able to launch the Dovecote Street Show art exhibition. The largest art exhibition to take place in Amble to date, bringing together the work of 50 different artists from across the North East. It was thanks to the support of the Northumberland Theatre Company, Amble Town Council and MKM Building Supplies that the event was able to take place. Seeing over 900 visitors across the 3-week runtime the response to the exhibition exceeded our expectations and we remain very grateful for the support of the local community. We were able to support 50 different artists, showcasing their work, whilst also engaging with school and youth groups as well as other community groups through guided tours. Overall the exhibition was deemed a success and above everything it demonstrated one of the things that art is best at – bringing people together.

It was later in the year that myself and Jim Donnelly were able to initiate another event focused around this aim. In September we had the idea to initiate monthly evening meetings whereby local artists could come together with the wider community to share their work. Sessions building on the success of the exhibition whereby we could hopefully channel some of the momentum we had generated. They take inspiration from a common art school practice, known as a 'Crit'. Short for 'Critique' the format is simple, it revolves around a group of people discussing their work, some by proposing viewpoints and reading statements, others through fielding questions and engaging in a dialogue with audience members.

Our first Crit took place at the end of September and was very well attended, initially expecting around 12-15 attendees, we were very pleased at turnout of 24. Since then our Crits have been taking place on the final Tuesday of each month, with numbers steadily increasing. At times our audiences have reached almost 60 attendees on a given night. Participants speak of the way in which the evenings are able to bring art to life, hearing the stories, thoughts and personalities behind pieces of different work. These events continue to go from strength to strength.

It is in these intervening months that we have formalised our organisation as a community interest company – Dovecote Street Arts CIC, named after the Dovecote Street Show. Enabling us to access funding streams that can help us to make art available and accessible to our Amble community and surrounding areas.

Now we are looking towards delivering a new more focused exhibition this May, one that hopefully marks a run of more regular exhibitions at the Dovecote Centre. Our exhibition Rooted, funded and developed through a new partnership with the Northumberland Coast National Landscape (former AONB), will showcase the work of 18 artists connected through their links to the

landscape and environment. Making visible connections between these artists within the context of our changing climate and using art as a means of raising awareness as to our landscapes fragility.

Contact Luke McTaggart - [dovecotestreetarts@gmail.com](mailto:dovecotestreetarts@gmail.com)

### **Report from Amble Development Trust**

#### ***Regeneration & Physical Development:***

The physical aspect of Bord Waalk sculpture trail is now complete. We were honoured to have the official opening ceremony carried out by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester on a beautiful sunny day last June. There were security and time constraints that meant we couldn't advertise the opening as widely as we would have preferred to ensure the community were aware but we had to follow the procedural rules of the Royal Household. That said many of the artists, children and organisations who had taken part in various ways attended and enjoyed the sunshine, meeting The Duke and savouring the refreshments afterwards. So, it all turned out to be a glorious day enjoyed by many. And from our monitoring we know that many locals and visitors alike are enjoying walking the trail.

With our updated Investment Plan complete we would like to thank the many people, groups and businesses who took part and shared their ideas. This plan has already been used to provide evidence of need for funding applications and we will continue to develop applications based on its content wherever possible.

We have taken part in government funded workshops related to community housing, that are to report back on their findings. Our view is that affordable homes and Section 106 money should be kept in the area of development. Affordable homes could be managed by organisations similar to the Trust who have existing policies to ensure members of the local community (living or working in the town or have a close family relationship) most in need are given first option on any available property.

We have 4 affordable units and all have been tenanted since they were complete – all by local people who work in the town. Having this source of income aids the Trust to carry out more projects and regeneration works in the town, so everyone benefits.

The Seafood Centre is currently undergoing an internal layout change. Staffing hours were reduced over the winter months due to reduced footfall and the hatchery equipment dismantled in a bid to reduce energy bills. All will be replaced in the reshuffle to make

the layout more user friendly. Given the value the hatchery has as a conservation project and visitor attraction we remain fully supportive of the initiative.

### **The Welfare park:**

The new rubber crumb floor base has been installed in the children's play park. The rubber crumb was paid for by a grant from S106 money from NCC (contributions from local development projects). However, we are still waiting for a start date for the Playzone. We have also just completed an extension to the storage compound. The teams using the pavilion required additional storage for their equipment plus we hope to have a small storage container there for orchard equipment.

The hedging to protect the orchard was planted early March and the fruit trees towards the end of the month. There is a mix of apple, pear, plum and cherry trees.

The fruit will be available to anyone so we hope the area will be respected as a community asset.

We are still waiting for more information from NCC on the new High School development. As the current plans include passage across the welfare from the old site which will still be used as a car park and drop off point to the new site, we welcome contact to discuss how this will work and to see if we can negotiate use of the car park for our football teams at weekends and evenings for matches and training. This will be beneficial to the teams and residents of nearby streets where parking is proving an issue.

### **The Ambler:**

This continues to play a major role in keeping the community informed of local news and happenings. The publication highlights newsworthy issues as well as taking on challenges identified by the community and being a source of local information. We are grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who work alongside the editor and give so freely of their time in order to bring the bimonthly newspaper to your door.

### **Pride in Amble – Craig Weir**

Although we are having a membership problem we continue to look after as much as we can. Three willing volunteers have come to help us with the raised bed and part of the rose gardens in the Memorial Gardens at the Town Square and we have managed to once again put on a good spring show. I must say that this has been supported by NCC Neighbourhood services with their donation of tulip bulbs, so thank you to them.

Going forward we plan to continue with the raised bed but have a plan to alter slightly the roses from the back of the fence and perhaps look at replacements for the rockery garden as the existing roses are looking tired and have a touch of "black spot"? Thanks to Dave for the help with the replacement stones he did a great job.

The white rose garden is a concern as there is quite a lot of disease appearing so we will ask for help with this from the owners at ADT, perhaps just to supply some spray. If we can get some primulas from NCC when they change the Town beds, then we plan to plant those as well. The beds may be improved by a donation of Lupins from a member of the Rotary.

Not within our concern but the Rotary bed is looking very good and full of colour. We may be small but onwards and upwards as they say, any volunteers will be very welcome.

Contact Craig Weir - [Craig.Weir805@gmail.com](mailto:Craig.Weir805@gmail.com)

### **Amble Veterans Breakfast Club – Craig Weir and Michael Joyce**

This has exceeded all expectations as we know through our recently formed Facebook page in excess of 45 members.

The Facebook page is a closed operation with members being vetted for membership which preserves the Tri -Service remit. We managed to achieve this by having all members being part of a general committee so all have an equal say in proceeding, this produced volunteers for the Facebook operation, a constitution and a Bank Account so we do have an official status but will not be part of a national organisation. This was the wish of all members.

It was started to fill a gap left when the local RBL shut down and before the new RBL in Alnwick was formed. We have been in discussions with them about joint ventures which will help with the numbers for away events.

Recently we have been approached by a similar organisation being set up in Prudhoe and this will be interesting going forward. That will then make two Clubs within Northumberland, which is considered to be quite an achievement in such a short space of time.

Our remit is to provide comradeship, wellbeing and Welfare for all Veterans within Amble and the tertiary area and includes the female service Veterans.

Another Club has been formed on the back of the Breakfast Club which has been named the "Plus Ones" led by the wives and partners of members and they meet regularly at CiRCA usually on the same day as AVBC meet in the Amble Inn.

A lot of interest has been shown from NCC and Thriving Together and they have been helpful in our financial startup. This we hope will continue with association for welfare and with the Veteran Champions. We have been approached by NHS Northumbria and are in discussion about Veteran Medical problems. This we hope will be a Veteran on Veteran point of contact, fingers crossed?

We have held a couple of fundraising events which have been successful, and we plan a visit to Kingston Park for the Forces Championships in May. Our hired bus is full, so this shows the interest in taking part. It is hoped that we can visit all service places soon, so that we can show each service a small sample of what other services can do, Navy, Army, and RAF.

If you know of any Veterans who would be interested to join us, then please get in touch.  
Contact Craig Weir [Craig.Weir805@gmail.com](mailto:Craig.Weir805@gmail.com)

### Amble and Warkworth Rotary – Alan Davies

FUND-RAISING 23/24	MAJOR BENEFICIARIES of Xmas Collections	COMMUNITY PROJECTS	SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
Like so many organisations over the past three years our meetings and activities have been, and still are, somewhat curtailed. A significant % of members are still in effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elpha Lodge</li> <li>• St Oswalds’s Hospice</li> <li>• Hadston Van Appeal</li> <li>• The Dovecote Centre NTG</li> <li>• St. Lawrence’s Church</li> </ul>	Limited activities since lockdown and restricted numbers of members to take part: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued wildflower maintenance along Rotary Way.</li> </ul>	Many curtailed activities over the last 2 years, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xmas Dinner</li> <li>• 2 Green Day Events</li> <li>• Visit to Chevington rewilding</li> <li>• Visit to Ad Gefrin</li> </ul>

<p>isolation due to family and medical issues.</p> <p><b>The Christmas Street Collection and @ Morrison's</b> resulted in a collection of £3500+. There was no knocking on doors, but the sleigh stopped at pre-determined locations and the public were invited to join with us. The weather conditions severely hampered collections. All the Xmas funds go to local needy causes.</p> <p><b>Internally Generated Club Funds</b> are used for international good causes like Shelterbox, Wateraid, etc. and for contributions to The Rotary Foundation</p> <p><b>2021 Biennial Golf Day @ Foxton</b> yielded less than our usual £6000 The proceeds all went in equal shares to the GNAAS, The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and The North Northumberland Hospice.</p> <p>The next Charity Golf Day is due to take place in 2025.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pelican</li> <li>• The Ambler</li> <li>• The Veterans Breakfast Club</li> <li>• WCC</li> <li>• Funding young persons to attend the week-long Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp in Upper Teesdale in August.</li> <li>• The Oswin Project</li> <li>• Citizens Advice</li> <li>• Amble Youth Project</li> <li>• Others are yet to be finally agreed.</li> </ul> <p>NB. Our support is still limited this year due to reduced fund raising.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crocus planting (now 40,000) corms planted.</li> <li>• Successful participation in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Our candidate won best in the NE again!</li> <li>• Maintaining the Town Square planter in Amble</li> <li>• Taking the sleigh to residential homes over Xmas</li> <li>• Rotary way has won a District Environmental Award.</li> <li>• RAW has taken part in events run by the Warkworth Green group.</li> <li>• RAW will be taking part in the Puffin Festival.</li> <li>• Help with parking and signage for the Warkworth Show.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evening out at Lal Khazana</li> <li>• Pub Games evening</li> <li>• Indoor Bowls Evening</li> <li>• Remembrance Day</li> <li>• Spring visit to Rewilding.</li> </ul> <p>Possible visit to the Sage, the RNLI and The Blyth Tall Ship project</p> <p><b>Recent speakers/Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GNAAS</li> <li>• Sir Bobby Robson Foundation</li> <li>• The Oswin Project</li> <li>• Citizens Advice</li> <li>• Amble Youth Project</li> <li>• English Heritage @ Warkworth castle.</li> <li>• Shorebase Trust</li> <li>• GNAAS</li> </ul>
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**Amble Christmas Lights Committee – Doug Shepherd**

From November and January the Christmas Lights in the town are up however in between that time the team work all year round repairing and designing the next years display. This year, designs can be sponsored by individual businesses at a cost of £25 each however they will be limiting designs to Christmas themes only. The team are currently looking for volunteers to help out.

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