

April 2025

# The Pelican

THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
ACKLINGTON, GUYZANCE & WARKWORTH

£1.25 per issue OR £10 per year



Easter Bunny - Joint Easter art winner, Lucy Hamilton, Aged 6.

## **Reverend Helen writes:**

How are parish churches run? How are they funded?

In a nutshell I am the only person paid to work on behalf of the three churches (Acklington, Shilbottle and Warkworth) everyone else is a volunteer, serving three parishes with around 5,000 inhabitants in total.

Between us we raise nearly £140,000 a year to keep the churches open and operational. We have no central funding and the responsibility for the church rests entirely with the local community; so you can imagine what a challenge that is in the current economic climate.

On top of this we are responsible for the care of three historic buildings St John the Divine Acklington grade 2 listed, St James Shilbottle grade 2\* and St Lawrence Warkworth grade 1; all of which need constant care and repair.

On top of this we offer a 24/7 service to anyone who needs it whether or not they are a card carrying Anglican.

Each year, at the annual parochial church meeting, we review our work and plan for the future electing representatives to take on particular roles of responsibility (churchwardens, elected reps, treasurers, safeguarding, administration) alongside regular work with schools and families, pastoral care, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and events.

Whilst many people are very generous with their time and money, relatively few feel able to take responsibility for a particular area which means that more responsibilities fall on fewer shoulders.

If you value what the church offers perhaps you might like to come along and hear what's going on. You can pick up a copy of the annual report in your local church or join us for the meetings.

Shilbottle Community Hall Saturday 5th April 4pm

St Lawrence Warkworth Sunday 6th April 9.30am

St John the Divine Acklington Sunday 6th April 11.30am

## **From the Registers**

We give thanks for Jennifer and Luca and all those recently baptised and pray for all those recently married or preparing for their marriage.

Our prayers are with all those recently bereaved, amongst them the family and friends of Barbara King and the Revd Canon Murray Haigh and we remember those whose years mind falls at this time.

### **Baptisms and Christenings**

A baptism (often known as a Christening) is a moment of celebration and commitment and is open to anyone at any age. Whether you have recently had a baby, have older children or are thinking about baptism yourself we'd be delighted to explore this with us.

### **Weddings**

At the heart of every wedding service is a couple who love each other and want to make a commitment to one another before God. Weddings do not need to be big, elaborate or expensive. In whatever way you wish to celebrate your relationship we would be delighted to work with you to create a special and very personal ceremony.

### **Funerals**

A Church of England funeral is available to everyone regardless of whether they attend the local church; offering support before, during and after the service. Whether held in the church building, at the crematorium chapel or at the graveside – our ministers will be pleased to talk with you about planning and personalising your own or another's funeral service.

### **Open Church**

Our churches are open daily for individual prayer, please call in. For more information or to discuss anything further please get in touch with Reverend Helen O'Sullivan email: [aswvicarage@gmail.com](mailto:aswvicarage@gmail.com) or telephone: 01665 712002

## PELICAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription to The Pelican is from January, (print £10, digital £5) or pro-rata after March. Payments preferred by bank transfer to St Lawrence Church Pelican Account, Sort Code 20-58-17, Account Number 20471577. To help identify your payment, for the printed version, please use the first part of your street address (no spaces) as the reference; for the email version, please use the first part of your email address (up to the @ symbol) as the reference.

Payment in cash can be left in the deposit box at St. Lawrence church in a sealed envelope marked PELICAN with your name and address. Acklington subscribers wishing to pay by cash please contact our Subscriptions Officer Julie Green on 07721 402073 or by email to [thepelicandistribution@gmail.com](mailto:thepelicandistribution@gmail.com)

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The Pelican team would like to thank St. Lawrence Church, St. John The Divine Church, the Parish Councils, Warkworth War Memorial Hall, Acklington Community Trust, The Highlights, Warkworth Art Group, the Rotary Club and other community organisations and private individuals for their on-going financial support.

## THE PELICAN WEBSITE

The Pelican magazine has a supporting website which is available on **<https://thepelican.info>** which you can also visit by scanning the QR code shown here.



The site aims to support the magazine and its subscribers and supporters. It offers an easy route for people to subscribe or renew their subscriptions using the subscription page and also information for those wishing to submit an article or advert.

Digital back copies of the magazine are also available for download, around six weeks after the issue was published. There is no 'live' on-line version of the magazine.

Both print and digital subscriptions are available which are due in January, or pro-rata if signing-up part way through the year.

# HERMITAGE LUNCHEON CLUB

at the HERMITAGE INN, WARKWORTH  
every Third Thursday of the Month at 12.30pm

The Speakers for our next two meetings are:-

17th April PETER BURNHAM – Memorial Hall

15th May MARC JOHNSON – COMMUNITY ACTION  
NORTHUMBERLAND (CAN)

For more information contact Clive Purdy  
[cpurdyuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cpurdyuk@yahoo.co.uk) / 075 0220 2726



## Music & Song Afternoon

Monday 14th April at 2pm

### Warkworth War Memorial Hall



Come and have a sing, play a tune or just listen in. There's no bar, but you can help yourself to tea and coffee in the kitchen and you're welcome to bring your own refreshments. To cover costs there is a £2 entrance fee. For further details contact [peter.burnham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.burnham@gmail.com) or telephone Peter on 01665 711388.

## WARKWORTH RELAXATION AND COFFEE HOUR

Where can you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a guided relaxation to round off a busy week – and all for just £3?

The answer is our Friday morning coffee and relaxation meetings at Warkworth Memorial Hall from 11 to 12 on Friday. Our drop-in sessions started last September and are now continuing in the new year with the added bonus of refreshments and time to chat.

For the last half of the session we practise some easy breathing and stretching exercises, then sit back and allow the gentle music and guided visualisation to relax mind and body.

Everyone is welcome and there's no commitment – just come when you can. If you want to find out more, contact me at [pruheathcote@hotmail.com](mailto:pruheathcote@hotmail.com).



St Lawrence Church, Warkworth

**Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 5.30pm**

**Good Friday, April 18th, 10.30am - 12 noon**

**May 4th, 4 - 5.30pm**

**Everyone welcome - children must be accompanied by a parent or carer**

**For more information contact us at [aswmessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:aswmessychurch@gmail.com)**

## **Warkworth W.I. Meetings**

**President Marion Jones 01665 714177**

**Secretary Judith Hebron 01665 799164**

[warkworthwi.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:warkworthwi.secretary@gmail.com)



**April 1<sup>st</sup> 'Shoes!' Susan Howard**

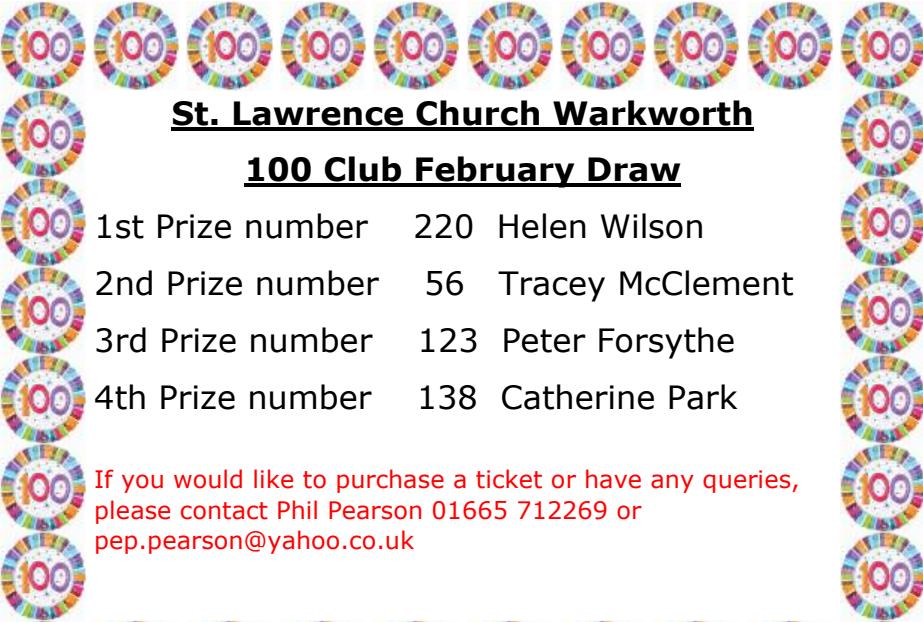
Competition – a pair of jazzy / colourful socks

**April 12<sup>th</sup> Easter coffee morning with stalls and activities!**

10 – 12 Memorial Hall

**May 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting**

**Guests and new members very welcome! All meetings start at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Castle Street.**



## **St. Lawrence Church Warkworth**

### **100 Club February Draw**

1st Prize number	220	Helen Wilson
2nd Prize number	56	Tracey McClement
3rd Prize number	123	Peter Forsythe
4th Prize number	138	Catherine Park

If you would like to purchase a ticket or have any queries,  
please contact Phil Pearson 01665 712269 or  
[pep.pearson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pep.pearson@yahoo.co.uk)



## **St. Lawrence Church Warkworth**

### **100 Club March Draw**

1st Prize number	87	Tommy Hogg
2nd Prize number	176	Peter Regan
3rd Prize number	192	Christine Shield
4th Prize number	118	Gilly Maud

If you would like to purchase a ticket or have any queries,  
please contact Phil Pearson 01665 712269 or  
[pep.pearson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pep.pearson@yahoo.co.uk)

## Warkworth History Society ~ 3rd March

Bill Openshaw presented his talk, based on his book 'To the Call of Bugles – A History of the Percy Tenantry Volunteers 1798 – 1814', dressed in full Light Infantry regalia! Surely a first for Warkworth History Society.

Local tenants of the Percy family, including many volunteers from Warkworth, were called to arms in 1798 when France declared war on Great Britain. 1000 men were paid for by the Duke of Northumberland himself. The planned invasion of the North East came to nothing, however, and the French surrendered in 1802.

The following year war was declared once again. This time 1500 men volunteered, paid for once more by Hugh Percy, the 2nd Duke of Northumberland. He was an experienced soldier having learned guerrilla warfare during his time in America. His volunteers were therefore well trained in the use of guerrilla tactics and were also excellent marksmen.

The types of weapons available ranged from the Brown Bess muskets of 1798, to government supplied rifles in 1803. During the Napoleonic Wars the cavalry were supplied with sabres, designed to maim rather than kill, to which the French strongly objected. Pistols were available, though not much used, and light canon were towed by horses, making them very mobile.

Mock battles were held locally, such as the Battle of Brizlee Tower in August 1805. These proved a very popular form of entertainment for local civilians!

Although the Napoleonic Wars continued until 1815, French soldiers never set foot on British soil, and in that year the Percy Volunteers disbanded.

In 1859, in response to a perceived threat of a French invasion, the government once more authorised the formation of a Volunteer Artillery Corps to defend the coasts. The Percy Artillery was formed, which included Warkworth. Thomas Clutterbuck, who was mentioned

in a previous talk about the history of the Memorial Hall, was Captain of the Warkworth volunteers. On what turned out to be a most memorable evening, Bill Openshaw truly brought to life a key moment in history, not only because of its importance internationally but also for its local significance to the people of Northumberland and of Warkworth.

Kathryn McLachlan



## ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, WARKWORTH



### FELLOWSHIP COMMUNION SERVICE (WITH HYMNS) THURSDAY 1ST MAY, 12 NOON

Followed by a light lunch

While this service is aimed at those who find our regular services difficult to attend for a variety of reasons, they do enjoy sharing the service and the fellowship afterwards with others.

All are welcome to come along.

Accessible transport can be arranged for those with mobility issues.



### Fellowship Meal



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01665 710593

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

03/25

## Warkworth Memorial Hall



The hall is available for hire for recreation, social and fund raising events, craft fairs, local societies, wedding receptions and family gatherings, the Hall can accommodate groups from 5 to 140, 7 days a week. It is managed as a charity for use by local inhabitants without distinction of political, religious or other opinions.

**For Hall Bookings:** Email: [warkworthwmh@gmail.com](mailto:warkworthwmh@gmail.com)

Or contact Yvonne Stoddart on 07803 204436.

**For other Hall matters:** contact Peter Burnham Email: [peter.burnham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.burnham@gmail.com) Tel: 01665 711388.

## ALNMOUTH CROQUET

 **TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS**

VISIT US AT ALNMOUTH CRICKET CLUB OR PHONE:  
MICK LOCK (SECRETARY): 07549 938172

## The Odd Job Man



07483429430



[dsmailes124@gmail.com](mailto:dsmailes124@gmail.com)

Please give me a call for any of those small and irritating jobs  
that you need completing inside or outside.  
I'm based locally and happy to call in to see if it's something  
I can help you with.

12/25

## OUT & ABOUT



Unusual Snowdrop view, Sue Tong



Tawny Owl, Richard Booth



Emergency exercise at the Stanners



Peacock butterfly, Imy Farquharson



## Rotary update March 2025

Early Spring has commenced with a beautiful display of purple (and white) crocuses along the riverside verge of Rotary Way between Warkworth and Amble. This display is the result of several years of hard work by local Rotarians planting thousands of bulbs along the road verge. The purple crocus is a symbol of Rotary International efforts to eradicate the scourge of polio from the world. Wild daffodils have also recently been planted on the other side of the road and will hopefully burst forth soon to also provide another dazzling display in the coming months.



Recent business meetings have confirmed the local groups, charities and organisations who will benefit from the local Rotary fund raising over Christmas and recent months. Further details will follow in future editions of the Pelican.



In addition to the business meeting, Rotarians also enjoyed a recent presentation from Jonathon Booth and Anne Morrison about their plans for the setting up a new Friends of Warkworth group. Jonathon, the headmaster of NCEA Warkworth C of E Primary school, highlighted his aim of the school developing much closer links and involvement with other local community groups and organisations. Later in the coming month, there are plans for another fun social event involving an escape room challenge in Morpeth! Amble and Warkworth Rotary members will also be

volunteering to assist at the Shortridge Hall open gardens event on Saturday the 5th of April. The event is part of the National Gardens Scheme with money going to local charities in the North East. Entry is £8 per adult (children entry free), with the gardens open from 11am to 3pm.

The RAW Charity Golf Day will be held at Alnmouth Golf Club (Foxton Hall) on Thursday 25th September 2025. Amble and Warkworth Rotary club are still looking for entries of teams of 4 (Gents, Ladies, or mixed teams). Thanks to the generosity of Alnmouth Golf Club, the entry is only £155 per team (also includes tea/coffee and a bacon roll). For further information contact Phil Derry [philderry@hotmail.com](mailto:philderry@hotmail.com) If you are interested in finding out more about what the Amble and Warkworth Rotary club has to offer you, contact us via either our website [www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org](http://www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org) or the club Facebook page, Rotary Amble & Warkworth.

We are also looking to increase and promote corporate membership of the club, so if you have a business and are looking at ways to increase your community impact, please feel free to contact us to discuss further.



## Warkworth Cricket Club 1875 - 2025

This year will celebrate 150 years since formation.

We will be having several celebratory events through the year, keep an eye out for details on <https://www.facebook.com/WarkworthCricket> Please come along and help us celebrate this milestone.

We start on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April with a quiz evening and on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April the café will be opening, everyone welcome!

Warkworth Cricket Club 150<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025



Entry: £5 per person

Warkworth Cricket Club

Celebrating 150 Years



1875-2025

Bar: Full Range of Refreshments

Time: 7pm for 7:30ish Start

Everyone Welcome

### County Councillor's Note

In my last report I stated dates for resurfacing work to be done at the Stanners in Warkworth were 13 and 17 March.

Please note that after discussions with N.C.C highways managers I requested that the work should be carried out after Northumberland Water had finished the project they were doing at this location.

I am pleased to say the work has been reprogrammed for 31 March and 1 April to allow NWL's project at the site to be completed

*Jeff Watson*

**Nb. No report this month to respect rules for the forthcoming election.**

# Acklington, Shilbottle and Warkworth

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2025

## Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday

7pm St James, Shilbottle

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday & The Watch

## Friday 18th April - Good Friday

10.30am St Lawrence, Warkworth

Messy Church Good Friday Workshop

9.30am St James, Shilbottle

Stations of the Cross

12 noon St John the Divine, Acklington

Stations of the Cross

3pm St Lawrence Churchyard, Warkworth

The Liturgy of Good Friday

## Saturday 19th April - Holy Saturday, Easter Eve

8pm St John the Divine, Acklington

The Easter Vigil

## Sunday 20th April - Easter Day

### 10am Easter Holy Communion

St John the Divine, Acklington

St James, Shilbottle

St Lawrence, Warkworth

Zoom & Whypay

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
PICK UP A  
LEAFLET IN  
THE CHURCH



## Acklington Parish Council update – March 2025

**Acklington Neighbourhood Plan (ANP):** The ANP was approved in a parish referendum with 83% of voters giving it their support based on a 43% turnout. The plan has since been formally adopted by Northumberland County Council and now forms part of the statutory development plan for the area. Consequently, decisions on whether to grant planning permission in the Parish will be made in accordance with the Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

**Parish elections:** Elections for Acklington Parish Council will take place on Thursday 1st May. Anyone wishing to stand for election must submit their nomination papers between 20 March and 2 April (4pm). If there are more candidates than seats the election will proceed to a poll. Further information on the elections can be found on the Northumberland County Council website.

**Traffic calming:** Efforts to secure ‘stop’ signs at two of the busiest junctions in the parish have hit a setback after highways officials claimed the junctions did not meet the necessary criteria. County councillor Jeff Watson is continuing to pursue the request.

**Morwick Road:** Resurfacing of the road between Acklington and Morwick has been delayed until May after a survey revealed the condition of the road was worse than initially thought. The work was postponed as additional budget was required to cover the £120,000 cost of repairs.

**Planning:** The Parish Council has objected to plans for two new houses in Guyzance. The proposal has also been opposed by residents due to location and design.

**Playground:** Councillor Tony Mezza has completed repairs and other remedial work on the playground in Churchill Way, including removal of the concrete tunnel which will be used as flower tubs. Volunteers from the Acklington Footpaths Restoration Team have also removed a huge amount of overgrowth from the playground to improve access and visibility.

**RAF memorial:** Long-running efforts to secure a permanent memorial to RAF Acklington have taken a step forward. While the precise location is still to be finalised, it is hoped a 1.2m high stone monument will be in place by May ahead of the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 hostilities in Europe.

forage.

@ RIGG  
FURROW

# GROW

celebrating the land.



curation of makers, creatives and artisans.

## EASTER MARKET

APRIL - BANK HOLIDAY

FRI 18TH & SAT 19TH

APRIL • 12PM - 6PM

THE END HEMMEL, ACKLINGTON PARK FARM, NE65 9AA

### WARKWORTH GOLF CLUB

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 19 APRIL 10.00AM – 12.00PM

Stalls to include:

Raffle, Tombola, Easter Egg Tombola

and many more

EVERYONE WELCOME

## Easter Market @ Rigg & Furrow, Acklington

Forage are back with their first event of 2025, continuing as part of a series of carefully curated makers markets taking place within the events barn at Rigg & Furrow brewery and taproom, Acklington. On Friday 18th and Saturday 19th April, they will be joined by around 50 independent makers over the two day event to showcase the talented creatives, makers and artisan small businesses we have here in the North East all thoughtfully curated under one roof.



The market also coincides with the launch of Forage's new collection of homeware products, championing how they have worked closely with makers to collaborate on exclusive handmade pieces inspired by the land and the seasonal shift into Spring. Once you've enjoyed the market, you can stay on the farm and visit the on site taproom which will be open for artisan brewed drinks. Treat yourself to some local street food in their rustic indoor seating area or out in the paddock itself whilst listening to relaxed DJ set.

Entry into the market is £1 (under 16's and dogs go FREE) which also includes FREE parking, a FREE entry into the raffle and a percentage of the entry fee profits will be donated to the market's chosen charity. Tickets can be bought in advance online or on the door at the market.



## St John the Divine, Acklington FEBRUARY DRAW WINNERS

<b>1st</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>John &amp; June Davison</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>£10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Cathy Spruce</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>£5</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>Joseph Spruce</b>

## THE GREEN PAGES

The Green Pages are dedicated to environmental and conservation articles from the neighbourhood and local community. Anyone and any group can post a relevant article, photos or questions on these pages, just send them to the editors, see the back page for details.

### Warkworth Green Matters Water and Waste Community Day.



Thanks to all who attended our community day. We had some great stalls and some interesting speakers and conversation. With the water bills rising from April, now is the time to consider whether you'd be better off on a meter. There are some good water saving tips on-line at [energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk) and [waterwise.org.uk](http://waterwise.org.uk)

Northumbrian Water also have a free water saving kit for anyone who applies on-line; [nwl.watersavingkit.com](http://nwl.watersavingkit.com)

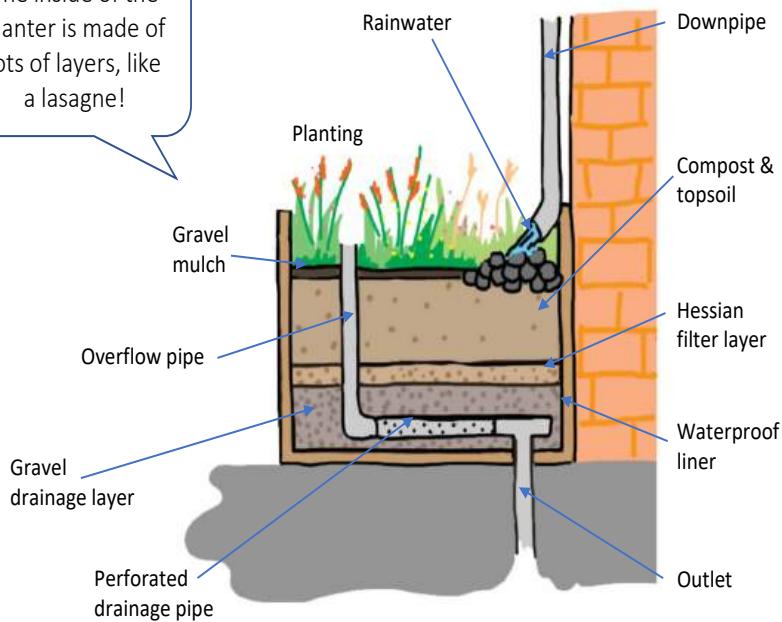
The results of our blind water tasting challenge TAP v BOTTLED; 14% of people preferred bottled water, 41% preferred tap water and 45% thought they tasted the same! The UK has some of the best drinking water standards in the world, so please use it and don't buy unnecessary plastic bottles.

# THE GREEN PAGES



With thanks to **Warkworth Parish Council** and **Warkworth Cricket Club** for supporting this project. This is a rain planter, designed and constructed by members of Warkworth Green Matters. It is located behind the cricket club.

The inside of the planter is made of lots of layers, like a lasagne!



The planter controls rainwater coming off the roof to reduce flooding and save water. We would like to plant herbs in it, so people can use it. We would also like to plant some bee-friendly plants around it. If anyone has any spare plants, please get in touch at [Warkworthgreenmatters@gmail.com](mailto:Warkworthgreenmatters@gmail.com)

## The Warkworth Craft Group



Initially set up by the Warkworth WI, the Warkworth craft group is a community based group that meets once a month in the supper room of the Memorial Hall. We chat, drink tea, eat biscuits (occasionally cake!) and do our own thing – knit, crotchet, sew or continue with whatever project we have on the go. In the past we have had group endeavours – the poppies for the bridge, sanitary products for African school girls and tiny hats

for premature babies but mostly we just enjoy the company. Please do join us – even if it's just for the tea! We meet the third Tuesday of the month 2 – 4 and ask for a small fee to cover the cost of the room booking.

Any queries contact Marion [mandbjones@btinternet.com](mailto:mandbjones@btinternet.com) or phone 01665714177.

## Warkworth Women's Institute

### Easter Coffee Morning

Come along for coffee, cake and more!  
£2 including coffee or tea.

Warkworth Memorial Hall,  
Saturday April 12th  
10 am – 1 pm

Keep up to date with  
our latest news on  
Facebook. Just search  
for Warkworth WI



## WARKWORTH FILM CLUB

### **Saturday April 5th - Another Round**

A black comedy that follows four middle aged schoolteachers disillusioned with their jobs, who decide to test a theory that life can be so much better if you are constantly intoxicated. Each man has his own way of sneaking alcohol during the working day, and we watch the highs and lows from the experiment, the impact on their lives, families and students as the film elapses. Warning; This is VERY funny. Winner of an Oscar and a BAFTA for best international film (2020 Cert 12, 2 hour 57'. Danish with English subtitles).

### **Saturday May 3rd –The Edge of the World and Return to the Edge of the World**

We like to bring you a wide range of films and this month's movie is a British classic. There will be a short introductory talk before the film and a brief interval before the shorter second film is shown.

**The Edge of the World** is a 1937 British film directed by Michael Powell, loosely based on the evacuation of the Scottish archipelago of St Kilda. It was Powell's first major project. The film tells the poignant story of the depopulation of one of the isolated outer islands of Scotland as, one by one, the younger generation leaves for the greater opportunities offered by the mainland, making it harder to follow the old ways of life there. Powell gathered together a cast and crew who were willing to take part in an expedition to what was a very isolated part of the UK. They had to build their own accommodation and stay there for several months; finishing up with a film which not only tells a compelling story, but also captures the raw natural beauty of the location. (Cert U, 1h 12 minutes)

**Return to the Edge of the World** (1978) is a 22 minute BBC documentary in which Michael Powell and some of the surviving cast and crew return to Foula to revisit the island where they made the film that changed their lives.

Please note that we are taking a little break in June and the July film is on the second, rather than the first, Saturday of the month.

**No need to book - just turn up.**

**Doors and cash bar from 7pm.**

**Film starts at 7.30pm. £5 per person**

Warkworth War Memorial Hall, 40 Castle Street, NE65 0UN  
For more information, or to be added to our email list, call Anna  
on 07758 253104 or [anna.willey@cantab.net](mailto:anna.willey@cantab.net)



## Acklington History Slot - 'The Sensational Mail-bag Robbery'

Last month I wrote about the great snow storm of 1886 which blocked the main London to Edinburgh railway line at Acklington and resulted in the village making the national news.

This month I have decided to write about another occasion when Acklington made news headlines throughout the country. An event which the North of England daily paper (the 'Illustrated Chronicle')

devoted its whole front page to.... and an event which the paper described as a "Mail Robbery Sensation".

It was the 7th October 1920 when this most daring robbery took place.



Page 2 of the paper then went on to give the full story of the robbery, including witness accounts, diagrams and statements.

The following is just a small section of what was featured in that newspaper. I am sure readers will find the story interesting, not least the way in which it was written.

"Acklington, the quiet country place between Newcastle and Berwick, was the venue of a scene reminiscent of an act in a Wild West drama yesterday. In the early hours of the morning, the local postman named Mr Hudson was surprised, taken to a hut near the railway, and bound, gagged and blindfolded.

Three men are implicated in the sensational affair, and so far as the facts can be pieced together, their objective appears to have been some valuable which was in transit through the post. At any rate the men seized the mail bags which, according to custom, had been thrown from a passing mail train into a net provided for the purpose.



After a search of the mail bags, all that was taken was a parcel of registered letters, the other letters being left strewn on the floor of the hut. Beyond the natural shock of this dramatic and very terrifying experience, the postman suffered no bodily injury. He appears to have comported himself with commendable bravery, but, of course, completely taken unawares, was no match for three assailants. Unfortunately he is unable to give any description of the three men.

It was only when, some time later, the postman from Amble called for his letters at the Acklington Post Office that something was found to be amiss. Inquiries were immediately set on foot.

Despite the fact that every possible avenue was thoroughly investigated by the police, no trace of the thieves, who are said to have made their escape in a motor-car, could be found. Up to a late hour last night no arrests were reported, but the police are stated to be urgently trying to trace a blue motor-car."

As far as I am aware, the blue car in question was never traced and no arrests were ever made. Evidently the robbers were looking for an important registered package, but the whole 'headline making' drama remains a complete mystery to this very day.

*John Davison*



# Coffee Morning

Saturday 17 May 2025 : 10am -  
11.30am

St Lawrence Church, Dial Place, Warkworth

*Enjoy a delicious cup of Fairtrade  
tea or coffee and a piece of  
scrumptious  
homemade cake!*

*Suggested donation for  
Christian Aid £3*

Raffle  
Fairtrade stall  
Cake & produce stall



## Art Exhibition

Howick Village Hall  
NE66 3LE

Early May Bank Holiday Weekend  
Sat - Sun - Mon  
10:00am - 5:00pm

Local artists - Howick Art Group



[howickartgroupnorthumberland.com](http://howickartgroupnorthumberland.com)

## A Tribute to Barbara King

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Barbara King, One of the Pelican Editors for many years.

As a former Pelican Editor, David Charnock, wrote:

*"She was a great supporter of the Pelican Magazine and when she realized that I was sole editor she immediately offered to help share the work load. This she did for over 10 years. She was full of ideas for improvement, especially in the furtherance of our aim to produce the magazine in colour."*



Barbara had a long career in the 'RAF', not least as a Flight Sergeant, training parachutists. She brought the sharp discipline required of her to the Pelican Committee. Her contribution was sometimes uncomfortable but almost always, just what we needed. Her focus was sharp, analytical, and to the point. As a committee we benefited greatly.

Her wisdom and experience was such a valuable asset not only to David as Editor and the wider "Pelican Team" but to the huge numbers of Pelican magazine readers. We owe her a great debt of gratitude.

**Rev. Margaret Hobrough OBE**

(Former Chair of the Pelican Committee)

**David Charnock**

(Former Pelican Editor)

Barbara started as a Pelican Editor in April 2005 and continued in this role until September 2022. Along with co-editors David Charnock and Fred Calvert, she succeeded in getting the Pelican into the current full colour format with the December 2017 / January 2018 issue. —Eds.



## New Pilates Classes for Spring



Starting 1st May, I will be running  
a new Pilates Class  
in Warkworth Memorial Hall  
on a Thursday at 10.00 am

This is in addition to two classes  
I currently run in  
Acklington Village Hall on a  
Tuesday morning at 9.30 am and  
10.45 am.



If you are looking to strengthen your core,  
improve flexibility & balance or just to enjoy an  
hour of 'me time', please contact Lesley at  
[tcypilates@gmail.com](mailto:tcypilates@gmail.com) or call 07976 530828

*'Look after your body it's the only place you have to live in'*  
Joseph Pilates

## **Warkworth Easter Trail**

Between Friday 11th April and Thursday 17th April 2025 an Easter trail will be available around Warkworth village. The whole community and visitors are welcome to take part in the trail at any time during these dates.

Trail sheets will be available to purchase for £2 at the following locations in the village:

The Hermitage  
Inn, Grays of  
Warkworth  
and



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

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

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



## **Amble Bowling Club Open Day**

Amble bowling club will be holding Open Days on Saturday the 19 April and Saturday 26 April 12am to 4pm and is inviting anyone young or old, new to the game or played before, to come along and give it a try. Equipment and coaching will be provided by the club, all we ask is for you to wear flat bottomed shoes/trainers.

The club can be found on the High Street next to the dentist. For more information please call Kev on 07768808038.



## **Head and Sole Mobile Reflexology and Indian Head Massage**

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[www.headandsole.com](http://www.headandsole.com)

07/25

# Recycling for Charity 2024

## - stamps, coins, spectacles and printer cartridges -

Thank you for all your donations to  
'Recycling for Charity'

We collect stamps and coins (for St Oswald's Hospice), spectacles (for the Lions) and printer cartridges (for British Heart Foundation)

Please just ring James Cox on 01665 714 758 to arrange delivery or collection of these items

<https://sites.google.com/site/recyclingwarkworth>



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06/25

# Warkworth in Bloom

We had a well-attended coffee morning in February with a number of new volunteers.

Hopefully, by the time this goes to press, we will be out weeding and tidying in preparation for summer planting. The weather is certainly improving and there is plenty of spring colour around the village.



If you are interested in joining our small group, why not come for a coffee and a chat. Our next get together is on Thursday 24th April at Abbeyfield, Dial Place at 10.30 am. All are welcome.

Alternatively, contact [jackie.galilee@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.galilee@gmail.com) or leave your details in The Greenhouse,

Jackie Galilee



## WARKWORTH CRICKET CLUB CAFÉ & BAR

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FOR VENUE HIRE E-MAIL – [functions@warkworthcc.co.uk](mailto:functions@warkworthcc.co.uk)

**DOGS & MUDDY BOOTS WELCOME**

## WARKWORTH UKRAINE SUPPORT GROUP

Things move on so quickly in the world of Trump and Putin that it is difficult to know what the future of our Ukrainian guests will be. What is needed, in these uncertain times, is that we give them our continued support and encouragement.

As a local group we are in contact with other groups across the County and have regular updates with the County Council through Northumberland County of Sanctuary (NCOS) so that we can share opportunities to help.

There is still a need to work with Ukraine Aid Express who send medical and other supplies to Ukraine where there is continued bombardment, even during peace negotiations. This gives extra stress to our guests, while their visas last, as they await news from family and friends.

We are therefore hosting a Lent Lunch at St Lawrence Church at 12.00 on Thursday 10th April where we will serve home made soups, bread and a cup of tea or coffee. An opportunity to meet and consider those affected by this war.

So please join us and enjoy the company and food. All contributions will help Ukraine Express to send further necessary supplies where they are needed most.

If you can help - please be in touch

John Hobrough - [warkukr@gmail.com](mailto:warkukr@gmail.com)

---



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## Warkworth Art Group Diary

The Art Group were pleased to welcome two visitors this month, both concerned with a variety of local groups and communities, who had contacted us to see whether we would be interested in joining them in their current projects.

Met4 Dance Company, based at the Playhouse in Alnwick, creates live dance performances, workshops and community classes for all ages and abilities. Our group was asked if we would like to join in with a workshop designed to seamlessly blend dance and art. Charlie Dunne who first set up the Company with Lily Horgan in 2018, came to our weekly session and modelled for us. We created quick gestural sketches based on Charlie's varied and challenging positions and movements. The results of these can be seen at the **Dance Art exhibition at Gallery 45, Felton, until March 22nd.**



A local ancient Oak Tree

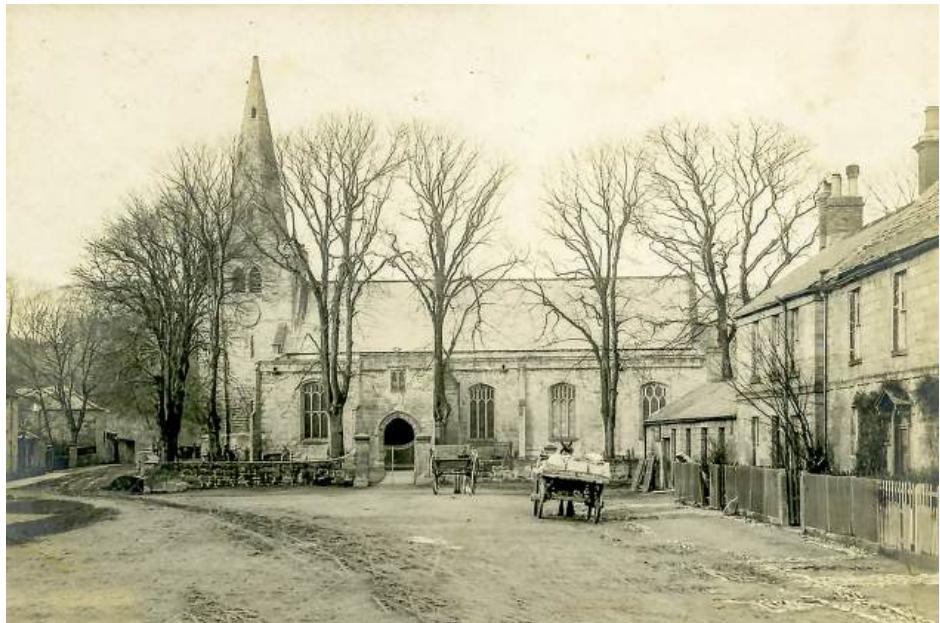
Our second visitor was local artist Anna Corbett, who gave us an interesting and interactive afternoon of a talk and discussion about the importance of trees and their value to us. Anna showed us a tree timeline to illustrate how long trees had existed on earth, and brought twigs from thirteen different trees for us to examine. We were then invited to celebrate trees by making a creative response with our ideas and our art. **Please do visit Alnwick Playhouse between 26th -28th March to see the result!**



*The picture of the month is by Art Group member Julia.*

If you are interested in joining Warkworth Art Group, please contact Linda Gaskell on 07812 567 637, or email [warkworthartgroup@gmail.com](mailto:warkworthartgroup@gmail.com)

## Warkworth Then & Now



St. Lawrence Church and Dial Place circa 1900 above, by an unknown photographer, and below in the modern day by Len Smith (during resurfacing works so no cars!).





1875-2025

## Warkworth Cricket Club 1875 - 2025

### 150th Year Celebrations

Saturday May 17th - Music Night

~ Free Entry ~



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04/25

# Lent Lunches at St Lawrence, Warkworth

**THURSDAYS 12 noon**

**3rd April  
Alzheimer's Society**

**10th April  
Ukraine Support Group**

***A simple soup & bread lunch -  
donations to nominated charities***

## **CHILDHOOD NORTHUMBRIAN TRADITIONS**

Growing up in Acklington I remember learning the old Northumbrian rhyme

*Tid, Mid, Miseray, Carling, Palm, Paste Egg Day*

Tid, Mid and Miseray are named from the beginning of the Psalms and hymns traditional in services on that day. Then on Carling Sunday (this year 6th April) carlins were cooked and eaten. Cooking methods varied I remember them being steeped, boiled and then butter and seasoning added.



On to Easter not chocolate eggs back then but pace or paste eggs. Decorated

for Easter Sunday with egg decoration competitions. Or painted and dyed often boiled with onion skins or gorse flowers with wrapping to create a mottled, marbled effect. With no hills about to roll them down we bowled them across the front lawn it was a bit like conkers on grass targeting each other's eggs.





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3/26

### **ACKLINGTON ART GROUP**

We are a small friendly social group who meet on a weekly basis at Acklington village hall.

We have a number of tutors throughout the year, and have a range of monthly motivational projects run by members of the group.



This month's painting is watercolour of a harvest mouse by Susan Moore.

## THE WARKWORTH SHOW MARKET STALL 2025



Our annual Market Stall will be held on Saturday 24th May on the Market Cross in Dial Place, Warkworth

10.00 am – 12 noon



There will be a selection of plants, cakes, scones, preserves etc. sold in support of The Warkworth Show.

This event would simply not exist without your generous donations, for which are sincerely grateful. So once again we kindly ask if you have any unwanted plants (whatever size) that you bring them to the stall around 9.00 am that morning.

We would also love to have any baked goods or preserves, in particular cakes or traybakes. If you are able to help with any of those, please bring them along to the stall around 9.00 am.

### ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**The Warkworth Show itself will be held on Saturday 16th August in the grounds of the Castle**

This year's show promises some new classes for the schedule along with new entertainment and activities on the day.

Look out for ongoing, further details on our website.

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

Scan the QR code to visit →



### SHOW VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for new volunteers!

Opportunities exist in setting up the Show, helping to sell raffle tickets, as well as Stewarding – both inside and outside the tents. If you are interested in anyway, or would like more information please contact

**Julie Mohon Tel: 07785 117600**

**Email: Julie.mohon@icloud.com**



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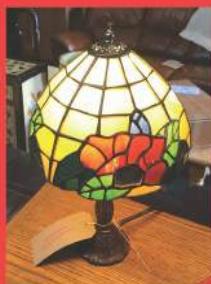


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## No place for plastic

Thank you to Mrs Frater and the Year 2 children of Warkworth Primary School for making this wonderful art display for the Community day about



water and waste. Many people thought that it was fabulous and were pleased to see that the children were learning about this important environmental issue.

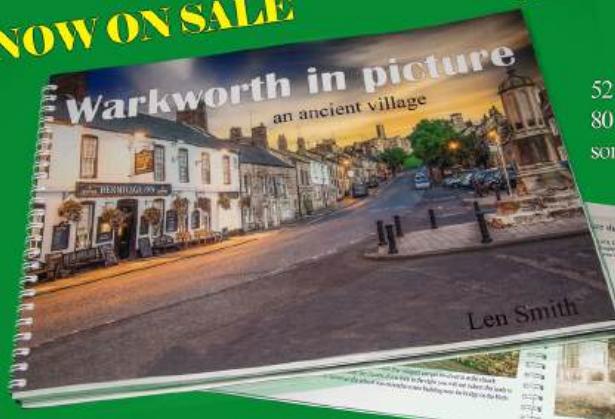
**WELL DONE!!**

## Warkworth in picture

an ancient village

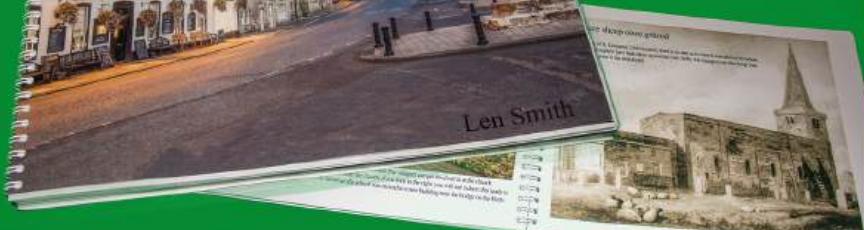
At the Village Shop

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52 pages

80 photos - old & new  
some dating back to 1820



It's part of history something to pass on to your grandchildren

# Acklington Community Team Events 2025

## MARCH

Thursday 27th - Food Van: One Burger, 5-8pm, with the Guyzance Room open & cash bar available

## APRIL

Thursday 17th - Food Van: Match Box Pizza Co., 5-8pm, with the Guyzance Room open & cash bar available

## MAY

Saturday 10th - May Fair, 10am-1pm, with craft stalls, plant sale and refreshments

Thursday 29th - Food Van: The Greekster, 5-8pm, with the Guyzance Room open & cash bar available

## JUNE

Friday 13th - Teddy King Big Band, 7.30pm start; tickets £10 adults and £1 children, including a free drink

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/acklington-community-team/teddy-king-big-band-concert/e-ddabpz>



## The Tea & Talk Group

The **Tea** and Talk group meets every Monday 2.30pm to 3.30pm; the first Monday of the month in Abbeyfields, the remaining Mondays in the Hermitage.

It is a good opportunity to meet up with others and have a chat, along with a cuppa and biscuit, or sometimes even home made cake! If you want some company for a while come along and give us a try!





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03/25



## **Extracts of the minutes of the Warkworth Parish Council meeting held on 6 March 2025**

### **Parish Council Elections**

Parish and County Elections take place on 1 May 2025. If you wish to stand as a Parish Councillor, nominations must be submitted by 4.00 pm on Wednesday 2 April 2025. Information about the elections can be found here: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections.aspx>

### **Parish Meeting**

A parish meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 20 March 2025 at 6.00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

### **Requests for Financial Support**

The Parish Council has made a number of donations during the course of the year to various organisations including the Great North Air Ambulance, Amble Foodbank, Bailiffgate Museum, Hadston House, Citizens Advice Northumberland and The Pelican.

### **VAR Speed Sign at Birling**

Efforts are being made with the manufacturers to have this repaired.

### **Work on The Stanners**

Work by NWL on The Stanners should be finished in the next couple of weeks and the area reinstated. Road resurfacing works by the County Council can then be progressed.

### **Memorial Seat Policy**

The Parish Council has reviewed its memorial seat policy, which was agreed in 2021. Members have agreed that the policy requires no major changes. Contacting family members about very old and damaged seats is sometimes an issue, but all efforts are made through the community and social media before action is taken.

Full details of the meeting are contained in the draft minutes available on the Parish Council noticeboards, and on the Parish Council's website at <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/warkworth>

### **Next Meetings of the Parish Council**

Thursday 3 April 2025 at 6.30 pm.

Thursday 8 May 2025 at 6.30 pm (annual meeting)

Meetings of the Parish Council are open to everyone.



Any correspondence to Warkworth Parish Council should be directed to:

Karon Hadfield (Clerk) 30 Rothbury Drive, Ashington, Northumberland,  
NE63 8TQ.

Email: [warkworthparish@gmail.com](mailto:warkworthparish@gmail.com) Telephone: 07841 650640



## Warkworth Golf Club Ladies Section



Get into Golf 2025  
**FREE TASTER SESSIONS!**

with Heather Smith (golf professional)

Choose from:-

Tuesday 1st April at 5pm  
Thursday 3rd April at 4pm  
Thursday 10th April at 11.15am



No experience necessary

All equipment is provided. Just wear trainer type shoes and layered comfortable clothing.

Interested? Let us know which day you would prefer.

Vicki 07759 121536 [vickiheap@btinternet.com](mailto:vickiheap@btinternet.com)

## Acklington Coffee & Chat

**Friday 11th April**  
**11.00am - 12noon**

**Held in the Guyzance Room  
at Acklington Village Hall**



**Please come and join us!  
All are welcome**



**Sunday 27th April, 2025**

**Starts 7:30pm (Doors and  
bar open at 7pm)**



## **Swing Manouche**

Swing Manouche were formed by Mick Shoulder, the leader and songwriter of former gypsy jazz outfit "Djangologie". Based upon Django Reinhardt's second group; the Nouveau Quintette du Hot Club de France and giving a slightly harder and more modern edge to the music than his previous ensemble, Swing Manouche are a hard swinging gypsy jazz outfit.

Authentic originals are still very much a main ingredient but Swing Manouche are as likely to take from more modern gypsy players as well as Django and traditional musette.

The room will be laid out in cabaret style, so ticket numbers will be limited. Book tickets (£15) by email to [peter.burnham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.burnham@gmail.com) . Alternatively telephone Peter Burnham on 01665 711388.

# Coffee & Connect



Northumberland  
**CAN**

## Digital Support at Warkworth Memorial Hall

3rd Tuesday of the Month 11:30am-12:30pm

Bring your phone, tablet or laptop and get advice from our expert volunteers

Donations towards refreshments

Sessions on 15th April; 20th May; 17th June;  
15th July; 19th Aug; 16th Sept; 21st Oct; 18th Nov

Contact Marc Johnson

07477 961096 for more info



## *Acklington St John the Divine and Warkworth St Lawrence*

Both of our churches are open each day for everyone, including dogs, come in and have some quiet time. As well as our regular Sunday worship we have something on offer every day - so why not join us and try something new?

### *Warkworth*

Monday 9am  
Time to Pray  
Thursday 5.30pm  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Saturday 4pm  
BCP Holy Communion

### *Acklington*

Tuesday 11.30am  
BCP Holy Communion  
Wednesday 9.30am  
Celtic Prayer



# Acklington

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[davidjorange@btinternet.com](mailto:davidjorange@btinternet.com)*

12/25

## WHAT'S ON IN 2025



### April 2025

1<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Warkworth Memorial Hall: WI 'Shoes!' with Susan Howard  
3<sup>rd</sup> 12-1.30pm St. Lawrences. Lent lunch (for Alzheimer's Society)  
5<sup>th</sup> 11-3.00pm Shortridge Hall Open Garden day  
5<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Memorial Hall. Film Club 'Another Round' (p21)  
6<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm St Lawrences Messy Church  
7<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Memorial Hall. History Society, The Delavals  
10<sup>th</sup> 12-1.30 St. Lawrences. Lent lunch (for Ukraine Support Group)  
11<sup>th</sup> 11-12.00 Acklington Village Hall. Guyzance Room, Coffee & Chat  
11-17<sup>th</sup> Warkworth Easter Egg Trail. (See p. 27)  
12<sup>th</sup> 10-12.00 Warkworth Memorial Hall. W.I. Easter Coffee Morning  
14<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Warkworth Memorial Hall. Music & Song Afternoon  
15<sup>th</sup> 11.30-12.30 Warkworth Memorial Hall. Coffee & Connect (p. 46)  
17<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Hermitage Inn. Luncheon Club with Peter Burnham  
17<sup>th</sup> 5-8.00pm Acklington Village Hall. A.C.T. Food Van  
18<sup>th</sup> 12-4.00pm Rigg & Furrow. Easter Market  
18<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Cricket Club. Quiz Time  
19<sup>th</sup> 12-4.00pm Amble Bowling Club. Open Day, try bowling (See p. 27)  
19<sup>th</sup> 12-4.00pm Rigg & Furrow. Easter Market  
19<sup>th</sup> 10-12.00 Warkworth Golf Club. Coffee Morning tombola & stalls  
22<sup>nd</sup> 10-4.00pm Warkworth Cricket Club. Cafe Opening  
27<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Memorial Hall. Swing Manouche gypsy jazz

### May

1<sup>st</sup> 12.00noon St. Lawrence's Church. Fellowship Communion with Lunch  
3<sup>rd</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Memorial Hall. Film Club (See p. 21)  
3-5<sup>th</sup> 10-5.00 Howick Village Hall. Art Exhibition  
10<sup>th</sup> 10-1.00pm Acklington Village Hall. A.C.T. May Fair  
17<sup>th</sup> 10-11.30 St. Lawrence's Church. Christian Aid Coffee Morning  
17<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Cricket Club Music with 'Don't Call Me Dave'  
24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Dial Place. Warkworth Show fund raising Market Stall  
29<sup>th</sup> 5-8.00pm Acklington Village Hall. A.C.T. 'The Greekster' Food Van



## PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN & ADULTS

As part of our safeguarding, any photographs in which a child or adult can be identified can only be printed if the Editors have their (or their parents) permission.

Vicar of Acklington, Shilbottle and Warkworth:

Revd Helen O'Sullivan Tel: 01665 712002

United Reformed Church Revd Joan Grindrod-Helmn Tel: 01665 798290

Amble Sacred Heart Catholic Church Fr Stephen Watson Tel: 01665 602012

Amble Methodist Church Revd Christopher Wood-Archer Tel: 07729 258671

## ***PELICAN EDITORS AND COMMITTEE***

**Editors:** David Rowat - Peter Hollerin - Yvonne Hollerin

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Eddy Ross—Treasurer

Julie Green—Subscriptions Officer

Glynis Rowat—Distribution Coordinator

Ann McDougal—Committee member

e-mail for distribution & subscriptions:

**[thepelicandistribution@gmail.com](mailto:thepelicandistribution@gmail.com)**

**The next publication is for May 2025**

**The absolute deadline for articles & adverts is -**

**NOON ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025**

**But submit as early as possible as space is limited!**

**No submissions after the deadline will be accepted.**

Articles can be submitted handwritten, or typed, or in  
Word or Publisher format

Paper size is A5 portrait (approximately 400 words per page)

Images can be supplied in jpg or png format

Contact the Editors for advertising prices and submission guidelines

**[thepelicaneditors@gmail.com](mailto:thepelicaneditors@gmail.com)**

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the information printed in The Pelican is accurate. The editors and production team (all volunteers) cannot be held responsible for the consequences of any errors or omissions.

The views and opinions of articles do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors and Committee. We are unable to include submissions which the editors believe may cause offence or controversy.

April 2025

# The Pelican

THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
ACKLINGTON, GUYZANCE & WARKWORTH

£1.25 per issue OR £10 per year



Easter Bunny - Joint Easter art winner, Peggy Forsythe-Deacon, Age 9.