

February 2025

# The Pelican

THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
ACKLINGTON, GUYZANCE & WARKWORTH

£1.25 per issue OR £10 per year



Festive Robin by Sue Tong

## **Reverend Helen writes:**

I heard an excellent sermon the other week. It wasn't particularly polished, it certainly wasn't academic, but it hit home as sermons should. It was on the Feast of the Epiphany when we remember the visit of the wise men to Jesus. You might think it's a bit late for all this but the season of Epiphany stretches until the 2nd February when we celebrate Jesus' Presentation in the Temple, and even if it is a bit late, the wisdom the preacher found in the Gospel story feels particular of our time.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that 'wise men from the East came to Jerusalem' they had seen a star at its rising but now had come to the seat of power in Jerusalem, to King Herod, for further direction, as they had apparently lost their way. You might remember that Herod the Great, as he was known, was a tyrant and a subject of the occupying Roman Empire. He is depicted in the Gospel as the enemy, helping the wise men for his own ends; to discover the birth place of the Messiah in order to destroy him.

So here's the thing, the wise men didn't know what to do next, where to go; and they are helped on to their goal by the most unlikely person, the enemy everyone feared. That hit home for me because when I look around at our polarised society and indeed our world, it would be easy to despair of the way one faction writes off another in communities, religion, politics (local and global) etc. Here is a story with a message for us all, that the person we least expect might be the one that has the insight we need to hear.

May God give us all open ears and hearts as we face the challenges ahead of us in 2025.

## **From the Registers**

We give thanks for all those recently baptised and pray for Katie Monk and Martin Hayes and all those recently married or preparing for their marriage.

Our prayers are with all those recently bereaved, amongst them the family and friends of Mary Roper, Terry Nelson and Mary Guy, 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 WERE DUE IN JANUARY

Your Pelican subscription was due in January, (print £10, digital £5). Thank you those who have already paid! If you have not yet renewed your subscription this may be the last Pelican issue you receive. Payments can be made by transfer to St Lawrence Church Pelican Account , Sort Code 20-58-17, Account Number 20471577, the reference will be your house address with no gaps. Alternatively, payment can be made in cash left in the deposit box at St. Lawrence church in a sealed envelope marked PELICAN and with your name and address. If any Acklington subscribers wish to pay by cash please contact our Subscriptions Officer Julie Green by telephone on 07721 402073 or by email to [thepelicandistribution@gmail.com](mailto:thepelicandistribution@gmail.com), and she will advise how to pay.

## 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 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.

# THE PELICAN MAGAZINE FRONT COVER ART COMPETITION



Youngsters of a maximum of 11 years of age are invited to submit artwork for the cover of the April edition of The Pelican on the theme of “Easter”.

Artwork should be a maximum size of 10.5cms high by 12.5cms wide on an A4 sized sheet of paper or card and can be in any medium.

**Deadline for entries is 12.00 midday on March 10th.**

Entries can be left in St. Lawrence’s or St John’s church in an envelope addressed to The Pelican Magazine and must include a note with the name, address, age and contact details of the artist.

## 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**  
**First Sunday of the month 4pm to 5:30pm**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

**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)



**February 4th** Our member Vicky Sowerby recounting humorous tales from her career.  
Competition – a heart shaped item.

**March 4th** 'Locks, stocks and conmen' Lisa Gladstone from Newcastle Building Society  
Competition – an old coin or banknote.

**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 December Draw**

1st Prize number 118 Gilly Maude  
2nd Prize number 135 Megan Park  
3rd Prize number 56 Peter Forsythe  
4th Prize number 8 Richard Brierley

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 January Draw**

1st Prize number 129 Pat Nickalls  
2nd Prize number 26 Daphne Coney  
3rd Prize number 198 Gladys Shield  
4th Prize number 153 Alice 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)

## 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



“A Touch of Snow” by Len Smith



“Tales From the Riverbank”

A new fallen tree trunk makes its way towards the village; ‘the aliens are coming’, strange crosses appeared along the footpath; work on the water pumping station at the Stanners.

# Warkworth in Bloom



Even in the depth of winter, if you look closely there are still some flowers in bloom, defying the season and the harsh weather. They bring a little splash of colour and hope for things to come.

New life is springing up amongst the broken tree branches in the Millennium garden. Bushes are shedding their remaining berries and buds are starting to appear.

Spring is just around the corner and the weeds will be making an appearance.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us keep the village colourful and tidy. If you are looking for a new volunteering opportunity this year come and join us. One hour per week is all we ask.



Contact [jackie.galilee@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.galilee@gmail.com) or leave your details in The Greenhouse, or join us for coffee/cake at Abbeyfield House, Dial Place on Thursday 27th February 2025 at 10.30 am.



Jackie Galilee

## THE HERMITAGE LUNCHEON CLUB

The **HERMITAGE LUNCHEON CLUB**, incorporating the Warkworth & District Probus Club, are looking for **NEW MEMBERS**. We would welcome **ALL** to join us from our local communities. We meet **MONTHLY**, on the **THIRD THURSDAY** 12 noon for 12.30pm at the **HERMITAGE INN, WARKWORTH**. Our format is relaxed and friendly, while enjoying a 2-course meal. We normally engage a local speaker to provide a talk on a wide range of topics. Historically, we have organised a Summer trip out, as well as a special Christmas luncheon for members and partners.

Interested? Questions?

Contact Clive Purdy 075 0220 2726

### MTDATASYSTEMS COMPUTER REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

PROVIDING A TRUSTWORTHY, RELIABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE RANGE OF I.T. AND COMPUTING SERVICES, WHICH INCLUDE:

- OPERATING SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS & UPGRADES
- SYSTEM REPAIRS, TROUBLE-SHOOTING & SET-UP
- HARDWARE REPAIRS & PARTS REPLACEMENT
- WIRELESS NETWORKING & REMOTE ACCESS
- VIRUS, MALWARE & SPYWARE REMOVAL
- DATA BACK-UP & RECOVERY SERVICES

MICHAEL THOMPSON

CERT. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTING (OPEN)

**TEL: 0740 3243553**

**EMAIL: [MTDATASYSTEMS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MTDATASYSTEMS@GMAIL.COM)**

04/25



Unit 7E, Coquet Enterprise Park,  
Amble NE65 0PE

TEL: 07511 546624



We Sell  
VINTAGE  
ANTIQUE  
DISTRESSED  
CLASSIC  
CUSTOM  
RETRO  
UP CYCLED

*That's US*

OPEN  
Tuesday -  
Saturday 11-4

## County Councillor's Report

The new gate is in position and the tarmac laid at the entrance to the right of way path from Morwick Road towards the Cricket Club in Warkworth. Unfortunately, it is not quite right as the gate is not the specified width to allow disabled or push chair use. The Contractor has been informed and will be returning to install the correct size gate(at no charge to the Council), in the meantime disabled access can be gained by using the farmers gate.

I have confirmation that road improvements will be carried out in March this year in the Morwick farm area of the road between Warkworth and Acklington.

I have requested new stop signs for use at Acklington cross roads and a refreshment of the white stop signs on the road after a couple of near misses happened recently.

At this time of year the County Council has to set budgets for next year, this is a complicated process and is not yet complete. Public meetings are being held to discuss the budget and details of these can be obtained from NCC. Certain decisions have been made that effect Council tax in Warkworth and Acklington, both Parish Councils are making minimal changes to their precepts. The Police and Crime Commissioner has said she is raising her precept by 7.7% and NCC have not finalised their figures but promise no cuts in front line services. We should know the new Council Tax in time for the next Pelican.

In a recent report I saw that air quality is as good as it gets in our area and we have six rivers named as being clean and rated with a good category, namely the Coquet, Till, Blyth, Wansbeck, Glen and Allen. It's great to see residents in our area taking positive action to help keep our wonderful waterways so healthy.

At the County Council Cabinet meeting today (14 January) I had the pleasure of proposing the acceptance of a document about the Warkworth conservation area and maintaining its conservation status. It was unanimously accepted.

I have arranged for the encroaching vegetation on the footpath on Rotary Way between Amble and Warkworth to be cut back and allow room for two people to walk abreast.

I am available on:  
[Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk)  
07802385367

*Here's looking forward to lighter nights!*



## Rotary update January 2025

December is usually a busy month for Rotary Amble and Warkworth {RAW} members and Christmas 2024 was no exception.

RAW supported the Christmas Tree festival in St. Lawrence's Church, Warkworth - our Rotary tree was decorated with the logos of some of the many charities and needy causes we try to support.

A new development for RAW at Christmas this year, however, was our involvement in the local Rotary Christmas Voucher Scheme project, a joint project with Alnwick Rotary Club. Together the two clubs raised £2,000 and distributed some two hundred gift cards across the local area. In the Amble and Warkworth area Rotarian's collaborated closely with several local primary schools and issued a total of one hundred gift voucher cards to help families with the purchase of Christmas presents.

### Decembers Christmas

collections again proved to be remarkably successful thanks to the generosity of local residents and visitors. The Rotary Santa sleigh toured Amble, Warkworth, Togston, Hadston and Acklington, as well as the Amble light parade.

Rotarians also assisted with the

stewarding at the Christmas Eve Warkworth 'carols on the bridge' event.

Our sincere thanks go to Morrisons Amble for allowing us to again collect outside the store entrance.



Special thanks must be made to the Thursday Quiz organisers, participants, and staff at the Hermitage Inn in Warkworth who generously donated some of their charity fund raising efforts to supporting Amble and Warkworth Rotary clubs Voucher Scheme. These events raised approximately £4000, money which will all be used to fund various local good causes over the next year.



2025 commenced with an afternoon social gathering at Shortridge Hall, thanks to the generosity of Mike and Rachael Wyllie. The event also saw the induction of Amble and Warkworth Rotary clubs first three Corporate Members, Vicky Taylor (Hermitage Inn), Rachael Wyllie, (Shortridge Hall) and David Park (Buston Potatoes).

Looking further ahead, RAW members will be joining in with the Burns Night celebrations at Warkworth Golf club on the 24th of January.

Plans are also well advanced for a talk later in the month by local businesswoman, Karen Park about the challenges of running a specialist award winning local food company, Seabanks

On the 11th of February, the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland Dr Caroline Pryor, will attend the RAW meeting at the Hermitage.

Later in the month, there are plans for a social event involving an escape room challenge in Morpeth!

On a sadder note, recent months have seen the passing of two well-known former Rotarians, Mr Tommy Hogg, and Bill Wake. Both individuals were well known for the contributions they made to the local community. Bill Wake had been a particularly dedicated member of Rotary Amble and Warkworth, having been an active member for over fifty years which included holding a key role of Secretary of the club.

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.

Richard Booth

# Village VOICES

JOIN YOUR LOCAL GROUP IN

## ACKLINGTON

- Improve vocal skills
- Grow & gain confidence
- Supportive space for all levels
- Meet new friends
- Enjoy many genres of song
- Good for Health & Wellbeing

**SING WITH US**  
**Every Monday**  
**10.30am – 11.30am**

Acklington Village Hall  
Acklington  
NE65 9BW

£5 per person



Village Voices Northumberland



## Acklington Parish Council update

### Appointment of new clerk

Acklington Parish Council has welcomed Barry Flux as its new clerk and responsible financial officer. The role has been vacant since March 2024 and following Barry's appointment the council's meeting cycle will resume as normal. Barry is clerk to several other parish council. He is also an elected county councillor.

### Traffic calming

County Councillor Jeff Watson is to investigate whether 'stop' signs can be installed at two of the busiest junctions at Acklington village to replace existing 'give way' signs. The need for further measures to improve safety was requested by a concerned resident in Cheviot Meadows. Vehicles travelling at excessive speed through the village is a continuing problem despite various traffic calming measures. The Parish Council recently installed 'gates' at the crossroads to make it clear to drivers they are entering a 30mph zone and requested traffic survey be undertaken by Northumberland County to provide data on the current volume and speed of traffic.

### Finance

The Parish Council precept will increase by 4% for 2025/26. At the last meeting it was agreed to increase the budget provision for the Footpaths Wardens' Scheme which has delivered huge improvements to the parish footpath and bridleway network. Annual donations to the Village Hall and St John's Church will also be increased by £50 which will be met from financial reserves.

### Playground

Councillor Tony Mezza has carried out numerous repairs and other remedial work on the playground in Churchill Way following the last RoSPA safety report, including removal of the concrete tunnel which will be converted into flower tubs. Around £700 of materials will be required to complete the repairs. The council was considering removal of the earth mound at the centre of the playground but following feedback from residents it was agreed to put this proposal on hold for the foreseeable future.

### Parish council elections

The Parish Council elections will be held in May 2025. The parish council currently has three vacancies and would welcome expressions of interest. For further information please email the clerk: [acklingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:acklingtonpc@gmail.com)

## 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.

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it back into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, 'What are you doing?' The boy replied, 'Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die.'

'Son,' the man said, 'Don't you realise there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!'

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then smiling at the man, he said... 'It made a difference for that one.'



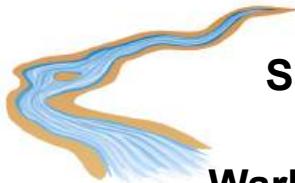
In the face of wildfires, floods, extinctions and new oil wells, it is tempting to hunker down and give up.

We can't individually change the big things, but lots of people doing little things will make a difference. In this new year we could:

- ◆ Keep that plastic bag- use it for loose carrots next time you shop.
- ◆ Keep that ice-cream box and use to freeze those spare scones
- ◆ Cut up those old pyjamas and use as cleaning cloths.
- ◆ **Bring an empty bottle to fill with washing up liquid at the Green Matters Community Day on 1st March!**

# THE GREEN PAGES

## Green Matters Community Day “Water and Waste”



**Saturday 1st March**  
**10am - 2pm**  
**Warkworth Memorial Hall**



**10am - 1pm**  
**Cleaner Water, Healthier Rivers**

Stalls include:

Coquet Rivers Action Group

Amble Swimmers

Interactive River Model

The Co-op Recycling

World of Difference—for refills of washing up liquid!

Please bring your own bottle.

*Refreshments*



**1pm - 2pm (To be confirmed)**  
We hope to round off our Community Day with short presentations about Water and Waste, with an opportunity for you to get answers to those questions you've always wanted to ask.



For further information:

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

## Acklington Parish Council

# ACKLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## Referendum

We are at the final stage of the Neighbourhood Plan process and it is now up to residents of the parish to vote on whether they would like the plan to come into force.

The referendum question is:

**Do you want Northumberland County Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Acklington Parish to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?**

You will be able to vote YES or NO

If a majority of people vote YES then the plan will come into force and from that point planning decisions within the parish must be made in accordance with the seven policies in the plan.

The Referendum version of the Plan and all supporting documents may be found on the County Council Neighbourhood Planning webpage, go to Acklington under emerging plans  
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Neighbourhood-Plans.aspx>

**Referendum date 27th February  
Acklington Village Hall  
7am - 10pm**

**PLEASE USE YOUR VOTE!**



## WARKWORTH FILM CLUB

Our first film night of 2025 is on 1st February when we'll be screening romantic drama, *Past Lives*. Two childhood friends are separated after one's family emigrates from South Korea to the US. Twenty years later, they are reunited in New York for one week as they confront notions of destiny, love and the choices that make a life. The two lead actors give really moving, subtle yet powerful performances. Nominated at the 2024 Oscars for best original screenplay and best picture, this is a really memorable film experience (2023 Cert 12A, 1 hour 45').

On Saturday 1st March come and enjoy *The Critic*. Set in 1930's London, this is a thrilling tale of ambition, blackmail, and desire with a dazzling anti-hero at its heart. When the most feared and vicious theatre critic in town Jimmy Erskine (Ian McKellen), finds himself suddenly in the cross hairs of the Daily Chronicle's new owner David Brooke (Mark Strong), he strikes a Faustian pact with struggling actress Nina Land (Gemma Arterton) who is desperate to win his favour. (2024 Cert 15, 1 hour 34')

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)



## We weally need wheels...



Do you have a wheelchair which is no longer required but still taking up space at home?

St Lawrence's church would find it very useful to enable access to services and events for people with limited mobility. It would need to be in a good condition so that we can push people safely.

Please contact Revd Helen, or Sheila 712269

## ACKLINGTON HISTORY SLOT—Village Hall Centenary Year

We now know that last year was officially the warmest on record and one in which catastrophic storms, record-breaking wildfires, devastating droughts, widespread flooding, severe mudslides and deadly heatwaves battered the globe. Scientists tell us that a warming world means the frequency of such events will undoubtedly increase in the years to come. A very, very worrying prospect indeed! There have, of course, been many extreme weather events throughout our history (and not all attributed to climate change) and one such event, a storm of near hurricane proportions which blasted through our area 100 years ago, had a significant impact on the good folk of Acklington.

**February 1925** was to be a memorable month for Acklington villagers. The 5<sup>th</sup> Feb had been earmarked for the grand opening of Acklington Village Hall.

Before the hall was built, such gatherings took place in the school. At one of these parish meetings on 4th December 1894 there were a number of items discussed, including the state of the footpaths, the water supply, scavenging in the parish, safety of bridges and road-signs. However, there was one item in particular that dominated the meeting (and also the subsequent half-yearly parish meetings) and that was the need to build a village hall.

A fund was set up and money was raised from public subscriptions, whist drives, collections, bazaars, entertainments, etc. Community members worked extremely hard to raise the necessary funds. An amount of £49 left over from the building of the war memorial lych gate in 1921 was donated to the fund and helped enormously towards the estimated cost of £800 for a new hall. Eventually work got started on the building but on 30th January 1925, and just before completion of the new hall and its planned inauguration on 5th February, disaster struck..... The hall was decimated by one of the most severe gales ever experienced in this area.



*Acklington Village Hall, after gale. Feb. 1925.*

We can only imagine how it felt for those in the parish who had worked and laboured for years to raise funds to get that hall and then found that just when their hopes were going to be realised that the whole structure was lying in ruins. The disaster was reported in the local press, as follows:

A gloom has been cast over the village of Acklington by the blowing over of its newly erected Village Hall early last Saturday morning, by the terrific gale which swept over the district. The hall only needed some slight painting inside for completion, and was to have been handed over to the Committee on 5th February, when the grand opening ceremony was to have been performed by Sir Leonard Milburn.

At midnight on Friday, when a constable passed the building, it was all right, so that the catastrophe must have occurred at some time between that hour and 7 o'clock on Saturday morning, when the hall was found to be in ruins by Mr. J. K. Waggot, who lives at the Post Office, the next building to the hall.

The hall is almost completely raised to the ground, only the gable ends remaining. It was in a very exposed position, and stood broadside on to Friday night's gale, which is declared by the keeper of the Coquet Lighthouse to be the very severest experienced in the district for a considerable time.

Early on Monday, a party of Acklington men and lads commenced helping the builders to make order out of the debris on the site of the building, removing broken slates and clearing bricks, etc. The damage is estimated at well over £400. A lucky circumstance was that £30 worth of chairs, which had just been purchased, had not been put into the hall.

Mr Turner, retired schoolmaster and secretary of the Village Hall Fund, said he was quite satisfied the workmanship was all right. The fault lay with the night.

Thankfully the Acklington villagers and the parish representatives decided that the hall had to be rebuilt, not just for them but for future generations, and they set about raising even yet more funds. The committee gave instructions for a building of much greater stability than the original one and less than five months later all the determined efforts of parishioners were rewarded. The hall was officially opened by Lady Milburn on 6th June 1925.

Today, Acklington Village Hall continues to be a tremendous asset to all in the village and the wider parish. It is an essential and well used amenity at the heart of our community. A real 'hub' when it comes to social events, meetings, gatherings and other various activities. It may have taken a huge battering a hundred years ago but at the present time it is still standing proud and serving the community with distinction. What will its status be in another hundred years' time, I wonder?... and will the hall, along with future residents of Acklington and elsewhere, be able to overcome the many challenges that a rapidly changing climate poses in this chaotic world? Let's hope so!

John Davison

St Peter and St Paul's Church  
Longhoughton

**Choral Evensong for  
Candlemas**

*with the*  
**Rock Festival Choir**

**Sunday 2nd February**  
**6.00pm**

## Amble Photographic Group



Amble Photographic Group member Tony Wright found himself on the other side of the camera at the group's last meeting of 2024. First he won the monthly competition and the Rose Bowl and then at the Christmas meal at the Amble Inn he was presented with The Photographer of the Year shield.

Pictures show Tony with the Chair of Amble Photographic Group Penny Horseman and Tony's winning image Northumberland Coast from the Rose Bowl Competition.

New members always welcome.

Look on our website for more pictures and details of programme for 2025.

<https://www.amblephotogroup.com/>



## WARKWORTH UKRAINE SUPPORT GROUP



In December our local members of the House of Lords (Joyce Quin, Timothy Kirkhope, Alan Beith) together with our Local MP (David Smith) met with the Minister (Lord Hanson) to discuss the needs of our Ukrainian Guests going forward from a document we had prepared. The meeting we are told was very successful and that there will be a written reply in due course. We look forward to this and the opportunity to respond further.

The war in Ukraine is potentially entering a new phase and we await the actual results of the Trump “promises” ??

Here we continue to support those who stay with us as well as the Ukraine Aid Express transport of medical aid and finances to buy special items of need.

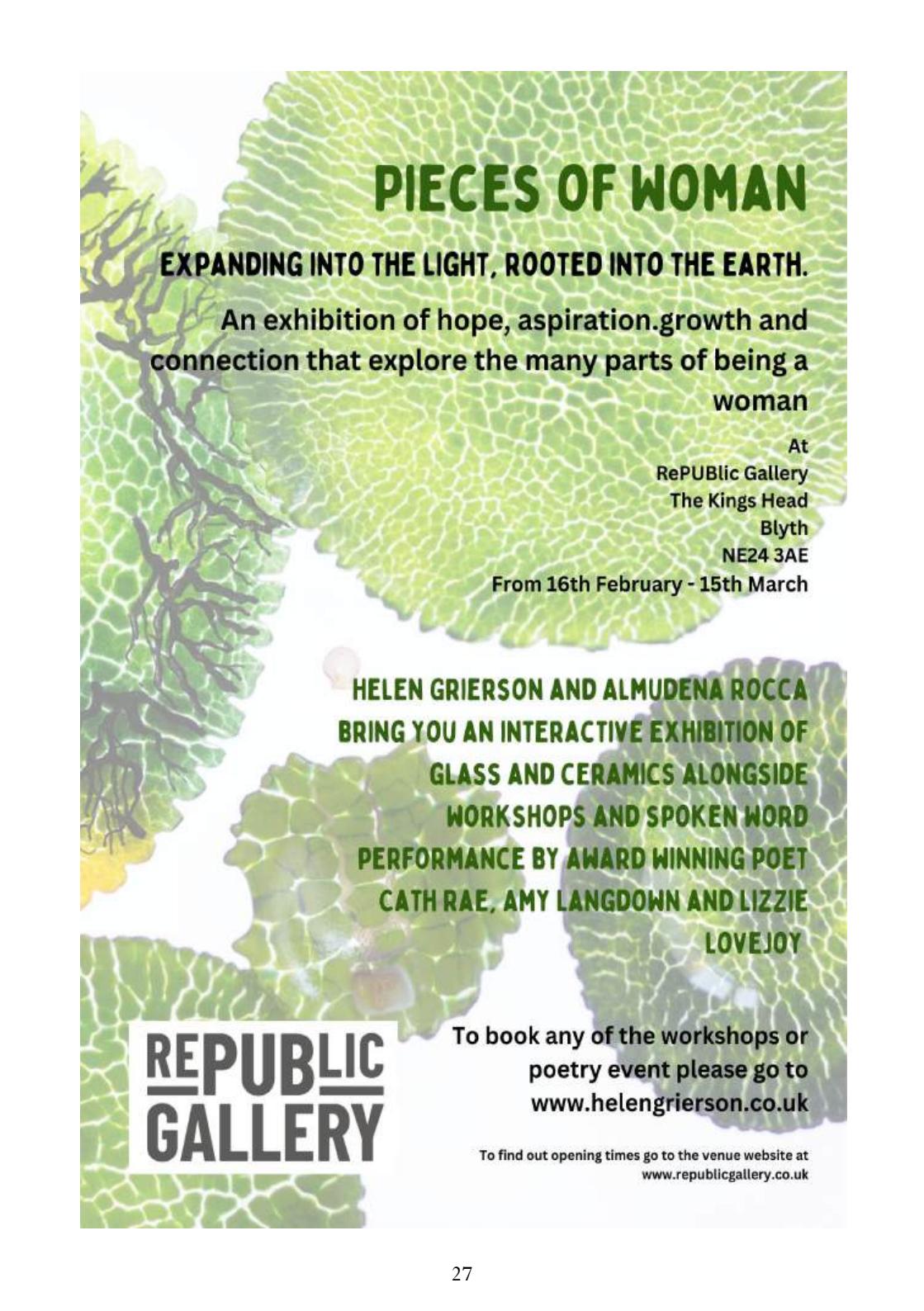
However local needs are changing. We have through the good offices of the Methodist Church ( with many thanks) been able to store furniture and other goods in their Garage at the Amble Manse. We are now reducing the need for furniture for our local guests since most now are well established in their own accommodation.

Our special thanks go to Dot Charlton who has managed this process since we formed our local aid groups.

But we must still be prepared for any future development — I feel that the next couple of months will be crucial in finding a just peace for our friends

Thank you to all who have supported our guests - and we hope for a happy and peaceful New Year.

John Hobrough



# PIECES OF WOMAN

EXPANDING INTO THE LIGHT, ROOTED INTO THE EARTH.

An exhibition of hope, aspiration, growth and connection that explore the many parts of being a woman

At

RePUBLic Gallery  
The Kings Head  
Blyth  
NE24 3AE

From 16th February - 15th March

HELEN GRIERSON AND ALMUDENA ROCCA  
BRING YOU AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION OF  
GLASS AND CERAMICS ALONGSIDE  
WORKSHOPS AND SPOKEN WORD  
PERFORMANCE BY AWARD WINNING POET  
CATH RAE, AMY LANGDOWN AND LIZZIE  
LOVEJOY

**REPUBLIC**  
**GALLERY**

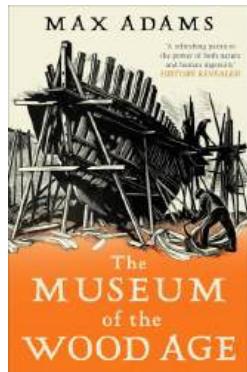
To book any of the workshops or  
poetry event please go to  
[www.helengrierson.co.uk](http://www.helengrierson.co.uk)

To find out opening times go to the venue website at  
[www.republicgallery.co.uk](http://www.republicgallery.co.uk)

## Warkworth History Society ~ December

Max Adams: The Museum of the Wood Age

For the last meeting of 2024 writer, archaeologist and woodsman, Max Adams, spoke about 'The Museum of the Wood Age'. There can, of course, be no museum in the normal sense, since wooden objects cannot survive as stone, bronze, iron and other metals do. And yet we were shown how the 'Wood Age' can be said to date back to a time more than 200,000 years ago, before the emergence of homo sapiens. Primates can be seen using sticks as a kind of tool, and the earliest humans would have used pieces of wood for carrying, digging, for defence and eventually as levers.



Later, more complex devices were produced, such as spindles for spinning yarn, bows for hunting and fighting, and wooden joints for making furniture, all of which are still used today. Some of the earliest dwellings were round houses made of coppice material. Later still, wealthy landowners built rectangular timber halls. Some of the oldest buildings, such as Westminster Hall and many of our churches retain their original timber roofs.

The first wheels were made from a solid round of wood from the centre of a felled log and were attached to farm vehicles pulled by oxen. Wheels with spokes came later and allowed the use of horses because of their lighter weight. The water wheel is an example of a very complex and therefore very expensive form of technology.



Max Adams stressed the importance of managing our woodlands, of harvesting, using and regrowing trees in a perpetual cycle. His enthusiasm has led to his personal



involvement in managing areas of woodland of his own and in educating others in the importance of this ancient material.

Judging by the response to his talk it would be safe to say that enthusiasm was contagious!

## Warkworth History Society ~ January

Our opening speaker for 2025 was local structural engineer Ian Hume. Whilst employed by English Heritage he was involved in the refurbishment and structural renovation of many iconic structures nationwide. He spoke about four in particular, namely the Iron Bridge in Shropshire, the Tunnel under the Thames, the Crystal Palace, and the Anderton Boat Lift in Cheshire.



The architect responsible for the first cast iron bridge was Thomas Pritchard. It was built between 1779 and 1781 by Abraham Darby III at the start of the Industrial Revolution using dovetail joints and pegs made of iron which copied those used in timber construction. The bridge was arched to allow for the passage of tall boats. In the 1960s it was almost sold for scrap, but a concrete arch across the river bed was added in 1972 to support the structure and in 1979 it was blast cleaned and repainted. It is now Grade I listed.

The Tunnel under the Thames was designed by Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, father of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It was completed in 1843 as a foot tunnel before becoming a railway tunnel in 1869. Strengthening and conservation work was completed in 1997 and the tunnel is now Grade II

listed.



The Crystal Palace was built for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Sir Joseph Paxton was the architect, engineer and gardener who oversaw its construction. The largest building in the world at that time, it required 293,000 panes of glass at an equivalent cost of £280 million today. In 1854 it was dismantled and moved to a new site at Sydenham but was destroyed by fire in 1854. However, because of its sheer size, some structures



escaped the blaze and Ian was involved in the salvage and refurbishment of several of these features.

The Anderton Boat Lift was designed by Edwin Clark and built in 1875. It involves a complex mechanism by which narrow boats were lifted in tanks from the River Weaver to the Trent and Mersey Canal. The hydraulic system failed a few years later, however, and the structure was redesigned. In 1996 the boat lift was again closed down for repainting and repair. At this point it was decided to return it to the original hydraulic system.

Ian has obviously enjoyed his involvement with these four amazing structures of their time and was greatly appreciated by the audience.



## **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.

## **Warkworth Art Group Diary**



This painting of the month is 'Bramble' from Carol Robertson.

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)



# *Snowdrop Day*

**Saturday**

**15th February**

**11am-3pm**

**St James' Church, Shilbottle**

***Refreshments***

***Exhibition of Children's work***

Dave Stockwin from Warkworth-based Far Horizon Voices and Sue Urwin from Amble Sword, presenting a cheque for £120 to the fundraising crew at RNLI station, Amble. The donation was from proceeds raised from FHV's recent show 'A Canny Neet Oot'



FHV would like to thank Amble Sword and all the guest artists who helped to make the event so successful.

## 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 a watercolour by Rob Norton.



## Eileen Watson 90 years young!

Eileen lives next door to us in her little house.  
She is so very peaceful and quiet as a mouse  
She loves her garden. She also cooks and cleans.  
Eileen grows her salad veg and sometimes runner beans  
Everyone knows Eileen who is never short of friends.  
She will watch the Dutchman Andre until the day it ends.  
She sings and loves her music and she will never shirk,  
A life that's built on common sense, true faith and plain hard work  
  
Eileen worked as a lass on a farm  
So fit and active she comes to no harm.  
Eileen is the perfect neighbour. It's true and so you see,  
We'll just pop into Eileen's for a lovely cup of tea.  
  
Eileen loves her animals and the little birds.  
And in our conversation she is never short of words.  
  
Lets raise a glass to Eileen. Together we can say,  
Hip hip hurray. Hip hip hurray.  
Our dear friend Eileen is 90 Today!

By N Tindall

## Eileen

The other Mrs. Watson lives up the street  
And if you pass her window, it's her you have to greet,  
Give her a wave or a shout Hello  
Mind she could be in the garden where her lovely flowers grow  
Or she could be watching morning TV News  
Or else she could be having an early morning snooze.  
  
Eileen is always knitting something in multi-coloured wool,  
She likes to keep busy, she's nobody's fool.  
The other Mrs. Watson likes to sing and dance  
And will have you joining in if you give her half a chance.  
You can't miss her house its number forty four,  
I'm the other Mrs. Watson with 40 on my door.  
We both love dogs and walking, singing and talking.  
  
Eileen has a special birthday, with loads of cards, signs and a balloon  
And everyone knows about it all around the toon!

Love Pam, John & Daisy the dog

*In aid of St John the Divine, Acklington*

# COFFEE & CAKE MORNING

**Saturday**

**22nd February**

**10am to 12 noon**



**ACKLINGTON VILLAGE HALL**



**Raffle + Cakes + Home Baking**



**Handmade upholstered furniture,  
reupholstery and loose covers.**

**Foam cut to size and cushions re filled.**

**A Family run business with traditional values offering old fashioned service with a great selection of fabrics and accessories.**

**At Coquet Enterprise Park, Amble  
For more information, please contact**

**01665 710593**

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

03/25

## **The Warkworth Craft Group**



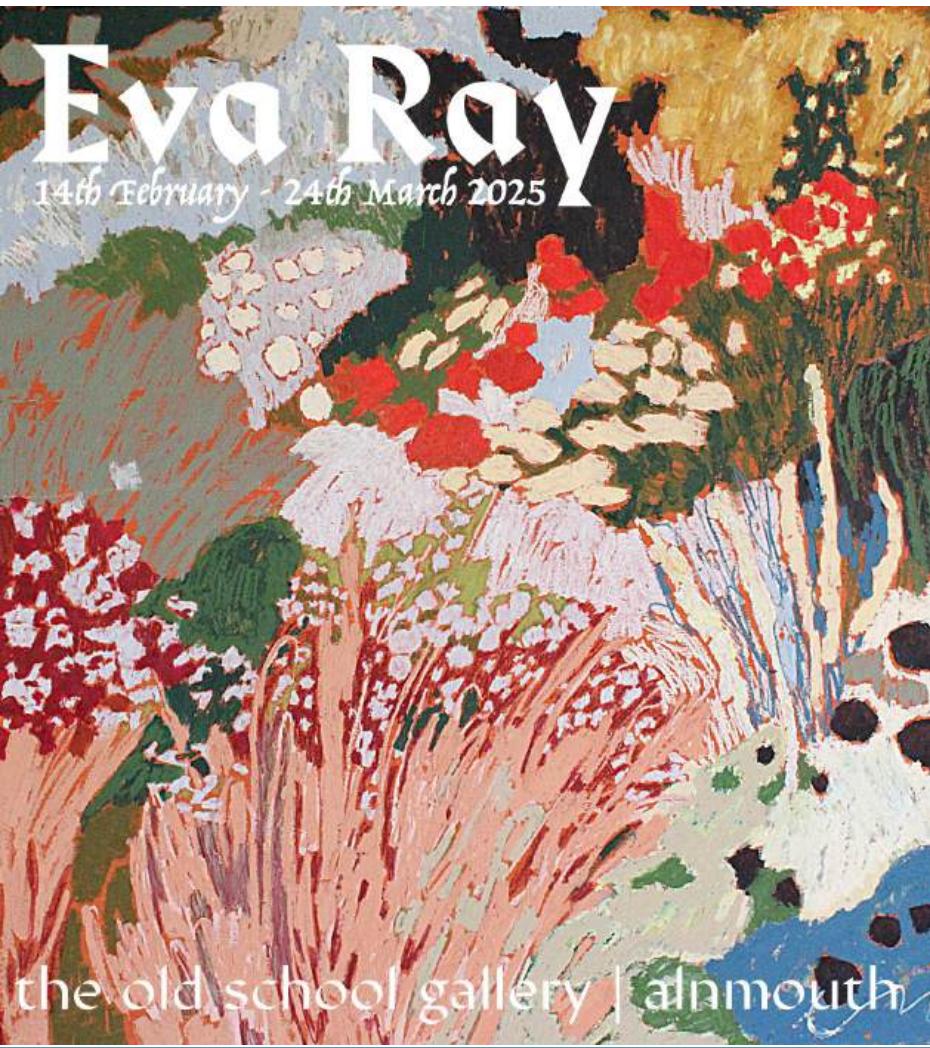
Initially set up by the Warkworth WI, the Warkworth craft group is a community based group that meets once a month in the supper room of the Memorial Hall. We chat, drink tea, eat biscuits (occasionally cake!) and do our own thing – knit, crotchet, sew or continue with whatever project we have on the 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.

# Evo Ray

14th February - 24th March 2025



the old school gallery | alnmouth



## Head and Sole Mobile Reflexology and Indian Head Massage

Covering Warkworth, Acklington, Amble, Alnmouth, Lesbury, Alnwick, Shilbottle and surrounding areas.

Have these relaxing treatments in the comfort of your own home. Gift vouchers also available.

To book contact Hazel 07527 330300  
or email [hazel@headandsole.com](mailto:hazel@headandsole.com) or via website  
[www.headandsole.com](http://www.headandsole.com)

07/25

## **Extracts of the minutes of the Warkworth Parish Council meeting held 6 December 2024 and 9 January 2025**

### **Christmas Lights Switch On**

Despite the best efforts of the weather, the Christmas lights were switched on on 23 November 2024. There has been much positive feedback from the community on the lights and tree this year, following some significant investment to upgrade the infrastructure, and to purchase new lights. Special thanks to Dr Mike Wyllie for his contribution to the Christmas tree, and to Kevin Stewart and Andrew Parks for their help again this year.

### **Parish Meeting**

A parish meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 20 March 2025 at 6.00 pm. Further details will be published on the PC website once they are available. Everyone is welcome.

### **Village Projects**

Work on the improvements to the access into the cricket field/footpath from Morwick Road has now been completed and a quotation for work to improve Ember Path has been accepted, subject to approval of the detail by NCC's Rights of Way team. Drainage on Castle field park remains a priority. This will enable improvement works to be made to the footpath, before any decisions are made regarding the development of the field.

### **Grass Cutting Contract**

The PC has again contracted with NCC for the provision of grass cutting services for the next three seasons. A good working relationship has been developed with NCC and it is hoped that this will continue going forward.

### **Northumberland Coast National Landscape**

Some new signing and interpretation panels will be put in place soon at the NCC car park area by National Landscapes (AONB). The purpose of these is to raise awareness and promote understanding of the area's special qualities, and to encourage responsible behaviour by all visitors.

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**

**Meetings of the Parish Council are open to everyone. Next dates are Thursday 6 February 2025 at 6.30 pm and Thursday 6 March 2025 at 6.30 pm**

**Any correspondence to Warkworth Parish Council should be directed to:**

**Karon Hadfield (Clerk)**

**30 Rothbury Drive, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 8TQ.**

**Email: warkworthparish@gmail.com   Telephone: 07841 650640**

**Saturday 15th February**

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

# Wild CLOUDBERRIES



A contemporary folk band blending elements of storytelling folk, blues and ballads to create an easy listening mix of original songs and interesting arrangements of much loved music.

Fronted by award winning singer songwriters Madelaine Leddy and Philip Stuckey, Wild Cloudberryes share stories about our Northumberland heritage and history as well as delving into matters of life and love.

*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.*

## *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

Needed:  
**HEDGEHOG CARERS**

Could you give one morning a week to help sick & injured hedgehogs?

Join our committed volunteers at  
Hedgehog Rescue Centre in Longframlington

contact Gill for more information:  
07584 787314  
hog.volunteers@hotmail.com

# Acklington

## VILLAGE HALL

### **The perfect venue for your activity or event!**



Large hall with beautiful original natural wood floor and beamed ceiling

Clean modern kitchen facilities and free Wifi

Spacious grassy garden



Visit our FaceBook page for details of events and activities at the Village Hall



**For bookings, call Alison on 01670 761451, or visit**

<https://northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/acklington-village-hall>



Len Smith Photography

## FUN OUTDOOR FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY

Event & Commercial  
Photography

## FUN OUTDOOR DOG PHOTOGRAPHY



[lensmithphotography.co.uk](http://lensmithphotography.co.uk)

telephone 07816 241878

email [lensmithphotography@gmail.com](mailto:lensmithphotography@gmail.com)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**DAVID J ORANGE**

**TREE SURGEON**

*Care and Preservation of  
Ornamental Trees*

*Removal of Dangerous/Diseased Trees*

*Hedge Cutting-Wood Chipping-Stump Grinding*

*Grass Cutting and Garden Maintenance*

*Prompt and Reliable Service*

*Established 1986*

*For Advice and Quotations Contact:*

*David Orange*

*Birling South East Cottage*

*Birling, Warkworth, NE65 0XS*

*Tel: Alnwick 01665 711389*

*Mobile: 07543 190758*

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

**12/25**

## 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>



*Compassion. Dedication.  
Integrity. Respect.*

*Our promise to you.*

William Purves in

Alnwick  
01665 510 699

Amble  
01665 712 277

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

06/25

## WHAT'S ON IN 2024

**PELICAN SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON JANUARY 1st  
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU RENEW TO AVOID MISSING AN  
ISSUE! SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS**



### **February 2025**

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Warkworth Memorial Hall. Warkworth Green Matters AGM
1 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Warkworth Memorial Hall. Film club: Past Lives
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00pm	St. Lawrences. Messy Church
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	St Peter & St Paul's Longhoughton, Candlemas Choral Evensong with the Rock Festival Choir (p24)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Warkworth Memorial Hall. History Society 'There's more to a needle than meets the eye'- Barry Mead
8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Warkworth Memorial Hall. Pitman, Eliot Smith Dance
14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	The Old School Gallery, Alnmouth. Eva Ray Exhibit. (p36)
15 <sup>th</sup>	11am-3pm	St James, Shilbottle, Snowdrop Day (p31)
15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Warkworth Memorial Hall. Wild Cloudberry concert (p38)
16 <sup>th</sup>	10am	RePUBLIC Gallery, Blythe. Pieces of Woman exhibit (p27)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10-12	Acklington Village Hall, Coffee & Cake Morning (p34)
27 <sup>th</sup>	7am-10pm	Acklington Village Hall, Neighbourhood Plan voting (p20)

### **March 2025**

1 <sup>st</sup>	10am-2pm	Warkworth Memorial Hall. Green Matters Community Day
1 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Warkworth Memorial Hall. Film Club 'The Critic'. (p21)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00pm	St. Lawrences. Messy Church
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Warkworth Memorial Hall. History Society 'In defence from Napoleon'- Bill Openshaw
10 <sup>th</sup>	12.00am	Pelican Front Cover art contest deadline (P.5)



### **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

e-mail, which goes to all editors:

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

David Rowat—Chairman

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 March 2025**

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

**NOON ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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.