

September 2025

# The Pelican

THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
ACKLINGTON, GUYZANCE & WARKWORTH

£1.25 per issue OR £10 per year



Summer Hares by Richard Booth

## **Revd Helen writes;**

I am going to risk causing offence, I really do hope I don't, it is not my intention!  
Why not give church a go...

People often tell me they don't go to church (and by *go to church* I mean to services) because they find God elsewhere. I don't doubt that for a moment, God is obviously not confined to church.

Other people tell me that they find church difficult for all sorts of reasons; often past experience. That's such a travesty that an encounter with 'church' should ever be so bad that it puts someone off altogether!

Some people say that they just don't feel it's *for them*. This can be especially true in rural communities where going or not going to church can be a bit of a statement as to where or how we belong or don't within a particular community, or faction *within* a community. We may or may not be a joiner of things, or want to feel obligated to a particular group.

You'll have heard it said that 'Hell is other people' well, so is Heaven!

A healthy church (and I certainly don't think ours are unhealthy) is a place where everyone and anyone should feel *at home*. Where everyone is welcome regardless of what they may or may not have to offer; a community in which everyone feels that they grow. Absolutely not a community of like minded people, but of people who share the same hope. Churches are unique communities bringing together people of different ages, backgrounds and experience.

I know there are a good number of people who regularly come into church when it's quiet to offer a prayer or light a candle or just sit and reflect and that's a lovely thing to do and I'm not knocking that...and I would say this wouldn't I, there is also something in *corporate worship* that you simply can't get anywhere else and I believe it's worth an hour (or half an hour midweek) of your time, even if you are totally sceptical about it all.

Why not take another look at what's on offer across the three churches, there really is something for everyone (traditional, modern, ritualistic, contemplative, said and sung), and if you don't find what you think you are looking for please do give me a shout, maybe a conversation with myself or another member of the ministry team might be helpful. There are even on-line and telephone services for those unable to get out.

See inside for more details of what's happening in the coming weeks.

## **From the Registers**

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

Our prayers are with all those recently bereaved, 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.

Subscribers wishing to pay by cash please contact our Subscriptions Officer Julie Green on 07721 402073 or 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 Team, The Highlights, Warkworth Art Group, the Warkworth Show, 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.

## *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 (9am Warkworth, 11am Acklington) 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



**St Lawrence Church, Warkworth**  
**First Sunday of the month 4pm to 5:30pm**  
**September 7<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**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

[mandbjones@btinternet.com](mailto:mandbjones@btinternet.com)

**Secretary Judith Hebron**

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



**September 2<sup>nd</sup>** The Oswin project. Competition 3 cup cakes.

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** Line Dancing – yee haa! Competition a cowboy or USA item.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT – Closure of Topsy Turvey

After 35 years of trading, I have decided that retirement is now due and I will close the business on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of August

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of my customers for their continued support over the many years, many of them becoming firm friends.

I will miss you all, but I am sure we will see each other when I'm out and about.



Margaret Turvey

**St Lawrence, Warkworth**



## **Harvest Tea**

**Sunday  
28th September  
3.30pm**

***with songs & music***

**Donations of fruit, vegetables & flowers  
to help decorate the Church.**

**Dried and tinned goods.**

**Please bring to the church anytime  
Friday 26th or Saturday 27th.**

**All produce and goods will be donated  
to The Peoples Kitchen**

***NO CHARGE - ALL WELCOME***

## OUT & ABOUT



**Evening paddle around Coquet Island - photo by Ian Hetherington**



**Gorse bush fire by the Hermitage landing stage, fire controlled by local fire service. Photo by David Rowat**

## OUT & ABOUT



**VJ commemoration banner by the W.I in the Millenium Gardens**



**Birds of a feather flock together—this year's goosander fledglings, photo by Richard Booth.**

## HERMITAGE LUNCHEON CLUB

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

The Speaker for our next meeting is:

Bethany Hickling - The 10th Anniversary of  
Northumberland Zoo

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

### PELICAN MINI ADVERTS

Do you have something to sell?

Have a need for a service?

Have a service to offer?

A 1/8 page advert in the Pelican is just £5  
an issue. Contact us on:

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

### Garden Tidy Service

Garden becoming a challenge?  
If you would like help to keep it  
tidy, please contact me.

Please call or text John  
**07731 773156**

(Lives in Warkworth)

## ALNMOUTH CROQUET

 **TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS** 

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

## The Odd Job Man



07483429430



[dsmail124@gmail.com](mailto:dsmail124@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



**BARNS RD RESIDENTS INVITE  
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**WARKWORTH CRICKET CLUB  
SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER  
FROM 10.30AM**

**Come and enjoy good company, home baking and support  
the work of**

**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

**Cake Stall & Raffle**

**Donations of cakes and raffle prizes welcome**

**Contact: [rosemarybutterworth@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemarybutterworth@btinternet.com) or  
[arosen\\_2021@yahoo.com](mailto:arosen_2021@yahoo.com)**

## **Repair Café Warkworth – an introduction**

**25<sup>TH</sup> October from 10am at Warkworth Memorial Hall**

You are invited to a coffee morning to explore the idea of having a Repair Café here in Warkworth. Representatives from Felton and Rothbury Repair Cafes will tell us about theirs. You can chat to them informally and stay for some short presentations and a Q&A.

If you think a Repair Café is a good idea, do come along and learn more. We want to hear from people who might use a Repair Café and from people with skills to do the repairs.

**SKILLS SUCH AS REPAIRING CLOTHES, TOYS, SMALL ITEMS OF FURNITURE AND SMALL ELECTRICAL GOODS WOULD BE WELCOMED, AS WELL AS SHARPENING AND HELPING WITH COMPUTING.**

**SKILLS OF TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE MAKING ARE ALSO NEEDED!**

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

## **Warkworth Art Group Diary**

Although we are on our summer break, some of our group have continued to be creative, whether it be preparing for the flower show or simply taking advantage of the summer weather and painting outdoors - always a challenge.

At the end of July, we were lucky enough to take advantage of a free workshop. Blair from Stronger Shores gave us a short talk on their latest sea grass project which was followed by a fun-filled acrylic session, led by Luke McTaggert, where we painted seafood and fish. It was great-if somewhat smelly!

The day before, a group of local artists and writers, including several of our group headed up to Lindisfarne. What a lovely day we had! We began our day with half an hour on the Pilgrim's Way where we first met Blair from Stronger Shores who introduced us to the seagrass.

It turns out that seagrass, whilst able to store carbon, create oxygen and provide homes for wildlife, can also play a huge part in stabilising our shores and preventing erosion. Blair explained the vital role that Stronger Shores are playing to try to re-establish the seagrass in the north-east. It is an unprepossessing plant but one that could make a huge impact in the future.

Following lunch, we headed off to the other side of the island where Katherine Renton and Luke set us off with some sketching. It was an idyllic setting with amazing weather. All in all, a very pleasant day out. Thanks to Luke, Katherine and Blair for making both the trip and the workshop happen.

We start back to our regular Thursday sessions in September which we will look forward to after our break.

# ACKLINGTON POP-UP CAFE

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



Friday  
**12th September**  
*11 am - 12 noon*  
*All Welcome*



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THE CHURCH OF  
ST JOHN THE DIVINE  
ACKLINGTON



Also to be held on **10th October** and **14th November**

# Acklington

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**12th Sept, 7pm till late**

Tickets £10 on the door

Cash bar

## **Topsey Turvey**

‘Thank you Margaret ‘ is not enough to express our feelings about the twenty or so years that we have met at ‘Topsey’s’ on a Saturday morning.

It began with one lady who said to me how weekends were lonely. I took her for coffee, asked other people to join us and that is how it began. Over the years the group has met every Saturday. It is still a morning to look forward to, a reason to get out of the house, to meet friends and have a chat.

We will miss going to Topsey’s. Margaret is a gem welcoming us every week, making it special with generous treats.

Margaret’s generosity to village groups and church are exemplary. Nobody should forget the wonderful food, fruit and vegetable stall during lockdown . That was a labour of love, above and beyond!

We wish Margaret ‘all the best ‘ on her retirement .

You have our love and respect Margaret.

From the Saturday Coffeemates.

Serena Coulter on behalf of us all.

## **Topsey Turvey**

The end of an era in Warkworth when Topsey Turvey closed for the last time at the end of August. Not only has Margaret run a very popular restaurant and latterly cafe, she has been very supportive of clubs, associations, charities and coffee mornings within the village and always there in an emergency supporting the community, Margaret’s Halloween and Christmas decorations were legendary.

We wish Margaret a well earned, long and happy retirement.

Ann Burke

Warkworth Parish Council

### **Save the date:**

### **Pilgrimage to Newcastle Cathedral**

Thursday 16th October, opening and closing with services at 12.30 and 5.30 and including an afternoon tour and talk from a member of the cathedral clergy.

Full details of the arrangements will be available from St Lawrence Church in mid-September. Open to all.



## Rotary update August 2025

### Amble and Warkworth Rotary

July and early August has seen a good mixture of social and community-based work by local Rotarians.

On Tuesday 15th July, Peter from Northumberland Northumbria Blood Bikes met with Rotarians at Warkworth Cricket Club. A grand buffet supper was followed by a demonstration of the outstanding and committed voluntary service they provide to our community. These individuals are carrying emergency blood and related products, between hospitals and to the helicopters of the GNAAS between 7.00pm and 7.00am 365 days a year. Since their beginnings in 2014 they have completed over 120,000 deliveries. President Trevor Robertson is pictured reliving his boyhood dreams of riding a powerful motorbike.



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August RAW ran a Warkworth village Treasure Hunt consisting of several teams who started off from The Hermitage Inn following the list of cryptic clues around the village before ending the evening with a BBQ at the Cricket club. Ann Burke, chair of the Warkworth Parish Council received the treasure chest as captain of the winning team.

Two of our young people from JCS College have completed the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards at the RYLA camp in Baldersdale in the wilds of Teesdale. Congratulations to William and Grace who successfully completed the challenging programme, and we look forward to them attending a future meeting to tell us about their experience at RYLA.

Members also recently enjoyed an after-dinner presentation by local Rotarian Alun Morgan on the Aquabox scheme. This project was started by Wirksworth Rotary club in Derbyshire in 1992 in response to various disasters around the world. It has evolved into volunteer-based operation which assembles and distributes pumps which filter dirty water into safe drinking water. These pumps are packed into plastic boxes along with a variety of tools and are ready to be distributed across the world in response to natural and made disasters.



The Aquaboxes are distributed by local Rotary clubs in the affected areas. Alan is an ambassador for the Aquabox charity so spoke about the life saving filter pumps with some passion. His talk included a demonstration of him drinking a cup of contaminated water which had had been filtered via an Aquabox pump. Alan will be bringing one of the pumps to the Rotary stand at

the Warkworth show to highlight the life saving properties of the pump as well as highlight the work of the Aquabox organisation.

Local Rotarians will be supporting other local organisations in their work over August, in particular organising and running the car parking at the Warkworth Show on 16<sup>th</sup> August. In addition to managing the car parking, members will also have a Rotary stand highlighting the work of the organisation as well as selling wildflower plants to raise funds for local charitable causes.

Rotarians will be busy again on the August bank holiday weekend at the Red Row vintage club rally at Druridge Bay Country Park, running a Rotary fund-raising stand as well as assisting with the marshalling and clear up at the end of the show.

At the end of the month Rotarians are looking forward to a Hog Roast summer event hosted by Rotarians Mike and Rachael Wyllie at Shortridge Hall.

Coming soon is 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.



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**EXHIBITION and SALE of ARTWORK  
ACKLINGTON ART GROUP  
SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025,  
10am to 4pm  
ACKLINGTON VILLAGE HALL  
FREE ENTRY**



**Featuring portraits by Terry Sheldrake  
Refreshments - Homemade Bakes and Cakes  
Raffle - Proceeds to HospiceCare North  
Northumberland  
Cash and card payments accepted**

# 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.

## The Warkworth Ornithophile 3.

### **Kids Summer Holidays Challenge-**

- Download the Merlin bird app, which is free!
- Take a walk using the App- how many birds can the app spot during the walk?
- Of the ones you find, draw or paint your favourite and send to the Pelican for a chance to feature in next month's feature! (please include your name and age)

#### The Warkworth Ornithophile no.3

This month's bird of the month is the **swift**.



Next month's page is open to any young ornithophiles who wish to share their pictures.

#### 8 facts about the swift

- **Speed**- can fly up to 111km/h or 69MPH
- **Habitat** -spend 10 months continuously air-bourn- sleep, eat, drink and mate on the wing
- **Social** -screaming parties in the air in the summer months
- **Diet** -Insectivorous diet – flying insects and spiders
- **Nest** – in buildings, cliffs, old chimneys- glue nest materials together with saliva.
- **Extremely short legs**- only used for clinging on to vertical surfaces.
- **Migratory**- Fly from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe to mate. 14,000 miles every year - lifetime 2 million miles.
- **Related to** - hummingbirds not Swallows & Martins.

*Text and drawing by Becky McMurray*

# Fatal Attraction

## Artificial lights are not good for insects

As Autumn approaches and the nights get darker much earlier, it is tempting to string up fairy lights or use other light sources around your house and garden. Before you do so, please be aware that light pollution is one of the main causes of insect decline. Light pollution from artificial lights at night (ALAN), has significant negative impacts on insect populations. It disrupts their behaviour, movement, predation, and ability to reproduce. Please do not use ALAN if you don't need to. Avoid outside bright lights, strings of lights and uplifter lights. As well as harming insects and other wildlife, they can also irritate your neighbours and those around you wanting a good night's sleep. Too much light pollution can constitute a '**statutory nuisance**' if it significantly interferes with the way someone uses and enjoys their property.



# Warkworth in Bloom



It's been a busy summer for the Bloomers.

As the sun has shone we've been weeding and cutting back around the village each week. We had a very

productive morning in The Stanners, with six volunteers generating twelve bags of green waste.

The gardening will continue well into autumn and if the weather is ok, early winter. We can always use some extra help. Contact [jackie.galilee@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.galilee@gmail.com) or leave a message at The Greenhouse.

## St. Lawrence Church, Warkworth

# 100+ Club

### July Draw

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize £50: No. 68 Lucy Jackson**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £30: No. 14 Vicky Sowerby**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £15: No. 164 Anna Morrison**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10: No. 45 Alice Park**

If you have any queries, please contact Dave Lees  
[leesdavid53@gmail.com](mailto:leesdavid53@gmail.com)

# WARKWORTH FILM CLUB

## **Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> – Maria**

A biographical, psychological drama starring Angelina Jolie as opera singer Maria Callas, following the seven days before her death in Paris in 1977, as she reflects on her life and career. Jolie delivers an impressive performance as Callas as she succumbs to illness and loneliness. Maria broods over her medication and neglects to eat, and she is impossibly difficult with the servants, housekeeper Bruna (Alba Rohrwacher) and valet Ferruccio (Pierfrancesco Favino), who are the witnesses to her decline – and she is beginning to question the idea that she will ever sing again. The story is interspersed with hallucinatory flashbacks to the days of her celebrity pomp, but also further back to her childhood in Greece. (2024 cert 12, 2h 3').

## **Saturday October 4th – Big Night**

(with British Food Fortnight tasting plates)

In celebration of British Food Fortnight and all things foodie, we are screening comedy drama Big Night starring Stanley Tucci. Set in the 1950s on the Jersey Shore, the film follows two Italian immigrant brothers as they host an evening of free food at their restaurant to help their business survive. The chef, Primo is a perfectionist who wants to prepare real Italian food for a less than discerning public, while his brother Secundo manages the restaurant. Their rival runs a busy Italian restaurant that compromises its Italian dishes to meet the public half way.

The love interest for Primo (Allison Janney) and Secundo (Isabella Rossellini and Minnie Driver) root the film firmly in the love of friendship, food and celebration. (1996, cert 15, 1h 45').

**TASTING PLATES** of delicious local cheese, bread and dipping oils will be available at £5 per plate. These were extremely popular last year – if you could email to express your interest so we can guess numbers that would be great, although you don't need to order in advance, we'll make sure there's plenty for everyone who'd like some.



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*

# ACKLINGTON HISTORY SLOT

## The Victorian Blacksmith

Readers may recall that I wrote an article for the June edition of the Pelican all about the famous Acklington Victorian blacksmith Ralph Potts (know as Black Ralph). I am pleased to say that Phil Stuckey - songwriter and guitarist/vocalist for the contemporary folk band 'Wild Cloudberry' - has penned a poem inspired by Black Ralph's story which, hopefully, will become a new song for the band to perform. I, for one, can't wait to hear it. Meanwhile, here is Phil's poem:

### **Black Ralph**

In the quiet of the village,  
embers dance in pure delight  
As a hammer falls upon the steel  
and echoes day or night.  
Each blow a dedication  
to the God of holy name  
With skill and strength and character,  
forged within the flame.

#### *Chorus:*

**Oh, the sparks rise like fireflies, in the twilight's gentle glow,  
With every strike, a memory, of the road he'd come to know.  
Through the rhythm of creation, in the shadows' warm embrace,  
The blacksmith sings a history, now etched upon his face.**

A man of reputation, good-standing forged in trust,  
A prayer leaps up to heaven through the anvil's fragrant dust.  
Each blow is now a story, just waiting to be told,  
And in the forge of love and life, his legacy unfolds.

A man of greater calling, as doctor, dentist, vet,  
He went where he was needed, the course of life now set.  
And those who came to know him best, with fear and respect,  
Would speak of dedication to the village he'd protect.

In the silence of the evening, when the world begins to sigh,  
Ralph listens to the whispers of the fields and starlit sky.  
Black hair and beard are singed, and his heart is still aglow  
With a passion for his purpose in life's twisting ebb and flow.

So let the tale be told anew, from echoes of the past,  
Black of mane but true of heart, this man could ever last.  
For the heart of every village beats with people such as he  
In the rhythm of existence, in the hearts of you and me.



THANKS  
PHIL

Nice one!

John Davison  
jdavison26@btinternet.com



# Warkworth History Society

Warkworth History Society new programme commences on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm in Warkworth War Memorial Hall.

Our first lecture of the coming season is by playwright Ed Waugh, a champion of working-class histories, he has helped bring to the stage forgotten and entertaining stories of what he describes as “ordinary people doing extraordinary things”, from WWI female footballers and a miner-turned-champion rower, to a bard of Tyneside.

His talk will be on his latest play, *The Cramlington Train Wreckers*, which spotlights the true story of striking miners who ‘accidentally’ derailed the Flying Scotsman during the country’s national strike, almost a century ago.



Come along and listen

to Ed share with us this local history about the infamous derailment which happened on 10th May 1926, seven days into the UK General Strike, when striking miners uncoupled a rail on the mainline Edinburgh to London railway with potentially catastrophic results.

What was the intentions of these Northumberland miners? Was it a desperate act of revolutionary terrorism or an act of protest that went wrong? 281 passengers were aboard the train at the time of the derailment; how many were killed or injured? Was the Flying Scotsman train severely damaged? How did the authorities respond to this incident? Where the perpetrators tracked down and caught and if so, what was their fate?

Ed has extensively researched this long-forgotten incident in the course of writing his play and will reveal more about this fascinating incident and the individuals involved in it. The session will be slightly longer than our normal lectures and will include some video clips recording the accounts of some of the protagonists involved in the incident. Come along and learn more.

# SPRING BULB SALE

**20<sup>th</sup> September 10.00 – 12.30**

**At Acklington Village Hall**

Spring bulbs will be available for your Autumn planting.

Plus a selection of indoor and outdoor plants.



**There will be refreshments available provided by the Acklington Community Team.**

**St John the Divine, Acklington**

# **Harvest Celebration**

***with songs & music***

**Sunday 5 October  
at 11am**

**Followed by  
Harvest Lunch 12 noon  
Acklington Village Hall**

**Donations of fruit, vegetables & flowers  
to help decorate the Church.**

**Dried and tinned goods.**

**Please bring to the church anytime  
Friday 3rd or Saturday 4th.**

**All produce and goods will be donated  
to Amble Food Bank.**



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## £300 BOOST FOR HOSPICE CARE SHOP

North Northumberland HospiceCare's shop in Amble has been presented with a £300 cheque by a local acting group.

The donation comes from the proceeds of two nights' takings at Far Horizon Voices "Going Overboard" play staged at Warkworth Memorial Hall.

Dave Stockwin's funny and poignant production was well received by more than a hundred people who attended on July 31 and August 1.

Dave said: " We are delighted to make the donation. We place great value on the activities of HospiceCare which works tirelessly to serve local people."

The charity provides expert nursing care and support to adults living with life-limiting illness: high quality end-of-life palliative care to people in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes is a major feature of its work.

As well as Amble, North Northumberland HospiceCare has fund-raising shops in Berwick and Wooler.

For further information e-mail: [enquiries@hospicecare-nn.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hospicecare-nn.org.uk)



From left: Ian Mackenzie and Audrey Jones (HospiceCare shop volunteers); Colin Heathcote and Dave Stockwin (Far Horizon Voices).

## Warkworth Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall music concerts are going well with the last three being sell-out events. Our next concert is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October when we are delighted to have a string quartet with **Bradley**

**Creswick** - first violin and leader of the Royal Northern Sinfonia and subsequently leader of the London Philharmonia. Bradley has appeared in the great concert halls of the world including the Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall, la Scala Milan and has played with or accompanied the greatest classical musicians of the last 40 years including Yehudi Menuhin, Andre Previn and Pavarotti.

There will be concerts featuring Otway and Barret on the 25<sup>th</sup> September and Heidi Talbot on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. *A link to information about these is available on our web site, but they are not Hall run events and we can't provide further information or tickets.*

*Our music and song afternoons continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 2pm to 4pm. All welcome to sing, play or just listen. Entrance £2 includes free coffee/tea.*

**New Notice Board:** The Hall's Notice board on Castle Street is looking a bit tired and isn't really large enough for our needs. If the Hall buys the materials, is there a volunteer with woodworking ability willing to make a new board? Due to its location it will have to be custom made.

**PA equipment:** A recent donation of a set of microphones means we now have a complete PA set up. Unfortunately we do not have a sound engineer. Could this equipment be useful for young groups wanting to try out or practice on such equipment? We'd be interested to hear your suggestions.

Further information about the music events is on our web site ( [wwwmh.uk](http://wwwmh.uk) ) or for any of the above, except Otway/Barret and Heidi Talbot concerts, you can contact Peter Burnham Email: [peter.burnham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.burnham@gmail.com) , Tel 01665 711388.

The Memorial 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.



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3/26

**Northern Soul comes to Acklington Village Hall**  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 7 till late**



Tickets £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
Cash bar and Dou\_h&Co pizza van

***In aid of St John the Divine, Acklington***

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CAKE  
MORNING**



**ACKLINGTON VILLAGE HALL  
Saturday 18th October  
10.30am to 12 noon**

**Raffle + Cakes + Home Baking**



**Juvenile Spotted Fly Catcher fattening up, getting ready to migrate  
- photo by Jon Bowen**



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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.

ST JOHN THE  
DIVINE  
ACKLINGTON



**St John the Divine, Acklington**

## **JUNE DRAW WINNERS**

<b>1st</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Andrea Taylor</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>£10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Cathy Spruce</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>£5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Bill Watt</b>



### **WARKWORTH CRICKET CLUB CAFÉ & BAR**

Our (well behaved) Dog (& owners) Friendly Café  
Will Re-Open

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays each week  
10.00 – 16.00**



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

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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

## Benefice Walk Report

Saturday 2nd August dawned bright and dry which was very encouraging to those who joined the community walk from St Lawrence to Alnmouth. Pre-walk refreshments in St Lawrence were much appreciated, and following a blessing from Revd Helen we set out for an inland route, up Station Road and across the fields to Buston Barns. Various conversation about potato growing and potato crisps ensued! Gaining a little height as we came up to High Buston, we had glorious views out over the dunes and sparkling sea, and stopped for a while



simply to enjoy our surroundings. The path took us across to Wooden Farm from where we crossed back over the railway line, and across the A1067 to join the cycle route to Hipsburn. Once over the bridge at Alnmouth we swopped the road into the village for the enjoyable Lover's Lane along the estuary, giving us an chance to take in both the interesting buildings and the shore life along the way.

St John's Church, our destination, is the third church built in Alnmouth, the original two having been on Church Hill (which is now the other side of the river). Amongst the windows there are a set of fine memorial windows by Prof L Evetts, of Newcastle (c 1972) depicting several of the northern Saints. Following our closing prayer we concluded our time together with a picnic on the church green, and each found their own way home. For three of us, following a visit to the Alnmouth Friary gardens for a Hospice Care tea, that involved a wonderfully contrasting walk back to Warkworth along the coast path and the beach.

Days such as this are a great reminder both of our good fortune in living in such a beautiful place, and of taking the opportunity to enjoy it in the company of others. Joined as we were by two or three from other parishes and from our wider community, various new connections were made. Thanks to all who joined in any way.

Gilly Maude

## WARKWORTH UKRAINE SUPPORT GROUP

### What of Ukraine?

Like many over the weekend 15- 17th of August I have been following, and hoping to make sense of the meeting in Alaska between presidents Trump and Putin over the future of Ukraine.

By the time you read this we will undoubtedly know more and be more aware of the effects that these so called negotiations will have on our local Ukrainian guests and their friends and colleagues across the free world who have sought sanctuary as well as those still at home in Ukraine ( which hopefully will remain Ukraine).

We applaud the unity across Europe with Ukraine and hope that the efforts of our European leaders, which take place after writing this, will have some substantial affect upon the outcomes of further talks which must include Ukraine.

The helplessness for us is that we can have little effect on any peace agreement ( I will not use the word “deal”) whilst it is being conducted by people with particular agendas and who hold a Veto against any decision they dislike at the UN Security Council.

### So what can we do?

Our Ukrainian guests are in greater need now for support. We have with NCOS asked for meetings with our local MPs to find ways in which the future of our guest can be assured. We need to inform policy related to safe return if peace is agreed. But the potential of land grabs in Ukraine means that return may be to an area now controlled by the aggressor. We need the government to look at reasons for asylum where needed and even potential citizenship.

What about you? If you know or are aware of local guests, now is the time to offer friendship and support for them in such uncertain times. To ensure a peaceful environment without any problems that we know occur elsewhere in the country. Our friends from Ukraine need to feel especially safe at this time.

John Hobrough - chair of local support group

## Warkworth British Food Fortnight

### 26 September – 12 October

**'Grow Your Own'** event in the Warkworth Memorial Hall Saturday 4th October and events throughout the fortnight.

Events are planned in Warkworth to celebrate British Food Fortnight. There will be an event on a 'grow your own' theme in the memorial hall – refreshments, information, possible allotment visits (weather permitting). If you have experience of growing fruit or veg – in a garden, allotment or even in pots that you'd be willing to share, please get in touch.

Plus the usual events around the village from local businesses, the church, local societies. All the details in the September Pelican. Let us know if you want to organise an event.

Contact Sue Brown [suecbrownscb@gmail.com](mailto:suecbrownscb@gmail.com)

Needed:  
**HEDGEHOG CARERS**

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

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[hog.volunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:hog.volunteers@hotmail.com)

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06 / 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.



Our annual exhibition will be on Sunday 28 September in Acklington village hall.

This month's painting is Bluebell Wood a watercolour Christine Lewsey.

# Do you enjoy singing?



We are a small singing group based in Warkworth, and rehearse for an hour each week on a Wednesday from 2-3pm at St Lawrence church Warkworth.

We sing a varied range of pieces including anthems, folk songs, pop songs and madrigals.

We would welcome some additional singers - you need to read music as we sing in four parts, but there is lots of help given and laughs along the way.

If you would like to give us a try please contact:  
**JULIE WILSON** at the **WARKWORTH SINGERS**

[j.wilson400@btinternet.com](mailto:j.wilson400@btinternet.com)



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*Mobile: 07543 190758*

*davidjorange@btinternet.com*

12/25

# THE DRY WATER ARTS Amble Repair Café

## RETURNS

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

2.30pm to 4.30pm

**After great success  
The Repair Café is here to stay!**

### JOIN THE REPAIR REVOLUTION!

Don't throw it away, give it a second life,  
bring your broken items along and  
we will see if we can mend them!

**Repairs are done free of charge,  
but donations to cover expenses  
are gratefully received!**

We will do our best to repair  
Your broken items,  
but can offer no guarantees.  
**Only one item per person please**

### NEW DATES

SATURDAY  
27<sup>th</sup> September  
22<sup>nd</sup> November  
31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026  
28<sup>th</sup> March  
16<sup>th</sup> May  
18<sup>th</sup> July

Our volunteer  
repairer's cover:  
Sewing, darning, toys,  
small electrical appliances,  
sharpening, ceramics and  
small items of furniture.

Enjoy Tea and Cake while  
you wait for your repair

*Dry Water*  
ARTS CENTRE

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AMBLE NE65 0FG



# Luis Verde Trio in Concert

Acklington Village Hall  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm



Spanish saxophonist and composer, Luis Verde, brings yet more excellent live music to this corner of Northumberland.

Luis is one of the most remarkable and distinctive contemporary jazz musicians of his generation in Spain; his potent jazz improvisation fuses with bold, playful and surprising composition.

Tickets £12/£5 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
Drinks available

## Warkworth Food Conversation

### Warkworth Cricket Club - 8th October 2025

**Bar opens 7pm**

**Presentations and discussion from 7.30pm**

Join us for the Warkworth Food Conversation – An evening of discussion, ideas, and action on how our local food system can tackle the climate, nature, and health crisis in Northumberland and beyond.

We have a Climate, Nature and Health crisis in the UK. The food system plays a big part in all three.

- Unhealthy food and food poverty impact the NHS
- Local Farmers are suffering with the impact of climate change. They need support to produce food in a nature friendly way
- We have a Northumberland Food Strategy and a National Food Strategy, but can they make the difference we need?

Join us to explore the issues and share ideas about what can be done locally.

All welcome – whether you want to find out more or want to take action

**Part of British Food Fortnight 26 Sept – 12 Oct**

**Two weeks of celebration of local and British food producers**

Participating venues this year: Abbeyfield House, The Hermitage Inn, Bertram's, St Lawrence Church, Film Night at Memorial Hall.

Themed menus, quiz nights, film, pie day, messy play and harvest lunch.

**Follow Warkworth British Food Fortnight on Facebook for events and updates**

## Events diary

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 3.30pm St Lawrence Church Harvest High Tea with locally sourced food and music. No booking required

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 12.30 – 2pm, Abbeyfield House, Pie Day – join us for a coffee and a slice of sweet or savoury pie.

Thursday 2 October, 8pm for 8.30, Hermitage Inn, Quiz Night with food themed rounds

Friday 3 October 7pm for 7.30pm Bertram's, A taste of the local land (game tasting) five course meal

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm (film starts 7.30), Film Night: Big Night staring Stanley Tucci. With option to purchase tasting plates.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 4pm – 5.30pm, St Lawrence Church Messy Play, Food themed fun

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm, Cricket Club, Warkworth Food Conversation.

Friday 10 October 7pm for 7.30pm Bertram's Food from the Sea five course menu.

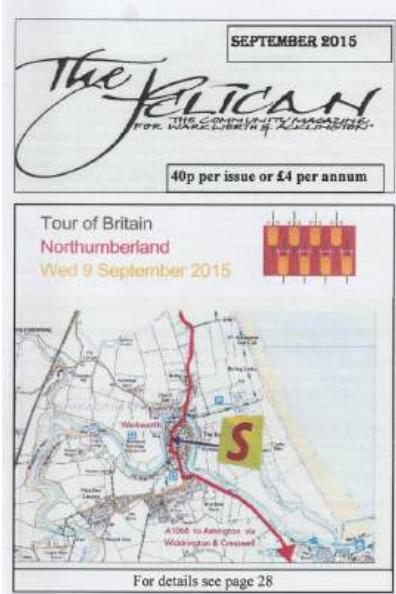
## FROM THE PELICAN ARCHIVES

### SEPTEMBER 2015

The parish Vicar was Revd. Michael Dent and The Pelican was a bumper issue of 52 pages which for the first time was in full colour, edited by David Charnock and Barbara King. The cover featured the Tour of Britain cycle race route which passed through Warkworth with a sprint section through the village and up the Castle Street hill.

The vicar's letter announced that Christine Shield had been ordained 'Reverend' and had become the new curate in the Benefice of Warkworth and Acklington.

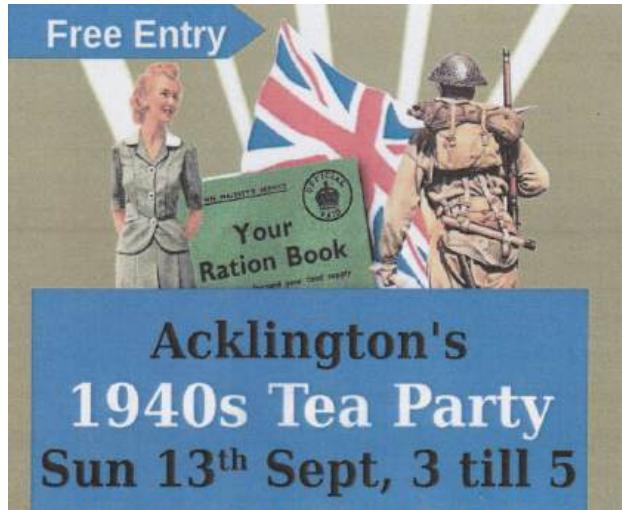
On the social side, Warkworth hosted a coffee morning at St. Lawrence's Church, a Ceilidh Night with the "Reel Northumbria Ceilidh Band" at the Memorial Hall and Werca's Folk celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at St. Lawrence's Church. Meanwhile in Acklington the Art group hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning, there was a 'Beetle Drive' in aid of St. John the Divine Parish Church and a Curry and Quiz evening at the village hall.



On the community front, the Two Castles Housing Association and Esh had just completed the development at St. Oswalds Close and West Close. As a thank you to the community they presented a cheque

of £500 to Warkworth Cricket Club which was used to purchase of new kit for the Juniors team.

Acklington  
commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the Battle  
of Britain with a 1940s  
Tea Party featuring film,  
fashion, food, music and  
memorabilia from the  
period.



Lesbury commemorated  
the 100th anniversary of  
the awarding of the

Victoria Cross to Daniel Laidlaw, 'the Piper of Loos' in the First World War.  
This included a parade featuring a 30 strong pipe and drum band and local  
military and cadet units.

Acklington also featured as a part of a commemorative tour of Britain in aid of  
the RAF Benevolent Fund by Elizabeth Halls.



Elizabeth was  
visiting the 60  
airfields where her  
father had served  
driving "Chattie" a  
1935 Singer Le  
Mans sports car  
similar to the one  
her father owned.

**Acklington  
on itinerary  
for charity mission**

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11/25



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06/25

## WHAT'S ON IN 2025

### **September**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm Warkworth Memorial Hall: W.I. Meeting- Oswin Project  
6<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Memorial Hall: Film Club- Maria (p.23)  
7<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm St. Lawrences Church: Messy Church (p.5)  
12<sup>th</sup> 11-12.00 Acklington Village Hall: Pop Up Café (p.13)  
12<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Acklington Village Hall: The Hot Tap Splutters (p.14)  
20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Acklington Village Hall: Spring Bulb Sale (p.26)  
26<sup>th</sup> TBA Various venues: Great British Food Fortnight (p.37)  
27<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Dry Water Arts: Amble Repair Café (p.40)  
28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Acklington Village Hall: Art Group Exhibition (p.19)  
28<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm St. Lawrence: Harvest Tea (p.7)

### **October**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 12.30pm Abbeyfield House: Pie Day part of Great British Food Fortnight (p.43)  
2<sup>nd</sup> 8.00pm Hermitage Inn: Quiz Night & Food Themed rounds part of Great British Food Fortnight (p.43)  
3rd 7.00pm Bertrams: A Taste of Local Land Day (Game Tasting) part of Great British Food Fortnight (p.43)  
4<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Warkworth Memorial Hall: Film Club- Big Night (p.23)  
4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Warkworth Cricket Club: Coffee & Cake for Macmillan Cancer Support (p.11)  
5<sup>th</sup> 10.00am St. John the Divine: Harvest Celebration (p.27)  
5<sup>th</sup> 4pm St Lawrence Church: Messy Church (p.5)  
6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Warkworth Memorial Hall: History Society - Ed Waugh the Cramlington Train Wreckers (p.25)  
8<sup>th</sup> 7pm Warkworth Cricket Club ; Food Conversation Day part of Great British Food Fortnight (p.43)  
10<sup>th</sup> 11-12am Acklington Village Hall: Pop Up Café  
10<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Bertram's: Food from the Sea, 5 course meal, part of Great British Food Fortnight (p.43)  
16<sup>th</sup> TBA Pilgrimage to Newcastle Cathedral  
17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Acklington Village Hall: Luis Verde Trio Concert (p.41)  
18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Acklington Village Hall: Coffee & Cake for St. John's  
18<sup>th</sup> 7pm Acklington Village Hall: The Odels Northern Soul (p.31)  
25<sup>th</sup> 10am Warkworth Memorial Hall: Repair Café Discussion (p11)

### **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 enquires to Tel: 07709363799

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

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

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**The next publication is for October 2025**

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

**NOON ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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)**

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