

The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 84 Dec 2013/Jan 2014

Inside...

Jobs boost

New multi million pound investment brings new jobs. See page 5

Plans for new housing

Up to 740 homes could be built in Amble according to a new plan. See page 4

Links bus service

A map and a timetable for you to cut out and keep. Pages 21 and 22

Superfast broadband

Is the waiting now all over? See page 4

Pro skaters visit park

Scooters, skaters, bikers fly. Why two skateboard pros visited Amble. See back page

Parade lights up Christmas by the sea

Thousands of people turned out to see Amble's Christmas lights switch-on and torchlight procession this year.

Organisers were delighted at the turnout and described the procession as the biggest ever.

"This was possibly the best one yet. It was lovely to see so many people taking part in the procession. We had more floats than ever and the lanterns were magical," said Julia Aston of Amble Development Trust.

The lantern making workshops were once again very well attended, with families joining together to create their own Christmas by the sea themed lanterns.

(More photos on page 7)



David Gerrard and daughter Chloe with their lanterns at the torchlight procession

Conservation Zones will adversely affect us, say fishermen

The confirmation by the Government of 27 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) has been met with joy from environmentalists but concern from local fishermen.

Three of the MCZs are in the North Sea off Northumberland - Aln Estuary, Rock Unique and Swallow Sands.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust has welcomed the decision, and that the Government has confirmed that there will be further consultation on an area from Coquet to St Mary's Island.

Steve Lowe, Head of Conservation at Northumberland Wildlife Trust said: "What great news for the wildlife living in the North Sea and elsewhere in the UK. I really welcome the designation of the 27 Marine Conservation Zones. This is the first active step in what I believe to be the most important action Government can take to address the shocking state of nature at sea.

"Marine protection is an issue which matters to anyone who has ever spent happy afternoons exploring rockpools or been enchanted by chance encounters with dolphins, whales or one of the many other captivating species we enjoy in our waters."

But the news has worried local fishermen who are concerned that the decision will not have the positive impact the government believes.

Amble Fishermen's Association secretary, Michael Bould, told *The Ambler*: "We are not opposed to Marine Conservation Zones per se, but they haven't demonstrated the clear necessity for them in this region.

One of these designated offshore zones is massive, at about 4000 sq km, consisting almost entirely of sand and mud. Altogether the zones off the Northumberland coast cover an area greater than the actual county.

"These offshore zones will adversely affect the summer whitefish activities of larger boats which fish out of Amble. If they designate the zone from the Coquet to St Mary's it will be a disgrace, as we already have a Special Area of Conservation from just north of Amble all the way past the border with Scotland, in which all trawling activity has been banned, and this would make the entire Northumberland coast a Marine Protected Area.

"People fish responsibly around here, and this is all too heavy handed."

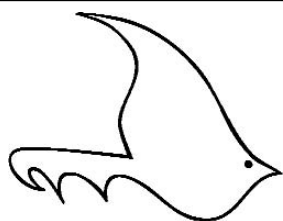
Steve Lowe believes support for the conservation zones is justified.

"There is huge public support for greater protection of our seas using Marine Protected Areas. They are one of the best tools to protect marine wildlife effectively and restore our seas to their full potential, following decades of neglect and decline."

But local fishermen feel they are the endangered species.

"It'll be another reduction in the ability of local fishing communities to make a living" said Michael Bould. "As well as conserving the marine environment NIFCA (Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority) is supposed to protect the viable and sustainable inshore fishing industry, but they are failing to do that. This could well put the small inshore fleet out of business. NIFCA seems more worried about the threat of legal challenge from environmental NGOs than about preserving a vibrant inshore fishing fleet.

NIFCA were asked to comment on the MCZ announcement, but had not replied at time of going to print. We will post any reply on our website.



The Ambler

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Printed on paper from
sustainable forestry in the UK

Season's greetings

Welcome to a bumper edition of *The Ambler*, full to the stocking tops with remembering times past, documenting times present and heralding events yet to come.

This year's Remembrance Day was again very well attended (p25 and p9). The Town Council have secured a grant for a WW1 community project and are asking for your family memories - see page 8, 24. We also have a lovely poem of 'Aad Radcliffe' on page 17.

Is Amble the home of female entrepreneurs? Noticing how many new businesses are currently opening (see below) we were struck by how many women are involved in opening and running the new shops in the town. Girl Power in the Friendliest Port!!

Plans for Amble by the County Council includes future housing and employment (see page 4). Druridge Bay Country Park has plans to encourage more visitors (17) and Northumberland Wildlife Trust is pleased to announce expansion plans for Hauxley Nature Reserve (p10). More controversial perhaps are the Marine Conservation Zones - cheered by environmentalists, but causing concern to local fishermen (front page). Welcome news is the opening of The Old Storehouse bar and restaurant (formerly the Granary) with the provision of 30 new jobs.

The Ambler team wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Who's The Man?

Gillian Stewart, owner of Raggy Dolls boutique in Amble and Seahouses is a big fan of Amble. So much so that she has opened a second shop on Queen St, selling ex chainstore and branded clothing for men. "Amble is a busy little place again and I think there's a desperate need for a menswear shop" said Gillian. "Compared to a lot of places, locals do support the high street. We've been here for 11 years, I think Amble is a thriving little community again."

Wor Lizzy's Yunique Emporium

A very unique business has just opened its doors, hoping to interest a wide range of customers. Lesley Wilkinson, Garry Evans and Deborah Jameson have combined forces and have opened a new shop in Amble, on the corner of Newburgh St and Ladbroke St.

The shop is called "Wor Lizzy's Yunique Emporium" and sells handcrafted jewellery, shabby chic furniture and cupcakes.

Lesley Wilkinson had been deputy manager in the nearby Harbour Co-op before leaving due to illness, decided to turn a hobby into a business. "I started making jewellery as therapy and for something to do," she said. "After a while, everyone was wanting what I made, so I decided to go into business selling it. I'm also going to be having children's jewellery making sessions and I can do parties for them too."

Also hoping to tickle your fancy in the Emporium are freshly made cupcakes from Deborah Jameson. "I make celebration cakes to order, cupcakes every day and I'll also be selling



cake decorations" she said. Deborah makes her cakes at a unit in Pegswood.

Originally from Somerset, Garry Evans cites his sister as an influence in sparking his interest in antique furniture. "My sister's house is full of shabby chic and antique furniture and accessories. It was she who originally suggested I get involved in selling it."

"There are three separate interests all under one roof" said Garry, "But we've all come together to produce a unique business."

Anna Williams

R & S Hens

Rebecca and Sean Turnbull moved into a farm house and introduced their three children to chickens and ducks to interest them in wildlife. They became so interested and knowledgeable themselves that they decided to open a shop in Wellwood Street, selling supplies and equipment for the care and breeding of poultry and waterfowl. They have called it "R. & S. Hens". Their interest didn't stop there, however. They are also breeding, and selling, rare species such as "Frizzle Sultan" and "Pekin" as well as their eggs. You can contact Rebecca on 07446932177. Their website is: www.randshens.webs.com

Cath Teasdale

Lifestyle clothing

Another clothing entrepreneur has branched out into Amble's Queen Street. Ruth Lightburn from Warkworth is selling ladies clothing, handbags and toys. Ruth already has shops around the country, in

Dundee, Leyland and Atherstone near Birmingham. "I was wanting to move back to the north east" said Ruth, "The opportunity came up and so I can now have my office and a shop here." The shop will sell a range from ladieswear brand Klass as well as comfort waist and shorter leg trousers.



Thrive^{at} 5

Zecca introduces its innovative "Thrive at 5" set menu to highlight the increase in value the customer could have if the UK was to follow the majority of Europe and reduce the government VAT rate to 5% instead of the current 20% the customer pays in tax for every meal and drink they purchase in local restaurants, pubs and hotels.

3 courses of delicious freshly prepared food for £7

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To Start

Chefs Soup of the day
Crispy Potato Skins with garlic mayonnaise

Mains

Wood-fired pizza
Classic Margarita
Pepperoni with Fresh Chilli
Mediterranean Vegetable with goats cheese

Pasta

Tagliatelle Carbonara
Spaghetti Bolognese
Chilli and Tomato Penne

Chef's special of the day
please ask for details.

Dessert

Morwick Dairy Ice-Cream
Tea or Coffee

Please note this offer is only served between 4pm to 7pm Monday to Friday, and 12noon to 2pm Saturday and Sunday.

Normal Happy Hour menu still available



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County Council's draft plans for Amble

The county council has presented an exhibition of plans for homes, employment and green belts. This was on display upstairs in Fourways 2. It was open to the public, who were invited to examine the plans and put forward their views.

This is part of an ongoing discussion. There have been two previous exhibitions, when the county council listened to residents. Based on the public's comments, the council has made up a list of their preferences, and then opened up the discussion again, based on those preferences.

The most important aspect is housing. For the next twenty years that the plan covers, there will probably be just over 24,000 new dwellings for the county. In Amble 740 new houses are planned. Where would they be? Land opposite the industrial site and as far as the roundabout would see building in the next five years. During six to ten years,

potential sites are between the West Cemetery and Gloster Hill, a small area south of Dandsfield Square, the plot between the end of Ivy Street and Links Road, and the area on Braid Hill, earmarked by Tesco. In the next eleven to fifteen years, the planned area is between Coquet Street and the marina.

As for industry, unfortunately, as we know, there is adequate land available on the industrial estate. All that the council can do is provide the space for businesses to set up. At least we have an advantage over other places. We do not need to use green field sites.

Northumberland already has quite a large area of green belt, checking the merging into each

Northumberland Local Plan
Core Strategy : Housing, Employment and Green Belt
Preferred Options Consultation (October 2013 — January 2014)

Amble
Key centre for the north of the Delivery Area, and an important location for the fishing and tourism industries.

Key Facts

- 740 new dwellings over the plan period, equating to 37 per year on average;
- A new area of housing will be needed to the south of the town;
- Existing 10.7ha supply of employment land sufficient to meet need, to be used for a mix of employment uses.

Ashington

Plans can be seen online until January 2nd 2014. To read online and make a comment: <http://northumberland.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning>
E-mail: Planning.Strategy@northumberland.gov.uk

other of towns and villages. The nearest proposed green belt area to us is around Morpeth, including Hebron, Longhirst, Pegswood, Hepscott, Stannington and Mitford.

Council officers available to answer questions and discuss points with the public were kept busy by visitors.

Norma Hinson

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a very Happy Christmas
and a prosperous
New Year

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Superfast Amble is go!

Super-fast broadband has arrived in Amble, BT has announced. More than 2000 homes and businesses now have access to the high-speed technology – and this figure will increase to around 3,250 as engineers complete the local upgrade in the weeks ahead.

You may have noticed the work going on around the town to install new street cabinets and lay the fibre optic cables connecting them to the BT exchange.

Most properties in Amble will be able to get fibre broadband by the end of this year. There are a few that are not economic for BT alone to upgrade, and these will be covered during 2014 in the partnership between BT and Northumberland County Council.

Fibre broadband at home means everyone in the family can do their own thing online, all at the same time, whether it's downloading music in minutes or watching catch-up TV; downloading HD or 3D movies in the few minutes it takes to make popcorn; or posting photos and videos to social networking sites in seconds.

The benefits are also considerable for businesses, which can do much more in far less time. Firms can speed up file and data transfers, collaborate with colleagues and customers on conference or video calls or swap their hardware and expensive software licenses for files, processing power and software from cloud computing. People can work as effectively from home as they would in an office.

The BT network is open to all service providers, so businesses and residents in Amble can order fibre broadband deals from the internet provider of their choice at a price that suits.

It's important to understand that your connection won't be upgraded automatically as you'll need an engineer's visit to connect you to the high speed service.

Contact your service provider or see the full choice on offer to homes and businesses at www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/buy-it-now.

New bar and restaurant opens, creating much needed jobs



New staff at The Old Storehouse. Front l-r: Complex Manager Tyrone Fitzgerald, Assistant Restaurant Manager Donna Fitzgerald, Bar Manager James Fitzgerald, Restaurant Manager Elouise Lashley

The Friendliest Port now has another exciting restaurant to tempt our tastebuds. The former Granary, now lavishly redesigned and filled to the brim with new investment and new ideas, has renamed itself The Old Storehouse, and it opened at the end of November.

Park Leisure, owners of Amble Links Coastal Retreat and Holiday Park, has invested in the region of £2m developing the new bar and restaurant, and has created a minimum of 30 jobs.

The 18th century former grain store has been refurbished, maintaining the character and original features, some of which are more than 200 years old. It includes a dog friendly pub area, and a restaurant, offering

diners an a la carte experience.

The Old Storehouse will be open seven days a week from 12 noon until midnight.

Jeremy Reuben, Leisure General Manager, said, "We already employ more than 25 staff across Amble Links and The Granary Leisure, but the opening of the Old Storehouse will create at

least another 30 full time jobs. This is good news in an area crying out for new employment."

Passionate new head chef

A large proportion of the investment is being spent on creating a state of the art kitchen, with their newly-appointed Head Chef, Adian Montague in charge. Some of the dishes he has created for the Restaurant menu include Amble Landed Pan Seared Scallops, Sous Vide Loin of Northumbrian Coastal Lamb and Lobster Tail. The bar will offer local food at its best, such as Amble Links Sausage and Mash, Storehouse Salad and Beer Battered Fish Goujons.

Adian is a confident, highly skilled Chef, with a passion for food. He moves to Northumberland from Birmingham. He began his career as a pastry chef with The Malmaison Hotel Group working his way up to Sous Chef. His first Head Chef position was at the Hatton Arms in Warwickshire. His two Sous Chefs are skilled local chefs and some younger members have been recruited to the team whom Adian is looking forward to training, and helping them onto the career ladder.

Adian said: "For me as a chef, this really is such an exciting part of the UK to work in. You can almost see the produce you are using - local catch straight from the harbour at Amble and meat from the nearby farms.



Shop local: support our great local businesses

Lawrence's****	Sells everything and will stop at nothing to find what you want...	The Old Boat House	Excellent food - can't get any more local than the fishing boats, lovely atmosphere ...value for money...
Premier Design & Print**	Michael Jones is a superb designer and his prices cannot be beaten.	Dave Gray boat trips (Puffin Cruises)	Running boat trips from the harbour for a long time... taken hundreds of visitors out on his boats...
House of Usher	Friendly atmosphere.. shop immaculate and set out to a very high standard.	Jaspers	I love to have my lunch there, and all the staff are friendly.
Roland's Butchers	Pleasant staff. Very good meat and pastries.	Dial Dave	Hard working, reliable, good standard of workmanship.
Artique at the Marina	Smartened up the entrance into Amble. A welcome outlet for local artists and craftspeople.	Coquet Tea Rooms	Always take family and friends there... Always great service and delicious food.
Strands Hairdressers	Professional, friendly, nothing is too much trouble. The prices are very reasonable too.	Amble Car Wash	Good service, excellent results.
Helen Bradwell Chiropody & Podiatry	I hobbled in and came out walking on air. ...feet are so important and must be taken care of.	Sweets and Treats	Good quality sweets all the old favourites. reasonable prices ...saves a trip to town
JPS Discos	Dancing, good old-fashioned party games, fun & laughter.	Amble Butchers	Good quality meat, helpful staff, great pies.
Radcliffe Club	Friday night so enjoyable for our kids.. keep up the excellent entertainment...	Queen Street Post Office	Excellent service. Really helpful and friendly staff.

Congratulations to Lawrence's who have won a free advert in this issue of *The Ambler*. As part of our shop local campaign encouraging people to 'TryAmble1st', we asked readers to nominate their favourite local businesses. Lawrence's received the most nominations this time, with glowing reviews from satisfied customers. Here's just one:

If it's not on the shelf they usually find what you are looking for in the back! My Dad always loves to go in when he comes up to visit, thinks its "fantastic" and the staff are so helpful and friendly.

We're asking everyone to support the Friendliest Port in the run up to Christmas (and beyond of course) - don't automatically head off to the Metro Centre or plug in your laptop. Remember the old adage - use it or lose it? If we want independent local businesses, we need to shop with them.

And to help you start as you mean to go on, Shop Local Saturday in Amble this year is on Saturday December 7.

On the left are the local businesses you recommended this month.

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YOUR LETTERS

AND EMAIL

Looking for former football manager

I have been trying to find out information about a local man Bob Dennison who was a Football Manager. He was Manager of Middlesbrough FC between 1954 & 1963 and was later Manager of Hereford United FC.

His full name was Robert S. Dennison and he was born in 1912. His birth was registered in April 1912 in Alnwick and his mother's maiden name was Smith.

Bob was a friend of my late father, an Amble man Jim Manson and they used to meet in the London area when Bob was scouting the country looking for professional footballers. I believe he was born in Amble but I can't find any records of this and would like to know if anyone living in the Amble area has any more detail about Bob and his family.

Yours faithfully

Peter Manson

peter@jacobs cottages.fsnet.co.uk



World War 1 commemoration 2014

I would like information on two families whose ancestors served in the 1st World War.

The first is James William Davidson, born 1891 and killed in Belgium on 24th January 1916. His parents were William, a shepherd, and his mother Margaret. He had a brother Thomas and sister Olive Mary. James was born in Alnwick but was living in High Hauley when he enlisted in the army in 1915.

The others are Thomas and George Shotton. These brothers survived the war. Their father was George and mother Isabella, nee Jackson. Thomas married Agnes Douglas in 1910. They lived at the Moor House Farm when George enlisted in the army in 1914 and Thomas in 1916.

Any descendants happy to share information about these men's war service, please contact Irene Liddle Tel. 01665 712120 or by e-mail

Thank you

Irene Liddle

hauxley.liddle@btinternet.com

Who's coming for Christmas?

Do you have room for one more person this Christmas? There are adult international students at UK universities who will be spending Christmas alone. They would love to discover what Christmas is like in a British home. Having a visitor from another part of the world will add interest to your festivities, possibly help to keep the peace when the family comes together, or if you are alone too, may give you a reason to 'do Christmas properly'.

Invitations are arranged through HOST, a well-established charity, whose local organisers aim to make a good match between student guests and volunteer hosts. If you live near a university, your visitor may come just for the day. Many students are happy to travel to spend 2 or 3 days with their hosts.

Please see www.hostuk.org or call HOST 020 7739 6292 to be put in touch with your area organiser.

If you are not available at Christmas, but would like to welcome an international student to your home, HOST arranges visits throughout the year.

Margaret Stevens

Publicity Officer, HOST

www.hostuk.org



We welcome all your letters and email.

Your name and address must be supplied, but will be withheld on request.

Letters may be edited. Contact details on page 2.

Radcliffe Club and JPS Disco

I remember well as I'm sure many other 80s kids will remember Monty Durham and his Saturday afternoon discos in the old library (where the tourist information is now at the bottom of queen street), Helen Burge and her variety club at the Bede Street Club. There was Mildred Ryle, John Griffiths, Edith Appleby and others, with the Junior Guild and famous pantos year after year at the Methodist Church and not forgetting the good old Amble Highfliers Jazz band with Allan Grant, Ian Burn, Jean McCloud.

I have many fond memories of community folk (many who are sadly not with us anymore) who enjoyed doing stuff for and with the local kids. What is there today for my kids? 'JPS Discos' these lads deserve an award for their great work! The brothers along with the help of their Mam and own kids make a Friday night at the Radcliffe Club so enjoyable for our kids of today! A free event at Radcliffe Club every month (unheard of in today's financial climate) where local families gather and enjoy dancing, good old-fashioned party games, fun., laughter, everyone is made to feel welcome and the kids have a ball!

The Stanford brothers are so canny with the kids and include games for all ages, I just love the community spirit reminiscent of 'back in the days'. So as people talk often about this dying community, dying social club life and nothing for the kids to do I just want to say well done Radcliffe club and keep up the excellent entertainment 'JPS boys' you will go down in history with the other good souls that did it for us in the 80's!!!!

On behalf of all the Deano lovers!

Emma Wallace Via email



Recycling for charity

Thank you to all those who have donated items for recycling for charity. We collect all year round and would be grateful for any further donations.

We recycle the following - usable clothes (or clean material), duvets, quilts, pillows, sheets, curtains, leather shoes, mobile phones, ink cartridges, postage stamps, old coins (of any kind), spectacles, cassettes, CDs, vinyl records, VHS videos, DVDs, working televisions and HiFi.

If you wish to donate, please do so to Evelyn at 21 Newmoor Close, Amble or Janice at Treetops, Station Road, Warkworth. Please telephone 712 579 or 714758 if collection required or if donating bulky items

Janice Charlton, James Cox, Evelyn and Michelle Dodd

Details of charities for 2013-4 are on

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

Christmas lights thanks

A big thank you to all those who helped to make the Torchlight Procession and Christmas Lights switch-on such a memorable evening,

I'd like to thank especially the Town Team and all the volunteers; those people who came forward to help with the tree, street security, Town Square and Santa's Grotto. To you all my thanks, without your valuable assistance we would have struggled, you know who you are thank you.

And of course I'd like to thank those who made the beautiful lanterns, those who took part in the parade and everyone who turned out on the night.

Many thanks and see you next year.

Craig Weir Chair Amble Action Group



Christmas Lights fun for all

THIS YEAR'S PARADE was the biggest yet, with more groups than ever taking part. The Queen Street lights were switched on by Amble's Young Citizen of the Year, Bobby Stone.

Clockwise from top: Angie's Tavern; Waterloo; Radcliffe Club characters; Parading one of the beautiful handmade lanterns; Meeting Santa and an elf



More photos on our website

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Car parking review

Northumberland County Council has been working with the Town Council and the Business Club on parking in the town. In February 2013 a '1 hour limited waiting' restriction was introduced on Queen Street and feedback has been mostly positive.

Discussions have continued and other areas have been identified where the level of parking raises road safety concerns.

Therefore it is proposed to introduce amendments to the existing restrictions which are summarised below.

- Protecting the junctions where visibility is an issue:-
Gibson St, Albert St, Church St, Middleton St, High St, Percy St, Dilston Terr, Turner St, Coquet St, Leslie Dr, John St, Newburgh St, Ladbroke St, Marine Rd., and Ivy St.
- Proposed 'No Waiting Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm' on Church Street.

- Proposed 'No Waiting Every Day 9am-6pm' on Leazes Street.
- Proposed 'Loading bays' and 'Disabled Bays' on Queen Street.
- Proposed Removal of Restriction on High Street (already consulted and approved).

Comments are invited on the consultation which will end on Wed 8th January 2014.

You can view the consultation in full online, visit:
<http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk>

Drop-in surgeries for council tenants

Homes for Northumberland will be holding a new housing surgery which will provide customers with the opportunity to discuss any guidance or support needed.

Neighbourhood Liaison Officer Julian Whitley will be on hand to offer expert support and advice on a wide range of problems from managing rent accounts to reporting repairs, including neighbourhood problems such as anti-social behaviour.

Samantha Mason, director of neighbourhood services at Homes for Northumberland, said: "The drop-in sessions will be held throughout our neighbourhoods. Customer feedback helps us develop and improve our service.

"We are delighted to launch this new service and hope that our customers will find this a valuable tool to help address any queries or issues they may have."

Surgeries for Amble residents will be held 2pm-4pm at 9 Kennedy Road in the Community Room on 28th January, 25th February and 5th March.

More info at www.hfn.uk.com/ or through the Customer Contact Centre: 01670 542424.

In Memory of the Fallen

Amble Town Council has received a £12,500 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a community project to look at the effect of the First World War on the built environment, working and social history of Amble and surrounding area.

The local area was not at the forefront of the war, but many felt the effects of deprivation and disruption to family lives.

Chairman of Amble Town Council, Craig Weir, said: "We are thrilled and proud to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident that the project will serve to benefit the community and highlight the events of the past that shaped the Amble area for the future".

The project will work with various groups of young people, helping them to learn new skills, including interviewing and recording. Using these skills, the young people will create an internet based trail to illustrate aspects of the town's history from the perspective of the families and men closely involved in the war.

Assistance will be given by Amble Development Trust, Amble Social History Group, Warkworth & Amble Royal British Legion and interested individuals.

Community workshops will be held throughout the project and the final community event will be the Commemorative Service to be held on 2nd August 2014.

Some of the information will be incorporated into a booklet and a DVD which

can be used by schools, libraries and archives in the future.

Our community made a huge contribution to the war effort. Almost 180 names are recorded on the Amble war memorials.

Ivor Crowther, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund North East, said: "The First World War changed the face of modern history touching the lives of everyone in this country and beyond. HLF has committed to funding a variety of projects, from organisations large and small, which will create a deeper understanding of the heritage of the conflict. 'In Memory of the Fallen', will encourage local people, especially younger generations, to learn more about how this period in our history changed the future of Amble."

In memory of...

Private Crackett lost his life during World War 1, was buried in the East Cemetery, but his memorial was placed in the West Cemetery. Recently, at a short service led by Rev Linda Coulthard, and attended by relatives from around the world, the memorial was re-sited in the East Cemetery.

On the same day, Father Malcolm rededicated the Radcliffe Memorial, followed by a short message from Mayor Craig Weir and flowers were laid. The memorial has recently been refurbished.

More on Private Crackett on www.theambler.co.uk



Beginners running club are a charitable lot

PARTICIPANTS in a new beginners running club at Druridge Bay Country Park raised £352 for North Northumberland Hospice Care.

"The money was raised during April to October, the runners paid a donation to take part," said organiser Alison Lowes.

"We will start the group again this coming April" she said.

Pictured are some of the runners, with Sue Gilbertson of North Northumberland Hospice Care.

Fantastic efforts with Poppy appeal

Christmas greetings to everyone and a very Happy New Year from Warkworth & Amble District Royal British Legion!

The branch committee would like to thank everyone who worked tirelessly for the 2013 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The total sum raised will be announced on the Warkworth website www.warkworth.co.uk and Ambler website. Special thanks also go to Sgt. Watson and Amble Army Cadet Force for their fantastic effort in the district.

The Branch will be supporting the WW1 Centenary events in August 2014 and hopes anyone in Amble with an ancestor who participated in the Great War will support us and contact the clerk at Amble Town Council with photos and family history so that it can be respectfully recorded for future generations.

As the nation's leading Armed Forces charity, the Legion spends £1.6 million a week, or £84 million a year on vital welfare work to serving and ex-Service people and their families. Approximately 9.5 million people in the UK are eligible for the Legion's support and we are proud to serve those in need, today and for the rest of their lives.

Good food and good company

Senior citizens enjoyed their annual celebratory dinner at the Amble (Bede St) Club.

Participants only paid £5 for a three course dinner and entertainment. The event was subsidised by the Amble Club.



Ofsted blow to First School

In a damning letter to Northumberland County Council's Director of Children's Services, Ofsted announced that after 17 focused inspections in schools in the county, they noted a "significant and worrying decline in inspection outcomes." The letter warned: "This downward trend of school performance is unacceptable against an overall national and regional improvement."

One of the schools to be inspected was St Cuthbert's RC Voluntary Aided First School in Amble which was placed in the lowest Ofsted category and judged to be "inadequate". That means it is now placed in Special Measures.

NCC Lead Member for Children's Services, Robert Arkless, told *The Ambler*: "I have specific responsibilities and in legal terms I am a decision maker if significant changes are suggested; therefore I have to act in strict accordance with legal advice through whatever process follows."

I am very sad about the situation that St Cuthbert's is in. I know how much parents care about their children's education and local schools. In the immediate future St Cuthbert's will be given extra support by the Council and by Ofsted. This includes support for Governors and the Acting Head teacher. The Governors, the RC Diocese and the County Council will each have responsibilities. Since this is a Catholic school the initiative lies with the RC Diocese and the Governing body.

Cllr Arkless added "The aim has to be to improve the education for the children and that has to be our first priority."



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Land Ahoy! Charity celebrates as land appeal target is reached



Hauxley reserve (looking west) with land to be purchased in the background, photo Duncan Hutt

Great changes are happening at Hauxley Nature reserve as Northumberland Wildlife Trust announces its Hauxley Land Appeal has reached its £75,000 target and a new visitor centre is being designed

Since its launch in June, contributions to the Land Appeal poured in from all quarters - members of the public, volunteers, local residents and cash bucket collections. A number of charitable trusts such as The Barbour Foundation and The Charles Hayward Foundation, along with Amble Town Council and Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club also pitched in to help.

The aim is to transform the Hauxley reserve into an exceptional place to watch wildlife. The aim was to purchase the 12 acres of farmland adjacent to its existing reserve. This would allow circular walking routes to be created, taking visitors past a wide range of natural features, viewpoints, information boards and seating as they walk around. Thanks to the donations, the trust is

able to make its land purchasing dream a reality.

But additional money is needed to install new fences and paths and create new meadows, hedgerows, woodland and wetland. This extension to the Hauxley reserves will open over the next 12 months with stage one opening in the spring of 2014.

Duncan Hutt, Northumberland Wildlife Trust Head of Land Management said:

"When we launched the Land Appeal in June, we held our breath to see if we could raise it, given the current economic climate. We are over the moon that the target has been achieved and I say a huge thank you to everyone who saw the potential for making our Hauxley reserve an even more amazing place for both people and wildlife."

New Visitor Centre

A design by Brightblue Studio has been chosen as the new visitor centre at Hauxley, to replace the previous building which was burnt down in an arson attack in June 2010.

Demolition of the old building took place earlier this year, delayed slightly by great crested newts and a pair of breeding barn owls who liked the place so much, they nested there for two consecutive years. Barn owls boxes had to be installed, before the demolition, which proved popular with the birds.

Alex Lister, Northumberland Wildlife Trust Druridge Bay Estates Officer said: "The work of Architect Henry Amos and his team fits the bill with their design for our new green visitors centre and I am particularly looking forward to the installation of the meadowland turf roof which will hopefully provide valuable habitat to resident wildlife."

The Hauxley site is best known for its birds but also plays host to some fabulous flowers, it's an ideal place to spot a large variety of butterflies and one of the best places in the North-East to spot stoats.

Below: Design for the new Visitor Centre at Hauxley Nature Reserve



Did Bamburgh shipwreck inspire first coastguards?

Recent survey work by Marine Archeology Sea Trust (MAST) of a partially exposed shipwreck on Bamburgh beach has proved the wreck to be older than originally thought. Examining the timber of the ship revealed that it was felled in, or after, 1768.

The survey also established that the timber originates from the East of England

making the wreck British. The site is only exposed for roughly one hour either side of low-water slack, which means it may never completely dry out.

The ship might have sailed along the east coast while Dr. Sharp, one of the trustees of the Crewe Trust, was in residence at the castle. Dr. Sharp was so concerned for sailors in the treacherous waters around

Bamburgh that in 1781 he set up what is recognised as the first coastguard system in the world. The first coastguard at Bamburgh did not only warn ships of the coastline but also provided refuge at the castle for shipwrecked sailors, stored their cargo and buried the dead. Further research of historical maritime documents might eventually reveal the identity of the ship.



Pennies for the Philippines

Students from JCSC brought their pennies into school to raise money for the devastation and destruction left by Typhoon Haiyan.

The students at South Avenue expressed concern having seen the news coverage about the incredibly difficult situation in the Philippines and despite already raising money for North East Childrens Cancer Research and Children in Need they wanted to contribute a little towards this very desperate cause. Assisted by sixth form students and middle school teacher Mrs Potts, children created a design of pennies and loose change in the main hall, spiralling and twisting with ornate designs and words as students arrived with their contributions.

"At the end of the day we are delighted to have raised £234 which includes an anonymous generous donation and students are still donating more", said Mrs Parks sixth form teacher. "Thank you to everyone."

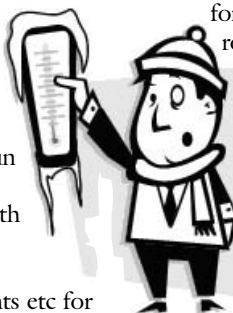
Be prepared - Is your vehicle ready for winter?

Breaking down is never a pleasant experience – especially if you have to wait for recovery in the cold. You'll also want your vehicle to be in the best condition to handle difficult driving conditions in severe weather.

This handy reminder for pre-journey checks is called the POWDERY checklist:

- **PETROL** (or diesel). Don't run out of fuel
- **OIL** - check levels once a month
- **WATER** - check radiator and screenwash once a month
- **DAMAGE** - check wipers, lights etc for signs of wear and tear or damage
- **ELECTRICS** - check lights, indicators and controls are working properly
- **RUBBER** - are your tyres well inflated, legal, with good tread and free from damage?
- **YOURSELF** - are you fit to drive? Have you slept well? Are you taking any medication(s) that could make it unsafe for you to drive?

Carry an emergency kit. Keep these items in your vehicle from the start of winter. You never know when you might need them: ice scraper and de-icer, torch and spare batteries (or a wind-up torch), warm clothes and blankets - for you and all passengers, boots, first aid kit, jump leads, a shovel, road atlas, sunglasses (the low winter sun and glare off snow can be dazzling).



Before you set off in severe and wintry weather, it's even more important to plan your journey. The Highways Agency for example provides the latest traffic situation for England's motorways and major A roads.

Road and weather conditions may change. Drive with care. When you're on the road, pay attention to the changing road, traffic and weather conditions. Be ready to slow down and take more care if you need to, particularly on bends and exposed roads. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security - even if you drive every day on the same stretch of road.

Additional information and advice on driving in adverse weather conditions is available in the Highway Code or by visiting the gov.uk website.

Keep up to date while on the move. Keep listening to the radio for traffic and weather updates. On motorways, look out for overhead message signs where the Highways Agency will flash up important travel messages, including warnings of delays and advising alternative routes.

On long journeys, consider taking a break at regular intervals - and that's an ideal time to check the traffic conditions on the road ahead. For example, the Highways Agency has information screens displaying live traffic updates at most motorway service areas.

Sunflower Project Update

This time last year St. Mark's Church won a synod-wide competition, which began with sowing sunflower seeds. You may have grown sunflowers from the seeds which were subsequently distributed.

We decided to support two projects with the prize money, one in Kenya, where £500 helped to build a school. Our contribution helped to exceed the original target and now it hopes to sponsor a teacher. The second project is 3T in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The £500 will help the International school there to bring in self-appointed 'teachers' from remote areas, whose 'schools' might be a patch of ground under a tree. They are provided with training and resources to equip them to return to their communities with skills to pass on to pupils and they are now training other teachers.

So far 3,000 students have benefitted from the project, as have students in the International School.

Sending money to Bangladesh is not without its difficulties, but £500 is now on its way.

Support for both projects is continuing, and for more information or to make a donation, contact me. Sue Swanston, 711177

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Recipes for Myanmar

The book of Amble's favourite recipes was to be ready for Christmas (*See Issue 83*). Unfortunately, due to technical problems it will not be ready until next year.

St. Cuthbert's Church will be selling the recipes to raise money for a health worker in Myanmar, and their PCC apologises for the delay.

Bonfire safety message winners



l - r: Haydn Lee, Ruby Bell, Chloe Wilkinson, Ellah Handyside, CSO Darin Fawcett, Chloe Gerrard, Harry Baxter and Faye Smith

Children from St Cuthbert's RC First School were awarded prizes for the best Safety on Bonfire Night posters. CSO Darin Fawcett, showed the youngsters in all Amble's first Schools a video highlighting how important it is to take care around fireworks and bonfires.

The video depicted local girl India Redhead, who was hit in the eye by a stray firework two years ago. She is still undergoing treatment to help her retain her sight.

Ellah Handyside and Chloe Gerrard each won a family ticket to the Round Table's firework display in Alnwick.

Amble Co-op Funeralcare also presented all of Amble's First School children with a reflective badge to wear to help them stay safe while they are out and about near traffic during the dark winter months.

Darin Fawcett said "I'd like to thank Nick Lewis of Alnwick and District Round Table who donated eight family passes to the Firework Display. Also Louise Stott and Judith Coulter of Funeralcare who donated the badges."



Brambles Childcare Centre would like to say a big thank you to our staff team, the parent/carers and their families, and local businesses for all their support and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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CARLY'S ADVENTURE

When she came to see us here at Artograffi, she showed us some really interesting photos and told us about her trip to Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Bali and Burma.

In Burma there was a giant LIVE snake that was believed to be holy, people believed it so much that it lived in a temple and people threw money at it in exchange for good fortune. Carly told us she liked Burma the most because of the people's friendly nature.

When she arrived in Thailand she still had to go on a twenty-four hour bus trip to finish off her journey.

Her whole trip took four months and she went all by herself, but she made lots of friends while she was there. Before she left, she had to save up for six months so she could afford to go and while she was there she lived on a really tight budget and she could not buy many presents.

Carly told us she was sad to go home but she was happy to come back and see her family.

By Niamh



CARLY INSPIRES ME

Carly Wood came to see us. Carly is an interesting woman who went on a fantastic adventure to lots of different countries like Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bali and Burma

"My favourite was Burma as they spoke the best English" said Carly.

In Burma she got bitten by mosquitoes. The people there were very friendly. She met a water buffalo called Onion and she had so much fun.

Cambodia

In Cambodia she went to a very special village with houses on trees. She went to a famous temple called Angkor Wat. It was massive. She had a magnificent time

Thailand

In Thailand she went to a zoo where tigers were but she felt a bit sorry for them because they weren't in the wild.

Carly inspired me because I want to do that when I am grown up. I probably would be a little bit scared to go on my own though.

by Annabel



ALLERGIES

Seeing as it is nearly Christmas artograffi think it would be a good idea if we told you about food allergies.

There are many allergies like being allergic to.....

milk, eggs, peanuts, soy, wheat nuts (such as walnuts and cashews) fish, shellfish

If you are allergic to food some of the symptoms are.....

- Itching in your mouth
- Swelling of the lips
- Rashes
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Cramps
- Pains
- Trouble breathing
- Drop in blood pressure

So remember-be careful with what you eat

By Gracie and Annabel



CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a once a year event. Even though it is summer in Australia, Christmas is still on the 25th of December.

Nowadays people spend an awful lot of money buying presents for everyone. If you believe in Santa and you have been good most of the year, you get presents. Some people in different countries do not

have Christmas. Some are poor and don't get any presents at all. But there are charities where you can change their lives by just giving a little present so I recommend you do it.

Adults do not get as many presents for Christmas. They get some wine or chocolates as their presents from family and friends.

Christmas is only once a year and it is Jesus birthday

by Ben



BATKID

In San Francisco Miles Scott is a five year old superhero who is now in remission from leukaemia. He made a wish to be Batkid and his wish came true.

He had a real phone call from the police asking if he could help Batman to solve a crime. They had to jump over obstacles and save a woman who had been trapped on the train track.

After that they went to a dungeon - who did they see? ...the Riddler!

Eventually they got him into the dungeon. In the end it was victory, then Batman and Batkid had their lunch and spent the rest of the day celebrating

By Annabel



CHRISTMAS WITH THE POOR

We celebrate Christmas with toys and sweeties, but the poor can hardly celebrate Christmas with toys and sweeties because they do not have any money. So they celebrate with praying happy-birthday to Jesus or wishing to have a house or to have food. So if you see someone poor or homeless please give some money or food.

by Gaby

FACTS ABOUT CARLY

- *Carly Wood is 23
 - *she lives in Amble
 - *she went to Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Bali
 - *she travelled on her own for 4 months
 - *Burma was her favourite country
 - *in Laos, she went to a bear sanctuary and an elephant sanctuary where she met an elephant named mariam
 - *she went to the snake temple in Burma and she met a water buffalo named Onion.
 - *she stayed in a house with stilts to stop floods coming in
- by Victoria and Catherine



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Online bullying is when children or teenagers use the web, or mobile phones or any other technology to threaten, tease or embarrass another young person.

Nasty messages are just one form of online bullying.

Often bullies set up a website or group on a social media website like Facebook and then ask other people to join in and comment about a person or images of them.

But it can also include things like emailing someone a virus on purpose, posting personal information where it shouldn't be or calling them names when playing a game together online.

It's always a good idea to make sure a parent, teacher or guardian knows when you're surfing the net.

That way, if you see or are sent anything that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset while you're online, you can tell them.

Unless you have an adult's permission, never give out:

- * Your real name or your friends' names
- * Your home, school or email address
- * Your home or mobile phone numbers
- * A photo of yourself
- * Your parents' bank or credit card details

Make sure that if you're being bullied you tell a responsible adult you trust, your parents, a teacher or Childline, a website that you can ask the staff for advice and help, or call on 0800 1111.

By Niamh



Happy Christmas from everyone at Artograffi

VOYAGER LEAVES THE SOLAR SYSTEM

On the 25th of August 2012 the space craft Voyager-1 became the first man made object to ever leave the solar system. It is now travelling between stars twelve billion miles away from earth. Voyager-1 is travelling at 100,000 miles an hour and will take another 40,000 years to get near another star.

by Gracie

Voyager-1 left Earth on 5th September 1977. Its sister spacecraft Voyager-2 left Earth 11 days earlier on 20 August 1977. It is also on a journey to outer space, but Voyager-1 travelled faster and overtook it.



ONE WAY TRIP TO MARS

The Mars One Mission aims to be sending people on a one-way trip to Mars so that people can start colonising there.

There are already 165,000 people who are prepared to leave their families and jobs to travel to Mars to live. Applicants must be over 18 and are welcome from any country in the world.

The Mars One Mission hopes to start getting people to Mars as early as 2023, which is only in just over 9 years. So if anybody is bored, living on Earth, you are welcome to apply to live on Mars. Beware though. Once you're there, you're not coming back.

By Will



DISASTER WEATHER

The typhoon in the Philippines and the hurricanes in the Midwest of the USA have devastated everyone's homes. It has killed six people. It has left hundreds struggling to survive.

In the Philippines there has been a lot of help, but it is not getting much better. 11 million people have been affected.

In the Midwest of the USA not much help has been given, but help is on the way.

By Catherine



TOP 10 TOYS THIS CHRISTMAS

- Furby Boom
 - Robo Fish
 - Sully Monster Mask
 - Chasin Cheeky
 - Monster High 13 Wishes Doll
 - DocMcstuffins Doctor Bag
 - Leap Pad Ultra
 - Chima Lion Chi Temple
 - VIP Pets
 - Teksta Robotic Puppy
- by Gracie



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Aad Radcliffe

Aa went for a waalk the other day
and stopped and gazed at the heaps of
claa
Aye, this was where aad Radcliffe stud
Here amang aal this clarts and mud
And for a while
Aa started t' smile
Thinkin about the way it waas
In Lang and Cross And Centre Raas
Leslie and Styebble Raas,
Dandsfield Places
Nowt their noo but open spaces.

Nae Club
Nae Pub
Nae Post Office or store
No, there is nowt left any more
Gone wor aal the gardens full of tetties
Gone wor aal the middens and the
nettles
Aye, nae mair hen or pigeon crees
And nae mair youngins climbin trees
Nae mair lads playin snooker in the 'tute
Nae mair wives hingin weshin oot
Nae mair singin in the Chapel
Nae mair youngins pinchin the Manager's
apples.

Aye, aal them daays are past
There's nowt there noo but opencast
But still aah think of yisterdaay
An aal the games we used ti plaay
Doon in the claa park
Runnin roond till it waas dark
Aa can still see the men
Quoitin at the end of the raaw
Aye and youngins plain muggies
There an aa
Wives seekin waater wi their pails
The Postie on his bike wi the maail

The aad wives gannin ti the store
And standin takin for an oor or mair
Aye, it was a grand place for a crack
But some folk went... and forgot t'come
back
Aa wonder if it will iver be the syem a-
gen
Are aal them folks happy where the've
gone
Livin in Amble wiy aal their mod cons
Aa still think it waas an aawful pity
When they pulled doon Radcliffe
The Holy City.

John Griffiths
(Mid 1970s)



Park and recreation

Improvements to the
landscape and
watersports facilities in
Druridge Bay Country
Park have been taking
place thanks to a series of
grants and initiatives over
the last year.

A £23,000 grant from
Natural England was
awarded to manage the
dunes and the meadows
around the lake. An annual
grant of £11,000 per year
for the next ten years
means that and other much
needed maintenance work
can continue.

"This will enable us to
carry on with the improvements to the rustic
value of the park and land management" said
Park Manager Graham Mitcheson.

A woodland improvement grant of
£100,000 was also awarded to the park. This
came from the Forestry Commission, to
replant, thin out and remove trees around the
park and to improve, maintain and create new
paths. Work on the paths should be completed
by the end of March 2014.

Interpretation boards and a variety of trails
of different lengths will also be developed.

In recent years, the opening of the cafe and
a series of outdoor events have encouraged
more and more visitors to the park. "The cafe
has had a really good year financially" said
Graham. "This year we've seen our summer
income up by 30% - of course events are
weather dependent.

"We want to encourage people to come
along and take part in watersports and we're
working with Coquet Shorebase Trust and
Northumberland County Council to improve
watersports facilities too, with a new building
and launch facilities. Hopefully the works will
be completed by the end of December."

Graham sees the country park
having a dual mission, to both
encourage people to take part in events
and activities at the park, whilst ensuring
the natural peace and quiet remain unspoilt.



Graham Mitcheson (left) with County Council staff, contractors and volunteers, finishing the improvements to the watersports facilities at Druridge Bay Country Park

"We're looking at further development at the
country park, but you will always find
somewhere that's quiet. We try not to fill every
weekend with events, but it is an important
part to make the country park grow."

Finances being what they are these days,
Graham also wanted to point out an area of his
work which unfortunately has resulted in
increased expenditure.

"This year already we've had to dispose of
20 dead seals. Each dead seal or porpoise
reported on this beach we have to pick up and
remove. And access can be a problem. We now
have to remove all those which can't be buried.
It's a huge cost to us - and it's taxpayer's
money at the end of the day."

The park is maintained by a small group of
seasonal staff and volunteers, with some
projects undertaken by groups such as the
scouts, cadets and RAF Boulmer. Picnic tables
and 300 bird boxes were built by prisoners at
HMP Northumberland. The Community
Payback Scheme has also provided assistance.

And what of the future? "We've started a
Friends of Druridge Bay Country Park group
and want to invite people to join. It'll probably
meet once or twice a year. We're also thinking
of looking for grants to develop areas for
limited camping."

Anna Williams

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n.j.joinery@gmail.com

Christmas Greetings from

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Chiropodists and
Podiatrists

JCSC Charity Event

Students and staff took part in a non-uniform fundraising day on 25th October in aid of North of England Children's Cancer Research charity (NECCR)

'We have committed to raising money towards this particular charity, not only because it is for such a worthwhile cause,' said Mrs Bailey, teacher and fundraiser at the school, 'but the research is carried out at the Sir James Spence Institute at the RVI hospital in Newcastle. It is through our connection with Sir James Calvert Spence, that we have been given this opportunity.'

'This is such an important charity and it is fantastic that the staff, students and their families are supporting it', said Mrs Bailey, 'We have many other events planned to help us reach our target of £5000 and today's efforts have added a further £744 to our collection. Thankyou'.



The Tug of War competition held during the Puffin festival in May, was won by the Harbour Inn team. Above: Amble Action Committee chair Craig Weir presents John and Suzanne from the Harbour Inn with the trophy

Queen St building renovation award

A building in Queen Street has won an award from the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Awards for Excellence.

'Entrants could choose from Built Environment, Farming and Land Management and Sustainable Tourism', said the Northumberland AONB Partnership.

Joint winners in the Built Environment category are two excellent shop refurbishments, the Wydenwell, Bamburgh and 2-4 Queen Street, Amble. (This is the building where the Indian Restaurant, the Taj Mahal, is situated.) The Wydenwell is the personal enterprise of Noel Page and Queen Street is part of the wider regeneration project in Amble with the architectural expertise being provided by Spence and Dower LLP. Both buildings show how careful restoration and attention to historic detail can not only ensure the future of the building but also enhance the whole street scene.'

The Awards recognise those whose work helps to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and improve the area for wildlife, visitors and residents. The Award is for best practice.



Whither And Why: Nairntivity

From the festively-festooned decorative desk of Gerald Honk, esq.

An undoubted highlight of our village's Annual Christmas Eve church service is the local Sunday School's production of the nativity story, and it was this subject that drew me one morning to the home of my friend, the erroneous Adventist and uneducated Unitarian, Sir Hilary Harrison-Nairn.

'Happy Honkmas!' my friend exclaimed, the bells on his hat jingling all the way. 'I have news. A Harrison-Nairn exclusive, not even revealed to The Pelican yet! You are aware that my housekeeper, Mrs Clutterbutt, also masquerades as head of the local Sunday School?'

I nodded. When it came to the theological education of our village's youth, the usually demure Mrs C had a fervour worthy of any Old Testament leader.

'Well, she has asked Samantha,' HH's wife, recently returned from touring her one-woman physical theatre show, 'and me, to help out with this year's nativity!'

'You must exercise Caution,' I insisted, for the local police dog had been leaping all over me for the past several minutes in a vain attempt to lick off my moustache.

'Yes, she has been rather restless,' my friend replied. 'I fear retirement is not suiting her. She attempted to arrest the postman not a few days ago for trespassing! But when Sam and I heard she would be in need of a home we decided to proceed with Caution and allow her to stay. She and Bismarck have been getting on famously...'

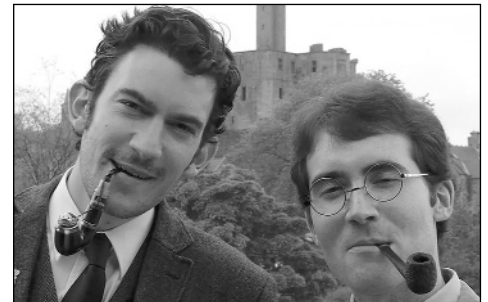
I returned to the subject at hand. 'HH old chap, Mrs Clutterbutt takes the nativity play extremely seriously, as she rightly should. I plead do not be... well... you... and turn it into an extravaganza of any kind. Simply assist her, and by Christmas, all will be well.'

Some weeks later, I attended a rehearsal. Samantha and her actor's instincts, I observed, appeared to have taken over somewhat. I watched as, one by one, she took over each of the children's roles, offering a donkey's soliloquy in ancient Aramaic, a succession of shepherds, each with a different dialect and an utterly convincing childbirth sequence. HH meanwhile was badly understudying the doll that would take the role of the baby. To suggest Mrs Clutterbutt was displeased would have been an understatement the size of Portugal. Her ire rising like the temperature of a boiling kettle she was the colour of a new bruise when she'd finally had enough.

'Mrs Harrison-Nairn!' she yelled, louder than I had ever heard her before. 'THIS WILL NOT DO!' Samantha stood in shock. 'You will not alter this story, the Oxen need not engage in a metaphysical discussion! The parts will be played by the children! That is final! Do you understand?'

Samantha, aghast, nodded as her husband attempted to hide under the manger.

'I will make you a star, young lady!' Mrs Clutterbutt said to Samantha with a deafening finality. 'There was a truth in her - admittedly - cryptic words. One that I



would only recognise on the night of the one and only performance.

Christmas Eve jingled its way into view and with all the excitement of the upcoming celebrations accompanying us, Lillian and I went to church to sing carols, listen to the service, and watch the nativity.

Bismarck and Caution made fine sheep and oxen, after a fashion. My friend narrated, proving he could stick to a script with the right incentive - or fear of a skittle drought. And Mrs Clutterbutt stuck to her word. Samantha was a star. The star, in fact, dressed in yellow, limbs outstretched, static, with not a single line of dialogue and suspended from the Church rafters with a line of stout tinsel.

The whole thing went as it usually does, which is to say, not without incident, but overall, wailing children aside, it was a splendid part of the festivities

HH and Honk hope to see you at their local church on Christmas Eve, where they promise neither they nor their associates will have any involvement in the Nativity portion of the service.



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Rotary notes

The Rotary Club has had a full and varied programme over the past few weeks. The Quiz Night at The Trap Inn, Broomhill raised over £300 for the Sri Lanka Project to raise funds to equip a school in Sri Lanka, which was destroyed by the tsunami. This is a joint venture with the Rotary Clubs of Alnwick and Seahouses.

Rotarians also helped at a Bag Pack at Morrisons in Morpeth to raise funds for Mencap. This event raised over £800.

The annual golf competition took place at Foxton on 24th October and was again won by Rotarian David Bell closely followed (one point behind) by Rotarian Les Bilboe.

The annual indoor Sports Night in the Bar at The Sun Hotel, (Skittles, Pool, Darts and Dominoes), was well attended. Club President, Rotarian Dr Paul Creighton emerged as the overall winner. (Is this a sign of a misspent youth or simply a quick eye and an agile mind?) See photo of Paul in action.

Our Interact Club held a charity collection on Hallow'een and raised £300 for the Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle. These young Interactors are great ambassadors for the youth of the district and for Rotary.

The latest new member to join us is Derek Conway who lives in Castle Street, Warkworth and who is the former Member of Parliament for Old Bexley and Sidcup.



Derek Conway and Rotarian President Paul Creighton

Holiday snap terns up on the front cover

A photo taken by a visitor to the Farne Islands has been chosen as the front cover image for next year's Northumberland Coast Visitor Guide. Robert Birnie from Suffolk snapped a shot of an Arctic Tern as it flew in front of the window of St. Cuthbert's Chapel on Inner Farne. The image was chosen as the winner of the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership's photographic competition and will feature on the cover of forty-thousand visitor guides next summer.

Sport England invest in JCSC

James Calvert Spence College has been awarded £9918 through the Small Grants Programme, Sport England.

Sport England invests in organisations and projects that will get more people playing sport and creating opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport.

The college has used the money to part-fund the new fitness suite in the sports hall, purchasing modern gym equipment that the students and staff can access.

'The fitness suite was part of the sports hall refurbishment which included the provision of a dance studio that may also be used by the community as well as our students', said Amy Geraghty, Business Manager at JCSC. 'We were delighted to receive the money from Sport England, which helped us to fully furnish the suite with state of the art equipment and facilities and they are already proving a great success with users.'

St Paul's Middle 'a Good School'

Ofsted inspected St. Paul's RCVA Middle School, Alnwick on the 15th and 16th October. Using a new, even more challenging inspection framework since September, Ofsted have issued a resoundingly 'Good' report.

Inspectors comment that 'pupils progress well and achieve above average standards by the time they leave the school' and mathematics is especially highly praised. The quality of teaching is judged to be 'consistently good' and inspectors also praised leadership and management. The report states that 'The overwhelming majority of parents and carers who responded are very positive about the school's provision for their children.'

Perhaps most pleasing is the inspectors comment that 'The pupils' behaviour in and out of lessons is excellent.'

Executive Head, Mrs Wilson said "I would like to thank the pupils, parents, governors and staff for their contribution to the very successful outcome of our Ofsted inspection."

Anyone wishing to view school results and full Ofsted reports for St. Paul's or any other school in the area should visit www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance

Worried about debt this winter?

Rising prices, increased fuel costs and Christmas on top - it's no wonder many people are concerned about money at this time of year. But if you have debt and feel you struggle with the repayments then the worries can increase. Think carefully before taking out loans - they can have hidden costs and you may end up with an even bigger headache. There are alternatives, such as credit unions. Above all, talk to an advisor who will be able to give you free advice. Debt Advice Within Northumberland: www.dawnadvice.org.uk/ Citizens Advice Bureau: www.alnwickcab.org.uk/ Alnwick CAB: 01665 604135 Amble CAB: 01665 604135

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Reports from our County Councillors

Buses

Recently a new timetable came into force which slightly increases the number of connecting buses provided by Arriva and Travelsure from Amble Links estate. A recent meeting between Arriva and councillors confirms it will be a challenge to retain and improve those services. Bus operators look at services now from a purely commercial point of view. They are reluctant to take on unprofitable services. Arriva and Travelsure have decided that weekend services via the Links are not viable. At least Arriva have got involved in discussions and they are providing some limited extra services. They have also agreed to help explore "community transport" options which will operate outside the normal commercial services. Amble Town Council should be commended for their work on this. The services we have will only continue if they are considered viable by the bus companies, so make sure you use them when you can.

Parking, anti-social behaviour and street scene

A petition considered by the North Area Committee of the county council highlighted a number of familiar issues: the lack of car parking and problems caused by inconsiderate drivers, litter and the state of the harbour area, and anti-social behaviour. Amble residents will soon be consulted on some proposals made by county officers, Amble Town Council, the development trust and business representatives. Please respond to the consultation letters and put forward any alternative ideas you may have. We were promised improvements concerning litter, weeds and flower beds and it was acknowledged that recent standards had just not been good enough. Problems of anti-social behaviour will be referred to LMAPs (Local Multi Agency Partnerships) and the police.

As Christmas preparations begin, my best wishes for the coming Season and the New Year.

Robert Arkless Telephone 01665 711938
Email Robert.Arkless99@northumberland.gov.uk

Remembrance day has just passed as I write this article and must say I think that the town council did an excellent job this year in organising the commemoration. Thank you, people of the town, who turned out in droves to remember our armed forces and the sacrifices they made.

I was very sorry to hear of the accident that occurred at the bottom of The Wynd recently and although I do not know the details of the accident it makes me even more determined to have a permanent speed camera erected in that area.. I know this will not be universally popular and I realise that speed may not be connected to this latest accident, but this seems to be a dangerous stretch of road that has claimed several lives in the past. A speed camera would heighten awareness and force drivers to take care. I and several other councillors have been trying for a number of years to have a permanent camera and it is a tragedy that another accident has had to happen here before we can meet the imposed criteria that exists to install a camera on this site.

I understand that the netting on the games area at the Welfare that I funded, will have been erected by the time you read this article and I hope this will stop some of the problems of balls crossing Acklington Road and potentially causing damage or danger to traffic and nearby houses.

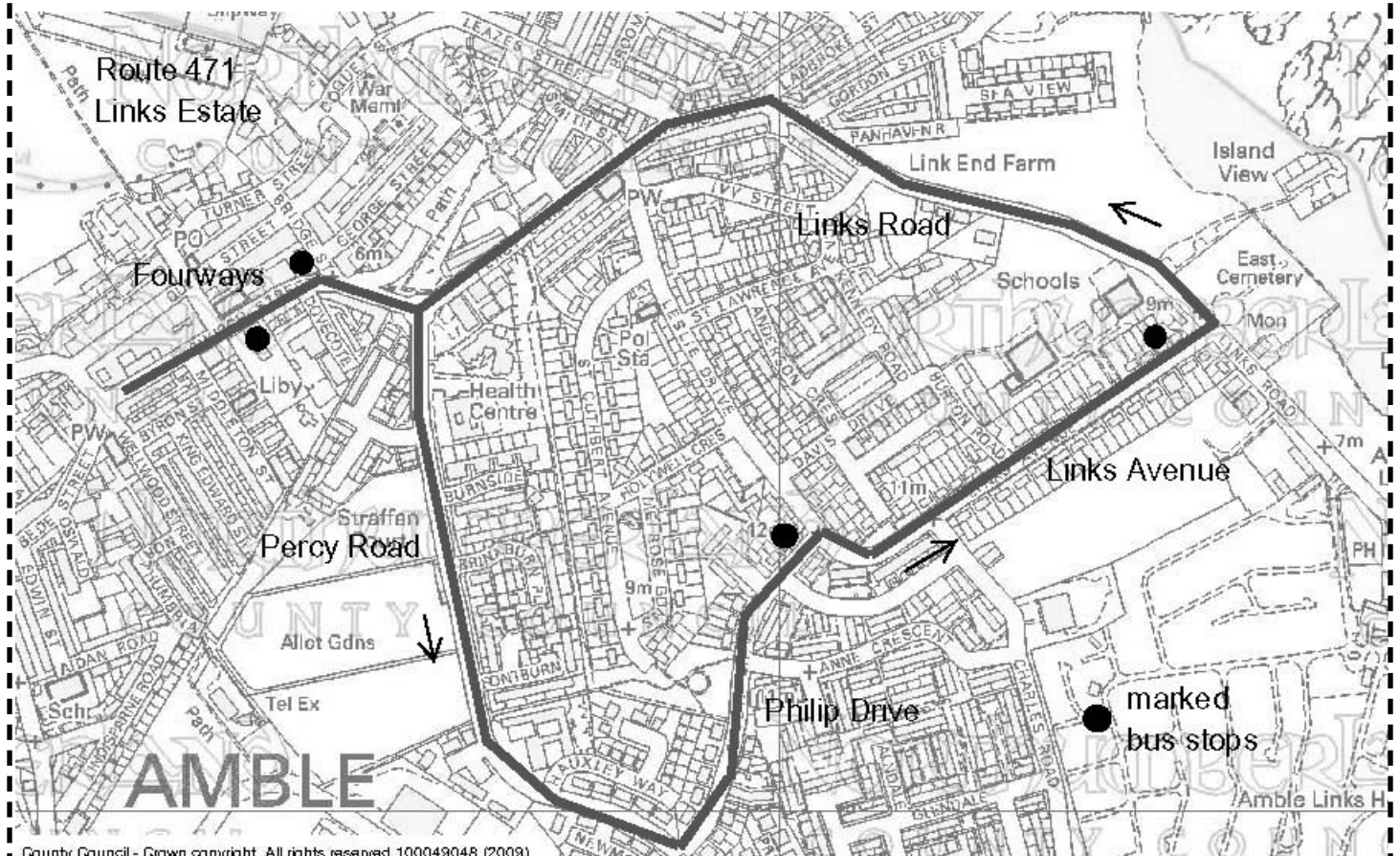
I attended the opening of the refurbished changing rooms in the Welfare recently and trust this will help our young people enjoy healthy outdoor activities with good facilities. I hope they will be appreciated and looked after

I wish all my fellow residents a happy Christmas and hopefully a better year in 2014

Jeff Watson
Telephone: 07802385367
Email jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk

Links Estate bus service route and timetable

Please cut out and keep this map and the timetable on the reverse side. Remember use it or lose it!! More info on page 20.



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Akita dogs in Amble

Sir Alan Beith MP is urging people in Amble to contact the Police if there are problems with Akita dogs in the town. There is a court order in place which stipulates that two particular Akita dogs must not be unaccompanied in public, must be muzzled, must be leashed and must be wearing visible collars with identity tags.

Sir Alan said: "I am aware of the presence of the Akita dogs in Amble and a number of people in the town have let me know of their concerns.

"I can understand why residents are concerned. These dogs must be kept under strict control in public and there is a court order in place covering those in Amble.

"I would urge residents to contact the non-emergency number 101 and report any breaches of the court order as a priority. All calls to 101 are treated in confidence."

The Ambler understands the court order was issued to one owner of two Akita dog, not to all Akita dog owners in Amble. This article has already appeared on our website.

Right: Akitas are not on the Dangerous Dogs list.



Drop-in service at the Library

Amble library has opened a benefits drop-in session to provide support to local residents every Wednesday morning.

The sessions running from 10am-1pm will provide support for those who require assistance in either completing a housing benefit or council tax support claim form and will also provide an opportunity to speak with a benefit officer who will be able to answer any benefit related questions.

Customers can still hand in information at Amble library during normal opening hours.

Heather Cummings, Quality Assurance Team Leader
Direct Dial: 01670 624206



What put the tree into Christmas?

Legend has it that a monk from Devon went to Germany to teach about the Trinity and he used a fir tree as a symbol because of its shape.

The people then revered the tree as God's tree. The first decorated tree was in 1510 in Latvia. Martin Luther is reputed to have decorated a small tree with candles.

In 1846 Queen Victoria and her German Prince Albert were illustrated in The London News, standing round a decorated Christmas tree. What was done at Court immediately became fashionable with their subjects.

By the 1870s glass ornaments were being imported into Britain from Thuringia, and became a status symbol. After Victoria died the Country went into mourning and the tree somehow 'died' with her !

In the 1930s, with a revival of Dickensian nostalgia, the tree came back larger than ever and more decorated with angels and tinsel.

World War 2 put a stop to the import of these trees. However, very large ones were erected in public places to boost morale.

Post war Britain saw a revival of the tree and new kinds such as silver or aluminium ones were imported from America along with many new glass decorations.

Let us not forget the original symbolism this Christmas.

Lou Pickering

Links Estate bus service route and timetable

Please cut out and keep this map and the timetable on the reverse side. Remember use it or lose it!! More info on page 20.

From 28th October 2013
Amble - Links Estate
Route 471
Showing connections for Alnwick on Travelsure 472, and for Newcastle on Arriva 20 or X18.

Mondays to Fridays

Newcastle, Haymarket	dep	...	0725	...	1040	1240	1440	1640
Amble, Fourways	arr	...	0848	...	1206	1406	1606	1808
Alnwick, Bus Station	dep	0914	1119	1319	1519	1719
Amble, Fourways	arr	0953	1158	1358	1558	1758
			ARN	ARN	TRV	TRV	TRV	ARN
Amble, Fourways			0723	0853	0953	1210	1410	1610
Health Centre			0724	0854	0954	1211	1411	1611
Philip Drive			0725	0855	0955	1212	1412	1612
Links Avenue			0727	0857	0957	1214	1414	1614
Amble, Fourways			0730	0900	1000	1218	1418	1618
Amble, Fourways	dep	0735	0900	1001	1219	1419	1619	...
Alnwick, Bus Station	arr	0816	0941	1042	1258	1458	1658	...
Amble, Fourways	dep	0735	0906	1009	1234	1434	1644	1844
Newcastle, Haymarket	arr	0816	1033	1133	1356	1556	1806	2006

ARN: Operated by Arriva
Mon - Fri

TRV: Operated by Travelsure
Mon - Sat

Hail and ride operates throughout this route

Trust life

Using the now famous words of Victor Meldrew "I don't believe it", how can we possibly be so close to Christmas once again!

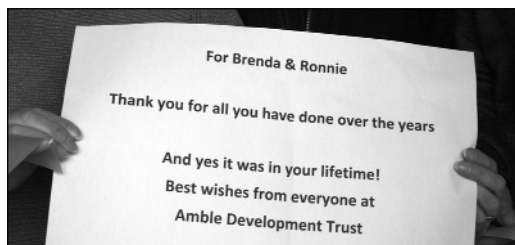
After the hectic period of compiling studies, planning and budgeting for the Coastal Communities bid, things have settled down a little. We now have to wait with fingers crossed until decisions are made. It could be a long few weeks!

While we have been working away on plans it is encouraging to see other businesses and organisations investing in the town. The Old Storehouse will be opening soon (the former Granary to most of us), and new shops are opening on Queen Street. We have many positive remarks about how lively our street is compared to other towns, so Amble must be doing something right.

One of the largest investments for the area is set to be the Blue Sky leisure resort planned for Chevington. The proposal has outline planning for the ski slope and hopes to go to full planning early next year. If successful in securing the investment, the resort, once fully functioning, will create approx. 700 jobs – what a difference that will make.

Another would be the sea energy plan – extracting gas from rocks (but not fracking!), this investment equates to £1billion pounds and will create 400 jobs with more created through supply chains. We could really do with the jobs now but all in all the future looks positive.

At last the work to the pavilion is coming to an end and as we had secured a small amount of funding from the lottery towards a celebratory



event at the skateboard park, we decided to use this as an opening event as well.

I had wanted to ask Brenda and Ronnie Falkous to 'do the honours' as a small thank you for their tireless work in both keeping the pavilion clean and tidy and working with the football clubs. Unfortunately Ronnie wasn't able to make it, but we cut the ribbon and took some photos of the exterior of the building so he knows we have eventually managed to carry out the work that has been planned for so long. We always get there in the end!

Once again the lantern workshops for the Torchlight Procession went really well. This year the theme was Christmas by the sea. It's one of those events everyone seems to look forward to and this year we had more taking part in the parade than ever.

As always Santa graced us with his presence and this year we had a fantastic new location for him. Nick and Katy Spurr decked out 'Flow' as Santa's grotto. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped, organised, took part, supported and most of all enjoyed.

And finally it just remains to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and healthy prosperous New Year.

Julia & the Development Trust Team
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Hospice at home service

Established in 1995, HospiceCare is the main provider of Palliative Care in North Northumberland. Delivering care and support to adults, their families and carers, who have a life limiting illness such as cancer, heart failure, lung disease, motor neurone disease and Parkinsons disease.

People can access care and support at any stage of their illness, not just at the very end of their life.

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Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6.30p.m. unless stated otherwise

Town: 12th Dec 9th Jan 13th Feb Amenities: 21st Nov

Finance: 19th Dec 23rd Jan (7.30p.m.) 27th Feb Cemeteries: 23rd Jan

GRANT AWARD

GREAT NEWS - Amble Town Council has been successful in its bid for funds from Heritage Lottery towards a project to commemorate the centenary of WW1.

Working with community groups, schools and individuals, we hope to produce a booklet 'In Memory of the Fallen', an addition to the AmbleGPX trails

and a short DVD. These will provide a social history of Amble and area just before, during and after the First World War and as much information as possible on the people behind the names on our War Memorials.

Did you have a relative who was in the forces at this time? Do you have family stories of life at that time? Are

there any details of the effects on families who lost loved ones or whose lives were changed by the return of a loved one from the war? Did anyone tell you about the changes within communities? Do you have any photographs/memorabilia? The project background research will start soon but look out early in 2014 for community

meetings being held to gather information from you. We will discuss ways of involving the whole community in the project. This will culminate in the production of the booklet, GPX Trail and DVD, after the Commemorative Service being held at Amble West Cemetery and the Memorial Gardens on Sat 2nd August 2014.

CONSULTATION

THE DRAFT policy Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Housing, Employment and Green Belt Preferred Options sets out options for growth in housing, and employment, to thus retain people of working age, so that industries and businesses can be maintained or increased. Even small rural areas need more homes to sustain the local services and businesses and keep their communities viable. It will form the guidance for decisions on planning applications for the next 20 years. While there is a great deal of information to digest, try to read it and comment as your views can help to shape what happens within our own area.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

At this time of the year it is good to reflect back on what has been achieved in Amble. We have had a number of successful festivals, new restaurants and businesses have opened and plans have been laid for the future Harbour Village. We can look forward to more exciting times for Amble in 2014. However nothing could have been achieved without the fine work carried out by our volunteers, who day in and day out worked on committees and on projects around the town. My thanks to all those involved.

There are still those who have doubts about the future of our town; but rest assured we will work equally as hard in the future and with more help we will put our town on the map. Amble - a place which instead of 'nice fish & chips' - will be a place to visit with a lot to offer. On behalf of all the Council, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Craig Weir, Chairman

PADDLERS

THIS YEAR we have decided to look at various options for recreational facilities which might be implemented at the Paddling Pool area, as we are keen to see it kept for this purpose. We will be mindful of the amount of work involved in running anything and the cost of maintaining whatever is placed there. We hope that by late Spring we will have some definite ideas and be applying for grants/assistance to carry out the work. It may be that 2014 won't see a change but we are determined that by then something positive will be taking place to make this an area of which we can be proud.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services

WE HAVE had a meeting with NCC and Arriva regarding services to the Eastern end of the town. At present, as you know, a trial run of a limited number of services to Links Estate is being conducted. Initial discussions suggest the service may not be commercially attractive enough to continue operating. Mindful that in the future there may be 48 houses built, with an access to Philip Drive, we have urged that the services be maintained and if possible, with 250 houses due to be built opposite the Industrial Estate, that they look at changing the route to cover a greater area in the future. It would be a tremendous help not only to these new residents but to all of our existing ones who rely on public service transport.

Unfortunately we have no real control over them but we have pointed out that we feel sure it will be financially better for the company to draw on this wider population base. However it seems it is unlikely that Arriva will change as they see this as a lengthening of the time already taken to complete a journey. Therefore we will need to start looking at more local based initiatives for future operations and the cost of these. In the meantime, please cut out the new timetable on pages 17 and 18; you must use the services if you want there to be any chance of keeping them.

Parking and Vehicle Movement

Although work is not fully completed, Coquet Street Car Park is open again to the public. As the largest area nearest the town centre it is well used and needed to encourage people to shop in our town. We have some unique small businesses which we all need to support to keep our town flourishing. We expect the results of the Benchmarking Survey to be available in the Spring and the views expressed there should help us to see what needs to be done to encourage more people into the town. We all know the town lacks lots of central car parking. However this can be helped by better traffic management which encourages the flow of traffic within the town and the movement of vehicles to free street spaces on a regular basis. Along with NCC and other groups, we have been looking at traffic management for Amble and we urge you to get involved when these come to public consultation. Have a look and give your views both negative and positive so that we can move forward to get a better plan for everyone's benefit.

EAST WARD:

Robert Arckless,
37 Anne Crescent, Amble
NE65 0QZ

Tel: 01665 711938

Helen Lewis,
Tel: 07762069026

Craig Weir (Chair/Mayor)
76 Priory Park, Amble
NE65 0HY
Tel: 01665 712342

WEST WARD:

Ian Hinson,
11 Eastgarth Avenue,
Amble. NE65 0LW
Tel: 01665 710583

Jeff Watson
Thimbles, 60 Robsons Way
Amble NE65 0GA
Tel 07802 385367

Katherine Bennett
12 Robsons Way
Amble. NE65 0GA
Tel: 01665 714812

CENTRAL WARD:

Kate Morrison,
3 Island View
Amble NE65 0SE
Tel: 01665 711191

Jane Dargue
10 Sylvia's Close
Amble NE65 0GB
Tel: 07795360513

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Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil
Office hours: 10-11.30a.m. & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday Minutes available to view in Office or at Amble Library
Elaine Brown (Town Clerk) Angela Burn (Clerical Assistant)



Above photos by Steve Miller Below: Girl guides, crowds, photos by Anna Williams

Remembrance Day



HUNDREDS of people joined the Remembrance Day service in Amble Town Square on Sunday 10 November. Wreaths were laid at the Amble and the Radcliffe war memorials by representatives of the Armed Services and civic and community

organisations. Prayers were led by Rev Diane Westmoreland from St Cuthbert's Church and Rev Lynda Coulthard from Trinity Methodist church. This year the service ended with everyone asked to sing the National Anthem.



Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

Adult Learning Courses and Activities in Amble

We offer a variety of day and evening courses and activities at the Dovecote Centre in Amble. These courses are useful whether you are looking for work, thinking about changing your career, seeking promotion, or looking for something to do with your leisure time.

Northumberland Adult Learning Brochure delivered through your door from 6th January 2014

Classes start week commencing 20th January 2014, prior enrolment is essential.

See our new brochure for many other courses and fees. Many of our courses are free to those aged 16-18, not in full-time education and for those in receipt of certain benefits. Please ask on enrolment.

Fabric Painting for Beginners	Mon 1:00 – 4:00pm	20 Weeks	£100.25
Drawing and Painting for Beginners	Mon 9:30 – 2:30pm	20 Weeks	£100.25
Drawing and Painting for Intermediates Level 2	Mon 9:30 – 12:30pm	20 Weeks	£100.25
Amble Art Club	Mon 6:00 – 8:00pm	10 Weeks	£70.00
Initial Text Processing Entry level	Mon 6:00 – 8:00pm / Tue 1:00 – 3:00pm	10 Weeks	£29.40
Award/Certificate in Text Processing Level 1	Mon 6:00 – 8:00pm / Tue 1:00 – 3:00pm	20 Weeks	£29.40
Certificate in Text Processing Level 2	Mon 6:00 – 9:00pm	20 Weeks	£141.93
Award in Customer Service Level 1	Wed 9:30 – 2:30pm	10 Weeks	£58.80
Computing for Beginners	Tue 9:30 – 12:30pm / Wed 9:30 – 12:30pm	10 Weeks	£88.20
Computing for Intermediates (ECDL Level 2)	Tue 6:00 – 9:00pm	20 Weeks	£141.93
An Introduction to Cake Decorating	Tue 12:30 – 3:00pm	5 Weeks	£28.75
Functional Maths	Thu 1:00 – 3:30pm	20 Weeks	Free
Functional English	Wed 9:30 – 12:00noon	20 Weeks	Free
Employability Skills	Thu 9:00 – 3:00pm	10 Weeks	Free
Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care – Level 1 Award	Fri 10:00 – 12:00noon	11 Weeks	£58.80
Working with Children – Level 1 Award	Fri 9:30 – 1:30pm	22 Weeks	£96.25

To find out more Pop in to the Dovecote Centre and speak to a member of staff, or

TELEPHONE: 01665 714736

We are currently open 9.00am-4.00pm Monday-Thursday and 6.00pm-9.00pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Christmas carol concert

Alnwick & District Choral Society presents a celebration of Christmas in carols, old and new with audience participation. Conducted by Peter Brown.

Takes place in St Paul's Church, Alnwick on Sunday 15th December 2013 at 7.30pm.

£9 (£8 concessions) at the door.

Lifeboat coffee mornings and AGM

Christmas Coffee Morning 15 Dec 10am – 1pm

SOS Day Coffee Morning 15 Jan 10am – 1pm

The A.G.M. for Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers will be held on Wed 15th January 2014 in the Lifeboat House, Radcliffe Quay, at 7pm. All members of the public are cordially invited.

Finally, may we thank everyone for their support during this past year and wish you all a very

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2014.

Eleanor Cassidy, on behalf of ALF Committee members.

Western Front Association

2014 Speaker Programme

27 January 'Tynemouth WW1 Project' Alan Fidler

24 Feb 'British Politics & the First World War' Dr. Martin Farr

24 March 'Haig: A Reappraisal' Professor John Derry

28 April 'The Martial Traditions of the North East of England: Understanding the rush to the colours in 1914'. Dr. Dan Jackson

Meetings take place at 7:15 (for 7.30pm) on the fourth Monday of every month at

Alnmouth & District Ex-Servicemen's Club & Institute, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth

A warm welcome awaits visitors & WFA members new to the branch Donations – Suggested minimum £2

Enquiries to: Chairman Neil Brison 01665 602349 or Secretary David Easton 01665 830928

WEA : Hitler and Stalin

WEA class starts on January 9th, 2014

Thursdays from 10am-noon

A 10 week course entitled "Parallel Lives: Hitler and Stalin"

Tutor: Tony Barrow

Tony has given lectures to Amble and Warkworth branch many times and has been invited back again by the branch.

Please note: meeting in Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Street. Further information: Norma Hinson 710583 or Hilga Peacock 711156

WHAT'S ON

Rotary Club Christmas Collection

Santa Claus with his sleigh and his helpers will be visiting your area on the following evenings in December from 5.30pm

Thu 12 Amble (West)

Fri 13 Acklington and Broomhill

Mon 16 Amble (Middle)

Wed 18 Amble (East)

Thu 19 Amble (South)

Fri 20 Warkworth

Sat 21 Amble

(Queen St. 9am – 12noon)



Panto beanstalk planted in Warkworth

What do a calculating cow, an evil giant and the Prime Minister have in common?

To find out the answer, you'll need to be at the Warkworth Memorial Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 12, 13 and 14 for the village drama group's annual panto.

Produced and directed by Antonia Hoskins and Gary Brown, this year's pre-festive offering is 'Jack and the Beanstalk': an action-packed entertainment, fun-filled and punctuated by much music and dance.

The familiar tale of the idle boy Jack who gets conned into flogging the family cow for a few beans has been given a comic makeover by Damian Trasler, David Lovesy and Steve Clark.

Get your ticket for the panto from N&F Young of Amble, Warkworth Village Store or on-line via

www.warkworthdrama.org.uk They cost £6 for adults and £4 for children. The performances begin on all three days at 7.30pm. There is also a matinee on the Saturday, starting at 2.30pm.

Out of the Trees music festival

Saturday 28th December 2013

Northumberland's only alternative music festival returns for its ninth year on Saturday 28th December 2013. Out of the Trees will play host to some of the regions finest and most eclectic musicians.

This year looks set to be inspiring with sets from Sky Larkin (Wichita Records) Rivals, Richard Dawson, Hannah D'arcy and Ajimal (featuring Tessera Skies). The full lineup is available on our website.

The day-long festival takes place in Warkworth, at The Hermitage Inn, The Masons Arms and in the village Memorial Hall.

Entry to all venues will cost a mere £12. On top of that all proceeds from the event will go to The Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Foundation and The British Red Cross Philippines Appeal.

So if supping a pint of real ale in a village hall while listening to the best folk/alt/punk/indie music the Northeast has to offer sounds like your bag then look no further than this amazing and totally unique little festival. It has to be seen to be believed...

For all information and full festival lineup please see www.outofthetreesfestival.com or visit the Facebook page.

Royal British Legion

Next Meeting: Wed 15 Jan 2014

Speakers: Ken and Pam Linge, Royal British Legion, Somme Branch, France, researchers on the WW1 Thiepval Memorial on the Somme. They will talk about the project they are involved with: researching 60,000 names of the fallen on the Thiepval Memorial and the New Thiepval Visitor Centre

Puzzle solution from page 12

A	A	O	P	E	R	A	T	E	S
G	R	U	B	S	R	E	H	C	
C	S	J	A	I	L	E	A		
S	H	R	E	D	W	I	N	F	E
A	I	G	N	A	T	T	E		
W	O	O	L	E	R	P	U	S	E
A	E	A	X	E	K	V			
S	K	I	D	Z	R	O	U	S	E
Q	N	D	E	F	Y	L	U		
U	L	C	E	R	R	H	E	A	R
I	H	E	V	I	L	L	A		
N	E	A	A	R	E	S	I	N	
T	I	D	E	M	A	R	K	S	L

OR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	S	R	W	Z	M	G	Y	A	O	P	B	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	N	X	C	E	Q	T	U	D	I	K	L	V

WOOLER

Live Music

Masons Arms

Dec. 7 Insanity

14 Rain Maker

21 Judith Rising

26 Karaoke Disco

Jan. 1st Karaoke Disco

Harbour Inn

Dec. 7 Sax and Keys

14 Shona Bell

26 Ricky Moore, hypnotist.

31 Singer

Jan. 1st Darron Lewis

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Through the Lens 2014

Photo competition organised by St. Cuthbert's Church and Amble Photography Group.

Categories: 1. From Tyne to Tweed 2. The Natural World

Entry charge: Adults £1 per entry, 18years and under free.

Closing date for entries: March 31st, 2014

Name, address, email and category on the back of each photo; prints mounted on card, not exceeding 20"x16"; one entry form per photo. Maximum of 10 entries per person. Entry forms from church, N&F Young, and Development Trust at Fourways 2. Exhibition of all entries in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, May 3rd, 4th, 5th.

Hauxley chapel services

Sunday Dec. 8 Carol Service with the Rev Ron Forster, Mrs Shirley Forster and musicians.

Sunday Dec.15 Rev. Lynda Coulthard, Holy Communion.

Sunday Dec.22 Rev. Dr. Diane Westmoreland, Holy Communion.

Tuesday Dec.24 Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion, Rev Colin Horseman.

Wednesday Dec.25 Christmas Day. NO SERVICE.

Sunday Dec.9 Rev Gary Ridley.

Sunday Jan 5 Rev. Lynda Coulthard. Covenant Service.

Sunday Jan.12 4pm Area Service, Stakeford Methodist Church. (No service at Hauxley).

Sunday Jan.19 3pm Christian Unity service, St John's Chevington (No service at Hauxley).

Sunday Jan 26 Mrs Sarah Mitchell and Mr Sam Palin, Homelessness Sunday.

Sunday Feb.2 Mrs Lillian Dixon.

Sunday Feb.9 Rev. Lynda Coulthard.

Sunday Feb.16 Rev Gary Ridley, Holy Communion.

We are a small ecumenical congregation who worship in Low Hauxley on Sundays at 4pm unless otherwise stated, followed by a cup of tea.

Sea Angling Competition

Amble Sea Angling Club's 37th Open Shore Championship January 5th, Fishing 9am-2pm

Competition HQ and registration (with refreshments) at Radcliffe Club from 7am

Registration also at Amble Angling Centre before competition date.

Entry fee: £12 all classes

Juniors (16 and under) especially welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Weighing and refreshments at Radcliffe Club afterwards

Approximately £6,000 total prize fund

WHAT'S ON

Church Christmas Services

Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Street

Dec. 15 10.30am Carol Service

Dec. 22 10.30am Service

Dec. 24 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Dec. 25 10.30am All age service

Dec. 29 10.30am Service



St Cuthbert's C of E

Sat. Dec. 7 10am-12 Carol Singalong; tea, coffee, biscuits.

Sun. Dec. 22 6pm Carols by Candlelight.

Tues. Dec. 24 6pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Wed. Dec. 25 9.30am Christmas Communion

Sacred Heart

Dec. 22 9.30am Mass, followed by wine/tea/coffee and mince pies, Christmas draw

Dec. 24 6 pm Carols

6.30 pm Mass

Dec. 25 9.30 am Mass

Dec. 26 10 am Mass



St. Mark's URC

Dec. 22 10.30am Christmas festival

Dec. 24 5.30pm Round the Christmas Tree

Dec. 25 10.30am Christmas day service

Dec. 29 10.30am Service at St.James URC, Alnwick



Northside SURF

5* Tripadvisor

Gift With a Difference

Surf / StandUpPaddle vouchers (redeemable next Season)

Online sales of Surfboards, Wetsuits etc



Tel: 01665 713146 / 07944398115

jon@northside-surf-school.co.uk www.northside-surf-school.co.uk



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Arkless

will be holding Surgeries on

Friday 24th January 2014 6pm - 6.45pm
at Hauxley Village Hall
and

Saturday 25th January 2014
from 10am - 11am in Amble Library

All Constituents Welcome



The Old Boat House

A new and exciting bistro,
driven by local produce,
the sea and
wood fired ovens

The Old Boat House
Leazes Street, Amble
01665 711232

info@theoldboathouse.co.uk
www.theoldboathouse.co.uk

Pavilion refurbishment and celebrations

New windows and doors, a new roof, boiler, kitchen and a major clearout has left Amble's pavilion once again ready for action. Grants totalling £29,360 came from The Big Lottery through Sport England, Amble Town Council, Amble Development Trust and Talk Talk. The renovations to the former cricket pavilion at the Welfare were carried out by local builders Kelly Construction. and the building was opened by Rod Henderson on behalf of Amble footballers and Amble Development Trust.

"We'd always wanted Ronnie and Brenda Falkous to officiate" said Julia Aston director of Amble Development Trust who managed the project, "due to their dedication to

Amble football teams and the voluntary work they have done at the pavilion, but sadly they were unable to attend, so Rod stepped in on their behalf.

"At the same time we secured funding for a Hallowe'en event for the local skateboarders, so it seemed a good idea to combine the two."



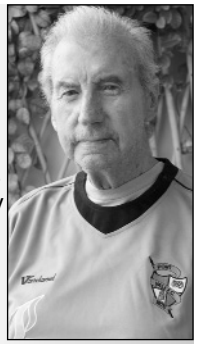
Two professional skateboarders, Paul Regan (above left) and Mark Baines (above right) visited the skatepark, demonstrating moves and sharing tips. A GoPro camera was used to capture video footage of some of our local action heroes and you can see the two minute video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbJtryuH5r8>

Prizes of scooter and skateboard accessories were donated by Amble's XIT games and there was a barbecue and music organised by Coquet Youth Team.

"Mark and I came up from Hull and Sheffield today to skate the park and meet the locals" said Paul Regan. "It was wet at first, but it dried out quickly and it's a good skate. It's a good skatepark and the locals are really friendly."



Ray King column



I was recently asked to comment on why goalkeepers spit on their gloves. It is simply a gesture that some goalkeepers use to "gee" themselves up. The gloves already have a sticky substance to aid the handling of the ball.

I never wore gloves and there was only one occasion as I recall when I spat on my hands. I was playing for Port Vale against Liverpool at Anfield in 1956. At one point the ball sailed up into the crowd and took ages to be returned to the pitch. In those days we only had one ball! When the ball was eventually projected back to me I distinctly remember how strongly it smelled of beer and urine. I grimaced as I spat on my hands and wiped them on my jersey. How the crowd loved that.

I was also recently asked to give an assessment of the England manager during 40s and 50s, Walter Winterbottom. It was Walter who drafted me into the 1954 England World Cup squad, at the expense of Bert Williams. Bert had kept goal in the 1950 World Cup when England lost 1 - 0 to the United States. Unfortunately for me, team selection was the role of the FA directors who knew little or nothing about putting together the best possible team. They had the power to dictate policy. Walter wanted me as his first choice goalkeeper but the selectors, in their wisdom, said that it would be demeaning to have a 3rd division (I was playing for Port Vale at the time) goalkeeper in the World Cup! Surely this begs the question: "Why did they allow me to be selected in the first place?"

As events unfolded, England drew 4-4 with Belgium, beat Switzerland 2-0 and then lost 2-4 in the quarter-finals to the 1950 winners, Uruguay. Following the disappointment and frustration of England's performance Walter told the players that there would be a "Wind of Change" with regard to new playing systems that would be used, including the "echelon" formation and the concept of "environmental sense". One of the players called out, "How on earth do you expect thick buggers like us to understand that jargon?" Actually, he was even more explicit than that!

To compare Walter Winterbottom with other England managers is a bit like comparing chalk with cheese. Walter was the consummate gentleman, but also possessed a caustic wit that ensured players knew exactly when to "toe the line". As a coach he was supreme and (please excuse the pun) in a league of his own. Sadly it was the interference of the selectors who overruled him on so many occasions which finally broke his spirit as the England manager.

The change that Walter had described did not really assert itself until 1966 when Alf Ramsey did away with wingers. This new strategy did win the World Cup - but at what price? In my opinion football lost much of its excitement.

Walter Winterbottom with his educated tongue was England's most popular manager - the players loved and respected him.

The above has been published in The Bangkok Post