

The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 85 March/April 2014

Flood defence work

Flood defences at the Butts in Warkworth are due to begin in early March. Work is expected to take 16 weeks. Three trees are due to be felled before the main works begin.

>> Continued on p4

Tesco clear site

Rubble has been removed from the proposed Tesco site and the company is looking into the costs and time scales for demolition of the derelict buildings.

Mark Thomas, Tesco's Regional Corporate Affairs Manager for the North informed Amble Town Council that revised plans will go out for consultation in early April.

Festival takes wing

Amble's famous Puffin Festival will be winging its way to the Friendliest Port once again.

From 26 May – 1 June the town will go puffin mad, celebrating the iconic little birds with a week of fun, games, walks, talks, music and crafts.

This year the festival will last for a week, with guided nature walks, nature and local history talks, arts and crafts, watersports, photo exhibitions and live music to entertain locals and encourage visitors to spend more time in the Friendliest Port.

Shops and businesses are being encouraged to go 'puffin mad' with window displays or themed events.

Volunteers are also needed, so if you would like to help, please contact Amble Town Council: 01665 714695
ask@amble.gov.uk



Waiting with baited breath

Funding from central government to develop part of Amble's harbour is due to be decided on within the next few weeks.

The ambitious plans for the town were submitted to the government's Coastal Communities Fund in October.

If given the go-ahead, the project, known as the Harbour Village, would create 26 direct jobs, 11 indirect jobs and 8 jobs would be safeguarded.

Training places and apprenticeships would also be created.

The £2.5M project would see the creation of a seafood brokerage, 15 incubator pods, and the opening of a hospitality skills training centre in the town. Coquet Shorebase Trust would be relocated to the Braid, and a public walkway would be completed along the waterfront.

Director of Amble Development Trust Julia Aston said "If the application is successful, this will be a huge boost for the town. It's an opportunity for our entrepreneurs and much needed help for our fishermen. The hospitality skills training centre also presents opportunities for young people, right on their doorstep."

An old boat storage area would be transformed to house 15 incubator units for micro businesses. Landscaping around the area would also help direct walkers from the Town Square to the quayside.

The plans were developed by a team of people from Northumberland County Council, Amble Development Trust, Amble Town Council and business and community representatives.

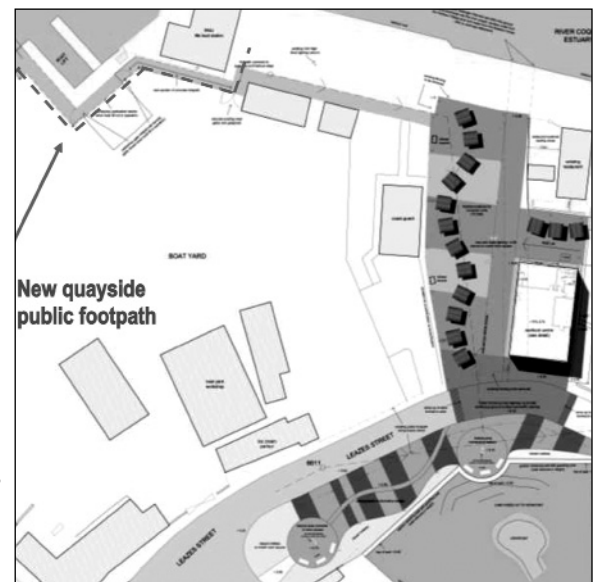
Chef Richard Sim was also positive about the Harbour Village. "I'm more than behind this project, I definitely want to help" he said. He and Northumberland College would work together to create hospitality skills courses, tailor-made to meet the requirements of employers.

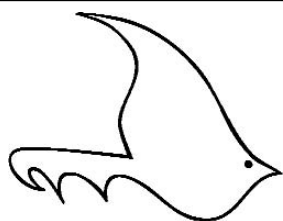
"Hospitality is the only growth industry in the area. It would be nice to see if we could move it forward. There's lots of opportunity and I hope it goes ahead. It would make a huge difference to the whole area," said Richard.

"Let's hope the government does the right thing and approves the money for this scheme" said Amble's Mayor Craig Weir. "It will be a great asset to the town and we would be able to look forward with great anticipation."



Above: a community consultation on the Harbour Village was held in September and got positive feedback. Below: a boat storage area would be redeveloped as part of the project.





The Ambler

Fourways 2,
6 Dilston Terrace, Amble,
Northumberland. NE65 0DT.
Tel: 01665 712929
www.theambler.co.uk
editor@theambler.co.uk
twitter: @AmbleByTheSea



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Editorial Team:

Justin Cooper - Vivienne Dalglish
Norma Hinson - Tim Jones
Michael Lowery - Lou Pickering
Cath Teasdale - Anna Williams

Thanks to:

Mark Beswick
The Artograffi Crew

Printing:

Azure Printers, Pegswood

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Times, they are a changin'

This edition is packed with plans. Change is in the air; some are grand designs (front page, p3), while others are smaller but still significant alterations to our daily life. What if there was no police station and the officers were based in an office elsewhere in the town? What if local people were offered affordable houses, or had the chance to open a micro business here in town?

Some of the plans that you can read about in this issue could potentially change the lives of local people in a fairly short time; some plans, like the Tesco development have been in waiting so long we begin to wonder if they will happen at all. (We are assured they will).

Either way, change is in the air and it is surely a very positive indication for the town. Economic "green shoots" may seem like an affirmation chanted by politicians in the South East, but actually, here in Amble new businesses are starting up and others have been able to expand (p4).

Plans of a different nature are in here too. 'In Memory of the Fallen' (p19 and 20) is a project about Amble during the First World War. If you have any photos of family memories of what life was like in the area from 1900 - 1925, please get in touch with us or with Amble Town Council.

And finally, I hope you're dusting your feathers for another 'puffin mad May' as the second Amble Puffin Festival hopes to entertain locals and entice visitors to the town. If you would like to volunteer your help - it doesn't have to be a lot of time - you will be very welcome.

Amble police station earmarked for closure as police respond to funding cuts



Neighbourhood policing is apparently under threat as the government makes huge further cuts to funding. However, we are assured that we will be protected in Northumbria with a series of far reaching changes. These will guarantee that the numbers of police officers and police staff on the beat is maintained.

Efforts have been made to safeguard the services the public say they value most – visible policing in their communities. This will be achieved without the need for any increase in the council tax for policing. A list of police stations due to close includes Amble. We are told that the stations which are proposed for closure will not close before alternative accommodation is found. This will be happening over the next four years.

Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird said: "The Government cuts are relentless and unfair. They impact far more heavily on our police service than on many others. The Chief Constable and I are very committed to maintaining the number of police officers and staff working in our neighbourhoods. I am conscious that local people are feeling the effects of the economic downturn, acutely, in our region. We have managed to protect frontline numbers and deliver the savings needed without the public having to pay more."

All aspects of police services have been scrutinised to make as many none staff savings as

possible. The force faced difficult decisions in order to achieve the level of cuts required – either reduce the numbers of frontline officers and staff or change operational structures and reduce running costs.

The proposed changes will not reduce the service to the public nor impact on the force's ability to reduce crime and disorder.

Chief Constable Sue Sim said: "Neighbourhood policing will remain the cornerstone of how we deliver service and I remain committed to protecting, as far as possible, the officers and staff who are visible in our communities. This includes 24/7 response and neighbourhood policing teams, including CSO Patrol, Community Engagement Officers and the detectives who work in neighbourhoods".

In the new structure the number of Area Commands will reduce from six to three – north, south and central.

The north will have its headquarters at Middle Engine Lane, Wallsend, with stations at North Shields, Bedlington, Ashington, Hexham, Berwick and Alnwick.

Neighbourhood officers will remain in the communities they serve, based in accommodation familiar to the neighbourhoods where they work. These offices will be open at the same time as the station currently serving the public.

More Harbour plans

Coble Quay: housing and retail

Plans to turn a derelict part of the quayside into a vibrant and desirable addition to the Friendliest Port have been submitted to Northumberland County Council. The plans include housing, retail and office space and would occupy an area between the Town Square and the waterfront

Coble Quay Developments Ltd, Nick Spurr, (owner of Amble Boat Yard and Spurreli Boutique Ice Cream) and Tony Pull, a builder and former owner of a builder's merchant's business have teamed up with architect Mario Minchella with the idea of transforming the derelict yard into an imaginative project.

Tony is the project manager and he described the plans:

"There would be 17 waterside apartments, with plenty of parking and space for up to three retail units as well as office space. The two bedroom and duplex apartments are designed in blocks of four and five storeys with views over the harbour and marina. They will be built in stages, with the full project hopefully completed within 18 – 24 months".

Although the office space will become Amble Boat Yard's new HQ, the retail units will be available to anyone. The idea is to provide more outlets for good quality food: the plans include a food preparation area and a pavement café.

Even as Amble's reputation for great food increases, a recent report instigated by Northumberland County Council suggests that the development could be beneficial to the whole town.

A decision is expected to be made by Northumberland County Council's planning committee on March 18. You can see the plans on the County Council's planning website.



If given the go-ahead, this is how both new development plans at the harbour could fit together

proposed Coble Quay development

proposed Harbour Village development



Affordable housing plans

Housing development intended for local people

Planning approval has been given for the construction of 48 new properties on land adjacent to the south and west of Dandsfield Square as part of NCC's Affordable Homes Programme.

Homes for Northumberland held meetings with the Town Council and a public consultation; feedback from these meetings brought about amendments which were made to the suggested plans. These were well received at a subsequent meeting.

Building will take place on a field which does contain goal posts, but is not a designated recreation space, and has been earmarked for housing for a number of years. A play space will be provided within

the design, although the area is substantially reduced. The form of the playing facility provided will be decided upon after further consultations and discussions with planning officers. During building, a safe area of the field will be kept open.

Northumberland County Council is aiming to start on the site in March 2014. Galliford Try has won a competitive tender for the scheme, but contracts are yet to be signed. It is hoped to complete the project by spring/summer of 2015 (subject to weather conditions and other external factors).

Homes for Northumberland told *The Ambler* that the properties being constructed

are based on the local housing need: 8 two-bedroom bungalows, 12 one bedroom apartments, 20 two bedroom houses, 8 three bedroom houses

There are approximately 240 applicants on the waiting list for housing in Amble; so HFN believe the demand is there from the local population.

Properties will be offered to applicants through the normal Homefinder process. It cannot be guaranteed that all of the successful applicants will currently reside in Amble, but priority is to be given to those with a local connection.

Further information on these plans can be found on the County Council's website.

Tributes left for Amble fishermen

Floral tributes lined the edge of the Quayside after the deaths of two Amble fishermen.

Mark Arries and Edward Ide died on board the fishing boat Eshcol as it was moored in Whitby harbour on January 15th.

It is believed that Mark (26) and Eddie (21) died of carbon monoxide poisoning after a gas grill was left on overnight.

The two men were both from Amble although Eddie lived in Blyth. Both had recently become fathers.

Messages of condolence were also left on *The Ambler's* Facebook page.



Work to begin on Warkworth's flood defences

>> Continued from front page

The defence will take the form of a reinforced concrete wall, clad in natural stone to match the existing stone in the vicinity.

There are some other provisions, such as local ground raising, and rebuilding or re-pointing of existing walls to ensure the integrity of the new defence.

The wall will be approximately 200 metres in length and located within the grass verge alongside the riverside.

Permanent pedestrian access over the wall will be provided by a ramp and two

secure flood gates will allow access through the wall for grass cutting and maintenance.

The defence, when complete, will provide protection against tidal and fluvial (river) flooding.

The total value of the works is in the order of £390,000.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency told *The Ambler*: "Before we commence any works, we will be speaking to individual residents regarding any parts of the works which will impact on them directly."

Sky's the limit for aerial mapping firm

QuestUAV is based in Amble's Enterprise Park and manufactures Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (UAVs) with onboard high tech cameras. Photographs taken by the cameras are passed through specialist aerial mapping software to produce incredibly detailed 3d maps of the landscape.

The technology is used for surveying agriculture, forestry and - who knows, may even be able to photograph the green shoots of recovery, if its own fortunes are anything to go by.

QuestUAV's managing director Nigel King told *The Ambler* about the soaraway success of the business.

"We started with a small unit on the Enterprise Park, but we had to move into a larger unit. We've grown so fast we've had to take on an adjacent unit as well. At the moment we have 12 staff, and there are plans to take on more people in the near future."

With five years' research and development in manufacturing UAVs, the team are now developing more specialist products. Their latest innovation is 'Q-Pods' which allow the UAVs to be fitted with different imaging technologies, making them a modular and therefore more versatile product.

"We're becoming more niche" said Nigel. "Our aim, by the end of 2014 is for our productivity to be up by 500%. We have a global market now, people purchase UAVs from us to do a variety of different jobs, from surveying, to mining research, to earthquake monitoring."

Their customers include universities and organisations throughout the world.

"The future looks very bright for QuestUAV and Amble, with more jobs and larger premises on the horizon. It's pretty cool to be able to run such a high tech business from the Friendliest Port!" said Nigel.



Lorden design

She's been painting antique, vintage and reproduction furniture for a long time, and now Denny Rogerson has converted an old laundrette into a new outlet for her business. Denny has been painting furniture for many years but doing it commercially for about five years.

Denny is from Alnwick, but Amble claims a special place in her heart, and she knows it well. "My Granny was from Amble, her name was Margaret Coward. I've always liked Amble - and it has such a vibrant feel here now."

The business is called Lorden and is situated in the old laundrette on Leazes Street. Denny has carefully filled it with different styles of second hand furniture, all painted in different shades and finishes. A garage at the rear of the premises will act as a workshop.

"I've got a massive stock, it's not just what's in the shop," says Denny. "And I can source things for people, or paint their furniture too. But I keep prices affordable, I know people like a bargain"

Lorden's winter opening hours are Thursday to Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sundays 11 - 3pm

Poppies planted to remember the fallen of WW1



The entrances to Amble have been sown with poppy seeds as part of a national campaign to remember the start of World War 1. It is hoped that when the bright red flowers bloom in the spring, the gateway roadsides into town will provide a fitting tribute to the memory of the millions of people killed, and to local families who were affected by the 1914-18 Great War.

The Co-operative Funeralcare recently donated special poppy seeds to local volunteer group, Pride in Amble, to enable them to sow them in time for them to bloom a beautiful red in the spring. Rotarians too have planted poppy seeds along Rotary Way between Amble and Warkworth.

Louise Stott, from The Co-operative Funeralcare, said: "To commemorate the huge sacrifice made by millions of men and women during the Great War, we are joining the campaign to help cover the UK in real Flanders poppies during 2014, and we are extremely happy to be able to help local community group, Pride in Amble, to take part in this campaign".

Craig Weir, Chair of Pride in Amble said: "Amble Town Council is leading an initiative to commemorate the start of WW1 – they have recently secured funding to produce a booklet in memory of the fallen and to enhance the current GPX trail plus a short DVD. It is encouraging to see local businesses such as the Co-operative taking part in this worthy cause. I know this is only the start of what is hoped to be a fitting memorial for the occasion."

"Rotarians from Amble and Warkworth joined forces with the Friends of Amble and the Army Cadet Force to sow poppy seeds along Rotary Way," said Rotarian Fred Calvert. "It is hoped that the poppies will bloom in 2014 to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War."

Television opportunities

Channel 4 are looking for people to take part in a primetime series which sees people with a compulsion to clean offer their services to people with disorganised houses in need of a spruce up. If you are interested, please get in touch by calling 02079070892 or email clean@betty.co.uk

Does your house need a makeover, don't have the money for it? The makers of Grand Designs are developing a brand new series that overhauls homes in need of help and getting them ready for market. Could your home do with the ultimate overhaul? Do you have damp, clutter or dated interiors that need renovating to increase your home's market value? If so, and you'd like to find out how this series can help you, please contact andy.smith@boundlessproductions.tv or call 020 7691 5017.

Poppies are traditionally associated with WW1 due in no small part to the poem In Flanders Fields, written in 1915 by Canadian poet and doctor Lt Col John McCrae.

Wikipedia states: "Its references to the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the remembrance poppy becoming one of the world's most recognized memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict."

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



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YOUR LETTERS AND EMAIL

Cancer UK coffee morning

Thank you to all those who supported my November coffee morning for Pancreatic Cancer UK when £179.60p was raised. Special thanks to Ashley Simms (Body Shop at Home) for his help
Penny Horseman Leslie Drive, Amble

Amble fraudster caught

Just after Christmas two people entered my Amble shop (21st Century Movies) on Queen Street and deliberately confused me to obtain change of £20.00 twice.

As they left I knew something was wrong but couldn't work out what it was. I checked the CCTV cameras and immediately realised that I'd been done so reported it to the police.

When the police attended they viewed the CCTV and took my details. After circulating the CCTV images around the Northumbria force the main offender was recognised, charged and prosecuted.

This is a nice positive news story and demonstrates that crime doesn't pay.

Rod Hardisty 21st Century Movies, Amble

Parking woes in George Street

I used to spend my holidays in Amble with my grandparents Jack and Mamie Davis, who ran the shop on the corner of Newburgh Street and Leslie Drive, and after coming back for a holiday with my wife two years ago we have retired here. It's the best thing we have ever done.

We really love it apart from one thing, the car parking in George Street where we live. It's an absolute shambles meaning that unless you are really lucky you will not be able to park outside your own house which is annoying when you return with a big shop or with your young grandson and it's raining.

The main problem is that there are houses that have been turned into flats which has caused a rise in the number of cars. Also some homes have two cars. Surely the people in the flats could park one car in the back lane to ease the congestion in the main street.

I know a lot of people are really unhappy with the situation and something needs to be done as tempers are often frayed. Perhaps there could be a permit system where if there are two cars in one property one should be parked in the back lane. Surely it's not asking too much to be able to park your car outside your front door.

George Street Resident (name and address supplied)

Christmas lights raffle thanks

The Christmas lights raffle raised £660 with thanks to:

Derek and Susan, The Schooner.

John and Suzanne, The Harbour Inn.

Neil Davison Windows. Amble Sunday market.

Becks Ground Works.

Aquarius Bathrooms.

Mossman and Gillard.

Northern Structures

Bede Street Club.

Northern Training Partnership Amble Angling Centre.

VG Food Store

John and Susan Kent.

Douglas Mossman.

Bev Bell.

Amble Scaffolding.

Also everyone who bought a ticket.

Thank you all for your support.

Amble Christmas Lights

Memorial Garden vandals

WANTED!

1. The person or persons who have wilfully destroyed a section of the Memorial Garden in Amble Town Square.

2. A tree and some bushes which had just been planted.

The location is the side of Lawson Street which has been used as a short-cut into the gardens to get access to the town, so saving about 15 seconds on their journey; instead of using the lane.

Over the past few years a willing group of volunteers have tried to repair the damage that time and neglect has brought to the town square.

The latest stage was to block off the unauthorised access from Lawson Street with plants and a barrier to allow the plants and tree to get established. The flower beds are now getting to a reasonable state but still have been damaged by the passage of people too lazy to pass along the Lane. Any ideas??

If those brave men who gave their lives so that you can carry out this sort of vandalism were here they would be insulted and disgraced to be associated with you. Let's hope that none of the perpetrators have a relative inscribed on the Memorial!

I can't say why these people behave this way, just to postulate that the 2nd World War was started by people who did not see anything, did not hear anything and did not bother to do anything. Is this how you see Amble?

Or is this the sort of activity which gives you joy in the dead of night? Mind you, pulling up the plants; then throwing them onto the high hedge beats me for logic.

Craig Weir Chair, Pride in Amble

Will you sponsor Jodie?

I heard about the Little Princess Trust and decided to get 12 inches cut from my hair to send to them. They rely on hair donations to make wigs for children suffering from cancer and illnesses that cause hair loss.

Next time, on March 31, I have decided to get more than 12 inches cut off in aid of The Bubble Foundation, an organisation taking care of babies born without an immune system and children with leukaemia and severe forms of arthritis.

There are only two centres in the UK in Newcastle and Great Ormond Street. So please help me to raise money for such a great cause!

You can sponsor me by popping into House of Usher and leaving a donation or by visiting my just giving page at www.justgiving.com/Jodie-Taylor88.

Jodie Taylor via email

Proud of father's success

My father, 82 year old Keith J Wilson, who regularly visits relatives and friends in Amble and Alnwick, has just had his first historical novel published. It is a thrilling adventure set during the English Civil War.

I invite you to visit Keith's website at www.keithjwilson.co.uk/ and also to take a look at his Facebook page:

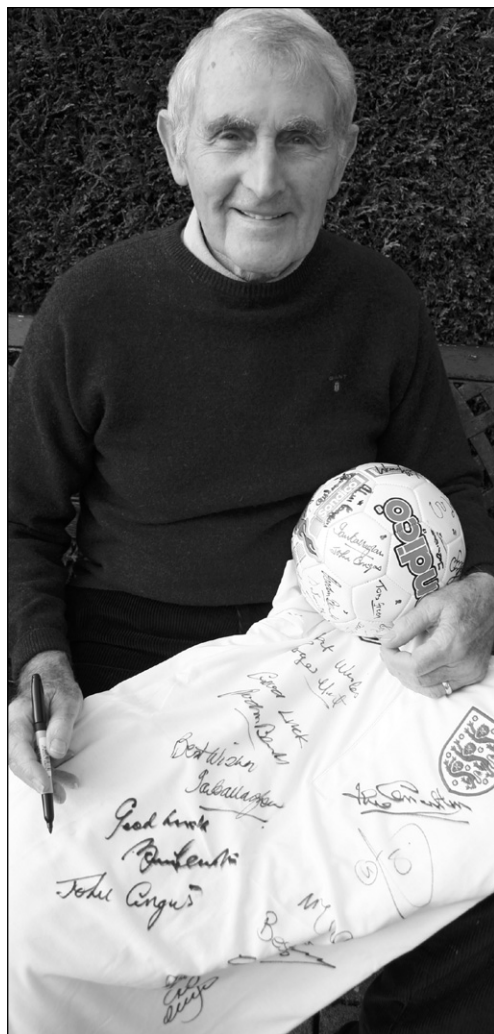
www.facebook.com/pages/Letters-from-the-Past/619858324725110

I am simply a son who is very proud of his father's success after several years of hard work. It is a gripping tale of secrets, spies, romance, murder and mystery. With grateful thanks.

Adrian Wilson via email

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.

Veteran Amble footballer signs with England legends



John Angus played for England in 1961

Local football veteran John Angus is helping to honour a former Newcastle manager. He has signed an England shirt and ball, which will be auctioned to raise money for a bronze plaque in memory of Joe Harvey. John's name joins a host of England Internationals' autographs including Gordon Banks, Bobby and Jack Charlton, Michael Carrick, Wayne Rooney and Rio Ferdinand.

Joe Harvey was Newcastle manager from 1962-75 but is yet to take his place in the Magpies' 'Hall of Fame'. A bronze memorial plaque (5ft. by 3ft.) will be placed on the Gallowgate wall if enough money can be raised.

The idea for the commemorative plaque came from Fairs Club chairman Bill Gibbs. He and club secretary Harry Watson have collected the signatures. Roger Hunt, Gordon Banks, Ian Callaghan, Paul Scholes, Malcolm Macdonald and Alan Shearer are also due to sign.

John who started out playing for Amble Boys' FC and now lives in Warkworth, was called up a total of 10 times for England's youth team and under 23s. His full cap came in 1961, when he made his debut for England against Austria in Vienna.

John played in over 500 matches for Burnley in the 1960s and 70s, as a defender, scoring 4 goals. He remembers playing at St James's Park where he met Joe Harvey. John has played with Roger Hunt, Jack Charlton, Bobby Charlton, and Gordon Banks. Signatures on the ball include most of the Newcastle players who took part in the 1965 Newcastle vs Burnley match.

Burnley fan Alistair Campbell (yes, that Alistair Campbell) remembered meeting John and described him as a "lovely man".

"I'm happy to sign shirts for causes like this" said John. "I played over 40 years ago, but I still get requests. Now and then for shirts but mostly they send me programmes."

Information on the auction and progress on the Joe Harvey commemorative plaque will be available on the Fairs Cup website, or by ringing Harry Watson on 01912620544.

Anna Williams

Your correspondent is reliably informed that 29 May will be 45th anniversary of Newcastle winning the Fairs Cup



Northumberland's 'citizen speed cops'

Northumbrian motorists are being encouraged to slow down by "citizen speed cops" who have been trained by Northumbria Police in using speed monitoring equipment.

The Northumbria Police Community Speed Watch scheme have recruited 31 people from local areas who will assist officers tackling speeding.

The scheme began as a pilot in Rothbury and has been so successful other areas, where local people have raised the issue of

speeding, are being involved.

Under the Community Speed Watch scheme anyone found speeding will receive a police and community letter, letting them know that the local community does not tolerate speeding. If the same driver is identified a number of times then contact will be made and action may be taken.

"The scheme aims to make motorists aware that police and local residents are taking positive action to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone."

More information on volunteering opportunities can be found at: www.northumbria.police.uk

Boy Racers

Reports of cars being driven anti-socially by 'boy-racers' in the area near to the harbour have resulted in 12 vehicles being taken off the road.

New operations are planned to take place every two months and resources will be made available.



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Anchors away



Nick Spurr of Amble Boat Yard with his heavy lifting truck with Phil Derry and Jeff Watson

A large anchor has been moved from its resting place at the entrance to the Braid and has a new home outside Coquet Yacht Club. Commodore of Coquet Yacht Club Phil Derry told *The Ambler*:

"With permission from the Warkworth P.C. It has been moved to Coquet Yacht Club for safe keeping and to add a more nautical flavour to our club which is connected to Amble."

The original history of the anchor appears to be in some doubt, so *Ambler* readers are being asked to help fill in the gaps. Email: editor@theambler.co.uk if you have any information.

Arriva will no longer run their services on the 472 route. Travelsure will continue to run four services for the time being



Bus route saved but timetable reduced

The Links Estate bus route, described in detail in our last edition, has been saved, but considerably reduced.

Of the seven journeys that run daily on route 471, three will be cut from the end of next month.

From April 1, the first service of the day

will be 9.53 at the Fourways, getting you to Newcastle by 11.33. There will be three more at 12.10, 14.10 and 16.10, meaning that the latest time you can leave Newcastle on the return journey is 14.40.

The County Council explained that Arriva has cut its services earlier in the

Edwin Street Nursery

Staff at Edwin Street Nursery are delighted with the outcome of their recent Ofsted inspection. After being open less than a term, the inspector's comments celebrated the high quality of the town's latest nursery provision. It was judged to be "good" and stated that "Children make good progress in this welcoming environment, supported by staff who have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how children learn and develop."

Nursery manager and deputy head teacher of Amble First School, Louise Brown, commented "The success of Edwin Street Nursery is down to the hard work and commitment of the Early Years team, backed up by the support and dedication of the whole staff team at Amble First School. We are all delighted and look forward to going from strength to strength!"

New Year, new challenge?

Alnwick Markets/Local Living are looking for people who would like to become directors of the organisation. Primarily, you need to be keen about providing vibrant weekly general markets and a monthly farmers' market in Alnwick and being committed to seeing this happen.

Local Living is an Alnwick based social enterprise. As well as running Alnwick Markets, it also delivers the local tourism fair. They want to broaden their role in the community and need more directors to help them achieve that. If you are interested in helping them, they would also like to hear from you.

The director positions are voluntary; out-of-pocket expenses are covered. Please contact Philip Angier on 07971 162623 or Andrea Perrett on 07889 042783 to arrange, without obligation, a chat.

JCSC youngsters help Berwick food bank

Students from James Calvert Spence College in Amble helped to collect emergency food supplies in a bid to help those less fortunate.

The North Northumberland food bank initiative, set up in September 2012, is run by a team of volunteers including community groups, churches, local schools, voluntary groups, individuals and local businesses. Food 'giving points' are placed in supermarkets, shops, offices and attractions where donations are systematically brought back to a central storage centre in the William Elder Building in Berwick upon Tweed.

Pupils from James Calvert Spence College collected as much non-perishable food as possible to make sure no one in north Northumberland went hungry at Christmas. All donations were delivered to the Berwick distribution centre.

Incident at Hauxley

Police are appealing for information after an incident in High Hauxley.

At 6:20am on Wednesday January 29 a woman was standing to the rear of Kirkwell Cottages when she was approached by a man who threw petrol over her before running off.

PC Mark Redfern, investigating officer said: "This is a very unusual incident and I would appeal for anyone who was in the area early on Wednesday morning and who saw anyone, or anything, suspicious to contact us."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101 ext 69191 referencing log 150 290114.

Shed burglary

Police are appealing for witnesses after an attempted shed burglary.

It happened about 3.40am on Thursday, January 16, at Dandsfield Square when the metal bar locking the shed was damaged. The suspect made off when disturbed by the homeowner.

Neighbourhood Inspector Paul Truscott said: "We're carrying out enquiries into this burglary and would ask any witnesses or anyone with information about it to get in touch. I'd like to remind residents to be vigilant and report anything unusual or suspicious they see in their community to police."

Police are appealing for witnesses to contact them on 101 ext 69191, quoting reference 120 16/01/14, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Amble Links First School pupils celebrated Chinese New Year with a visit from Jill Weatherburn who works for Quorn. Jill showed the children how to make various Chinese meals.

Head Teacher Paul Heeley said "It was fabulous to see the children trying different foods and most thoroughly enjoying it too! All children were given a set of chopsticks to try out; this proved to be great fun!"

Featured business

Your health is your wealth

It has been a year since the re-launch of In Sync. Previously situated in Ashington, the Holistic Therapy and Physiotherapy Clinic established itself in Amble last year.

In Sync's founder, Hazel Small, engaged in a business partnership with physiotherapist Rebecca Broderick and they haven't looked back. They would like to thank the residents of Amble and surrounding areas for a warm welcome and much appreciated custom.

Hazel, previously a registered nurse, is familiar with many physical and emotional problems and uses nursing experience along with sports and remedial therapy, electrical modalities and holistic therapies to relieve problems. One to one sessions of level three Pilates are available for postural analysis and to create individual exercise plans to improve posture, core strength and flexibility, to help prevent injury.

Rebecca has had many years of experience as a physiotherapist in hospital settings, privately and abroad. She may use manual therapies, ultra sound and/or acupuncture in her care plan. Acupuncture can also be used in the treatment of stress related conditions as well as physical problems. Rebecca's use of clinical pilates differs in that it is used in rehabilitation after injury/physical trauma to re-establish stability.

Sometimes patients are in pain/discomfort and/or have some degree of immobility but, they aren't always sure which therapy will be best for them to get them back on track. Rest assured, you can have an informal chat with Hazel or Rebecca and they will ensure you are provided with the most appropriate treatment for you and given the best possible care.

Why don't you address these aches and pains today? Make a New Year's resolution to look after yourself and create a new you!

Furthermore, why not re-boot your energy system after the holidays and detox with a colonic?

Colonic Hydrotherapy is not only used for constipation but to relieve other digestive problems. The consultation is in depth to make sure the treatment is appropriate for the individual; to help identify the causes of the problems and address any underlying health issues; to offer specific advice to the individual patient.

If you are unsure if this therapy can benefit you, please call Hazel for an informal chat and to view the colonic set-up.

For more information on treatment visit www.getinsync.co.uk It is best to phone for an appointment as both therapists may be on home visits so the clinic may not always be open.



You can contact Rebecca (l) on 07790 701353 or Hazel (r) on 07943 827439

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Progress at Hauxley Wildlife sanctuary

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is celebrating receiving funding from a number of sources. The charity has benefitted from several grants from the People's Postcode Lottery.

The Hauxley Land Appeal, in particular, has received a £4,000 cash boost from The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust. The current total of the land appeal stands at £89,000 - a staggering £14,000 over the £75,000 target allowing them to purchase the 12 acres of farmland adjacent to the reserve.

The £14,000 will be spent on work to restore the farmland to an area rich in wildlife and accessible to the public.

Carers, get in touch

The county's only local charity working for all carers, regardless of their caring circumstances, is concerned that many carers don't know it exists and would like them to get in touch.

Anne-Marie Johnstone, Information Officer, said, "Many carers are missing out on information about benefits and support. We want carers to contact us if they are caring for a family member or friend who is elderly, ill, disabled or misuses substances. Being a carer can be very isolating and we want them to know that we are here to support them, whatever their situation"

Carers Northumberland's information line is 01670 320025. They work closely with specialist agencies across Northumberland and beyond, to secure the most appropriate information and advice for carers.



Brambles' preschool children made a dragon to celebrate Chinese New Year, which they took down to the town square with parents and carers.

Dog fines pay for dog rescue charity calendar

As part of Northumberland County Council's crackdown on dog fouling, 74 fines have been issued for dog control offences. The money raised is funding the council's 2014 dog rescue calendar and all the proceeds are going to five dog charities across Northumberland.

The calendars are available for a minimum donation of £3.99 from council information centres or by contacting the animal welfare team on 0845 600 6400. 100% of the money raised goes to dog charities.

Dog fouling problems can be reported to the council by ringing 0845 600 6400 or email ask@northumberland.gov.uk.

Raised allotment beds

Following the upgrading of the walkways at the Percy Drive Allotment site, the Council and the Allotment Holders Society are considering the future relocation of the raised beds to this area when an allotment becomes free. This would mean easier access for wheelchairs and disability scooters.

Are you disabled, in poor health or just wanting to try your hand at growing vegetables before committing to a full allotment? No matter what your age, we'd like your ideas on how to make this work for our community. Would you be more likely to use a raised bed at this site?

Let the Allotment Holders secretary- aahsecretary@gmail.com- know of your interest and if sufficient numbers are keen, we will look into a community funded scheme to start a raised bed area there.

Dial-a-Ride Service for Amble

North East Equality & Diversity (NEED) Ltd, is now operating a door to door minibus service from Amble to Ashington. for older people, people with a disability, those socially or rurally isolated or on a low income and unable to access suitable public or private transport. It runs every Tuesday and goes via Hadston and Widdrington.

Northumberland County Council's Get Going fund is paying for the service until 21 October when it is hoped it will have become self-sufficient or that Amble, Hadston and Widdrington parish councils might be able to give a small sum of money to help it continue.

Clients will be picked up between 09.30 - 10.30am from their home. The returning bus will leave Ashington between 1 - 1.30pm. The driver will help with shopping bags.

Passengers have to be members of NEED which costs £5 a year. The fare from Amble, Hadston and Widdrington is £6.00 return. Unfortunately at present they are unable to apply concessionary fares.

If you are interested, please call 01665 605780, email needadmin@btconnect.com, www.needltd.co.uk to learn more about this service and how to book a seat.

Stepping up to support customers

Northumbrian Water has launched a new partnership with StepChange, a debt charity, to help support customers who may be facing financial difficulties.

The partnership, an industry first, will help customers access free, confidential debt advice and solutions. It started during National Debt Awareness Week in January 2014.

Northumbria Water recognises that water arrears may be a sign of a wider problem and can make a referral when StepChange may be able to help.

Ian Donald, Northumbrian Water Customer Services Director, said: "Having seen the brilliant work that StepChange does and the incredible life changing difference they make to those they help, we are really proud to be working in partnership with them to support our customers."

Andrea Cook, Chair of the Water Northern Consumer Council, said: "By working with an independent charity that is expert about debt matters, the water company is taking a very positive step forward in supporting customers who may be facing financial difficulties."

StepChange previously known as Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), has over 20 years' experience of helping people become debt free. They have helped over two million people deal with problem debt and offers a range of services and solutions to suit every situation.

The number of people seeking help for debt problems in the North East has increased by 39% in a year, according to StepChange. Last year, 6,464 North East residents contacted the charity's helpline, up from 4,658 in 2012.

The charity's figures show people contacting the charity from the North East are struggling to make ends meet, and have, on average, just £9 left each month after covering their essential household bills. Last year, people from the North East who contacted the charity's helpline owed an average of £13,354 in unsecured debt. For more information contact Mike Chipchase on 0191 301 6720.

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HOPE AND LILY'S BLUE PETER BADGES!

We interviewed Hope and Lily (pictured), the proud owners of Blue Peter badges.

Hope applied for her sports badge during the summer holidays of 2013, when she did the task of introducing her friend to running; they had to take a picture of the event and get a teacher (from Hope's school) to sign a form. Hope also had to answer some questions.

Lily's process however was very different to Hope's. She told us that she had written a letter about right whales and how they were almost extinct (as she had learnt about them at school) she did this letter with her sister who also got a badge.

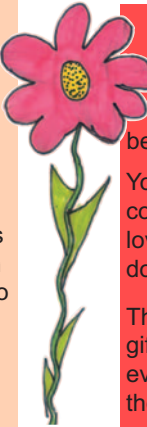
There are lots of different types of Blue Peter badges, for example: blue, silver, green, sports and many more. The gold badge is very rare it's a badge that

people only receive if they have done something incredible, like saving someone's life or helping someone recover.

Hope and Lily are extremely lucky because they get to go to places like Alton Towers and Edinburgh Zoo for free! Why? It's because of their badges of course! They got a special pass with their picture on which allows them to go to loads of British attractions for free!

Blue Peter is on every Thursday night on the CBBC channel at 5:30pm.

By Niamh Mackintosh



MOTHERS DAY

Mother's Day is a day when you by your mum a present and make her breakfast in bed.

You look after her and you give her your company and show her how much you love and respect her for all she has done.

The most traditional Mothers Day gift is flowers. Mother's day happens every year. This year Mother day is on Sunday the 30th of March.

By Martha Bilacz



THE EASTER STORY

Easter is a celebration where you get Easter eggs. The Easter bunny comes and leaves you chocolate eggs.

It is a celebration where Christians believe that Jesus gave his life so that we could live.

One of his disciples betrayed Him to the Romans.

They put him on the cross and put nails through His hands and feet. They also put a crown of thorns around his head. He was crucified and he died.

He got put into a stone cold tomb and his body got rubbed with myrrh and a massive stone was rolled over the exit.

Jesus lay in the tomb for three days on the third day Mary and a friend came to visit Jesus and when they got there the stone had moved and the only thing inside the

tomb was a bunch of sheets and cloth. Mary was so sad, she was shocked, she could not believe it.

She saw a man walk up to her, it was Jesus! "How are you alive?" she asked.

"Well, I rose from the dead because God wanted me to," said Jesus.

By Martha Bilacz



MINECRAFT

Well as you know we all love Minecraft from the creepers to the zombies from the woods to the desert. It's just fantastic, the villagers are creepy and the spiders - well I can't help hiding in my little house! What is the best thing about Minecraft for you?

My dream is that that one day when I was just randomly mining, I would find some gold. That would be so cool. The best thing about Minecraft is the monsters.

By Gaby H-D



PANCAKE DAY

Pancake day is all about pancakes and every body loves it so when you wake up get ready to flip your pancakes.

Pancake day also known as Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is when we count down 40 days until Easter, when Jesus died on the cross. The whole point about Lent is for Christians to give up something like chocolate, so pancake day is the last day to have something yummy before Lent. Shrove Tuesday is on the 4th of March this year.

By Annabel



DOCTOR LOO

Some people who are big fans of The Doctor have changed their bathroom door to look like a Tardis.

Here is a poem about it:

Doctor loo, Doctor loo, if you are a fan of Doctor Who, Look online, go on CBBC news round, I can tell you now that you will be surprised what you have found. Go to your bathroom look at the door, I don't want to spoil any more look online like I have told you before!

By Ben H-D



FROST

I come out at night as it is cool I hop along the grass blade to blade, Leaving a white trail as I go I am the ring leader of snow I leave your cars frozen solid De icer is my foe But you are my friend You play in my work For I am frost I say bye bye as the sun comes up but beware I will be back when you say night night.

By Victoria Coleran

STORY: BINKY'S RAFT RACE

Binky is a young panda who gets up to an awful lot of trouble!

"Shall we get some more wood Binky?" asked Bazzle. The two best friends were building a raft for the famous 'Amazon Panda's River Race', which they were going to win!

Their raft was small and wooden and lined with leaves. Binky's little sister Ivy insisted it had to be tied together with jungle vines and stuffed with flowers. Their team was called TeamBB.

There were four other teams; Team Flower, Team Adult, Team Sandy and friends, and Team Lucky Ducks.

"3,2,1.....go!" shouted the head panda,

and with that, all the pandas set off. Sandy and her five friends immediately fell off their raft and into the river, as did the adult team, but Team Flower and Team Lucky Ducks speeded on with Team BB.

Suddenly, the all-girl Team Flower raft turned a wrong turn...to the waterfalls!

"We have to do something," shouted Binky, "they'll be killed!"

"So will we!" said Bazzle but they turned their raft all the same.

Soon, they were speeding along the waves trying to catch the girls using one of the jungle vines from their raft.

Suddenly, the waterfall came in sight.

Nearly all the girls had caught on to the vine, except Blossom.

"Help!" she cried as the rope slipped away from her grasp.

Quick as a flash, Binky started crawling along the tight vine across to their raft, and just in time, managed to grab her.

Team BB did not win the race, but they both got a bravery medal for saving lives!

By Lily Tibbits



Let down fans have sent horrible messages, and some fans have threatened Dong Nguyen.

Mr. Nguyen said that he called Flappy Birds a success.

I found it very difficult to play.

By Martha Bilacz

FLAPPY BIRDS

Flappy birds has been deleted from mobile app stores and can not be downloaded any more on your phones. It was created by Dong Nguyen.

It has been downloaded more than 50, million times. Flappy birds is the most popular mobile game so far.

RECOMMENDED GAME

Rayman legends: help our limbless hero (Rayman) protect against the darkness threatening the land once again. With over 100 levels, you can compete against the world in the daily and weekly challenge. Play as over 20 characters, keep over 50 pets and challenge your friends to a game of Kung foot. (PS3, PS4, X-box, 360 x-box one and Wii U)

My rating: 4.5/5

By Sebastian Bilacz

Christmas Lights' secretary Florence steps down

After many years' loyal service as Christmas Lights secretary, Florence Angus stood down and we would like to record appreciation for all she did.

Thank you Florence! Now we have a new secretary, Angela Thompson at The Tavern. She has already made her presence felt and has settled into the role in a very positive and dynamic way. Welcome Angie!

From January 2013 many repairs and renewals were attended to. Then we spent many months upgrading our electricity supply.

We were sometimes on the street three times a week until the work was completed in September.

The team has had a demanding year, but it was worthwhile. We have made new displays and have had positive feedback from many people.

The team has lost none of its enthusiasm, still retains its collective sense of humour and is already planning the displays for 2014.

If anyone out there wishes to join us, get in touch with Angela at the Tavern or ring me, Trevor, (details below).

On the night of the switch-on the parade was first class and the atmosphere was fantastic. Thanks to all who made the effort!

When we had no secretary, I did the secretary's duties, and I became aware of just how fortunate we are in Amble. I visited all



the shops and businesses on Queen Street and some beyond, and the support from them was positive and generous.

In my sincere opinion there is an improving atmosphere and a positive feel to the shopping street of Amble. This has much to do with the people, but it is also down to the collective efforts of the businesses and their staff. I think they deserve some praise. "Well done!"

While there is not sufficient space to mention everyone that has supported us, special thanks must go to the town council, the businesses, shops and pubs, the Development Trust, the Rotary Club, the Freemasons, the churches, the market traders, Amble Action Group and last but not least, the individuals, who put their

coins in the donation boxes or supported us in any way.

The lights team thank you all. It is appreciated and we hope you continue your support in 2014.

It is our intention to run another tombola fundraiser on Sunday 3rd August 2014 at the Quayside market. If anyone has anything suitable to donate we shall be most grateful.

Donations could be left at the Tavern, Pride of Northumbria or alternatively ring Angie on 01665 713160 or Pauline on 01665 710846 or Trevor on 01665 711453.

Finally we hope you all have a healthy and happy 2014.

*Trevor Colbourne,
Chairman of Amble Christmas Lights*

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Support Amble Lifeboat

Have a cuppa with ALF...

AMBLE LIFEBOAT FUNDRAISERS (ALF) will be holding coffee mornings on: 16 March; 20 April (Easter); 18 May; 1 June (Puffin Festival) and 15 June.

Eleanor Cassidy, Vice Chairman says, "Everyone will be very welcome to join us to enjoy our home-made savouries, scones and cakes with teas and coffees".

"We thank you for all the support you have given ALF these past years and here's hoping it will long continue. The money raised is well used and essential to keep this valuable service running".

"We look forward to seeing you there and please bring your friends along with you."

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Checking up with Amble Dental Practice



Happy staff: new working methods at Amble Dental Practice 'are benefitting patients'

In 2011 Amble Dental Practice was selected by the Department of Health to be one of 70 dental practices in England to pilot new ways of delivering NHS dental care.

We felt this would be an exciting opportunity for the practice to take part in delivering evidence based preventative care that the current systems of NHS dentistry didn't accommodate well.

After several training days and delays in software development we finally went live in August 2011. What we hadn't anticipated

was that the Oral Health Assessment appointments, which form the cornerstone of new approach, would take more than twice as long as the traditional dental check-ups to complete.

As you will know, that didn't help waiting times or appointment books! Thank you for your patience during this time. It wasn't ideal for anyone, but we, and the Department of Health, learnt a lot.

It quickly became apparent that the structure of the practice couldn't continue as it was and that we needed more help.

Sadly in these financially straitened times, the Department of Health were not in a position to increase our very limited NHS funding, so we had to think of ways to increase access without any additional cost.

Thankfully our committed team have worked hard over the past two and a half years to better utilise their knowledge and skills.

We have also employed a Dental Therapist to complete a lot of the routine dental treatments freeing up our team of dentists to complete more Oral Health Assessments.

It's been hard work, but now we are starting to see the benefits for our patients. The skills we have learnt and the preventative care we have been able to deliver have resulted in patients having healthier mouths.

This in turn has meant that fewer fillings, crowns and extractions are needed, so reducing our waiting times.

A big part of this pilot has been helping our patients to understand why they are developing dental diseases and showing each patient how to prevent further disease in their mouth: virtually all dental diseases are preventable.

Research conducted by ICM last year showed that 72% of patients agree that compared to previous NHS dental care, they now know better how to look after their (or their children's) teeth and gums.

*Duncan Thomas
Amble Dental Practice*

Stargazing along the Northumberland Coast

Fabulous stargazing events are being organised by the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership and Northumberland Astronomical Society (NASTRO) and will take place over the next three months.

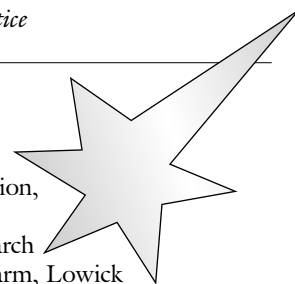
Each event will run from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. It will feature an indoor guided tour of the Solar System, a Laser guided tour of the night sky, a series of other short

talks and, weather permitting, be followed by an opportunity to observe the stars using a variety of telescopes.

Events are free but booking is essential as spaces are limited. Refreshments will be available and the events are suitable for all ages but strictly no dogs allowed.

Please bring suitable warm clothing and a torch.

Saturday 15th
March – The Pavilion,
Bamburgh
Saturday 22nd March
– Hunting Hall Farm, Lowick
For further information please
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Attractions for residents weekend

Top attractions throughout Northumberland will be offering free entry and discounts to people living in the county during the annual Residents' Festival on 29 and 30 of March this year.

This year it is set to be the biggest and best yet with over thirty attractions in the line up. These include: Alnwick Garden, Bamburgh Castle, Chillingham Castle, Cragside, Corbridge Roman Town, Hexham Abbey, Housesteads Roman Fort, Kielder Water and Forest Park, Newbiggin Maritime Centre, Paxton House Gallery and Country Park, Wallington, Warkworth Castle and Woodhorn Museum.

Residents will need special vouchers to receive free or discounted entry to the attractions. These can also be downloaded from the council's website on residentsfestival.northumberland.gov.uk

They are available in the residents festival leaflets that will soon be displayed in local libraries, county council offices, tourist information centres and sports centres.

St Cuthbert's Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is not just a physical journey but a journey of spiritual exploration – who we are and what we are about.

We live in an area filled with ancient sites; people follow pilgrimage trails to Lindisfarne, Bellingham, Melrose and many other places. Here in Amble the Parish Church is open every day, to give the opportunity for a mini pilgrimage right here on your door step.

When you go into St. Cuthbert's you will see on the welcome desk a display card telling you about a mini pilgrimage you can take around the interior of the church.

Rather than being just a historical tour this walk will give you the opportunity to stop and think at 11 places about the things that matter to you, or to pray if you wish.

It has been written for people of all faiths and none, for people who are used to prayer and contemplation and those who have never done it before. We want to be a resource for the whole town.

As a part of the experience we have started to develop a prayer corner. It is usually placed in the new open area that faces you as you walk through the main door. Every four to six weeks it is changed to reflect the changing seasons. Just after Christmas the theme was following a star – a chance to think about hopes for a new year. We hope that this will become a place where people can drop in for a few minutes peace and quiet and a chance to think and recharge spiritual batteries. People have already told us how helpful they find this chance to stop and connect with God.

If you do come in to the church during the week it would help us if you fill in our new visitor's book. We want to know how you find the experience of coming in to St. Cuthbert's when there isn't a service happening and where prayer has been offered for over 140 years.

Sister Canon Penny Horseman C.A.



Business networking event

The second Business Northumberland networking event was held at Woodhorn Museum, bringing together over 50 businesses.

There was an opportunity to network, helping to strengthen business relationships. Feedback on the Business Northumberland social networks was very encouraging. A third Business Northumberland free networking event is already in the planning stages with huge interest being expressed.

For further information on the service they offer and their range of free events, visit: <http://www.businessnorthumberland.co.uk>

Catchup with Coquet Medical Group

As a regulator, the Care Quality Commission checks whether hospitals, care homes and care services are meeting essential standards of quality and safety.

Coquet Medical Group was recently found to be compliant in the following areas:

- respecting and involving people;
- care and welfare of people using services;
- safeguarding them from abuse;
- cleanliness and infection control;
- requirements relating to workers.

For more information or to see a full copy of the report speak to our receptionist or visit www.cqc.org.uk or phone CQC on: 03000 616161

Appointment reminders

We currently provide appointment reminders to the telephone numbers recorded on your computer records. If you do not have a mobile then we need your permission to send reminders to your landline number.

To help us minimise the number of Failed to Attend and therefore increase appointment availability, we would be grateful if you could check that your contact details are up to date the next time you make an appointment. Thank you!

Staff Changes

We are very sorry to have to say goodbye to Dawn Lucas our receptionist and Pam Kus our secretary. Both have been with us for five years and we wish them the best for the future. Kymala Thornton is our new receptionist and is already proving to be a great asset to our team.

Our Practice Nurse Moya Mason has reduced her hours and Michelle James, also a Practice Nurse has increased her hours to compensate.

Rachel Nickson has recently joined the Health Visiting team and will be working three days a week. Lynn Douglas, District Nurse is currently providing maternity cover to the District Nursing team.

Professor Scott Wilkes

MBChB FRCGP DRCOG FSRH PhD

In October 2013 Dr Scott Wilkes was appointed as Professor of General Practice and Primary Care at Sunderland University. He will spend three days a week in his new role and two days a week as a GP Principal the practice.

In his academic work he is involved in many health service research projects, teaches Masters and PhD students and works for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). He has over 15 years experience as an NHS researcher, has worked on various committees, is an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care, and has delivered a number of BMJ Masterclass lectures throughout the UK.

His research interests include smoking cessation, thyroid disease, stroke and complex interventions.

The following link gives access to view his academic work.

<http://www.sunderland.ac.uk/research/researchstaff/facultyofappliedsciences/pharmhealthw-bd/professorscottwilkes/>

Carers need looking after too!

We are now keeping a register of carers. Please let us have your details so we can add you to our list.

Thank you to all our patients who have helped contribute to our second hand book sale at Amble Health Centre. So far we have raised £254 for Leukaemia Research and £132 for Children in Need.

Adoption promotion

Northumberland, along with nine other Councils, is launching a campaign which aims to dispel the myths that often prevent people from coming forward to adopt.

With over 4,000 children waiting to be adopted in the UK, including around 385 North East children, the 10 councils have been working to encourage more people to begin or extend their family through adoption.

Policy Member for Northumberland County Council Children's Services, Councillor Robert Arckless said, "We want to spread the word that if you are looking to begin, extend or complete your family - adoption is a wonderful way to become a parent, for both the adults and the children."

We are looking for permanent, loving homes for children who are no longer able to live with their families. Children of all ages and backgrounds are waiting to be adopted. We welcome applications from all sections of our community.

Alister Brown, Northumberland County Council's Spokesperson for the North East Adoption Consortium said, "The consortium works on a continual basis, sharing information about our children and adopters to find the right match for children as quickly as possible."

"The process to become a parent through adoption is more streamlined, so the application, preparation and matching of families is quicker for all concerned; particularly for making the right family match for waiting children. The local council services are also there to support families if they need any help or advice throughout their family life."

If you are thinking about adoption we would like to hear from you. Please visit www.adoptionnortheast.com

Finding William Penrose



Jill Clark from Alnwick wants to find out about her family.

She told us, "I recently found photos which show my grandfather, William Penrose, and am trying to find out more about them. He was born in 1891 and lived in Amble until he married and moved to Alnwick (he is the son in G Penrose and Son). In the attached photo, he is in the middle front, with my grandmother."

Jill would love to get any more information about the people or venue on this photograph. She can be contacted at jillclark48@btinternet.com

Amble the friendliest port

I am now 26 and have been here nearly two years and still the town captivates me. The evocative smells that come from Jaspers café are still comforting.

This is especially the case on a cold winter day when I travel home via bus from the cold and lonely areas of Northumberland.

Listening to the boats gently bobbing on the sea still conjures up a feeling of serenity within me. The fresh sea air that I inhale alleviates any of my anxiety and refreshes me if I am feeling down.

We think of air, going hand in hand with wind. I have discovered there is a subtle difference. The air here draws me in and makes me feel wanted. Its nipping and eager feeling is even now intriguing.

I am still amused by the unusual characters I come across on my travels. Increasingly people come from afar to help in the areas where I need help. Moreover, I stumble upon those who reminisce about the good old days as the working man's culture has left its legacy.

Michael Lowery

You have been warned...

Beware the Ides of March – Shakespeare did not invent this – it goes back to ancient Rome. The ancient Romans had March as the first month of the year on their calendar and because they counted the days starting from the middle of the month 15th became their New Years day called the Ides.

This became notorious because Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. Legend has it that he was warned by a 'seer' of his assassination on the Ides of March.

He was on his way to the Theatre of Pompey on this day and passed by this seer. He made a joke saying, 'you see I am still alive'. However on arrival at the Senate he was stabbed to death by the conspirators led by Brutus and Cassius.

The moral to this story is 'he who laughs last laughs best!'

Lou Pickering



TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME

01665 710 442

MONDAY TO SATURDAY: 11.30AM-9.00PM SUNDAYS: 11.30AM-2.30PM

★★★★★ NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

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With a career spanning nearly two decades, Craig is extremely excited to be embarking on the adventure of opening his own salon.

Throughout a colourful career he has been fortunate to have worked with some of the biggest names and brands in the industry, winning a place on the prestigious L'Oreal ID team, presenting on-stage and showcasing his work across the country.

In more recent years Craig has gained a vast knowledge and technical ability in his role as a technical consultant.

Beauty Beyond

We are delighted to announce that Julie is back after maternity leave. With a career working in Health Spas and establishing her own business over the last 10 years, she welcomes all clients, old and new, to join us on this new adventure.



St. Martins



@Hair_Saint

Reports from our County Councillors

Tough choices for tough times.

Budget cuts facing Northumberland County Council this year are the largest in years and are on top of a succession of previous difficult grant settlements from central Government. In four years we face the prospect of the loss of a quarter of the revenue budget with projected cuts of £64 million in the next two years alone. Protecting front line services against cuts of this scale will be impossible, but changes to the senior management structure and looking at radical options such as moving services out of County Hall and better use of the Council's assets should lessen some of the pain.

Buses

I am working with senior transport officers to look at ways of sustaining local buses. The 471 Travelsure service which connects the Links to Amble town centre is guaranteed funding by the County Council for another year. That gives us a chance to look at ways to improve services: the important thing is to use what services we have if they are to have a longer-term future.

Clean and green

The condition of too many of our out of town centre estates is just not good enough. I am delighted that Homes for Northumberland and the council have reached an agreement on grass cutting and grounds maintenance which should see a significant improvement in the council estates. This agreement will be closely monitored and promised improvements will be delivered. Funding for this will come as part of rent payments and I hope to see real change. This agreement should also ease pressure on services in the rest of the town so there should be an overall improvement.

Budget issues

Budget proposals identifying possible cuts of some £33 million for the new financial year are now out to consultation. Children's Services are tasked with identifying over £5 million in cuts; that is out of a budget of some £40 million

Robert Arckless

Telephone 01665 711938

Email Robert.Arckless99@northumberland.gov.uk

I am trying to arrange for a new bus shelter to be erected on Acklington Road opposite the High School. Councillor Arckless has promised financial support alongside mine and the Town Council has agreed to take responsibility for its maintenance. I am awaiting final estimates for the project but am confident that it should be completed in the next few months.

I have been in further contact with the police regarding the fatal accident at the bottom of the Wynd and the possible erection of a speed camera. I am advised the position should be made clearer after the inquest due to be held in April this year. A number of residents have expressed concern about the flowers etc. at the scene of the accident as being a possible distraction to drivers and it was good to see that the dead flowers had been removed. Perhaps the family will in time also remove the shirts etc from the scene of the accident.

I have seen the revised new plans for a development at the bottom of Gloster Hill. In my opinion there is little difference to the original plans and therefore I have continued with my objections

The new netting on the multi use games area at the Welfare ground seems to be working well and I look forward to further improvements being made to the Welfare ground this year with funding from Persimmons as a part of its house building agreements for the town made with the county council.

As ever I am available to you on

07802385367 Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk

TRUSTLife

news from Amble Development Trust

Call Me Maybe

Since the last edition of *The Ambler*, we have been waiting patiently (well perhaps not quite so patiently) for the outcome of the Coastal Communities Fund bid, which was due on January 6th.

First day back at work after the Christmas break and we were all excited; Santa had been kind to us all, would CCF do the same? Sadly not. The day came and went as did the week, then another – the waiting was excruciating. Each phone call and email having the potential to be The Call!

And then - finally - at the end of January came A Call. Not The Call, but a call nonetheless... saying... "No formal announcement for the next couple of weeks."

Government timescales seem to run at a different speed to everyone else's, so I am writing this in the middle of February, still waiting for an official announcement from Danny Alexander. I doubt he'll be ringing me himself, but you never know.

We have our fingers crossed and by the time you read this, I hope the outcome will have been announced, and obviously I hope it will be a YES!

A huge amount of work went into the bid from the team at Northumberland County Council and ourselves.

So much background work had to be complete before the bid could be submitted,



but that was only a starter. Planning conditions had to be met or resolved, partnership agreements in place, service procurement carried out ready to commence if successful – the list went on. But officers at NCC, who have been designated to work with the trust, have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything would be in place.

Often people can be critical of the county council, but I can vouch that on this occasion they have been extremely supportive and proactive.

There are several elements to the project: the Harbour Village, relocation of the Shorebase Trust, public realm improvement works and hospitality training centre.

If the Harbour Village gets the CCF funding then this, combined with the

Marina, Boat Yard and Persimmon developments and our affordable housing project above the Pride of Northumbria means a busy and hopefully exciting year for the town.

Brothers In Arms

On the events front, we are working with the town council on their World War 1 project. The project will look at and record the social aspects of the war and the affect it had on the town and community. So if you have any information you would like to include or perhaps you would like to get involved please contact Elaine at the town council office on the Quayside. There are opportunities for everyone, whatever your age – Amble needs you!

Bird Is The Word

Of course while this research is taking place we are also organising the next Puffin Festival, which is slightly shorter than last year's. The intentions are to begin with the opening ceremony on Bank Holiday Monday which, if funding is secured, will be a visual spectacular including aerial performances. Of course we will be involving local school children who will have the opportunity of working with professional artists. So keep your fingers crossed – again!

Julia & the Trust Team

julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk



Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6.30p.m. unless stated otherwise

Town: 13th March, 10th April Amenities: 20th March (Site visit 5.30pm)

Finance: 27th March, 24th April (7.30p.m.) Cemeteries: 27th March

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

HOW OFTEN do we hear, 'There's nothing to do in Amble.' Many know that there are lots of things happening in our small community; for all ages from toddlers to pensioners. Unfortunately details of these activities/social gatherings/sports etc. are not always known to everyone and it is more often 'word of mouth' that alerts you to something to catch your interest. Anyone new to the area finds it even more difficult as

they don't know many people, but they could make friends if they only knew what was happening in the town. It would be really useful to have a list of the various community groups/activities in the town (and its immediate surrounding area) which take place. It might be a coffee morning, a sports session, an interesting talk, a music night. If it takes place on a regular basis - every week/ month we'd like to know the name of the group/activity, when and where

it takes place, any cost involved and some organiser contact details. This will not be a date diary but a list which can then be put onto the Council's website for lots of people to view and see just how much is available to them. Send the information to the Council email address and hopefully we will soon be able to upload a large choice to interest every age group.

'IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN'

INITIAL MEETINGS have been held to work on a project to commemorate the centenary of WW1. Volunteers are researching documents to get a picture of Amble and its surrounding area from around 1900-1925, when the Clock Tower War Memorial was erected. This will be needed to show the changes in the town and the personal and social life of its people.

Community sessions will be held asking you to talk about family memories or bring along any artifacts relating to that time and,

in particular, the details of those who left home to serve their country. We have a number of groups interested and are keen to involve people from the 11- 25 years group to enhance their understanding of the effects of the changes. We hope to compile a booklet, produce a DVD and add another aspect to the current GPX trail. Please begin to reminisce with the older people in your family and jot down the memories they have of talks with their parents, grandparents, relations or family friends who lived through the early part of the 20th century.

NEW MEMBER

DUE TO a resignation, the Council had a vacancy in its Central Ward. The vacancy had to be publically advertised to determine whether there was to be an election or whether the Council co-opts another member. The advertisement for the vacancy was initially incorrectly worded so to comply with legislation, NCC had to re-advertise the vacancy. The closing time for a decision on whether to hold a formal election fell over Christmas; however 10 electors from the ward requested an election be held. So candidates were invited to submit their names. The Council must pay the full costs of the election: last time it was around £2,500. Three names were submitted so a formal election, was held on 20th February. By now, the Council may have a newly elected member; we welcome him/her and hope their time working for the town is enjoyable.

VOLUNTEERS

THE NOVEMBER switch-on, was a wonderful display and welcome to our town, from the tree in High Street to the Town Square. This was made possible by the hard work of a small band of volunteers who look after the lights and erect them, collect and erect the tree and organise the parade and switch-on. What a reward for them to see so many people enjoying themselves and donating their loose change for more lights and events - an example of our community working together. Start saving your coppers now for this year's parade.

Something even better would need more people coming forward to help.

Everyone has talents they can offer.

Whether it's giving expert advice or working with others to share a professional skill, helping to put tables and chairs out or tidy an area; it's all valuable help to enable community events. No doubt groups are busy with plans for this year but three things spring to mind: churches will soon be holding Easter events; the United Reformed Church will be fundraising for church roof repairs; Puffin Festival plans are underway. So why not think of how you can help. Let's all try to be an involved part of our wonderful community and not just a bystander.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

THREE COAL TRUCK planters have arrived for Amble. In addition to the one at the 'fish roundabout' there will be one near James Calvert Spence College and one in the grassed area in Coquet Street. Another has been donated to the Links Caravan Park to enhance the entrance from Hauxley. They will be planted with spring bulbs and perennials to give a bright display and reduce the annual costs. Spring bulbs have been planted in the Dilston Terrace planters to add to the perennials there. (Donations of bulbs would be gladly received as it will be NCC and Amble Town Council's policy to mostly use these and perennials in the town's floral beds and planters.) Poppy seeds have been planted at all entrances to the town. This was made possible by funding from Amble Town Council, Warkworth Parish Council and the Amble & Warkworth Rotary Club. Hopefully there will be a magnificent display in late Spring.

This year the Council is sponsoring the floral planter at the bottom of the Wynd; the theme will be the WW1 Commemoration.

SEATS

HMP NORTHUMBERLAND have refurbished two council seats. (The Council had a partnership with the prison; they hope to continue this with Sodexo, the new management organisation) Permission was obtained from Amble Development Trust to put them in the Memorial Gardens to replace two which had fallen into disrepair. A memorial VE/VJ plaque will be placed on one and in August a plaque to commemorate the centenary of WW1 will be placed on the other. It seems appropriate to place these here in memory of those who gave their lives at these times.

EAST WARD:

Robert Arckless,
37 Anne Crescent, Amble
NE65 0QZ

Tel: 01665 711938

Helen Lewis,
5 Meadowburn, Amble
NE65 0PH

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

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, THE QUAYSIDE, AMBLE. NE65 0AP Tel: 01665 714 695 ask@amble.gov.uk www.amble.gov.uk

Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil

Elaine Brown (Town Clerk) Angela Burn (Administration Assistant)

Office hours: 10-11.30a.m. & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday

Minutes available to view in Office or online

HH and Honk have decided to bring back the art of letter-writing. We share some of their correspondence with you in the all-new Whither And Why!

Brought to you by the letters H and H

To: Gerald Honk, Esq. 4th January.

Sir,

New Year's Resolution.

Hoping this letter finds you well. I fear I must explain my words dropping through your letterbox.

Dear Samantha insisted I resolve something constructive this new year - insistence on persisting with reconstruction of Venice using nothing but marshmallows has fallen on deaf but adorable ears.

So I proposed I begin writing letters to correspondents, and this was duly approved. None of this electronic mail lark for Nairn, eh, Honkers?

Seems, however, yours is the only address for which I have full particulars.

I remain, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

SIR HILARY HARRISON-NAIRN.



To: Sir Hilary Harrison-Nairn. 5th January.

Sir,

re: New Year's Resolution.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th.

What do you propose we correspond to each other about? I can think of nothing I would not already discuss cara a cara.

(I have taken up Spanish for my New Year's Resolution.)

Yours faithfully,

HONK.

P.S. Greatly enjoyed the wax seal attached to your letter. How did you get Bismarck and Caution to pose nose-to-nose like that?



To: Gerald Honk, Esq. 9th January.

Sir,

re: Resolution.

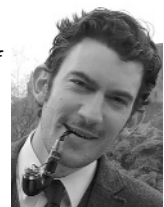
I must apologise for the delayed reply. Have been pondering the question in your letter of the 5th.

There was one thing - I believe I have invented what I refer to as a Northumbrian Pizza. All the hallmarks of a great pizza, cheese, bread, &c, with the straightforward forthrightness of a Northumbrian.

Do call in at this address and try some. I will be at my desk on the morning of the 11th.

I remain, Sir,

SIR HILARY HARRISON-NAIRN.



To: Sir Hilary Harrison-Nairn. 9th January.

Sir,

re: Resolution.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th.

It sounds very much to me like you have invented cheese on toast.

Is this in fact the case?

Yours truly,

HONK.



To: Gerald Honk, Esq. 18th January.

Sir,

re: Resolution.

Darn it.

Yours,

SIR HILARY HARRISON-NAIRN.



Rotary notes

The Rotary Club would like to thank the residents of Amble and surrounding villages for their kind donations during the pre-Christmas collection when £5,350 was raised.

After a traditional Christmas dinner, members of the club, members of Inner Wheel and guests enjoyed listening to the guest speaker, the Reverend Mike Dent. Mike was followed by a version of "A Christmas Carol" written by President Paul Creighton with additional script by Fred Calvert and Richard Brearley. Fred played the part of Geordie Scrooge and Richard was most convincing as the ghost of Jacob Marley. Any resemblance to the Charles Dickens original was purely coincidental.

The evening concluded with Christmas carols accompanied by Beverley Palin.

The Rotary Club finalised the allocation of donations to local charities and worthy causes following the annual Christmas collection and other fund-raising activities. Twenty two organisations, including *The Ambler* (for which many thanks ~Ed), will benefit.

Further donations were made to the Inner Wheel Club and to the Interact Club (Junior Rotary whose members helped with the Christmas collection) and they will be making donations out of these amounts.

Reverend Mike Dent, speaker at the club's Christmas Message evening, passed a further £100 to the Peoples' Kitchen in Newcastle.

On January 7 members enjoyed a fascinating talk by Rotarian Bill Wake on his life and work as a Pharmacist.

On January 21 the guest speaker was Alistair Kerr, the Commercial Director of the Port of Tyne, who gave an excellent talk on the history and development of the port.

Burns Night held on January 28 featured speakers Dave Shoemaker (The Immortal Memory), Paul Creighton (Toast to the Lassies), and Mabel Forsyth (Reply on behalf of the Lassies). The Haggis was addressed and well and truly stabbed by Richard Brearley and the Piper was Dr Andy Spencer. MC for the evening was Dick Wailes



Right: Rotarian Richard Brearley - in Haggis - addressing mode

Warkworth & Amble District Royal British Legion

Our Chairman Jeff Watson was sad to report that our Honorary President, Gordon Charlton of Warkworth, ex Royal Air Force, passed away 23 December 2013. He was previously Branch Secretary and one of the longest serving committee members of the old Warkworth Branch before we merged with Amble three years ago. Our Branch Standard Bearer, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and many members attended his funeral service on 6 January 2014 at St Lawrence's Church, Warkworth. The Committee and members offer their deepest sympathy to his wife Alma.

Next Branch Meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19 at 7pm in the Legion Room, Warkworth Memorial Hall.

Our guest speaker will be Stephen Moore who will give us a talk on the transportation plan for the WW2 Allied Invasion of Normandy, France, June 1944, codenamed "Operation Overlord".

Guests - suggested donation of £2.50 to include buffet.

Five Day Coach Trip to WW1 Battlefields 7-13 Sept, 2014

As part of our WW1 Centenary activities, Northumbria Royal British Legion are organising a coach trip to the WW1 Battlefields of France on Sept 7, 2014 with Craiggs Travel of Amble. Sailing from Hull the 5 day trip will be on a Bed/Breakfast/Dinner basis and cost £390. A few seats left so don't delay. An experience not to be missed. Pick ups locally or en route to Hull.

Enquiries Tel Derek on 0191 5815247.

Young people's writing group

New Writing North will be running a writing group for writers aged 12-19 in Amble Library. Led by a professional writer, offers an opportunity for people to experiment with different types of writing, meet other writers and get feedback on their own work. Fortnightly sessions begin on Saturday 8th February 2014 from 10am-12pm. They are free to attend. Young people can just turn up and try it out, or contact Laura at laura@newwritingnorth.com/ 0191 204 8852 for more information.

Through the lens 2014

Organised by St. Cuthbert's Church and Amble Photographic Group. The categories for this years competition are "From Tyne to Tweed" and "The Natural World". Entry fee: £1 per photograph but 18 years old and under are free. Closing date for entries: March 31. Each photo to be mounted on card not exceeding 20" x 16"; one entry form per photo. Please put your name, address, e-mail, and category on the back of each photo. Maximum of ten entries per person. Entry forms from St Cuthbert's Church, N & F Young, Queen Street and Development Trust at Fourways 2. The exhibition of entries will be held in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street on 3rd May 1pm to 4pm, 4th May 1pm to 4pm and 5th May 11am to 3pm.. The prize giving will be at 2.30 on the 5th.. Entry to the exhibition is free but donations to help with running costs would be appreciated. Refreshments will be served. Sponsorship for prizes is needed. If you would consider sponsoring please contact Norma Hinson at 11 Eastgarth Avenue Amble. *Peter Cordingley*

Acoustic magic sofa sessions

New monthly sessions at The Cart Shed in Acklington. These sessions will feature 3 separate artists, on the sofa, unplugged, playing Acoustic guitar and performing songs for all those who attend. A relaxing evening of music in a lovely setting with a wide choice of refreshments from the tea rooms. The first evening is scheduled to take place on Thursday 20th February from 6:30pm - 9:00pm. Entry £3.00. Raffle held each evening.

Puzzle solution from page 10

C	O	A	L	S	Q	S	W	A	N	S
G	C	R	U	S	T	N	C			
A	R	O	M	A	A	I	N	C	U	R
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OR

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

1 hidden place names:
ANCROFT HOWICK BLYTH

Live Music in Amble

Masons Arms

- Mar. 1 The Sheiks
8 Insanity
15 Police tribute band
22 Suspect Device
29 Contraband
- Apr. 5 King for a Day
12 To be arranged
19 On the Rocks
26 Feed the Bear
- May 3 State Four

Radcliffe club

- March 1 Fundraiser with The Range
7 Family Night 6-9pm with JPS Disco & Deano. Free entry
8 Battle for baby Barnett & MKRH with Nighttrain tickets £10 including disco & buffet
9 Sunday Funday with Vineyard Amble craft, story & song 3-4pm
19 Blood Donor session 2pm-7pm
22 Craft Morning with Vineyard Amble 10.30am-12pm
- April 4 Family Night 6-9pm. JPS Disco & Deano. Free entry
19 Easter Family Fun Day 12-4pm fun & games with JPS Disco, bouncy castles, inflatable slide & childrens rides.
20 Sunday Funday with Vineyard Amble 3-4pm
26 Craft Morning with Vineyard Amble 10.30am-12; 4-8yrs

Four couples, three bedrooms, two acts

"Bedroom Farce", by Alan Ayckbourn. Directed by Ralph Firth, the Warkworth production takes place at the Memorial Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday April 24, 25 and 26. at 7.30pm.. A licensed bar is available. Tickets are £6 and can be obtained from Warkworth Village Store and N&F Young of Amble or through the group's website www.warkworthdrama.org.uk

Coquet Shorebase Trust

The new building at the Country Park will be open for business by Easter. Open every Saturday from May onwards Great facilities for the windsurfing, canoeing and sailing clubs using the lake. Come down and hire canoes and kayaks. Hire sailing boats and windsurfers, if you have RYA certificates. There will be sessions for local schools, and other opportunities to learn watersports. Starts with an Open day on the Mayday Weekend: come and try the activities for only £3 per head. Look out for more information nearer the time. For details about the Shorebase clubs, get in contact with us : 01665 710367, info@coquetshorebase.org.uk. *Vic Brown*

Tau Tong School of Tai Chi

Classes on Thursdays 2-3pm at Warkworth Memorial Hall £4.80 per class. Suitable for any age and ability. The lessons are relaxed & fun. No floor work. Just wear something comfortable and soft flat shoes or bare feet. www.tautong.co.uk
Amanda 01670 820464 or 07885 682078

First Aid Course

Full three day 'First Aid at Work' course compliant with HSE requirements Tuesday 11th to Thursday 13th March, 9am-4pm Amble Lifeboat Station. Open to all, either members of public or employers who need qualified First Aiders. Contact number : 07760880509. There will be a heavily discounted rate as this is a new business, North Life Aid. e-mail : northlifeaid@btinternet.com.

Edinburgh Festival show comes to Amble

Following the great success of the Devious Minds magic show last October, another show sponsored by the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme is coming to Amble. Kepow Theatre Company presents **Seven Ages** starring Kevin Tomlinson and guests. Seven Ages explores the idea that we go through seven stages in life. From infancy, through love and wisdom, to growing old disgracefully! Essentially a comedy but with some touching moments in it, Seven Ages premiered at the Edinburgh Festival, achieving five star reviews. In London's West End, it received a standing ovation on its opening and closing nights. It has now been seen at over 300 venues across the UK.

Seven Ages addresses two important questions in life: "Why am I here?" and "What's important in my life?", while making you laugh. Suitable for 6 to 106 year olds. Licensed bar.

Tickets cost £8 for adults, £7 for seniors (60+) and £5 for children (under 15), available from N. & F. Young (01665 710289). You can also book online at:

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights/>

Amble Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, Sunday, March 9th, 7.30pm

Mike Dixon

Warkworth Community Cinema

Venue: Memorial Hall Warkworth Time 7.30pm
 March 1 An Inspector Calls (1954) Guy Hamilton. A. 80 min. Crime /Drama. Starring Alistair Sim, Arthur Young and Jane Wenham. Followed by
 Whisky Galore (1949) Alexander Mackendrick. A. 82 min. English. Comedy/Crime. Starring Basil Rathbone and Joan Greenwood.
 April 5 Le Weekend (2013) Roger Michell. 15. 93min. English. Drama. Starring Jim Broadbent and Lindsay Duncan
 May 3 Not One Less (1999) Yimon Zhang. U. 106 Min. Chinese. English sub-titles. Drama. For further details see Ambler website.

Hauxley Chapel Services

Mar 2 Rev. Ian Farnsworth.	Apr 13 Palm Sunday.
Mar 9 Rev. Lynda Coulthard,	Local arrangement.
Holy Communion.	Apr 20 Rev Lynda Coulthard,
Mar 16 Mrs Lilian Dixon.	Holy Communion.
Mar 23 Sarah Mitchell and	Apr 27 Rev. Dr. Diane
Sam Palin, Service of the Word.	Westmoreland. Holy
Apr 30 Mothering Sunday.	Communion.
Rev. Gary Ridley.	May 4 Rev Lynda Coulthard,
Apr 6 Rev. Keith Harbour.	Holy Communion.

An ecumenical congregation worshipping in Low Hauxley.
 All services are at 4pm. followed by a cup of tea. All are welcome.

East Amble women's workshop

Fourth Action has been awarded funds from the People's Health Trust to develop the East Amble Women's Workshop. The project with women in Amble East, helps them gain skills and confidence to contribute to the well-being of local families and neighbourhood. It is based around the Women's Workshop, a community building on the Coquet Enterprise Park which has been constructed by women. The project aims to widen the horizons of young women by bringing them into contact with alternative career possibilities, enhance the lives of children through family activities run by women, parents and carers, and increase older women's involvement through access to women-friendly support and to engage in online activity such as social media.

Fourth Action wants to work with groups of women who may be linked with other local services in Amble. There will be quarterly women-led themed events for the wider community, and once trained the peer mentors will offer one to one support to other local women.

We plan to build a core group of around 16 local women to take the project forward and to benefit from the initial peer mentoring programme. If you know anyone who might be interested, please pass on our contact details.

For more information and to get involved please contact:

Hala - (development worker) hala@nnwn.org 07708 064656

Warkworth and District Flower Club

Programme 2014

February 20 Mrs. Margaret Oakes - Life at the Manor

March 20 Mrs. Marion Hinchley -

Workshop contemporary design

April 24 Mrs. Amelia Forrest - Unforgettable journey

May 15 Mr. Sean Murray - Hortus expositus

June 14th Coffee morning

Free childcare for 2-4 year olds

Do you have a child aged 2-4 years?

Your child may be entitled to receive a fantastic 15 hours of flexible FREE childcare at Brambles.

In order to apply certain criteria must be met, for further information please contact Pauline or Paula on 01665 710453

Email: brambleschildcare@hotmail.com

Website: www.brambleschildcare.co.uk



NORTHUMBERLAND
 COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Arckless

will be holding Surgeries on

Friday 28th March 2014 6pm - 6.45pm
 at Hauxley Village Hall
 and

Saturday 29th March and 26th April 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

Druridge Bay10K: running for charity

Over the past two years we have raised over £14000 pounds for North Northumberland Hospice.

This year's charity is the Stephen Carey Fund set up in honour of a young man who tragically died playing football. The fund raises money to be able to fit defibrillators into public places in the local area.

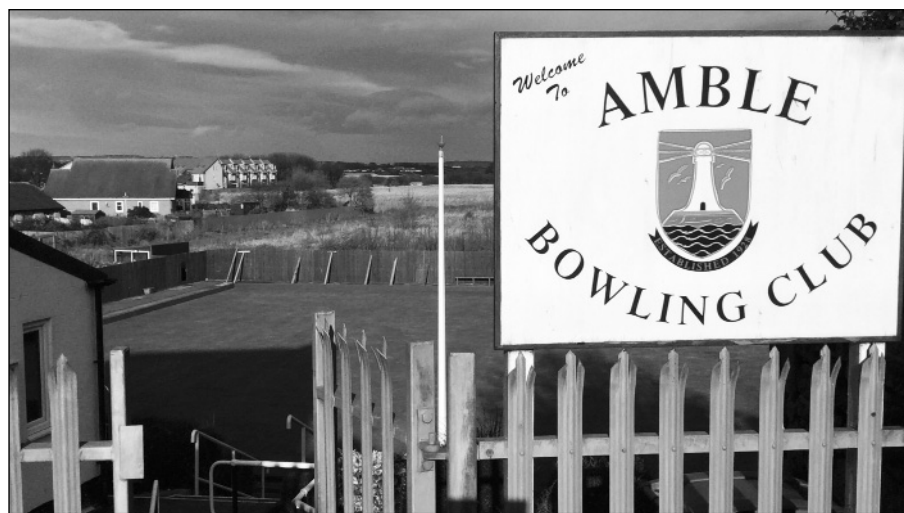
The 2014 race takes place at 10.30am on Sunday May 25. www.db10kjmido.com

Alison Lowes



Beginners running club

A beginners running club will be starting at Druridge Bay at the end of March. All abilities are welcome. It will be led by trained Run England coaches. For more information email: alisonlowes2@aol.com



Amble Bowling Club 2014 Season

Amble Bowling Club welcomes all new and existing bowlers for the 2014 season. The green will open on Saturday 12th April, 2pm at High Street.

During the 2013 season the men's section won the North Northumberland League title and six members of the Ladies section qualified for the National Championships in Leamington Spa.

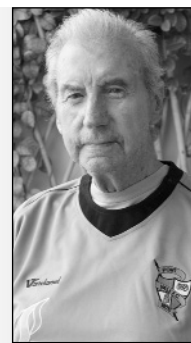
Qualified coaches are available for coaching sessions and a number of sets of bowls and other equipment are available on loan for these sessions.

If you fancy a game please feel free to contact any of the following numbers to organise a time and day or just pitch-up!

Contact Numbers

President; Maisie Donkin (01665)710662 Secretary; Stephen Jones 714529
Ladies Match Secretary; Dorothy Martin 799026 Men's Match Secretary; George Dixon 713711 Coaching Sessions; Michael Brown 714759
Functions/Advertising; George & Carol Nelson 711236

Ray King column



Like so many places throughout the world politics in Thailand are convoluted, complex and not always what they might seem.

Despite any impressions you might have seen on the news, let me assure you that neither Bangkok nor Thailand is in chaos. There are no out of control mobs raging around the city or the countryside. There is no blood running down the streets and there is no destruction of buildings or houses. There is no rioting and medical establishments and media facilities are all working as normal. One thing that I will point out is that Bangkok traffic is as horrific as ever.

I have no wish to write about the political arguments that have led to the current protests but I thought that I would share some recent observations. As I looked down from the 22nd floor balcony of my son Gary's apartment last week I witnessed what I thought was a carnival. It was, in fact, thousands of anti-government protesters marching along the boulevard with their brightly coloured Thai flags waving in the breeze, music blaring, whistles blowing and their leader spouting his vitriol towards the current government. It was all very entertaining, and from my vantage point, very good humoured. How long these protests will last seems to be anybody's guess.

Just before Christmas Gary and I were invited to his business partner's palatial residence in order to celebrate her birthday. She had told Gary that it was just going to be a few close friends, nothing too elaborate. It turned out to be an extravaganza of at least 50 close friends. Soon after we arrived Princess Soamsawali, a close friend of Gary's partner and the niece of the King and Queen of Thailand, arrived with her entourage of bodyguards, servants and close associates. Gary and I have been to some fairly grand functions over the years but nothing quite like this. The word "surreal" comes to mind. The vintage champagne flowed throughout the evening and into the early hours - 70 bottles were consumed. Five of Thailand's opera stars were on hand to sing some well known arias with complete orchestral accompaniment. Then dinner was served by uniformed waiters. After dessert a jazz band entertained us for the remainder of the evening. Gary was asked to sing and he chose his favourites: "Fly Me to the Moon", "Misty" and "My Funny Valentine". For an encore he chose "What a Wonderful World". I had not heard him sing for quite some time and I was astonished at his intonation and interpretation. During his performance the princess presented him with a red rose. Gary's singing career has always been a sideline and now with his business in full swing he seems to have time for little else.

His new business venture has been very therapeutic for me as I have a keen interest in its development. I've been going through a difficult time with chronic back, leg and foot pains and now my eyesight seems to be giving out - what next? But, as the old saying goes, "Life must go on!"

Ray King Bangkok