‘Massive thank you’ after Amble RNLI reaches Shannon fundraising target

Amble Royal National Lifeboat Institution is celebrating after reaching its target of £200,000 towards the cost of their state-of-the-art Shannon class lifeboat. The target was reached in June during a coffee morning at the charity’s lifeboat station. The lifeboat is currently being built at the RNLI’s All-weather Lifeboat Centre in Poole, Dorset. The money raised by the appeal will fund completion of the vessel. Amble’s new Shannon is due to arrive at the lifeboat station on Wednesday 12th October at 1pm, and members of the public are invited to welcome the vessel into its new home. The lifeboat will be named Elizabeth and Leonard in memory of a couple whose legacy has partially helped to fund it. An official naming ceremony will take place in the near future.

Plans drafted for 3 star hotel

Plans for a 30 bedroom hotel in Amble, together with a restaurant and bar, are being drawn up and could be submitted for planning consent as early as September/October this year.

The project is being led by Arch, the development company owned by Northumberland County Council.

The intention is to provide a bespoke, high quality visitor and leisure facility, which would be situated on the southern edge of Coquet Enterprise Park, behind the A1068 ‘fish roundabout’ and Percy Drive.

The news has been met with positive comments. Ann Burke, chair of Amble Business Club told The Ambler:

“This is excellent news. The town needs more accommodation, and it will bring employment. It’s excellent for Amble.”

Julia Aston, director of Amble Development Trust said: “I am thrilled to bits with this news. The idea for a hotel in the town was something that was identified within our Amble 2020 strategy document. Together with the county council, we’ve been trying to attract a hotel to Amble. So this is really good news.

“Hopefully this will attract even more investment in the town and create more jobs.”

Amble Mayor Jane Dargue said: “This is something that has been on our wish list for a long time.

“The hotel will be a real boost for the town and hopefully a catalyst both for tourism and for the future development of other retail outlets.”

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Launched in July 2014, since which a multitude of events has been held to help raise money, including coffee mornings, open gardens, golf days, race nights, a fashion show and a fishing competition.

Katrina Cassidy, Chairperson of the Amble Lifeboat Fundraising Committee (ALF), said: “On behalf of everyone at Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers, I’d like to say a massive ‘thank you’ for the overwhelming support that we’ve received for the appeal, not just from the local community, schools, council and businesses, but from supporters far and wide.

“In just 23 months it’s truly amazing that we’ve managed to hit our £200,000 target and we couldn’t have done it without the generosity of the general public, our supporters and the time and effort put in by members of ALF as well as other RNLI fundraising guilds.”

Top: Lifeboat crew and fundraisers receive cheque for £855 from Northumberland Puffin Kayak Fishing Competition, which took them to their target. Above: raising a toast as ALF achieves their £200,000 target.

Photos by Bart Rippon

>> continued on page 4
We are 100 issues old! What an achievement for a little community newspaper!

Many of you may remember our first edition in January 2000. It was a yellow 16 page publication, full of enthusiasm, but our inexperience hampered the images, which all looked like the inside of a coal mine. Issue 2 (which is a very rare one, so if you have one, hang on to it) sported a creamy colour and still no images on the front page - what were we thinking?

Issue 3 was blue, believe it or not, before we settled down to the buff colour - or magnolia as some of us rudely called it. In fact we didn’t turn white until we were 63 issues old, and that actually caused some consternation with younger readers, who commented about it on the then new fangled social media. Ironic perhaps, as ‘Young People Today’ probably rarely read paper-based media at all now.

Our website started shortly after the first few issues, and there are few hyperlocal sites (as they are now known) in the UK who have been running for 16 years. We are often contacted by research teams who want to know the secret to our longevity. Every community newspaper and hyperlocal project is different. They are as varied as the people who welcome contributions and help from anyone who would like to volunteer.

Thanks to: Mark Beswick & The Artograff Crew Bartle Rippon & Andrew Mounsey

Would you like to join The Ambler team? We are a friendly group who welcome contributions and help from anyone who would like to volunteer.

Thanks to all our contributors, sponsors and advertisers:

Community Foundation
Coquet Fund
Inner Wheel Club of Amble and Warkworth
Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth

The Ambler is a project of Amble Development Trust

The views expressed in The Ambler and The Ambler Online are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team

Printed on paper from sustainable forestry in the UK

Happy 100th edition from all the astronomers at NASTRO
www.nastro.org.uk

We look forward to another 100 editions!
Amble Development Trust

Every blessing from Coquet Churches Together to The Ambler, congratulations on their 100th Edition.

The Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth is delighted with the service we receive from The Ambler. We congratulate the team on reaching their 100th edition and wish all at The Ambler a very happy birthday. For more information on how your local Rotary Club helps the community, please see our website www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org

I would very much like to congratulate the Ambler for doing a wonderful job of keeping the residents of Amble fully informed of events and happenings in the town. The magazine has played an important part in the development of the local area and it is absolutely great to see its 100th edition going to press. I can’t think of a better or more interesting free local magazine anywhere in the Country and you and all your staff can be proud of what you have achieved over the past few years, long may it continue! With very best wishes

Jeff Watson

One of the rare things about The Ambler is the longevity of our core team. We still have volunteers who have been here since day one. That is such an achievement and I want to thank them - and to everyone who has helped produce this wonderful little paper over the years. Your help, however big or small, has been invaluable and has made us what we are today.

Some people have written for us for years, and to the people and organisations who are now old friends; thank you all for your continued contributions and support.

We’d like to thank our advertisers too - without you, we would simply not have been able to continue to print the paper edition. Some are heroes of historic proportions, but we are indebted to all the local businesses who have advertised with us over the years.

Of course we must thank Amble Development Trust. For although this project started through their community development work, the Ambler team have always felt editorially independent. Grant funding, the provision of a wonderful workspace for the volunteers, and the knowledge that there is such great support from the staff and management committee, have all sustained us over the last 16 years.

Finally, the Ambler team would like to thank you our dear readers, whom we hope will continue to send in photos, letters, articles and events, and who, together, form Amble’s strong community spirit, which we will always strive to reflect.

Anna Williams
Council backs surface mine plans, amidst calls for Government to overturn decision

Proposals for a surface mine at Highthorn near Widdrington have been given the green light by the county council, but protesters are continuing their fight.

The application was ‘minded to be approved’ by the council’s strategic planning committee by a 13-0 decision with one abstention.

The decision will now be passed to the Secretary of State for their consideration.

Banks Mining’s plans would see the creation of a surface mine on farmland alongside Druridge Bay, on a 250 hectare site between Widdrington Village and Cresswell.

Banks would extract up to three million tonnes of coal, sandstone and fireclay, and restore the site once work is complete.

Extraction would take place over five years, starting in 2017, with total operations lasting seven years, including the time to set up the site and complete restoration.

The company believes the scheme would create at least 100 full-time jobs during the working of the site, with approximately 50 new jobs and around 50 staff transferred from their other sites.

Decision questioned

But campaigners against the proposal say they feel let down by the county council.

“The Save Druridge campaign are very disappointed in the planning decision and our councillors who seem to think ‘jobs for the boys’, which will only last a short number of years, are more important than those already working in the tourism industry in the area. We believe that tourism businesses in Morpeth, Cresswell, Amble and Druridge will be affected,” said Lynne Tate of Save Druridge.

“Unbelievably, climate change did not even come into the decision that was made” she said. “Burning the coal will damage the health and well-being of people and could contribute to premature deaths both in the UK and elsewhere. We hope that the Government will ‘call in’ the application and common sense will prevail.”

“Like the 12,000 people who objected to the plans, I feel so let down by our councillors who made this execrable decision,” said local campaigner and Election Agent for the Berwick Constituency Green Party, Ivor Rackham.

He warned that the decision could impact future elections.

“Come the local elections next spring people will remember not to vote for those who favour crass financial greed over care and common sense.”

Berwick MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan, who spoke against the plans, alongside conservation expert Bill Oddie, at an event at Druridge Bay in May, has written to the Communities Secretary, asking him to ‘call in’ the decision, as she believes it goes against government policy.

She believes the application contravenes the government’s commitment to phase out coal-based power sources by 2025, as it allows for extraction at the site until at least 2027.

No party politics

Councillor Scott Dickinson told The Ambler the application was one of the most stressful applications in his ward that he had been involved with.

He said he had abstained from voting because local constituents on both sides of the argument had asked him to support their views.

And he was angry that some were now ‘playing politics’ with the decision.

“The Committee is made up of ALL political parties and it is unfortunate some tried to play politics with this application knowing it’s not political at all in terms of decision making. Councillors must make decisions based on the law set down by government.”

“I abstained simply because as Ward Councillor and having received letters of support and opposition in equal measure, I felt unable to come down on either side.”

Mr Dickinson felt it was now time to move forward. “I am pleased the decision from councillors was unanimous and a clear decision was made.

“Now it has been passed it will bring great benefits to the local area, creating jobs and investment, which can only be welcomed in the current climate. Now it has been approved we must make the most of it and get as much as we can for the local area during the seven year operation.”

Much needed jobs

Northumberland County Council leader Grant Davey said while he appreciated it was a controversial issue, the mine would bring much needed jobs to the area and boost economic growth in the county.

He said: “I fully accept this has been a long and difficult process, with strong feelings on both sides, but I do believe this decision is in the best interests of Northumberland and its residents.”

“Thanks to the hard work of our planning team the extraction site has been greatly reduced from its original conception to protect the diversity of the surrounding countryside.”

Anna Williams
A mble WI members have taken part in an uplifting competition to turn old bras into floral hanging baskets.

The ‘braskets’ were part of two national WI campaigns, to promote sustainable gardening, and Save the Bees.

President of Amble WI Karen Waugh told The Ambler “We were awed with the results, the time, patience and ingenuity of the planting and varieties just blew us away.”

Nineteen braskets were created, and Amble Mayor Jane Dargue judged the competition.

The winning entry was made by Anne Mossman.

In second place was Sarah Littlefear, and Lynn Raine came third. The winners received M&S, Debenhams and Next gift cards, all donated by Amble WI members.

The Amble group also decided to use the competition to promote another worthwhile cause.

“We also linked our ‘braskets’ to raise breast awareness, as a lot of ladies in our own area have suffered or lost a loved one to this terrible cancer,” said Karen.

“There is one brasket in particular that drew my attention. It was made by Romy Lazari and it is only a one cup bra, it is filled with pebbles, cacti and succulents and epitomizes breast cancer in a way none of the others did.”

Some of the braskets were displayed for several days in the amphitheatre in the Town Square. Anne Mossman’s winning brasket will go through to be judged nationally.

The overall winner receives £200 worth of Suttons seeds.

Karen said “We’ve just had fabulous fun doing it and the amphitheatre looks fab.”

Anna Williams

Cllr Scott Dickinson is business chair of Northumberland County Council and county councillor for the Druridge Bay ward. He said he looked forward to seeing the plans progress and hoped it would lead to more jobs.

“A development like this will be great for Amble and surrounding areas like Hadston and Widdrington – helping to attract many more tourists and visitors to the town and creating more jobs for local people.

“Once established, it can also provide a catalyst for further commercial opportunities in the area and in particular the Coquet Enterprise Park.”

It is hoped around 30 jobs will be created.
Passports available for coastal walkers in Northumberland

The Northumberland Coastal path celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The 100km long walk from Cresswell to Berwick Upon Tweed takes in some of the most spectacular coastal scenery and is proving more popular year on year.

A new ‘Coast Path Passport’ has been introduced along the route, and allows walkers to register visits to specific destinations. These destinations include restaurants, bars and shops, where walkers can access local information, top up their water bottles, and some venues may even offer special discounts.

Each ‘Welcome Port’ stop has its own unique stamp, which visitors can collect in their Coastal Passports, to form a great reminder of their journey:

Amble businesswoman Norma Arthur has signed up Amble Pin Cushion to the scheme, which she believes could be beneficial to local traders, “...who could do more to exploit the potential income to be gained from “walk tourism” (and cyclists) in the area.”

For more information on the coastal path and passport scheme, see: northumberlandcoastpath.org/passport

REVIEW St Oswald’s Way and St Cuthbert’s Way with the Northumberland Coast Path
by Rudolf Abraham

When I was asked to comment on this wonderful book, I thought that it might be a chore. How wrong I was! Travel books come in many forms, and they usually refer to all sorts of things, like buildings, wildlife, scenery, history, industry and many other interests. This book does all of that and so much more.

The format is perfect for anybody who walks our beautiful area. The maps are clear and well-presented. The descriptions of things to see is matched by beautiful photos of all sorts of places. The top of Simonside and the Howick Bathing House are two examples of photos to encourage exploration.

I’m an ardent bus traveller. The book refers to the use of buses to take us to lots of different places, with return routes from others.

I love all three walks - St Oswald’s Way, St Cuthbert’s Way and our lovely Coastal Path. However, I rarely favour any of the routes in its entirety. I walk the parts of routes that I fancy in no particular sequence. It’s amazing how much of the travel to the starting point of a day’s walk you can do for FREE! The latest bus timetables are an essential part of my equipment. With a bit of organisation, I can get home before bed time.

So many people will find Rudolf Abraham’s book a joy to read and to follow. I intend to use my copy to the full, and to recommend it to walkers and non walkers alike.

Harry McQuillen

The Ambler has a copy of this lovely walking guide to give away! For your chance to win, all you have to do is answer the following question: What is an essential part of Harry’s equipment?

Send your answer to The Ambler (postal address on p2) or email: editor@theambler.co.uk with your answer, plus your name and full postal address. Winner will be chosen at random from correct entries. Competition closing date: 8 September 2017. Judges’ decision final.
Dogs on beach

We've had a caravan on Coquet View in Warkworth for the last seven years. As well as walking on the beach there, we combine our shopping trips to Amble, with walking our dog on the Little Shore. Like the majority of dog owners we do pick up the mess that our dogs make.

The dog mess aside, over the years I've witnessed families having picnics on the beach, then leaving all their litter for someone else to clear up. Shall we ban them from the beach also?

My concern is the number of people who will boycott visiting Amble because of this poorly thought out rule. We've spoken to many people on holiday in Amble over the years. The majority are couples with dogs. I feel that if this rule continues to be enforced, people will go elsewhere for their holidays. It's the decision I would make.

Since the rule was applied, we've walked our dog on Alnmouth beach, then shopped in Alnwick: a loss to Amble's economy.

There's also the matter of hardly anyone other than dog walkers actually using the beach. The week the signs were put up there wasn't a soul on the beach.

Then there's the matter of people with children and a dog, all wanting to be together on the beach.

I feel a much more flexible approach would be the best option: allow dogs on half of the beach. This rule applies successfully on many other beaches. Also put up signs warning dog owners of fines if their dogs foul the beach. There are many angry, upset, responsible dog owners who have always come to Amble, a 'dog friendly' town. Please keep it that way and don't make these people go elsewhere.

Elizabeth Cowie,
St. George's Estate, Washington, Tyne and Wear

Litter on beach

Now that Warkworth Harbour Council has banned dogs from the Little Shore beach and dunes they might notice the amount of litter there. Would they then ban humans too?

Let's reverse the ban and find other ways of persuading all of us (both dog owners and other humans) to live up to expectations.

Sincerely,

Andrew Williams via email

Flying Scotsman before she was repaired

I have read your letters page (Issue 99) and saw the picture of the Flying Scotsman in it. In March 2010, I went to York and visited the Railway Museum. Inside was a sign stating the this engine was being repaired in the workshops so I went into the shop and took a photo of it. I am attaching this for you to examine as I think it is almost unrecognisable.

Fred Ellis via email

By George!

Joan Robinson took this photo of our Royal British Legion President, George Skipper, D Day veteran, who was the VIP of the Royal British Legion Riders Branch for their Battle of the Somme Vigil held in Amble Town Square on Friday 1 July to Sat 2 July. The bikers brought him up to our Exhibition in Warkworth in a side car!

Joan Watson
Amble and Warkworth British Legion

We welcome your letters, email, Facebook and Twitter comments for publication. Your name and address must be supplied, but will be withheld on request. Letters may be edited. Contact details on page 2.
Brave the shaver for Jessica

This is my beautiful 15 year old daughter Jessica Christine.

In 2003 my beautiful first born baby, was two years, five months and diagnosed with leukaemia, cancer of the blood.

If it hadn't been for advice from friends, she’d never have made it to hospital and she definitely wouldn't be here for us to tell the tale. She had an extremely rocky time in hospital and almost didn't survive on several occasions.

We were the luckiest parents to get our girl back. While she was receiving treatment, she suffered major trauma, and was left with a brain injury. But she was alive!

Jessica went through so very much for someone so little and we are so lucky to have such an amazing child, whose heart is full of so much positive love, care and strength and has truly grown up to be a beautiful young woman, who makes me proud to be her mum every single day.

Some of the amazingly strong children and families of Ward 16 at Newcastle's RV1 weren't so lucky or blessed to be able to take their babies home with them.

I am raising money and awareness for all the amazing work and support that Macmillan gave us all while our little ones were in hospital.

I not only celebrate a day I definitely thought I'd never see, but also 10 years since my Jessica got the all clear. However I think sadly of the amazingly strong people we had the privilege to share our journey with, who will never celebrate such a day.

Jessica lost her hair three times: all of it. No fault or choice of her own! I'm choosing to celebrate my girl and everyone who's fought, won or sadly lost their battle with this horrible illness, by hacking off my own hair. Mine will grow back. Some aren't so lucky.

But Macmillan helped us all, whether for travel and accommodation expenses while our children were in hospital miles away from home or just a smiling face and a friendly voice.

People keep asking if I'll donate my hair and get a wig. I say "I will be donating my hair to the little princess trust." But there's no way I'm getting a wig. What's the point of that?

Jessica could have got a wig, but she chose and liked to be a "baldy nut" even aged 2, 3, or 4. In immense pain, she never lost that sense of humour that has kept her humble her whole short life.

So if you can spare a few pennies to support this cause, or just like and share, I’d really appreciate it!

You can donate through Just Giving. Just text 'JLJR75 to 70070 with the amount you'd like to donate or through Macmillan.

Help to report hate crimes

Residents are being reminded that help is available to report and tackle hate crime in the county. A year ago the Safer Northumberland Partnership launched a new mobile phone app to raise awareness of hate crimes.

The Safer Northumberland Partnership includes Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Police, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, Northumbria Probation Service and Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group, as well as other partner organisations.

The hate crime app, available for iPhone and android phones, helps people understand how to deal with the traumatic effect of such crimes, why it happens, how to report it and where to seek help and support.

As hate crime is thought to be widely under-reported nationally, the app allows individuals to report instances wherever and whenever they feel safe.

According to Northumbria Police, there hasn’t been a reported increase of racially or religiously aggravated crimes following the EU referendum. However the council wants residents to know help and information is available.

Liz Simpson, Chair of the Safer Northumberland Partnership, said: “As a council we are united in our approach that all hate crime is totally unacceptable and we take a zero tolerance approach to it. We also want as many people as possible to be aware that help is out there.

“The app is just one of our approaches to this issue. We have also run numerous training sessions for groups throughout the county to raise awareness of hate crime as well as workshops with schools during anti-bullying week.”

The hate crime app can be downloaded for Apple and Android phones by searching for “Hate Crime 4” through the App Store or Google Play store.

More information on hate crime is also available via www.northumberland.gov.uk

Johanna Rackham

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- Muscle/tendon injury
- Sciatica

For appointments or enquiries contact Johanna on 01665 798435 / 07768 873713 email:info@holisticjohanna.co.uk

Read more on www.holisticjohanna.co.uk
Somme commemorations in Town Square

Residents of Amble and members of Amble Town Council took part in a candlelit vigil on 1 July accompanied by a small service of Remembrance on 2 July, to mark the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

The early morning service included a two minute silence to remember the fallen at exactly 07:28, marked by the blow of a whistle. This was the exact time in which troops went “over the top”.

19,240 British and Empire soldiers lost their lives on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The 141 day battle would claim 1,000,000 casualties in total on all sides.

Andrew Mounsey

Brexit: a poem

Let’s walk into the garden and have a cup of tea
And think about what Brexit could mean for you and me.

We thought it most unlikely, so it came as a surprise.
It brought shock to politicians, and it opened up their eyes.
To the concerns of their electorate, who somehow found their voice
Bringing various reactions, from “Disaster” to “Rejoice”.

We’ll live with the consequence of what our nation’s done.
Our ride could be quite bumpy; it may not be much fun.
Many of us oldies have faced problems in the past.
This one will call for nerves of steel until our new role is cast.
We need to trade and make our way in a world that’s seen much change.
We’ll HAVE to make it work for us and open up a range
Of skills and opportunities that make a nation thrive.
The challenge is for all of us, to keep our hopes alive,
To find a better future for the folks that come along.
Their needs must be paramount, with a firm reliance on
The people in our country we elect to rule the State.
They must NOT do a “rush job”, but rather sit and wait
For the right conditions to enact laws that make our future bright.

They’ll need to show good judgement for a settlement that’s RIGHT.
We’ve been part of a union for forty years and more:
We’ll need to tread quite carefully when feelings are so raw!
We have trade with other countries, and we want to see that grow,
Perhaps a bit of lateral thinking will help to make it so?
There’s a clear need for compromise, without prejudice or greed,
To bring us good relationships and the settlement we need.

Harry McQuillan

Freemasons assist Shannon Lifeboat Appeal

A number of members of The Lord Warkworth Royal Arch Chapter of Freemasons 1879 attended the presentation of a cheque for £3,000 towards the Shannon Lifeboat Appeal at the Lifeboat Station in Amble on Friday July 22.

The amount of £1,000 was donated by the members of the Chapter in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the chapter in Feb 1967 and a further sum of £2,000 was donated by the Freemasons Charity of Northumberland (formerly the Richard Henry Holmes Masonic Benevolent Fund).

Most Excellent Companion Ian Cairns Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Northumberland made the presentation to Katrina Cassidy Chairperson of the Amble Lifeboat Fundraising committee on board the existing lifeboat The Four Boys. Coxswain John Connell and Mechanic John Sim were also present as was Margaret Douglas Fundraising co-ordinator.

Excellent Companion Ron Ainsworth, the sole remaining founder member of the chapter travelled from his home in Ayr to be present.

Bob Catchpole

Age of insecurity

Every day we hear and read about trouble at home and abroad.
The well-publicised strife in our main political parties sets the tone for a widespread perception of “trouble at t’ mill!” Perhaps our Brexit vote has brought to the surface problems that have been there all along.

Conflict is everywhere in our continent and other parts of the world. The South China Sea, South Sudan, parts of the U.S.A., Russia and its neighbours, all areas of tension and potential conflict, not to mention the ongoing troubles in the Middle East.

It’s just possible that some of the things we foresee will work themselves out through time, The Great Healer.

It’s all very well to take a broad brush approach to potential trouble, but we must remember that all groups are made up of individuals, whose motives, perceptions and actions come from a mixed bag of thoughts and emotions. I firmly believe that we ALL have the potential to go over the top in so many of our actions. Rabbles – rousing isn’t confined to people who are less bright than we are.

Of course OUR judgements are always based on good information and reason?

So what can we do? We have no choice but to let things play out in their way. We can talk to one another to try to resolve conflicts in our own lives. The people who run aspects of our society should be given time to do what they do. Who was it who said that in the end we’re all dead?

Summer’s here, with our usual mixture of sunshine and showers. Perhaps we’d feel somehow cheated if we had wall-to-wall sunshine.

I can only say what I do, and find my life good! In my 30 years of retirement I’ve never been short of things to do.

I’ll admit that my Distinctly Duff eyesight and my lack of I.T. skills can cause me a bit of frustration but then I laugh at myself. Old people keep repeating themselves, and I guess that I’ve fallen into that one too!

Harry McQuillen
Out of date county council run CCTV cameras could be replaced with mobile systems, as replacing existing equipment is not considered cost effective.

Northumberland County Council told The Ambler that in some areas, some old CCTV equipment is not fit for use, and where it is to be removed, the county council is consulting with town and parish councils, to help them develop their own locally funded systems.

But they were unable to say how many mobile cameras would be available to be deployed within the county.

Northumberland County Council gave us this statement:

“The current arrangements and static open space CCTV systems the council is responsible for are no longer considered to be fit for purpose due to the age of the equipment and the limited number of town centres where cameras are provided.”

“A review, supported by Northumbria Police confirmed that many of the current locations are not considered to be a priority and have limited benefit. Replicating the current arrangements using new static cameras would therefore be of limited value and benefit.

“Northumberland County Council is in the process of procuring a number of re-deployable CCTV cameras for use across the county, both on a rotational basis for general monitoring and in response to specific issues of crime and disorder. This provides the most flexible and cost effective approach whilst also providing the opportunity to establish a council wide asset which could additionally be used by a range of services and to support the delivery of events.

“The council is working with town and parish councils in localities where static cameras are to be removed, with the aim of providing support and guidance and several have or intend to develop their own locally funded systems based on individual town centre needs.”

The council spokesperson was unable to confirm how many mobile cameras may be brought into operation to cover the whole of the county.

“Unfortunately we don’t have any figures at this stage because it’s just early stages of consultation.

“Ultimately we hope to work with town and parish councils to support them in taking responsibility for their own systems,” said the spokesperson.

“The council will seek to co-ordinate both the removal of existing equipment with the deployment of new cameras, which will be able to store footage for up to 28 days, which can be viewed and downloaded when necessary.”

Anna Williams
10 things we love about the North East

B eautiful countryside, friendly locals and a unique sense of humour have been hailed as the things we love most about the North East.

5,000 people in the UK were asked what they like best about the region, with our stunning surroundings and unrivalled coastline topping the table.

The region’s wealth of heritage sites – including Hadrian’s Wall, Durham Cathedral and the recently developed Newcastle Castle – proved a major selling point for the region. 16% of respondents praised the North East’s fascinating history, while our industrial heritage remained a key talking point in the study.

Others celebrated our region’s relatively low cost of living, the growing trend of outdoor activities, such as hiking and surfing, and the North East’s famous party culture.

The region’s local cuisine and its rising arts and culture scene also featured prominently in the table, as Sunderland prepares to bid for the City of Culture title in 2021.

Here’s the top 10:

1. Scenery and coastline
2. Friendly nature of the people
3. Sense of humour
4. Low cost of living
5. Outdoor activities
6. Local history/industrial heritage
7. Passion for sports
8. Party culture
9. Local cuisine
10. Arts and culture

Recent figures show the number of tourists visiting the North East in 2015 increased by 23% to 460,000 – with almost half a million visitors travelling to the region between January and September.

On top of that, international visitors’ spending across the North of England reached a whopping £5.8 billion – an increase of 4% compared with the same period in 2014.

Speaking in February, Tourism Minister David Evennett said: “We invested £10 million in 2015 to boost tourism in the North and these figures show that it is already making a huge difference, bringing more visitors to the area.”

A booming tourism industry supports local economies, brings job growth to the region and helps cement its reputation as a must-visit destination.”

Angela Mazingham, Director of Operations at Cottages in Northumberland, said: “We have certainly seen a positive increase in the number of people looking for accommodation in the region from other parts of the UK and overseas in the last five years. The feedback we receive from them is always complimentary about the area with many visitors returning to stay with us year after year!”

The study, commissioned by Cottages in Northumberland, saw one in three participants praise our famously welcoming nature – while 29% applauded our ability to laugh in the face of adversity. This data was gathered in June 2016 and includes responses from 5000 UK residents.

The Rotary Club has again been busy in the Town Square weeding the flower beds. The photo attached shows (left to right) Mike Frisch, Lawrence Craiggs, Audrey Jones, Dick Wailes and John Lilley. Rotarians enjoyed an excellent wine tasting recently given by Rotarian Jim Barrett.

On August 2 we have a Fellowship Evening followed a week later by a talk by Northumberland Blood Bikers. Work is progressing on the Wild Flower Meadows on Rotary Way. People will notice that two areas have been sprayed to kill the weeds and it is hoped to sow the wild flower seeds towards the end of August. Rotarians are also continuing with litter-picks along Rotary Way which is such a popular spot for locals and visitors alike.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about Rotary is invited to view our website www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org

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HAPPY 100TH EDITION TO THE AMBLER

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The Ambler ~ 11
Summer clothes

This is some fashion for summer: These are very cute and bright.

By Abbey Wallace

Visit to Hauxley Nature Reserve

By: Emma-Jane and Abbey Wallace

Binky and the Happy Stone

It was a very hot day in Bamblesmouth, Binky’s town, and the heat frustrated him even more than his little sister. Ivy was in his room chucking all his toys around. Binky had tried repeatedly to get her out, pushing her (she wouldn’t budget), shooting at her (she ignored him) and getting mum (who just found it cute). The rising heat made his temperature flare and he stormed out the house.

Not really knowing where he was going, Binky ran down to the beach and stormed around the sand dunes. He kicked up loads of sand and half hoped someone would come to the beach so he could shout at them; no one did. So Binky trudged along, the sun egging his foul mood on until he saw a little cave in the dune.

It was only about as big as a football pitch and inside he found an egg-shaped yellow stone and a little note that read, “The happy stone, only found by a sad or an angry person. Use it to make you happy.”

“Well that’s stupid,” Binky stated to no one in particular, “A stone can’t make you feel happy!” But as he held it his mood seeped away. Binky began to wonder what he was angry for all and decided to head back home.

By Lily T

TIPS TO STOP BULLYING

Have you ever experienced being bullied? If not I bet other people have, so here are some things you could do if someone else is getting bullied.

Film it, you could whip your phone out and film it for proof to show to your teachers or parents in case the person that is being bullied so they are aware of the problem and can deal with it.

Tell an adult, and then they can talk to the bully and get them to stop, or work things out with the other kid that is being bullied, or they might get told off for what they have done and make sure they never do it again.

By Bethany

HAVE YOU READ ANY OF THESE BOOKS?

After looking at the top ten books recommended to children by adults, I asked six members of Artograffi which ones they had read.


Out of all of these, all six of us had read the Very Hungry Caterpillar, five had read Harry Potter and the Famous Five, four of us had read Alice In Wonderland and the BFG, two people had read the others, although only one of us had started to kill a Mockingbird. No one had read the Bible all the way through!!!

By George-Anne Carnegie

Meeting the fun fundraisers on board the yacht Tikka

In the middle of June, Artograffi went to visit the yacht Tikka which sailed into Amble marina.

The crew are sailing around the UK to raise money for Action for Children, a charity that helps care for neglected, ill-used or abused children, and their families in need of some help.

The Tikka’s Travels team are led by Steve Pontinon and his family. Steve and his wife Kat adopted their son Harry when he was six years old. Harry is now 13 and is joining the fundraising team at different stages around the UK.

We asked them what made them think of sailing all the way around the UK. Steve said “I used to be in the Navy, but now I work in an office. But I wanted more adventure for me and for Harry. It’s where we get together as a team.”

Steve told us that Harry used to feel scared at night, but says he feels safe on the boat, because it is surrounded by water. He said Harry struggles sometimes at school “He’s a clever boy but he struggles in a big class. I can teach him lots of things when we are on the boat, physics, maths, and practical things too” he said.

Along with Steve, were Louise Wrightson, who was dressed as a chicken for our visit (the boat is called Tikka). Louise is in the Navy. She joined the crew at Hartlepool.

Also there was Dan Burnett who is on board for 4 weeks, and Martin Turbett who is cycling around the UK on his bike called Diana, and he is meeting up with Tikka at different places.

We asked about being on the boat. “We asked if it is fun living on a boat? Yes. It’s all about teamwork!” said Steve.

Do you see lots of wildlife? “Yes we’ve seen seals, dolphins, albtaross, orca whales and puffins!” The crew were very excited about the puffins. “We don’t see them in the south. They’re fantastic.”

Being Artograffi, we had to ask if anyone had ever fallen off the boat. The answer was no, although Louise told us she almost did once time on a different trip. We also asked if anyone got a stick – the answer was no!

The yacht left Gosport on the south coast on 4 June, and the crew hope to be finished their UK adventure by 20 August. When they left Amble, they headed up the coast to Eyemouth then south.

There are lots of people doing different fundraising tasks as well as sailing. Some like Martin are cycling, others are walking and fundraising in different ways.

Their first target was to raise £10,000, but this has already been achieved. “Now I hope we can raise £20,000” said Steve.

Find out more about Tikka’s Travels on their Facebook page.

By Lily Ava, Emma-Jane, Hope, Louise and Bethany

Girls Power!

Girls used to be undereappreciated and wronged, and that was only till a few years ago. Now many women are powerful leaders, like our new prime minister: Theresa May. She is only the second female prime minister in Britain, Margaret Thatcher was the first.

Angela Merkel is the leader of Germany and the next president of the USA could be a woman, lots of women now have lots of power.

I think that, now women have more power, girls are going to start taking more opportunities; the changes the suffragettes made are still impacting our lives today.

Us as girls should take advantage of our freedom and rights to try and be the best we can be, some ladies gave their lives to give us our rights and power!

By Lily T

1948-1996

Roald Dahl was born on September 13, 1916 and died in 1990. He has written over 50 books all of which are good. I have not read many of his books but all the ones I have read are fantastic.

Some of his most famous books are Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Fantastic Mr Fox, The Twits, The Witches, The BFG, Matilda, James and the Giant Peach, Boy, Danny the Champion of the World, George’s Marvellous Medicine, Esio Trot, Revolting Rhymes and The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me.

I recommend all of these books, they are amazing.

By Ava

I Recommend Reading Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl

By: Emma-Jane and Abbey Wallace

Roald Dahl

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By Ava
Beach hut bambinos

PICTURED ABOVE are the winners of Warkworth Harbour Commissioners’ competition to select the names and colours for the new beach huts at the Little Shore.

Children from Amble Links First School and Amble First School chose the colours and named the eight huts which are available to hire.

Harbour Master Simon Baxter told The Ambler: “Warkworth Harbour Commissioners are very pleased with the beach huts. Many positive comments have been received from both locals and visitors alike.”

The winners also received a Spurreli’s voucher.

For more info on hiring the huts, ring the Harbour Office: 01665 710306.

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Every drop of Spurreli ice cream is made with passion and enthusiasm from start to finish. So take your time and enjoy this award winning ice cream!

Spurreli would like to thank The Ambler for the continued efforts of this valuable community magazine and to congratulate them on their 100th edition of the publication.

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Tel: 01665 710890 Email: hello@spurreli.com
Web: spurreli.com
Congratulations to three upstanding young citizens who were nominated for this year’s Good Young Citizen of the Year award.

Harry Angus, Evan Falkous and Daniel McNeill, all aged nine, were nominated by their schools for outstanding behaviour and attitude to work and their community. All three were given certificates, trophies and a goody bag full of prizes donated by local businesses.

Overall winner Harry Angus is a pupil at Amble Links First School. He won a bike, donated by Spurreli. “I’m really happy” he smiled. Mum Kathryn admitted Harry was always well behaved at home as well as at school. “I’m very proud of him” she said.

Amble Links School described Harry’s achievements: “Harry is often involved in community activities and has helped out at the Children and Communities First cake stall at the Puffin Festival, fundraising picnics, taken charge of glitter tattoos at school discos and run the ‘hook a duck’ stall.

“I was recently approached by a very appreciative gentleman who Harry had kindly helped lay bark chippings in the park at Warkworth when no other volunteers had turned up; he was very impressed with such a kind offer of help. He is a credit to his family and to our school”

Daniel McNeill attends Warkworth First School. “I got told I had been nominated when I got back from holiday,” he said “I’m really pleased”.

Daniel’s school was full of praise for him: “In school Daniel is always helpful – he is a dinner monitor, garden helper and a member of the worship rota. Daniel is an excellent buddy to younger children and is always ready to lend a hand with staff. He is always pleasant, cheerful and encouraging.”

Evan Falkous from Amble First School was also delighted to have been nominated. He said, “It was really good. It felt like a dream.”

Evan was described by his school as “a hardworking and consistently cheery young man, who always does his best, even when he finds his work hard. He has lovely manners, real strength of character and shows care and respect for everyone he comes into contact with. He has raised £2,867 (and 12 pence) for the Amble Lifeboat appeal.”

The awards were handed out by Amble Community Support Officer Ken Mouat, who gave the youngsters a tour around the police office, much to the delight of Evan who declared he wanted to be a police officer when he grew up.

The Good Citizens awards were the brainchild of Amble CSO Darin Fawcett, who believed that outstanding behaviour by young people should be encouraged and rewarded.

CSO Ken Mouat said “It was nice to be part of this award. Thanks to the support from local businesses and the community as a whole, who have allowed us to put this ceremony together and provide the prizes.”

Anna Williams

Outstanding youngsters awarded

WELL DONE ALL! Above: June and Tony Carruthers won Best Overall garden in the Town Council garden awards. They were presented with the trophies by Mayor Jane Dargue. Photo by Martin Horn

Below: Members of Amble Slimming Club raised £150 for the Amble RNLI Shannon Appeal. Photo by Bart Rippon

Julie Hewitt
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30 West Acres, Alnwick NE66 2QA
Tel: 01665 602634  Mob: 07859 907961
JCSC happenings

Earlier in the year a group of Year 12 James Calvert Spence College students were selected for the Teach First, Young Futures Programme. As part of this they all attended an Easter school at Cambridge University alongside students from other schools around the country.

The organisers from Teach First were so impressed with one of the JCSC students, Alex Penrose, that he was invited to speak at the opening ceremony for the new Teach First candidates, held at Northumbria University.

“Alex spoke incredibly well and should be very proud of himself” said Mr. Phil Anderson a teacher at JCSC and also a previous Teach First student.

“The audience was captivated by Alex. His speech was inspiring and comical. It is so clear why he was picked as someone that stood out at Futures, but equally he represented our school fantastically well. He spoke very highly of his education at JCSC”.

County athletics

On Saturday at the County athletics competition at Hexham the following pupils took part and performed very well.

Bobby Stone: First in the 800m
Rhiannon Hedley: second in the 1500m
Frankie Marwick: third in the discus

Emre Yasar: 9th in the 100m and just missed out on the final
Ellie Tweedle: 5th in the javelin.
We have some very talented pupils!
Congratulations to both Kieran Hedley and Abby Sheldon for competing at the inter-county athletics.
Kieran has now qualified for the National School’s Finals at Gateshead in July.

TRUSTLife

We begin this issue wishing The Ambler a very happy 100th birthday. Its hard to believe Anna and the Ambler volunteers have reached this ripe old age (not personally) and who would have thought there were so many stories to tell in this little town! Its fair to say that you as a community have taken The Ambler to your hearts.

We know that many of you cannot wait for the latest edition to drop through your door because you call in or phone to ask when it is due. And that is what the newspaper is all about - you and the community, your news, views and events, written by local people. And at this point we offer our thanks to the volunteers who work with Anna to ‘create’ The Ambler, some of whom have worked on the publication since its inception, thanks to each and every one of you, your hard work and loyalty are very much appreciated.

On the home front, things have been fairly quiet since the Puffin Festival but now businesses are revving up for the summer holidays.

Staying on the subject of the Puffin Festival, if you have ideas for new activities or feel you would like to be involved, there will be regular community meetings which you are welcome to attend. The first was Wednesday July 27 but others will follow.

At long last I’m pleased to announce work has begun on the welfare drainage. It’s been a long haul and many years of waiting but we’ve made it. Barry Knox has drafted in additional staff to get everything done as quickly as possible. However the grass seed will take its own time to grow!

Our housing accommodation has been completed, hand over to tenants took place on 1 August. Local labour has been used throughout and they have delivered a site to be proud of.

Tenants were all impressed with the standard achieved, certainly they don’t look as though they have been done on a tight budget, so thanks to all involved.

All tenants were matched against a list of criteria to ensure they were eligible for affordable housing, and I’m pleased to say they all work in the town for local businesses.

Anna is currently working on funding bids to set up coding workshops, to build skills in writing computer software. This is not normally something that would interest me; I know where the on/off button is and can use a keyboard, but when anyone starts talking jargon my eyes glaze over. However after hearing Anna’s experience of attending a workshop, it has sparked my interest and I’m hoping to programme my little Lego crocodile to snap - that is not a euphemism by the way!

As many of you know I’m not one for social media, and have managed to avoid the vagaries of Facebook and Twitter. However I do sometimes get to hear about unfounded comments from a minority. I would encourage those who seem happy to berate others, to do their research before spouting forth on subjects they either know nothing about or fully understand. I find it hard to understand why people don’t just ask questions rather than make assumptions; once again I am always available to discuss matters.

That’s it for now and to The Ambler - we look forward to another 100 editions.

Julia and all trust staff
The Dovecote Centre has played a big part in my life: first as my Primary School, then when I worked as a volunteer helping adults to develop literacy skills, and later it served as an outreach project of Northumberland College. I was part of a team working with students of all ages and abilities.

Since it was replaced by Amble Links, the Dovecote Centre has been the hub of all sorts of activities from youth work to community education.

I believe in education for all. Sadly, funding for community education has been drastically reduced from some £7 million a few years ago to £2.75 million for the 2016/17 academic year.

Government priorities have changed. Support to councils for adult education and training is now focused on apprenticeships and employability.

From August 1 Government funding for “Community Learning” will be cut completely. In Northumberland’s case that means a loss of £562,000.

There will still be an adult learning service in Northumberland, but the only way it can survive is by reducing the number of centres across the county and by providing courses which are self-funding.

The Dovecote Centre will no longer be an adult learning centre. The foundation stone was laid in 1899. It is large and has significant running costs; the County’s adult learning service budget is not enough now to carry those costs.

The building belongs to the Newcastle Diocese. I know the Dovecote Centre has been a well-loved part of our community for generations. There will be discussions over the future and I hope that with the enthusiasm of present and potential user groups it might still be possible to find a way to sustain the building and its use.

robert.arckless99@northumberland.gov.uk  Telephone: 01665 711938

Robert Arckless

County Councillors

I would like to share with readers my disappointment and frustration about the proposed closing of the Dovecote Centre.

I was not aware of this closure and in fact had not been informed of it at all until reading it in the press. I understand that this was the result of an internal error and that I should have been informed of the action. I feel very aggrieved that it was not discussed with me by any of the County Council Officers or members of the Executive.

I think this is a very sad decision for Amble, we do not have a community centre unlike many other local towns and villages and the Dovecote Centre has for a number of years helped to fill that gap. Although in the past I have disagreed with people about Amble missing out with funding from the County Council I believe in this case the opinion is justified. Many hundreds of thousands of pounds are being spent to upgrade another existing community centre in a much smaller village locally but we can’t even hang on to our limited resource! I hope the Council will reconsider its decision and I will be working to that end.

There is still no date set for the proposed planning application for Gloster Hill. I understand that more exploratory work regarding the drainage issues is taking place before a final plan is entered.

I am available on 07802385367
Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk

Jeff Watson
Great North Paddle

On Saturday Sept 24 the canoeing equivalent of the Great North Run, the annual Great North Paddle will take place for the second time. A small but dedicated team of kayakers from Coquet Shorebase Trust will be taking part in the event which will entail a strenuous and challenging 13.5 mile route down the River Tyne from Scotswood Bridge, through Newcastle and on to finish at South Shields.

The aim of the team is to raise funds to enable the Shorebase Trust to continue to provide access to water sports for everyone - and with facilities for kayaking, canoeing, windsurfing and sailing it’s a fantastic amenity to have on our doorstep.

If you would be able to make a donation, or pledge sponsorship for this event, no matter how small, then there will be the means to do this at the Shorebase Trust building on the Braid, and at Amble Development Trust, Fourways 2, as well as other premises around the town.

Your support will be very much appreciated.

Liz Lowder

‘The mad jam woman gets creative’

Busy boiling, creating flavours from some fruit
Into a huge pan they were put.
‘But I can’t put that in me jam.’
It sat near the spoon, oozing alcoholic smells
Waiting to be used, with
A lot of swearing too.
The smells drifted out, and then a big shout erupted
‘Eee I’m not putting that in me jam.’
A kind of bee had called by, nosey for the smell, it sat watching and buzzing
On the window outside, yellow and black could be used...hmmmm
Lots of jars, lids shiny clean
Sat waiting to be labelled,
All varieties, while the red hair on her head darted in between, she got thinking
Each one was placed, in a huge box,
Now that will be in me jam.’
She busied the whole of that day, singing muttering
And then did say
‘I won’t put that in me jam.’
Before it was made, a kind voice said
‘Try some gin in it.’
She’d nodded off at home that night,
dreaming of honey
And as she slept, a smile made her think
‘Oh, I will put that in me jam. So she did, the bee had given her a new idea, Xmas cake and mince pies
So, duly made, she was pleased,
In went the gin for a change, sold out every Xmas one
‘Eee I’m glad I put that in me jam.’

by Pauline Thompson

Mauretania Day celebrations go with a swing

Sunday July 3 saw the first ‘Mauretania Day’ celebrated at the Harbour Village. We enjoyed sunshine for most of the day and a wonderful 1930s theme enhanced by background music provided by Bart Rippon.

There was live music from Newbiggin Jayess Brass Band and beautiful vintage cars on show - provided by private owners.

The ‘random acts of kindliness’ that were carried out throughout the day included pods offering add-ons, discounts, and extra gifts and also hourly Harbour Village voucher give-aways. The day was a great success for the Harbour Village and we hope to build on this event for next year and for it to become an Amble-wide event.

Thank you to all those kind people who gave their time and helped make this event such a success.

Sarah Dunne,
Amble Harbour Village Co-ordinator

Clay shoot went with a bang

West Chevington shoot recently had a great clay pigeon shoot to raise funds for the GNAAS. There were five stands firing different clays.

It was a great family day with an air rifle area for the kids. Food and drink was provided and there was also a raffle.

Keeper of the shoot Neil Gray thanks everyone who took part and also to those who donated prizes.

A good day was had by all and a grand total of £880 raised for the air ambulance.

The event was sponsored by Anthony of Northern Structures and Peter of Amble Skips.

Louise Little
WAR MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER

THE COUNCIL IS STILL gathering quotations for the extensive work required to repair the damage to the roof, the drainage system and the internal deterioration caused by the water and damp.

The specialist nature of the work on this listed monument means there are only a few firms who can do the work; this also means they are kept very busy. Unfortunately, until all the quotations for the different aspects of the work are to hand, we cannot go ahead with a grant application to help with the costs.

We took the decision to stop the clock to prevent any further damage to its mechanism as this would have increased the overall price considerably. We had hoped to have the repairs done before Remembrance Day, but this will not be possible however we try to internally protect the structure from more damage over the inclement weather to come as we need to preserve and respect this monument to those who lost their lives.

We all appreciate how much everyone misses the familiar chimes and just being able to look down the street for the time but unfortunately the situation will remain so until the works are completed.

COUNCILLORS CORNER

WELL DONE AMBLE! I feel very proud to be a resident of Amble. Since my retirement from Northumberland College in 2001 I have become an elected Central ward Town Councillor.

With the help and support of community groups, businesses and individuals, we are slowly changing Amble into the place to visit in Northumberland.

Not just for holiday makers but for people from Newcastle who, having not visited in many years, have said to me that they have been surprised at how friendly and vibrant the town is.

More interesting new businesses are opening bringing more job opportunities for local people.

Not everything is good news. The work is ongoing especially with the dog fouling issue, car parking and litter.

Please continue to be involved in our successful Puffin Festival, RNLI day and Christmas Lights Parade so Amble can continue to prosper, bringing more jobs and money into the town.

Cllr. Kate Morrison

THE PRESENTATION EVENING was well attended and everyone enjoyed refreshments whilst viewing a presentation of photographs of the shortlisted gardens prepared by Jim Donnelly.

There were more entries for the Secret Garden- that beautiful place hidden from the passer by- suggesting this will increase in popularity in the future.

A panel of councillors determined the winners of the newly introduced Community Awards for Adults and Juniors but we hope that next year there will be more public nominations for these.

If you were unable to attend the presentation evening check on the Council website for the winners; if your garden is listed please collect your certificate from the office before the end of August.

MEMORIES OF AMBLE

THANKS TO ALL those who supported our WW1 centenary event this year- by exhibiting, attending, helping or doing refreshments. Many favourable comments were made about the variety of information on show and how friendly and eager people were to discuss further the items displayed.

The WW1 exhibition concentrated on the people from Amble and Radcliffe who gave their lives during the battles of the Somme from July to November 1916 and the conditions they experienced. The candlelight vigil and services at the Town War Memorials were well attended; the brave men who gave their lives were not forgotten by Amble.

LITTER

UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE the best efforts of many people, due to holdups at Northumberland County Council, Amble’s seasonal worker’s start has been delayed. The extra invaluable assistance of our current operative has helped but we still have some very untidy areas.

By the time you read this, we sincerely hope that a new operative will be in place and some of the litter problems especially at weekends will be alleviated.

We are grateful for those people who make a point of putting their litter in the bins- or taking it home- and incredibly thankful for those in the community who can regularly be seen taking a bag out on their walk and tidying as they go!

However, with the scale of financial cutbacks being faced by NCC, we fear that these front line services will be reduced even further in the year or two ahead.

Many people have indicated that having a tidy town is very important to them, not just for visitors but also their own pride and respect for their home town; so this may be an area where Council will need to use more resources in the future.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT  Tel: 01665 714 695  www.amble.gov.uk
Email ask@amble.gov.uk  Twitter: @AmbleTC  Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil
Office hours: 10-11.30a.m. & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday  Elaine Brown Town Clerk  Minutes available to view in Office or online

GARDEN & COMMUNITY AWARDS

Mayor Jane Dargue with Community Award winners- Amble Coastal Rowing Club and Amble Army Cadets. Photo by Bartie Rippon

EAST WARD:
Robert Arckless, 37 Anne Crescent, Amble NE65 0QZ  Tel: 01665 711938
Helen Lewis, 5 Meadowburn, Amble NE65 0PH  Tel: 07751 229 739
Craig Weir 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
Katrina Cassidy, 18 The Close, Amble. NE65 0HZ

CENTRAL WARD:
Kate Morrison, 3 Island View, Amble NE65 0SE  Tel: 01665 711191
Jane Dargue (Chair/Mayor) 10 Sylvia’s Close, Amble NE65 0GB Tel: 07795360513
Martin Horn 22 Mariners View Amble NE65 0JH  Tel: 01665 712836

TOWN COUNCILLORS:
Jane Dargue (Chair/Mayor) 10 Sylvia’s Close, Amble NE65 0GB Tel: 07795360513
Martin Horn 22 Mariners View Amble NE65 0JH  Tel: 01665 712836

The Ambler ~ 19
At the annual town council meeting in May, Cllr Jane Dargue was elected mayor and chairman for 2016-17.

Cllr Weir was warmly thanked for three years of exemplary service, throughout which he had worked relentlessly.

Amble had many new ventures and establishments – a town that local people were justifiably proud of and a noted coastal attraction.

Cllr Weir had liaised with many groups and organisations to bring their skills and efforts together to enrich the town or people’s lives.

He had seen the successful development of the harbour village and the renovation of Paddlers Park, including a meeting with the Countess of Wessex.

He attended many social occasions, presented grants and represented Amble at events as far away as Newcastle.

His efforts had been much appreciated in furthering the growth of the Christmas lights parade and the Puffin Festival.

He had ‘pulled the team’ together and engendered a more positive outlook for the future of the Council and the town.

New mayor

In accepting the role of mayor, Cllr. Dargue acknowledged that she had a hard act to follow but was honoured to be thought worthy.

She promised to do her best to continue promoting Amble, to bring new developments, to build on recent accomplishments and to see growth in employment opportunities.

Whilst there had been many successes, she acknowledged the town has seen reductions in NCC services and that further budget cuts were to be expected.

Many people voiced their displeasure at the drop in standards within the town—particularly the amount of litter.

Council may have to consider taking on more of these services, inevitably resulting in an expenditure increase but discussions will continue with NCC to secure the very best outcome possible for the town.

Cllr Dargue emphasised improvements are still needed in the appearance of the town with more facilities for everyone to enjoy.

A long term parking solution is still being discussed but the town could also be improved for walkers and cyclists.

She looked forward to working with the many individuals and organisations, seeking to move the town forward and to build on the many great things the town offered.

With the support and efforts of colleagues, much more could be achieved for the town she loved and was so proud of.

**AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL - DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2016**

| Income | £
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Precept on County Council</td>
<td>114,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Income</td>
<td>15,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenities (Including Cemetery)</td>
<td>49,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>180,225</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses | £
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Wages (inc Employers NIC)</td>
<td>50,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amalgamated Funds</td>
<td>25,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenities</td>
<td>40,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>11,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising &amp; Publicity</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>129,776</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES**

| £ | £
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank Balance at 31st March 2015 - Carried Forward</td>
<td>50,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>£261,770</strong></td>
<td><strong>£211,322</strong> (Adjusted by £288*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above account indicates an excess of income over expenditure for 2015-16 of £50449. This is a result of building earmarked funds.

The earmarked funds had risen due to the receipt of £19,300 from Persimmons towards the purchase and maintenance of 2 new bus shelters.

The balance also holds a £20,000 contribution towards the refurbishments at Paddlers Park.

The remaining balance is designated for items such as contractual obligations including training and development costs, elections, WWI commemorations 2016-2018, West Cemetery Development, administration, a contribution towards the lease of land for additional car parking.

* Adjustment as a result of a payment being recorded twice.
Girlguiding

This term the Rainbows got healthy with a visit from Julia at Amble Dental Practice, a balloon Olympic games and yoga. We enjoyed playing on the Little Shore.

Brownies and Rainbows raised money for MacMillan by walking around Druridge Bay. Brownies welcomed seven new members all of whom made their promise at a campfire with Rainbows where we made s’mores. We had a meal out at Zecca. All three units joined other Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units at our Rio Carnival doing the limbo, making musical shakers, learning about the Olympics and doing relay races.

Guides have learnt cultural gestures and meditation. For our campfire cooking challenge we built fires on rafts, cooked meals and baked an egg inside a potato. We joined guides from all over Morpeth, both camping out in bivvy shelters we made in the forest and geocaching. We camped with Scouts, Cubs and other Guides at Marra Wild West and got to drive quad bikes, stunt jump and zorb.

If your daughter would like to join, please register your interest at https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/. If you would like to join in the fun and volunteer find out more http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer.aspx.

Floral demonstrations with a difference!

Alnmouth’s Hindmarsh Hall Committee is delighted to announce they have secured the services of Sean Murray, world famous winner of BBC 2’s Great Chelsea Challenge to give one of his fabulous floral arrangement demonstrations. The theme of ‘Reclaim and Renew’ is particularly appropriate as all proceeds from the night will go to the hall’s refurbishment fund.

Friday September 30 is the date for your diary. The Hindmarsh Hall doors will open at 6.45pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. Liquid refreshment is included in the entry charge and there will be a raffle. Prizes will include all the floral arrangements Sean has made on the night.

Tickets at £8.00 can be purchased from Alnmouth or Lesbury Post Office or by ringing 01665 830330.

Dance School celebrates success

Pupils from the Carol Gray Dance School are celebrating after achieving 18 honours with a distinction, and 19 honours. “This is well above the success rate in the Carol Gray Dance School. Absolutely Amazing!”, said Carol.

Tall Ships regatta at Blyth

The Port of Blyth is hosting the North Sea Tall Ships Regatta from Friday 26 - Monday 29 August. Up to 30 of the largest and most spectacular tall ships in the world will sail into Blyth for a fantastic four day festival.

There will be lots to see and do with 1.5 miles of entertainment, food and drink and the stunning tall ships. Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to enjoy the event, which also includes nightly fireworks, live music and grand parades.

This maritime celebration takes place during the 60th anniversary of the Tall Ships Races, and our event will end with a race from the Northumberland coast to Gothenburg, Sweden.

Come along to the North Sea Tall Ships Regatta Blyth 2016 and enjoy a splendid show of tall ships and family entertainment. See www.tallshipsblyth2016.com/ for more information.

Bond, Bowie, magic and science

This autumn, Amble Parish Church will be arranging not one but TWO shows from the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme, bringing high quality live entertainment to Amble at affordable prices!

On Saturday October 15 we will have jazz singer Juliet Kelly with her show “From Bond to Bowie” – Songs of Stage and Screen. Spend an evening enjoying her truly exceptional voice!

On Sunday November 13 we will be treated to Oliver Meech and his show “When Magic and Science Collide” - a fun-filled fusion of magic, mirth and mind-reading. Expect amazing tricks inspired by astounding science.

SAVE THE DATES IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!

As usual, both shows will be in the St. Cuthbert’s Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, and will begin at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

Tickets will be on sale at N & F Young, 8 Queen Street, Amble, and also online at www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Ticket prices: Adults £8, Concessions (60+) £7, Children (under 15) £5.

Warkworth Northumbrian Ceilidh Nights

Monthly Northumbrian Ceilidhs have been held at Warkworth Memorial Hall since March 2015. They feature “The Reel Northumbria Ceilidh Band”, with regular instrumentalists Sandra Kerr (English Concertina), Peter Hollins (Melodeon) and Peter Bromley (Fiddle).

No dancing experience is necessary as our wonderful caller Elaine Carter will guide you through the dances. Just bring along your enthusiasm for a good time.

The dancing is interspersed with songs, tunes and recitations from those present. We occasionally have visiting musicians in the band and the attached photo includes Andy Seagroatt and Megs at our June Ceilidh.

The ceilidhs are held on the second Tuesday of the month starting at 7:30pm. For 2016, our remaining dates are September 13, October 11 November 8 and December 13.

There is no bar so bring along your own refreshments and glasses.

Further details at www.northumbriafolk.org.uk/warkworth.html, or ring Peter/Kate on 01665 711388 or email peter.burnham@gmail.com.

Peter Burnham

The Ambler ~ 21
Don’t miss Steve’s photos

Steve Emberton’s photographic gallery will be closing at the end of September. The world-renowned photographer has been exhibiting his photos of rock and pop star legends, and conducting photography workshops for the last year at the Harbour Gallery on Harbour Road at the Quayside.

He will still be available to contact via his website: steveemberton.com and by phone: 07870 215459

WEA : Newcastle and its Buildings

An 11 week course looking at the history of Newcastle through its buildings.

Tutor: Tony Barrow Every Thursday, starting September 15, from 10am - 12 noon In Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Street.

All welcome, fee £60; concessions for benefit recipients.

Warkworth Show at the castle

August 20 at Warkworth Castle. Family fun and entertainment, including live music, classic vehicles, dog shows, storytelling, climbing tower, refreshments and more. Produce stalls open at 10am, end of show auction 4.50pm. See www.warkworthshow.co.uk for more information.

The Alnwick English - German group

The Alnwick English - German group was formed early 1998 and has been running ever since. To begin we met in each other’s houses, but then the opportunity arose to hold the meetings at the Costello centre within the convent, Bailiff Gate, Alnwick. The meetings are still held there.

Whilst we have a leader for the group, we do not work as a class on a teacher/pupil basis. Rather we meet as a group of friends, having in varying degrees, an interest in all things German - the country, its people, its culture and history.

The meetings last for two hours, the first hour being devoted to the reading of a book written in German. We take turns to read a short section from the book and then do a translation, but there is always help on hand if you need it. Alternatively, no one will mind if you choose not to translate, there are others in the group who will happily translate for you.

The reading part is followed by coffee/tea and biscuits, which gives people the opportunity to chat, in either language, mostly English. This is then followed by a song, a puzzle and another piece of music.

Occasionally, someone from the group may speak about a topic of interest, a recent holiday or other event.

The group is very social and very friendly, everyone is made welcome. During every meeting there will be anecdotes and always a few laughs.

Certainly, the German language is spoken, and some of the members are quite fluent, but some in the group and I am one, are of a much lower standard. This is never a problem, there are always people around very willing to help out and if all else fails no one minds if you speak English.

Meetings are held on Friday mornings 10:00 to 12:00 and our sessions shadow the school terms: Towards the end of each term we have a group lunch.

We are looking to boost our numbers and our next term starts on Friday September 2, 2016.

Anyone interested in joining us will be made most welcome, or perhaps you would like more information. I can be contacted on 01665 711453, if no answer please leave a message, I will get back to you. Alternatively, you may wish to contact our group leader, Bruce Collyns, who lives in Alnwick.

Tel. 01665 602262

Trevor Collyns

Royal British Legion

Warkworth and Amble District branch’s Battle of the Somme Exhibition, in Warkworth on Saturday July 2, was a huge success thanks to all who attended and contributed. On the day, £1,000 was raised - a fantastic contribution to our local Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal!

Thank you to members of the public, branch members, local businesses and the Rotary Club for their continual support. The wonderful prizes that were donated made the raffle extremely popular. Warkworth Village Choir and Beverley Palin of Amble entertained us with a great selection of popular music from the war period throughout the day.

Also at the exhibition, Branch Secretary, June Watson, launched her book “Portraits of War” - “The men and women of Warkworth and Acklington who served in World War I”. The book is 134 pages of well researched biographies of local men who participated in WW1 and also two Warkworth nurses who served on the battlefield.

Many of the soldiers originated in Amble, Chevington and Broomhill and had moved around the district working in various collieries while others were involved in agriculture. Some had even emigrated to Canada and returned to join up.

Also featured are the sons of the three Warkworth brewing families (the Sandersons, Lambs and Deuchars) and other professionals. We are asking for a donation of £10 for each book to be donated to the branch Poppy Appeal.

If you would like a copy please call 07785 758100. Please add £3.99 post and packaging if you would like a copy posted to friends and family living in other parts of the UK. Perhaps a birthday or Xmas present!

Amble soldiers were featured in the book “In Memory of the Fallen” compiled by Amble Town Council in 2014.

Programme of events

Wednesday, August 10 at 7pm
Social Night at The Trap Inn, Broomhill.

Everyone welcome!

Speaker: Alan Fidler
who will give a talk on The Collingwood Battalion, Royal Naval Division WW1

Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 7pm
Legion Room, Warkworth War Memorial Hall

Speaker: June Watson who will give a presentation on The Sanderson family of Eastfield Hall, Warkworth, WW1

A Taste of Northumberland

In pictures, music, food and drink.
Friday September 16 at 7.30pm St Mark’s URC. All Welcome. Donations gratefully received for Church funds.

Amble Community Cinema

August 20. Screening at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall, Dovecote St. Check notice board for title.

Local History Society meetings

East Coquet Local History Society
Meetings at St. Mark’s URC hall
Every 3rd Thursday at 7.30pm

Programme for 2016-17

Sept.15: 'Amble Sketchbook’, George Baxter
Nov. 17: 'Prehistoric Orkney’, illustrated talk Barry Mead

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County Councillor Robert Arkless

will be holding surgeries on

Friday 23 September
at 6pm - 6.45pm in Hauxley Village Hall

and

Saturday 24 September
from 10am-11am in Amble Library

All Constituents Welcome

Pin Cushion workshops

Wednesday 17 August: Improvers Crochet: Pirate Hat  6-8pm  £15

Friday 19 August: Knit and Natter  10am – mid-day  £4.50
www.mad-hattie.co.uk/news/knit-and-natter-at-amble-pin-cushion

Saturday 20 August: Visit the Amble Pin Cushion stand at Warkworth Show  www.warkworthshow.co.uk/

Wednesday 7 September: Improvers Crochet: Baby Mermaid Tail Snuggle Blanket  6-8pm  £15
www.mad-hattie.co.uk/news/baby-mermaid-tail-improver-s-crochet-workshop

Saturday 10 September: Sewing machine/overlocker & servicing offers

Saturday 17 September: Professional Sewing Tips 1-4pm  £35
www.mad-hattie.co.uk/sewing-courses/professional-sewing-tips-workshop

For more information, contact Norma Arthur at Amble Pin Cushion, 20-22 Queen Street, 01665 714584

Hauxley Funday fun

August 29 11.00am. ’til about 3.00pm
Low Hauxley Square.
Don’t miss this fun annual event, come and join us for:
• Grand Draw Raffle with money prizes
• Live Band
• Delicious hot food
• Real Ale and wine
• Refreshments, including our Hauxley Pork Buns and BBQ
• Tombola
• Great Bric-a-brac stalls
• Sand castle competition
• Face painting
• Fortune Teller
• Feat of Strength
• Target football competition
• Traditional games
• Pet show
• And much, much more…..

If you would like to donate bric-a-brac or tombola prizes please leave at Hauxley Village Hall from August 22 – 28

News from Warkworth Golf Club

In June Kath Dalby, the 2016 Lady Captain, drove into office, supported by Christine Douglas, her vice-captain.

In 2015 the Club revived the Mixed Open and following the good entry the event again featured in the 2016 calendar. A full field played a course in excellent condition though the weather did not quite live up to the sun promised by the Met Office.

Visitors proved too good for the locals and first prize went to David and Linda Smith who had travelled up from Nelson in Lancashire to play. Second place went to a pair from The Hobson with Audrey Jones and John Heron coming in third to provide a little pride for the locals.

There are still a few slots available for the upcoming Ladies Open on Sunday September 4 and the Seniors Open on Thursday September 8. Entry forms are on the Club website www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk and on Golf Empire.

In May the concrete was poured for the foundations of the replacement Killie Bridge. The woods have all been cut to size and is now being treated with preservative. However, other than the wood treating, work has now been suspended until the autumn, as maintaining the course is now the priority for greenkeeper Alan Dalby and Assistant Ian Bruce.

In common with all other clubs, Warkworth has an ageing membership, and a flow of juniors is essential for the future.

We are fortunate to have picked up a number of new juniors in the past few weeks but we have space for more!

Junior membership is just £10 and this includes complementary coaching from a PGA professional. We also are open to new members in all membership categories.

You can join as a full member from 1st October for the 2016 fee of £330 with nothing further to pay until January 2018.

We also offer winter-only membership from 1st October to end-February for just £125.

Details of all membership together with the necessary forms are on our website www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk

Worship on

Wednesdays at

St Marks

Wednesdays August and September: 1.30-2pm. Coffee and scones to follow.

Tai Chi
Classes at Shilbottle Community Hall
Soft flowing exercise that promotes strength, flexibility and helps to relieve stress and tension
Can be done by anyone - seated or standing, regardless of age or fitness level
Next term begins on 13th Sept!
Tuesdays 10.30 - 11.30 term time
Call Sue Sounders for more information or just come along and join in

01670 760850
scaunders@tiscali.co.uk
Third birthday celebrations for popular football academy

Tiny Woods Academy hosted their annual football tournament at Stobswood Welfare as part of its birthday celebrations. It’s three years since Tiny Woods Academy was formed— and it was hailed a huge success once again by children and parents.

Amble Links First School, Broomhill First School, Grange View First School and Tritlington C of E First School all accepted the Academy’s invitation to take part in the tournament.

Organiser and FA Licensed Coach Josh Rutherford said ‘Well done to all the children who participated. They had lots of fun and the standard of the football was brilliant’. Key Stage 1 winners were Grange View First School beating Amble Links First School in an entertaining final. Grange View First School were also Key Stage 2 winners for the third successive year, beating Broomhill First School in a thrilling final.

Academy Director Josh Rutherford added ‘I would like to thank all the children and parents who have supported us during the last three years and we look forward to many more successful years to come!’

Tiny Woods Academy hosted a Charity Match between children and parents tonight in aid of Cancer Research UK. £400 was raised in total which we believe is a brilliant amount for such a fantastic cause!

Licensed coach Josh Rutherford said ‘Every year we have a fun charity match between the children and parents to raise money for charity. Over the last three years Tiny Woods Academy has raised over £1,500 for charity which I think is phenomenal and it’s great to see worthy causes benefit from our fundraising’.

Well done to coaches, volunteers, children and parents of Tiny Woods Academy for their fantastic efforts in fundraising for charity in the last three years which has seen The Stephen Benefit from it!’

Josh Rutherford,
Tiny Woods Academy

Open pairs winners

The annual open pairs bowling competition took place on Sunday July 3 at Amble Bowling Club.

Winners were Matt Brown and Kevin Wylie from Cowpen and Crofton club in Blyth.

The photo shows the winners with Vice President Maisie Donkin of Amble, who presented them with a cheque and the Donaldson Trophy.

George Dixon

Paddler nets kayak fishing prize

I fished the Bob White memorial boat fishing competition out of Amble in my kayak with Eddie Towers and Robert Strachan.

I only managed about 10 minutes fishing but within seconds of starting I landed a pollock followed by a mackerel before the wind got up and we had to head in.

The forecast 12 to 15 mile an hour westerly turned into a 25 to 30 mile hour wind and it was one hell of a workout getting back to shore.

Thanks to Irene Hodgson, Peter Pomfret and Becky for hanging around on shore to make sure we all arrived back on the beach safely.

I weighed in my pollock later in the day at just over 3lb netting me the Bob White Memorial kayak trophy and a prize way down the list.

The winning fish was a cod of 9lb 15 oz landed on boat Bumblebee. It was a well organised and well attended competition and proceeds went to St Oswald’s Hospice and RNLI so it was well worth supporting.

There was also a grand looking buffet laid on at the venue, The Schooner Inn, so I had to have a pint while I was there too!

Many thanks to the organisers, Norma from Amble Angling Centre and her team.

Phil Nichol

Summer activities with Coquet Shorebase

It’s always best to contact us by email or phone first to check availability.

The Junior summer holiday programme runs at the lake throughout August, with sailing, paddling and windsurfing on offer - either half a day (£25) or a full day (£40). Adult windsurfing tuition is also available.

At Amble we are running regular tours of the Coquet Estuary - there is a wide choice of canoes/kayaks / sit-on-tops (singles and doubles) to suit anyone from a complete beginner to the more experienced. Your guide will lead the group past Warkworth to the Hermitage (with the rising tide), and then we float back on the ebb. There is wildlife to spot and we talk about the history of the river and how it has changed over the centuries.

Special events

Sat August 6 Paddleability at the Lake (Druridge Bay Country Park) - an opportunity for people with disabilities to enjoy going afloat in specially adapted canoes/kayaks.

Ask us about booking a group session, private tuition or joining the Canoe Club / Windsurfing Club or Sailing Club for regular activity at affordable prices! All ages from 8 to 80 (or older!!)

Vic Brown
01665 710367
info@coquetshorebase.org.uk

Phil Nichol with his 3lb pollack