



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 103 Feb / March 2017

Woman falls in quicksand during dune restoration

A lack of warning signage during work on Low Hauxley beach, resulted in potential danger to the public, it has been claimed, as a walker stepped into sinking sand, and, unable to free herself, had to call for help.

A digger had been moving sand on the beach to shore up the dunes at the foot of Low Hauxley chalets, after residents there were concerned at the rate of erosion.

But now criticisms have been levelled at the amount of material that was moved, which left the beach full of wet sinking sand.

Ambler reader Tamsin Green was walking on the beach near Hauxley Point when she sank up to her knees in quicksand, which had been exposed by the excavation of sand to build up the dunes in front of the bungalows.

"I walk the dog on the beach every day and it certainly wasn't there before they started excavating," she said. Despite being a fit, active person, she had to shout to the digger operator to dig her out with a spade.

"I think it's dangerous. If someone had been walking there alone when no-one was around they could have been in real trouble, particularly if the tide was coming in.

"I am also concerned about the damage to the environment, as they had dug into the bedrock."

Permission to restore the dunes had been obtained from Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Natural England, and the project was organised and paid for by the

>> continued on page 2

Shellfish hatchery creates new jobs



l-r: Andrew Gooding, Hatchery manager and Jon Green of NIFCA

A new venture is underway to promote local shellfish, and sustain lobster stocks along the Northumberland coast.

A lobster and shellfish hatchery is being created in Amble's Northumberland Seafood Centre, with the aim of providing a fascinating visitor experience, as well as having a serious conservation purpose. And five new jobs have been created, with four vacancies still to be filled.

Hatchery manager Andrew Gooding said "The Northumberland Seafood Centre will house all the holding tanks, larvae tanks and juvenile tanks alongside all the required chillers, filters and pumps to create a fully operational hatchery for the Northumberland Coast.

"We will set up the hatchery to be as interactive, informative, and engaging as possible for all ages.

"The hatchery is not just a visitor attraction, but also an important project to help ensure future stocks of shellfish for the local fishing industry. Initially we will be helping lobsters, but

we will be looking to work with crabs and langoustine in the future."

Julia Aston, director of Amble Development Trust, who own the facility, said: "Many of our fishermen have had to concentrate effort on shellfish, rather than white fish in recent years. This is due to decreasing whitefish quota – of which our inshore fleet have had very little anyway.

"With the increased reliance on shellfish, and the influx of visiting boats in the season, shellfish numbers could be in danger of being overfished. We therefore want to try to restock to increase levels before they reach a critical stage."

A female lobster can carry upwards of 20,000 eggs under their body for over nine months, but once hatched, the vast majority will not survive in the wild. At the hatchery, the eggs will be protected in tanks for several weeks while they grow and start to look like mini lobsters. Then, with the help of Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority

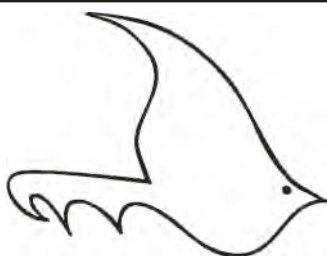
(NIFCA), the baby lobsters will be returned to the sea; their positions accurately recorded for long term research.

The hatchery is due to open at Easter. The existing Northumberland Seafood Centre will be refitted to accommodate the hatchery as well as continuing to sell fresh seafood and run Creel Club.

Funding for the £250,000 hatchery project came from National Lottery through Power to Change and Northumberland County Council.

Vacancies exist for two part time Hatchery Technician/ Fish Filleters, one Hatchery Technician/Fish Filleter Apprentice and one Seasonal Visitor Assistant. Volunteers are also required to help look after the lobsters and explain the project to visitors.

Whether you are a fisherman, potential employee, volunteer or just an interested member of the community; any questions about the hatchery please get in touch with Andrew at the Seafood Centre – call in or phone 01665 713580.



The Ambler

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Distribution:
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Printing:
Azure Printers, Pegswood

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Thanks to all our contributors,
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The Ambler is a project of
Amble Development Trust

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Printed on paper from sustainable
forestry in the UK

Just who do we think we are?

With all the changes in Amble, one of the most integral to our sense of self is our name. Or to be precise, our nickname. Should we still be known as the Friendliest Port? We're asking for your votes, and also your ideas for the development for Amble. See page 8 for all the details of where to vote, and how to send in your ideas.

One development which seems to be popular with most people is the new hotel, which has just been granted planning permission, see page 4. More controversial is the proposed 500 house development, which is still drawing concerned comments from local, see pages 6 and 16. Jobs, of course are uppermost in many people's minds, so the announcement of up to 100 construction

and service industry jobs with the hotel, and five new jobs created at the Seafood Centre (see p1) is welcome.

Congratulations to 42 Queen Street for their commendation, and to Leanne's for 30 years in business on Queen Street, see p3 and p10. The resurfacing of Queen Street is progressing well, we understand the street will not be completely closed during the work, and businesses will be open as usual. The county council is still working on formalising the one-way system and they want to introduce a 20 mph speed limit, see page 15.

Keep your letters, photos and ideas for articles coming; we are here to represent us all - friendly, kindly - or otherwise!

Happy Spring from the Ambler team

'No warning, no signs' for work on beach



Above: a digger moves sand to the foot of the dunes in emergency repair work at Low Hauxley

>> *continued from page 1*

Low Hauxley chalet owners themselves.

Chalet owner Karen Burdon told the Ambler, "Because of the tidal surge a couple of weeks ago, we lost part of the dunes. We are trying to protect our properties. We spoke to Northumberland County Council and they said we don't need any permission. We're not moving rocks, we're just putting the sand back. Natural England also were satisfied that it's emergency repair work."

But some residents were concerned at the lack of warning signs to alert the public. "I understand that the hut people feel anxious about the erosion but piling sand up and causing damage to the beach seems to be very short sighted. There was no warning, no signs," said one resident.

Hauxley Parish Council said they knew nothing about the work.

A letter from Natural England, seen by The Ambler, states: "Natural England understands the emergency repair work to the cliff at Low Hauxley, located within Northumberland Shore SSSI is required as a result of the coastal floods from 12 - 15 January 2017 which resulted in severe erosion of the cliff face to the front of your property."

Permission was granted for the work, which was considered minor, and would only last one day.

The letter continues: "Natural England consents the proposals, if undertaken in strict accordance with the details submitted in the email

and confirmed on the phone, is not likely to damage the interest features for which the site has been notified."

Karen Burdon said "We've also got permission to re-establish the dune grasses and to put up fencing until it gets established. And [the workmen are] repairing the ramp, while they're there."

She was sure the beach would be back to normal within the day. "By the time the tide has gone back out, you won't know it's even happened," she said.

However on seeing photographs of the digger working on the beach, a spokesperson from Natural England said: "From reviewing the photographs it is evident the works are major and outside the consent granted to the land owner."

A site visit was to be arranged.

A spokesperson for NCC said: "After further investigation yesterday afternoon, I did find some small area that may cause some concerns with regards to works."

"At the base of the dunes the reinstated sand which has been heaped up to create a barrier is still unstable in place, however this is very localised sinking in to a maximum depth of 200 mm (8 inches)."

As a result we have placed several warning notice in the immediate vicinity, for the public to be aware and to keep clear of the area until further notice."

Anna Williams and Tim Jones

Councillor steps down after 34 years

Amble Town and Northumberland County Councillor Robert Arckless has announced he will step down at the local elections in May.

Robert was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours and has represented the Amble East ward, which also includes Hauxley and Togston Parishes, for the last 34 years.

Robert told The Ambler: "It was a really tough decision, but I have decided not to stand in the upcoming elections and therefore I won't be a councillor after May."

Robert has Cerebral Palsy and has been warned by his health practitioners that he needs to consider reducing his workload. "They said to me, it's not about your quality of life, it's about your life expectancy," he told The Ambler. "The last year has been really tough on me. My body is telling me I have issues to deal with. I can't dodge these things. So I have taken the decision. It was very hard."

In addition to his MBE, Robert has been Mayor of Amble, chairman of the now defunct Alnwick District Council, and chairman of Northumberland County Council. In recent years, he has been Head of Children's Services at Northumberland County Council. "The response to my MBE has been great; I've had dozens of letters, emails and cards from all manner of people;

*"My MBE
has to be a
first for Amble
Secondary
Modern"*

from the Bishop of Newcastle, Peers of the Realm, MPs and even my old history teacher, who said that it had to be a first for Amble Secondary Modern!

"I am very much looking forward to the ceremony on 19 May. Local government and community work is never a solitary effort. I have had great teams over the years. But it is nice to be recognised. My family was chuffed to bits."

Vera Baird QC, Northumbria Police Crime Commissioner who was made a

Dame in the New Year Honours said, "Robert really is Mr Amble, he has been an outstanding ambassador for local residents - and I'm proud to call him a friend."

"If it wasn't for Robert, Amble would not have received some of the innumerable assets it has - as a former resident of Amble myself, I know we owe Robert a great debt of gratitude."

"After nearly three and half decades of public service, Robert can leave the council chamber knowing that he has made a real difference. Retirement doesn't mean we will see less of Robert, it just means he'll be going at a gentler pace. He'll never stop working for an even better Amble."

Oh his Facebook Page, Robert said: "It has been the greatest privilege of my life to represent my home town of Amble, Hauxley, Radcliffe, Togston and most recently part of Chevington. The spirit burns as brightly as ever. So does my belief that local councils can make a difference. They are the grassroots of democracy. My thanks to all who have worked with and supported me over the last 34 years."

Amble Mayor Jane Dargue said, "Robert will be a very great miss to everyone of us at Amble Town Council. Personally, from when I first started out in local politics Robert gave me confidence and conviction to believe in myself as a local councillor. He has shown by example how important it is to always act with integrity and for the greater good and has worked tirelessly over many years for this town. He will be sadly missed but ATC offices will always have doors wide open to keep in touch."

Grant Davey, Leader of Northumberland County Council said, "I'm very proud and consider myself very lucky to have worked closely with Robert for the last nine years and to have him as a friend. He is a wonderful Councillor with a well developed closeness to his community."



Robert Arckless will step down as a County and Town Councillor in May

I am so pleased that he has been awarded the MBE and felt honoured to be invited to his enrolment into becoming Lay Canon of the Church of England. Robert will be a big miss to our team at County Hall and it will be hard to fill his shoes as the portfolio holder for Children's Services. Through the Ambler I would like to wish him all the very best for the future."

The Labour Party have selected Terry Clark as their new Northumberland County Council candidate.

Robert's retirement plans are still to be decided. "I might do some part time work, or some voluntary work. Or I might try some distance learning and do a Masters, perhaps in History," he said.

"Thirty four years as a Labour Councillor - that's more than half my life. But now there will be a different life. I just don't know quite what, yet."

Anna Williams



Ann and Richard have been praised for their hard work and enthusiasm in promoting Amble. The pair own 42 Queen Street. Ann is also chair of Amble Business Club.

Queen Street business owners commended by GB High St awards

Ann Burke and Richard Wardman have received a 'special recognition' commendation from the Great British High Street awards. The pair had been nominated for an award for the nation's best managers of an independent shop, back in September of last year. Unfortunately they didn't win, but their achievements have not gone unrecognised.

In a letter, Andrew Percy MP, chair of the Future High Street Forum, and Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse, said: "We wish to recognise and commend you for your long-standing commitment to the town and its prosperity. It is inspiring to hear how you have helped others in making funding applications which have aided Amble's regeneration, and how your enthusiasm has encouraged other people to become involved in the community. I also recognise the contribution that 42 Queen Street has made to Amble's day time economy, bringing people into the town."

Ann said, "We have worked in a business on Queen Street for 30 years. When you work in a small rural community, working together and supporting each other brings your High Street together and makes for a good retail experience. Over the years Amble has had to deal with a lot of diversification. Richard and I are humbled to have been granted this commendation, and are thrilled that it is another honour for our Great Coastal High Street."

Hotel planning application accepted

Jobs boost for the town as the hotel development is granted planning permission.

Arch - the Northumberland Development Company, wholly owned by Northumberland County Council, has had its planning application approved for a new hotel development in Amble.

The investment of up to £4m is expected to create up to 60 jobs during the construction phase, and the equivalent of 35 full time jobs once the hotel opens in Coquet Enterprise Park.

The 30 bedroom hotel and restaurant will be located just off the A1068 roundabout when entering Amble, situated on an undeveloped site within Coquet Enterprise Park.

The hotel accommodation includes a mix of family and twin rooms, with a 150-seat restaurant and bar area with further seating outside and car parking and cycle spaces.

The proposed development is part of Arch's wider plan to enhance Coquet Enterprise Park, and builds on the momentum of recent economic development at the harbour. The hotel will contribute to the town's tourism appeal by increasing the accommodation offer and helping to attract additional visitors. The hotel will be a catalyst for wider regeneration: Arch says the aim is to create a vibrant mix of developments to



increase Amble's employment, tourism, retail and housing offer.

A public consultation in September of last year, proved popular; the initial plans and concepts were received positively by residents and local businesses.

The proposed development work could start on site in spring 2017 with a completion date by spring 2018.

Cllr Robert Arkless, county councillor for Amble, said: "This proposal would bring quality new accommodation which would undoubtedly mean more visitors and therefore more business for Amble. It

would also provide new jobs for local people and, subject to it achieving all relevant permissions, I will be very happy to welcome this new hotel development for the town."

Cllr Dave Ledger, Chairman of Arch said: "The hotel proposal will not only enhance Coquet Enterprise Park as part of our long term plans for the area but it will bring much needed jobs to Amble. It is developments like this which increase the potential for attracting inward investment and it's another example of our economic remit to deliver 'profit for purpose' to benefit Northumberland as a whole."

Amble beer takes flight

Amble's Coquet Island bird reserve has received its first donation from beer brand "From the Notebook".

A cheque for £250 was presented to Paul Morrison, head warden of RSPB Coquet Island, for the sales of the brand's "Roseate Tern" beer, which is named after one the rarest nesting seabirds in the country that breed on the island's bird reserve.

Coquet Island is home to the Roseate Tern Life Project, which is an EU funded project that protects the rare species of bird. Coquet Island is the only place in the UK where they breed.

Paul Morrison teamed up with the brand to create the beer, sales of which will help support the local bird reserve.

"From the Notebook" is run by managing director Graeme Denton, and produces unique beers that aim to celebrate nature and its diversity. The brand associates itself heavily with nature conservation charities, and donates royalties to charities ranging from the Marine Conservation Society to the British Trust for Ornithology. Denton stated: "We do wildlife beers, we support the wildlife causes with 10p per bottle and 5p per pint."

Morrison explained that the collaboration with From the Notebook began as "A bit of fun, with a very serious concept in mind."

"The Roseate Tern is Britain's rarest nesting seabird, and this local flavour that

we've embraced with this project also reflects the fact that Coquet Island is the only place in the country where they nest," he said.

The project came into fruition when the pair met Michael Graham, a local brewer from Credence Brewing in Amble, who agreed to produce the beer and support the project. Graham said "It was an interesting project to be a part of, it was exciting to brew with someone else for the first time and to support a local cause."

The beer is available from the Masons

Arms in Amble and selected pubs in the area. It will also be available to buy at Amble Puffin Festival. Each beer produced by From the Notebook have labels designed by different artists, and the Roseate Tern label was an original painting by artist Paul Henery, a former wildlife crime officer for the RSPB. The beer's label features the bird itself, along with Amble's own Coquet Island, Paul Morrison explained "I noticed

that the labels on these bottles are very special, along with the beer, and we wanted a local flavour."

The bottle is designed around the characteristics of the Roseate Tern, with a pink bottle cap to emulate the rose hue the birds have on their breast feathers during the summer.

The £250 donation will aid the conservation efforts on the Island, one that From the Notebook hope is the first of many.

Jordan Scott



l-r: Paul Morrison, head warden RSPB Coquet Island Hillary Brooker-Carey, RSPB volunteer, Michael Graham, Credence Brewery, Graeme Denton, From the Notebook

The end of an era...

Thanks to reader Joan Shepherd, who brought the Ambler a copy of an old (1900) Gazette article about the opening of the Ambler Church of England schools in Dovecote Street.

An atmospheric line drawing shows the first of the buildings with a small boy and a woman in Victorian costume walking by. The school cost £700 to build in 1900, worth around £60,000 in today's money, says Google, which seems incredibly inexpensive.

It was designed to accommodate 320 children, including a

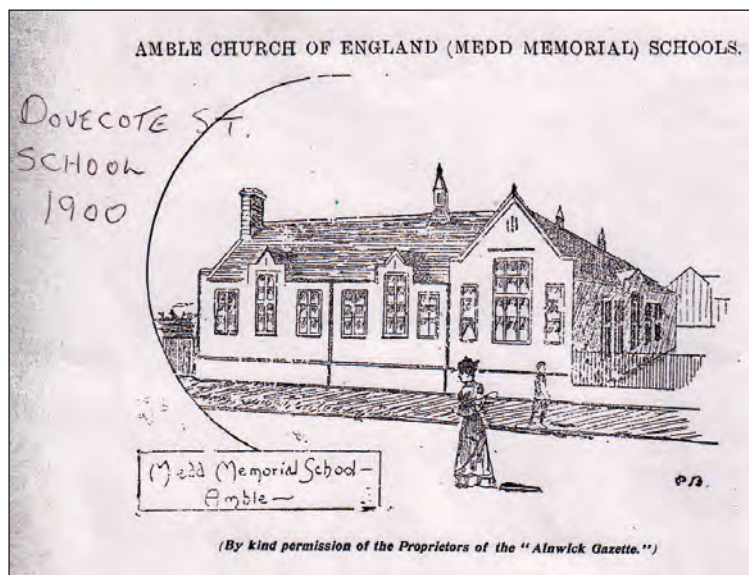
'properly furnished cookery classroom.'

The second and third sections, when erected, the article tells us, 'will bring total accommodation up to 800.'

The Bishop opened the schools on Tuesday July 11, 1900 at 3.15pm.

The County Council's withdrawal from leasing the Dovecote Street Centre, as it had become, for further education, marked the end of an era and it remains to be seen what the future holds for the building.

Tim Jones



Nursery successes for Ambler and Warkworth



Edwin Street Nursery (above) was judged to make good provision for its pupils during a recent Ofsted inspection. The report commented "Children are happy, confident and enjoy their time in this welcoming and friendly nursery." and "Children are successfully acquiring the

skills that they need to help them with their future learning, including moving on to school."

The nursery is part of Ambler First School; head teacher, Joyce Jenkins said "Our staff team, supported by parents, strive to make sure that each child gets the experiences, support and



challenges that they need to develop as individuals and to achieve the best they possibly can – while having fun in a safe and caring setting."

Parents who would like to find out more about places in Edwin Street Nursery can just call into the school or telephone 01665 710388

Congratulations to Warkworth

Staff and children at Warkworth C of E Primary School (below left) were delighted to receive a letter of congratulations from Nick Gibb MP (Minister of State for School Standards) for outstanding achievement in the 2016 phonics screening check.

With 100% of children reaching or exceeding the pass mark – Warkworth School is now in the top 3% of all primary schools in the country.

Jacqui Carrick, Head Teacher said, "This achievement reflects the hard work of our children, staff and parental support. We are all very proud."

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WHAT YOU SAY...

New houses, new road?

There is much discussion about the planning application for 500 new houses, with the only access being onto Acklington Road. Most concern seems to be about likely congestion at the Masons Arms corner, where the extra traffic will join all other traffic going north and south, and where there is often congestion already.

Not everybody is aware that plans, proposed by the county council for an Amble by-pass, are still in existence. The plan shows the bypass following a line to the west of the town from A1068 near Hauxley road-end, curving west of Gloster Park and joining the Warkworth Road near the bottom of Beal Bank.

What I would like to see, as a practical solution to reducing traffic congestion in Amble, is the section planned from Acklington Road to A1068 to be built, so that there would be two points of access for vehicles and not all will use Acklington Road. I don't know exactly what proportion of traffic would use which access but the last traffic survey, that I recall, highlighted the fact that most traffic leaving

Amble in the morning is heading south.

So who would pay for this extra road? This question would be discussed between the local authority and the applicant (the one applying for planning permission.)

Under existing legislation, the applicant is obliged to come to an agreement, with the local authority, to provide a community asset, and to make a significant financial contribution to it. Northumberland County Council is the local authority that makes planning decisions on our behalf.

This section of the possible bypass could be discussed as part of the applicant's contribution. That is, a road from Acklington Road right across to Hauxley road-end, bounding the houses of the planned estate. This would have to include at least one other access onto the new road.

These are my thoughts. What about you? Would this help to solve the problem of congestion at the Masons Arms corner? Or have you got a better idea? Send it to The Ambler.

Ian Hinson, 11 Eastgarth Avenue

Praise for public toilets

I don't know who is responsible for maintaining the toilets beside the Tourist Information office, but whoever it is deserves some recognition. They may not be the poshest loos on the planet but they are always clean, there is always toilet paper and soap available and the hand-drier always works! Well done!

Isabel Morrison via Facebook

Parking rights not understood

I think we are all aware that parking is a big problem in Amble especially for residents who have no choice but to park on a public highway. Some properties like mine have no parking directly outside so it is necessary to share the same public highway in the area with others in the same position.

It is worth noting that being a resident in a street does not give any 'rights' to parking over other road users. It seems that this fact is not understood by all and unfortunately this is the position for everyone who does not have personal designated parking space. The issue can only get worse as more families have multiple cars.

Perhaps before more visitors are attracted to Amble the parking facilities should be considered especially in those areas of the town where parking is very limited.

Alison Dand via Facebook

Christmas Lights thanks

Once again another festive lights season is over and the entire Christmas lights team wish to thank everyone who supported us in any way during the previous twelve months.

Firstly, a round of thanks to the crowds of people who turned out on the night of the switch on, you made it so worthwhile. The participation of families, especially the children was lovely and once again the parade lent a great atmosphere to a wonderful evening in the town. So many people have financially supported the activities of the Christmas lights team, too many to name on an individual basis, but we have been supported by a great number of groups, bodies, businesses and so many individual people mainly from inside the town, but also from further afield. Without this financial support we could not function. Thank you all, it is greatly appreciated!

I should also like to thank the Christmas lights committee for all their hard work throughout the year and of course, the workshop team who cheerfully go about the essential work, both in the workshop and out on the street and in all weathers. They especially deserve thanks from all of us.

At this point I should like to put in my annual plea for more helpers for the workshop team. People with electrical skills would be most welcome, but also anyone useful with hand tools. You don't have to climb ladders, but anyone happy to do so will be most welcome. A good sense of humour is also a great asset. Recently retired people are often very suited to this kind of work, why not give it a go? I can be contacted on 01665 711453

Trevor Colbourne,
Chairman Amble Christmas Lights

Charity knitters praised for time and skills

Here is a photo from our charity knitwear handover, showing Brenda Longstaff from Northumberland Healthcare Trust and the Bright Charity, and myself.

We have the grand total of 175 sets / items handed over, including 71 fish and chip jumpers, 68 fish and chip jumpers with hats, 23 blankets, 7 sweaters, 5 pairs of mitts and 1 cardigan.

As well as being distributed to needy people in over 20 different countries, including Syria, Afghanistan, Tanzania, India and Malawi, they are also distributed by CRISIS, the Salvation Army, social services and homeless shelters in our own country.

Brenda and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time and skill to knitting these items. The charity recognises that knitting for charity brings people together, links communities and staves off dementia.

Brenda explained that as no more fish and chip jumpers are needed, she would like to see knitters switch to producing blankets, cot blankets, hats, mitts and socks instead. Anyone already suffering from poor nutrition, who then cannot keep warm after



l - r Brenda Longstaff and Norma Arthur

hospital treatment, has less chance of recovery than someone who is able to retain their body heat. As she said, "hats, mitts and socks WILL SAVE LIVES as they keep people's extremities warm."

Amble Pin Cushion has launched a new 10% off voucher for charity knitters purchasing Pricewise wool. One voucher can be used each month. Norma Arthur, Amble Pin Cushion

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/Facebook comments may be edited. Contact details on page2.

An active life

Many people in our local area recognised Rosemarie O'Keefe on her daily walks to Hauxley, Warkworth and round the pier. In her characteristic jeans, fleecy jacket and woolly hat, she walked at a pace that belied her 88 years.

I've known Rosemarie for more than half a century, and she's been my neighbour for 22 years. She retired from her post as principal of a commercial school in Toronto at the age of 66.

The sixth of nine children of a well-known local family, Rosemarie left school at 14 to work in "Fenty" Taylor's shop on Queen Street. After studying shorthand and typing with Betty Roland (Matthews), she worked in Adam Douglas, solicitor's office in Alnwick. Rosemarie spent two years in the WAAFs, followed by office work at Reyrolles in Ashington. A move to London to work for Shell Oil led her to emigrate to Toronto in the 1950s. Further study in Toronto, including gaining two degrees, enabled her to move into teaching, leading to promotions and a good career.

Always fit and active, Rosemarie loved downhill skiing, windsurfing, canoeing, sailing, swimming, badminton and tennis. She travelled widely during her time in Canada, just as she did on her return to the UK. She settled in Amble, her beloved home town, in 1994. Most of her siblings still lived here at that time. Many of us remember the

parties she gave for her extended family and a wider circle of friends.

On Wednesday, December 7 Rosemarie set off on her last walk. She was seen leaving Amble at about 3pm and returning from Warkworth about two hours later. She followed her usual route along Rotary Way (the Warkworth Road to you and me). It is likely that she followed the path past the new Shorebase, Amble Boat Club and Coquet Yacht Club.

It was dark and Rosemarie's night vision was very poor, which, no doubt, is why she fell into the river, in the area of the Bund, beside the marina. She had walked that way hundreds of times over the years with no problems. This time she was not able to cope with the conditions and sadly she drowned.

We'll all miss Rosemarie for her ready smile and her cheerful personality, her flashes of wit and funny remarks. She was living proof of the fact that staying active keeps you fit and able to cope with the challenges of life.

We can only admire the dedication of the police, the coastguard, the inshore lifeboat team and the local people who joined the search that evening, until its sad conclusion



Rosemarie O'Keefe

at 1am on Thursday December 8.

Rosemarie left us all, while doing what she loved to do – walking one of her favourite walks in the Amble area. I know that Rosemarie would approve of the £235 donation to the Alzheimer's Society.

Harry McQuillen

Johanna Rackham



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Amble nets £10k and joins knowledge network

The government has announced that Amble will join its Coastal Communities network, which will give the town more recognition when applying for regeneration funding.

Along with 19 other coastal towns, Amble now joins an established network of 116 coastal community teams, whose work informs government thinking on issues affecting coastal towns.

Amble's Coastal Community team will comprise statutory organisations, community organisations, and local businesses.

They will receive £10,000 to produce an economic plan for Amble, which has to be submitted by March.

Amble Development Trust director Julia Aston said, "This is excellent news for Amble. It's similar to an accreditation mark. It means that when we move forward with regeneration plans, and apply for government funding, hopefully our plans will be considered more favourably.

The Coastal Community team's remit is



to drive the economic plan forward and apply for future funding. Joining the network will also allow them to discuss best practice and problem solving together with the other network members.

"Being able to establish this team is an acknowledgement of how the various groups have worked together in the past, and how we will continue with the effective regeneration of the town," said Julia.

Community questionnaire

As discussed above, Amble has been successful in securing £10k towards writing up an Economic Development Plan with a view to this assisting future funding applications for projects.

As the plan has to be written and submitted by the end of March to meet the stringent deadline we are asking for your ideas for what you feel should be included, but please remember this is an economic plan and must have financial benefits for the town.

The steering group have identified five areas of development and would like your opinions on

order of priority.

- Employability/Enterprise and Business Growth
- Tourism
- Heritage
- Food & Drink
- Town Branding - on this we are looking for something that will become synonymous with the town. It could remain as The Friendliest Port/ Kindest Port/ Seafood Town, what do you think?

Is there anything else you feel should be included? Email julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk or call in to the Trust offices.

Julia Aston, Director, Amble Development Trust

No longer the friendliest port?

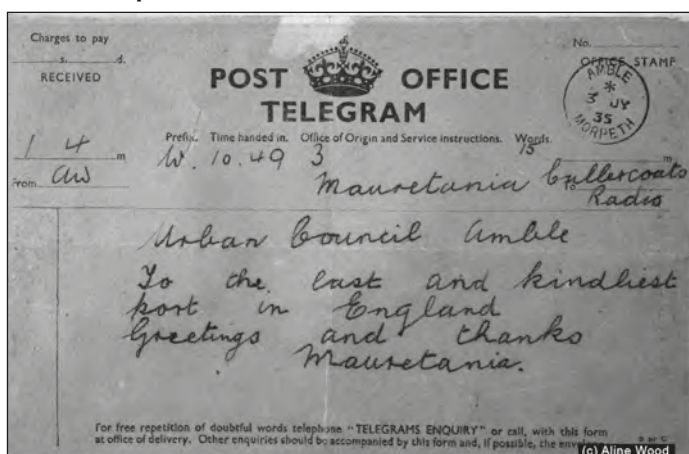
Should Amble give up its Friendliest Port epithet? We're asking people to vote on whether our name should in fact be the Kindest Port.

The origins of the Friendliest Port stem from a telegram sent in 1935 by RMS Mauretania to Amble. On Wednesday July 3, 1935, on her final voyage, RMS Mauretania sailed past Amble on her way to the docks at Rosyth to be broken up. At 10.25am, Mr Goodger, clerk to Amble Urban Council sent the captain of the Mauretania a message of greeting:

"Amble to Mauretania. Greetings from Amble, last port in England, to still the finest ship on the seas." Back came the reply: "Mauretania to Urban Council, Amble, to the last and kindest port in England, greetings and thanks. Mauretania."

Decades of retelling this story means 'kindest' has now turned into 'friendliest'.

The telegram is owned by Aline Wood, whose



The original telegram describes Amble as the kindest port in England

late husband Colin bought it in a shop in Amble in the 1960s for 10 shillings.

Vote for your choice

- Amble the Friendliest Port
- Amble the Kindest Port

Vote for your favourite on our website (scroll to bottom of page, on right hand side www.theambler.co.uk

Age of insecurity

There have been many disturbing reports from around the world recently.

The most harrowing stories come from areas of conflict, especially in the Middle East. But we don't have far to look for troubles nearer home. In no particular order of severity I can point to Brexit and its potential repercussions; football sex abuse scandals; immigration; problems in prisons; urban sprawl in our area; withdrawal of care for the elderly; and our 'stretched' NHS. That's just a start.

Of course we can turn the telescope round and look at things through the other end. Brexit may work out fine; football and other sports people do great work with youngsters; we need lots of workers (homegrown or from elsewhere); some prisons help some of their inmates; we really do need lots of housing; our NHS does a lot of great work (like my recent eye treatment). Who was it who said: 'There are no heavens on this earth'?

I find myself looking at reports of all sorts and wondering how much is true. We live in an age of Fabricated News, so how do we sort out the wheat from the chaff? Look at some of the headlines in our newspapers and some of their editorial comment. How much of it is accurate, honest, sincere or unbiased?

Am I wearing rose-tinted glasses when I think about the things I like? How about our libraries, refuse collectors, public transport, charities, volunteers, neighbourly acts and local organisations of all sorts? How about our Puffin Club, a dementia-friendly group at St. Mark's Hall?

Recently, we heard about JAMs, those who are Just About Managing. The biggest expense for most people is housing. For a long time we haven't built enough houses, especially in the public sector. I seem to recall that we built more council houses under Harold MacMillan than under any other prime minister. Can we afford to pull up the drawbridge and deny our young people what most of us have had?

As an afterthought, my feeling is that we may just be returning to some of the attitudes of the 1930s. Am I alone in my view? Answers on a post card, please*!!

Harry McQuillen

*editor@theambler.co.uk

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Leanne celebrates 30 years of business in Amble

It was a glittering evening at Leanne's, celebrating thirty years of success at the boutique on Amble's award winning high street.

The Prosecco corks popped as the guests tried on all the latest styles on offer for the party season. The recently added range of shoes for adults and children were a super success with many styles completely selling out at the event!

Queues formed for the check out; one customer chose a glittering cocktail dress to wear on the red carpet at a film premier in London and another had selected on-trend sparkling beanie hats complete with mink pompoms.

As ever, the scented candles, fragranced bath bombs and the fully blinged-up accessories proved to be hugely popular as stocking fillers. Everyone was treated to a gift bag as a token of appreciation from Karen for their loyalty and valued custom.

Following her love of fashion and flair for design, Karen Athey opened the boutique in 1986 and named it after her then baby daughter, Leanne.

Today, the business has developed into a truly family affair; Leanne now works

in the boutique alongside her mother and now her grandson, Drew, helps out too!

Karen's aim is to give the customers the latest seasonal fashions and always offer great value. Inspired by the glossy magazines, she buys the stock on her weekly trips to the Manchester showrooms where she selects from latest collections. There's also a bespoke service for those requesting a hat or clutch bag to for that special occasion.

Over the years Leanne's has become part and parcel of the Amble community and her customers have become firm friends. Inside there's always a warm welcome on offer and plenty of fashion advice, if required.

One loyal customer has been going to Leanne's since her first day of opening in 1986 and says, 'It is a nice shop with top fashion.'

Pop in this and be spoilt by this unique mix of fabulous fashions, handpicked accessories and a dazzling array of sweet-smelling gifts.

Sarah Ryley

photo by Judith Hardisty



Chloe's Den - a dream holiday home for disabled children

A brand new fully accessible caravan is a dream come true for children suffering from profound disabilities.

Out of Sight, a charity created by parents with children who are visually impaired and often facing complex and life limiting disabilities, were inspired to start fundraising for the holiday hideaway following the sad death of nine year old Chloe Gilbert, one of their group.

At Chloe's funeral, her mum Denise spoke movingly about her cherished memories of Chloe's last outing – an Out of Sight group visit to the Calvert Trust.

Founding members Kath Nixon and her husband Alan who are foster parents to two profoundly disabled children, began to realise that for a vast number of families with an extremely disabled child, holidays are not a possibility.

The families face challenges due to unpredictable medical emergencies,

difficulty finding accessible accommodation and lack of funds to pay for holidays. Out of Sight came up with the idea of buying a special caravan and naming it in memory of Chloe. The facility will be free to all group members.

With the kind help of the North East public and the amazing support of local businesses, funds were raised to buy the totally bespoke and fully accessible caravan in just over a year.



Above: Chloe's den provides a holiday hideaway for visually impaired children

Below: Chloe's mother Denise Gilbert

On a cold but sunny and beautiful day in Amble Caravan Park on the Links, a large number of people gathered to celebrate the official opening of "Chloe's Den" decorated in Chloe's favourite colour, bright pink.

Coun. David McGarr, Chairman of the North Tyneside Council performed the ceremony, accompanied by the Mayor of Amble Jane

Dargue.

Coun. McGarr said he felt it a great privilege to open such a worthwhile event and applauded the efforts of all the people concerned in getting this wonderful idea into fruition.

It was a pleasure to be there and also to meet with Denise, a lovely, brave lady who felt this a special and happy day, that the holiday caravan helped her with her memories of Chloe and their many happy times together and that the idea of other families enjoying their stay, relaxing and making their memories was a great comfort to her.

Cath Findlay



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evan's Generous Gesture

Evan Falkous, a 9 year old runner from JCSC, ran the 3 mile Druridge Bay park run on Christmas day to raise money for Cancer Research. After his uncle passed away in December from bowel cancer, Evan decided to do his bit by giving up his Christmas morning to raise money.

The park run happens on a Saturday all over the world where people come at 9:00 to run 5 kilometres. The nearest one to Amble is at Druridge Bay. Evan says 'It's a great atmosphere: the park run is really family friendly and suits a wide range of ages and abilities'. As well as doing park runs, Evan runs for Blyth running club. He trains lots and has been running for around 3 years. Since the death of his uncle, he's been trying to raise money by running at park run. So far he's raised £388.10 on just giving.

Evan says his Christmas was a bit sad as his uncle wasn't there. He got up early to open some presents before his run, then headed out to Druridge, where there was a good turnout for the run.

The park run is a great way to get fitter for free in a friendly environment. Evan says 'Running isn't torture, just exercise. I try to take my mind off it and enjoy it.'

If you want to help Evan raise money for Cancer Research, you can go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lesley-Falkous3> and donate. Even a little will help! Lily Tibbitts



Above l-r: George-Anne, Lily, Evan, Ava and Louise

SPOIL YOUR MOTHER ON MOTHERS DAY

- Here are some ideas to spoil your mother on Mothers Day, which is on 26th March
1. Give your mam a bunch of flowers.
 2. Make breakfast in bed and a cup of coffee or tea.
 3. Let her have a lay in.
 4. Do the dishes and tidy your room and tidy the house and do lots of jobs.
 5. Help your mam, by looking after your siblings/pets.
 6. Give her peace and quiet.

By Louise



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

Every day is special to someone but some are special to almost everybody. Here are some that are special to everyone:

Easter on 16th April
Pancake Day on 21st February
St David's Day on 1st March
St Patrick's Day on 17th March



St Georges Day on 23rd April
World Book Day on 2nd March
British Pie Week on 6-12th March
International School Meals Day on 9th March
International Day of Happiness on 20th March
Mother's Day on 26th March



National skipping Day on 21st April
The Big Pedal on 20th-31st March
So those are some of the normal ones, but there are some mad forgotten ones:
Frozen Food Day on 6th March
Skirt Day on 10th March
Chocolate Covered Raisins Day on 24th March
Zoo Lovers Day on 8th April

By Ava

BINKY AND THE HOODIE-HOO DAY

Binky was sick and tired of being stuck inside all winter, especially with his grandma staying at his house. She was really weird and smelled like salmon; he couldn't wait till spring when she went back down to Logbottom and out of Bibblemouth. One day he was just sitting in the living room without anything to do when she started telling another one of her stories.

"When I was little we used to go outside and play, even if it was cold like today," she began. Binky groaned and began to walk upstairs to his room. His mum called him back but he ignored her, he was too hot and bothered.

A little while later, at noon, Binky heard a weird chanting from outside. He looked out of his window to see grandma waving her hands above her head and chanting 'hoodie-hoo'. Binky went outside to see what was going on.

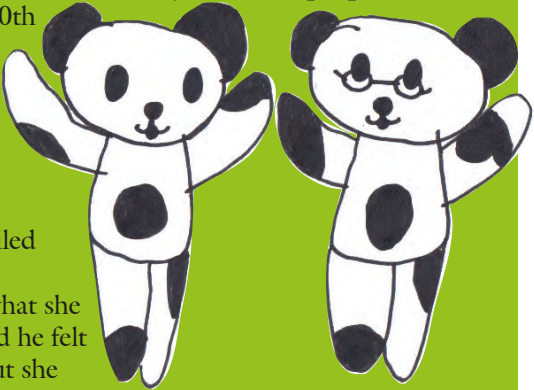
"What are you doing?" Binky asked, as Grandma waved her hands around.

"I'm celebrating hoodie-Hoo day! It's what people do at noon on February 20th to welcome spring and get rid of those winter blahs. You do get a bit crazy after staying cooped up inside for too long." Grandma smiled at Binky.

He began to copy what she was doing and found he felt a lot better; turns out she was a lot more interesting than she looked!

As grandma had to go later on Binky found himself wishing she could stay longer. He couldn't wait till she came round next year!

By Lily



THE IMPACT OF RISING SEA LEVELS ON AMBLE

Our climate levels are changing therefore the sea levels are rising. Rising sea level is just one result of climate change but it's the biggest and hardest to control.

Average sea levels are rising by between 2.6 millimetres and 2.9 millimetres per year. The impact this has on us as the UK is massive; over the next 20 years we will see more storms, high spring tides and we will experience higher winds.

According to the Environment Agency, currently around 5.2 million properties in England are at risk of flooding. 2.4 million of these properties are at risk from rivers or the sea and 2.8 million properties are at risk from surface water flooding. In total this means around 10 million people are living in homes that are at risk of flooding.

The Amble Fourways 2 is just 3 metres above sea level.

What is the UK doing? The government have placed sea defences around the North Sea to protect our coast line.

But extracting sand, and collapsing sand dunes will cause problems with the coast.

If we want to stop the sea levels from rising we need to battle climate change. This is quite hard to do. Don't waste things. Reuse and recycle. Don't buy things you don't need.

Get together with some of your friends and put pressure on schools, businesses, your town and county councils to do practical things to help the climate.

By Emily and Emma-jane with thanks to the Green Party



Houses on the coast of Amble might be at risk of rising sea levels

APPLE TECH: GOOD BUT EXPENSIVE

Apple is the company of technology and a lot of people like it. They make a variety of things from phones to iPads to apple watches and they are all amazing quality.

I know about this as I own a few apple products of my own including an apple watch and an iPhone 6s which are really good. They are very fast and I use them every day for things like watching YouTube and posting pictures to Instagram as well as making calls and texting my friends.

Although they are really good they are very expensive. Apple watches are much better than normal watches as you can do much more than you can on a normal watch such as texting and phone calls and your camera can connect to your iPhone. One down side is that it is very hard to type on them as the screens are extremely small.

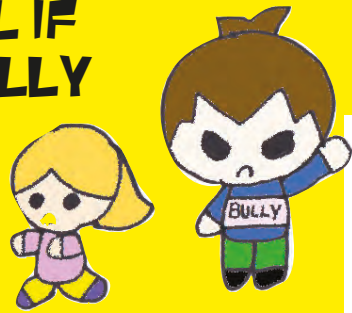
Apple started on 1 April 1976 and has been a success ever since.

By Bethany

HOW TO TELL IF YOU'RE A BULLY

Is it possible to be a bully and not know it?

Are you going through hard times yourself, or maybe just jealous of something someone else possesses?



Some of the things bullies do are cyberbullying, physical abuse, calling names, shouting mean things, social bullying and breaking other people's property. This can all be very hurtful and things can sometimes not end very well, and can lead to people hurting themselves and even taking drastic measures.

Have a think about your own behaviour. Are you doing the same to someone? What should you do if you realise you are bullying?

Well.... STOP! And ask an adult what to do.

By Abbey and Bethany

MY TOP YOUTUBERS

Joey Graceffa (born 16th May 1991) is one of MY top YouTubers

He has now over 7 million subscribers and is on the way to 8 million. He and his boyfriend Daniel live happily in LA.

Joey also has a jewellery line called Crystal Wolf and he has written two books, Children of Eden and his biography.

Chase Young and Troy Young are a perfect couple who are my favourite YouTubers. They have around 35,500 subscribers and make videos every week. They both have the same last name but are not married yet. chase is 21and his birthday is on the 6th of September and Troy is 20 and his birthday is on march 6th. I like their videos because they are funny and their videos are so interesting.

By Bethany



Above: Joey
Below: Chase and Troy





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Changes to X20 route through Amble and beyond

The X20 service now has a revised route between Hadston and Amble, with buses running via the A1068 and Percy Drive missing out Acklington Road and Broomhill. Arriva says, 'This is to serve the growing residential areas to the south of Amble and improve access to both the Links Estate and Coquet Enterprise Park.'

Broomhill and Acklington Road will still be served by the X18, and if necessary connections can be made with the X20 at Amble or Widdrington Station. In Amble town centre, X20 buses travelling towards Newcastle will serve the eastbound stop on Church Street (opposite the end of Dovecote Street). Buses travelling towards Alnwick will continue to use the present stop.

See more at: <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/north-east/updates>

Cllr Scott Dickinson described the changes as 'Completely unacceptable.'

With the introduction of the new pick up point on Church Street for buses travelling south to Ashington, passengers have been seen running from the old stop beside the church to the new stop at the bottom of Dovecote Street because they were unaware of the changes.

Nick Knox, Arriva's managing director said

'Patronage on the X20 around Togston and North Broomhill had been particularly low, which led to the decision to reroute the service to service new areas previously with no service'

However some passengers are unhappy with the changes and have started a petition. Go to <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/reinstate-the-x20-bus-service-through-broomhill-togston> if you wish to add your protest.



Amble calendar competition returns

Have you got a lovely photo of Amble? Perhaps you caught the light on the estuary in a perfect moment, or captured a tranquil scene of cobbles and eider ducks, which just reflects Amble on a dozy afternoon.

Maybe you don't consider yourself much of a photographer, but nevertheless, you took a great image of Amble you're proud of or a quirky shot of some local wildlife, which always makes you smile.

Well now's your chance to enter your

best photo into 42 Queen Street's calendar competition for 2017. Following public demand, the competition is back again this year, with proceeds going to the RNLI.

The calendar will feature images of Amble and local wildlife. More details will be available soon, but now is a good time to get some good winter photos prepared.

Entry details are available from the shop; the competition will close at the end of June.

Happy snapping!

Improvement works continue on Queen Street

A scheme to improve the roads in the town centre is well on-track.

To support the ever growing tourism economy, the refurbishment of Queen Street is now well underway. Initial work involves repairs to the street's sandstone paving and kerbing, including realignment, together with the removal of the cobblestones along its full length. This will be followed by the complete resurfacing of the street, due to start mid February and due for completion within eight days, weather permitting.

Once all of the construction works are completed, the whole street, including the footpaths and road signs will then be given a good 'spring clean'. The works are being funded from the Council's Local Transport Plan for 2016/17.

Councillor Ian Swithenbank,

Cabinet Member for Local Services, explained: 'Careful consideration has been given to ensure the new surface looks good and will remain in good condition for years to come. We're ensuring we provide materials that can endure the stresses that are typical of environments such as Queen Street.'

'The current cobbles are not an historic feature, having been incorporated as part of a previous resurfacing scheme. They have been unpopular as they are difficult to keep clean and expensive to maintain. They will be replaced with a durable, long lasting material that will also provide a good contrast in colour to the main thoroughfare.'

Ann Burke, chair of Amble Business Club said, 'It is causing delays, but everyone needs to

work with the workmen, who are doing really well: they're ahead of schedule, and we'll end up with a lovely tidy street at the end of the day.'

As well as the surfacing work, the council is busy formalising the one way system. This will include improvements to the Newburgh Street / Leazes Street junction.

A 20mph speed limit is also being implemented as part of this scheme along with a number of cycleway and signage improvements.

Councillor Scott Dickinson, the council's business chair, added: 'Amble is continuing to grow in popularity as a tourism destination, with plans progressing for a new hotel and leisure facility. We need to ensure the town looks as good as it can and is easy for visitors to find their way around.'



*Hauxley
Parish
Council*

Budget 2017/18

The Parish Council has agreed to reduce the precept request to £3000. This figure was met by reducing some of the ring fenced savings already in the budget. The Parish Council is aware of the increasing pressures on local councils to enhance the services of the County Council during these difficult financial times but is confident that reducing the precept will not affect these areas.

Noticeboards – Both noticeboards in the parish have been spruced up in time for the winter weather and are looking great.

Donation to Northumberland CVA – The Parish Council agreed to support the work of the Northumberland CVA (Community Voluntary Action) with a donation of £20.00. If you would like to know more about the work they do please visit their website: www.northumberlandcva.org.uk

Parking plea
Residents and members of Hauxley Parish Council have requested again for all residents and members of the public to adhere to the parking restrictions to help alleviate the persistent issues with car parking and access in the parish. Parking within the parish will continue to be monitored. Residents are invited to write to the Clerk, Vicki Smith, if they would like to raise any issues at the bi-monthly parish meetings.

Elections 2017
Elections take place on May 4th 2017 for Northumberland County and Hauxley Parish Council. Look out for the election timetable information in the noticeboards in the coming months.

Parish Clerk: Vicki Smith
11 Acklington Road,
Amble, NE650NF
Tel: 07875445495

Email: Hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk

www.theambler.co.uk/category/news/politics/hauxley-parish-council

Welcome to spring – okay perhaps that’s a little early but it won’t be long, the shortest day has been and gone and we have the lighter nights to look forward to, which is always a good sign.

In the last edition I expressed disappointment at our nomination to the Great British High Street of Ann and Richard as managers of an independent store not being successful. Following the judging we received a phone call from the organising body DCLG asking if we would be happy for Ann and Richard to receive a special commendation because the application had been so strong – which of course we were happy to agree to. So keep your eyes open, we may be graced with a film crew on Queen Street in the near future.

On the subject of DCLG (Department for Community and Local Government) we submitted an application for Amble to become a Coastal Community Team back in October and have been waiting for the official results to be announced, which we hope they will be by the time this Ambler hits your doorstep. If successful we will receive funding for an updated Economic

Plan for the town and while there is no immediate additional funding benefit, it’s a case of participating in the national network and being recognised as a successful delivery body to gain access to other funds.

The planning application for 500 houses has been submitted and NCC have asked for comments. At the consultation the majority appeared to accept the proposal with the caveat of resolving infrastructure issues i.e. education, health and dental services and road access. Looking at the planning website these issues are being expressed directly to the correct department who should take the concerns into consideration.

At the time of writing the Code Club has had its first meeting, with 10 young people attending and five volunteers supporting them. I’m told everyone enjoyed it and are looking forward to the next one. To progress this further we are still looking for funding to purchase We Do Lego construction sets – not just any old Lego you understand. This is Lego you can write a programme for and animate it!

Want to know more or would like to come along with your children to find out

how to write computer code together, then contact Anna on 01665 712929.

Work on the welfare pitches will be followed up in spring to make sure levels are correct and the grass is growing.

Floodlight bulbs are being replaced. This has also taken a long time to sort out because the type of bulb required isn’t now readily available, and it requires a cherry picker to reach them.

Ventilation in the changing rooms is scheduled to be carried out in February and we are waiting for a quote for new sanitary ware. So things are moving forward, slowly but surely.

There appears to be some movement on the Industrial Estate

And finally an update on the Fisheries Local Action group. The bid lead by Northumberland County Council was successful and an officer has just been appointed. A steering group will be established and should be accepting applications for grants by March.

That’s all for now.
Julia and Trust staff

Plans submitted for Acklington Road and Signal Cottage



A public consultation was held to gauge the public’s opinion on the 500 homes development

Plans for a new housing development in Amble were first introduced in October 2016, when residents could view the plans for 500 homes on Acklington Road and discuss any concerns they had. Now an official bid has been made which will be reviewed by Northumberland County Council.

The developers have been keen to highlight the benefits such a project will have for Amble, including the creation of around 500 jobs, including 55 construction jobs and 80 roles in a supply chain. The developers also spoke of the benefits the development would have in terms of boosting the local

economy, as the new homes would bring up to 1000 people to the area increasing local spending.

Ann Burke chair of Amble Business Club stated: “It’ll definitely be a positive for local businesses, the more Amble grows the more people we bring into the town, the more likely we are to get work”

However the development continues to divide opinion amongst local residents, as some are not entirely convinced by the project, and feel the plans could potentially have a negative effect on the area.

The main concern held by residents is the junction on Acklington Road, which is

believed to be overly congested as it is, and would need significant improvements if the development was to go ahead.

A public poll on the Northumberland Gazette website showed that 52% of the 94 people who voted were in favour of the new housing development. However this shows the community is still largely divided on the issue. Many residents believe that the Acklington Road development will be good for the community providing there are improvements made to the town’s infrastructure first.

If the bid is approved, it will move on to the reserved matter stage of the application, where developers will give a detailed description of the proposal. This includes appearance, means of access, landscaping, layout and scale.

Another development causing discussion in Amble is the building of a residence and holiday lets on Signal Hill, the site of the recently demolished Signal Cottage. Residents have voiced concerns about the building’s appearance and size not being in keeping with the site’s coastal aesthetic. However the developers stated that the materials and finishes are based on a marine palette and will be appropriate for the area’s aesthetic.

In their January planning meeting, Amble Town Council met with members of the public and discussed the concerns they hold for the new developments. More planning meetings will follow in the coming months.

Jordan Scott

Get tough approach continues for litter louts and dog fouling

The council is continuing its tough line on people who drop litter or let their dog foul in the county.

A new Environmental Enforcement Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) Policy has been agreed which will look to use fines rather than prosecuting offenders where appropriate.

In 2015/16 a total of 469 FPN's were issued by Northumberland County Council, the highest number

ever by the authority in one year - mainly for littering and dog fouling offences.

The policy also covers a number of other offences including fly tipping, abandoning vehicles and graffiti.

The County Council was actually among the first local authorities in the UK and the first in the region to use new powers introduced last year to issue a fixed penalty for fly tipping when a resident was

given a FPN of £200 after being spotted tipping four bags of garden waste onto a grass verge - just 25 yards from his house.

The council's hard line is set to continue as it works to grow its ever growing tourism economy.

Business Chair Councillor Scott Dickinson said: 'These environmental offences are not harmless crimes - they cost the taxpayer money to deal with, inconveniences to the public

and is a blight on our beautiful countryside. With the county becoming ever more popular for tourists and with the economic boost that brings, it is unfortunate a small minority of thoughtless individuals act irresponsibly and antisocially.

However we continue to have a zero tolerance policy towards such behaviour and this updated policy will ensure those who flout the law will pay for their actions.'



Right: The TSB in Amble has donated £125 to Amble Food Bank to help them to supply fresh goods for those in severe need.

The donation is part of a nationwide community pride donation programme by TSB, to help local causes that bring the community together, or need a little extra support during the festive season. In total TSB will be donating over £47,000 through the programme to causes across Britain.

Karen Henry, Bank Manager at TSB in Amble says: "Being part of our local community is really important to us at TSB and so we're delighted to be able to help Amble Food Bank with this donation.

"We chose to donate this money to Amble Food Bank because of the important work they do to help the local community.

Steve Cassie, Trustee of Amble Food bank says: "I'd like to thank TSB in Amble for this donation.

"It's great to see a large, national company giving their employees the opportunity to support a local cause. The money they've donated will really make a difference to us and to the community here in Amble."

Community Choir back on song

Harbour Lights, Amble's community choir, had to bid farewell to their founder and choir leader before Christmas. Flora Smith who set up the choir six years ago was leaving because of family commitments and will be missed. Finding a replacement has been difficult, but Sarah Gray from Longhoughton has stepped into the breach until a permanent leader can be found, and we would be interested to hear from anyone who could take on the role.

Harbour Lights are a friendly bunch who enjoy their singing and would welcome any new members into their fold. The choir meets in the Parish Hall on Dovecote Street, Amble on a Thursday evening from 7pm until 8.30pm during school term time. You do not need to audition or even be able to read music to sing with us. All that is required is that you enjoy singing. If you are new to the town it would be an excellent opportunity to get involved with the community and singing has proven health benefits.

Your first evening is free, so what is stopping you from giving it a go?!

Amble Pin Cushion workshops

If you are interested in improving your craft skills then pop into one of the workshops run by Amble Pin Cushion. You will be offered support and advice in a wide range of handicrafts.

If you are interested in any of the workshops, then contact Amble Pin Cushion Tel: 01665 714584 or alternatively email: info@amblepincushion.co.uk.

Further details are also available on the shop's website: www.amblepincushion.co.uk

Saturday 18 February Beginner's Crochet | 1.30am - 3.30pm | £20
Friday 17 March Knit and Natter St Patrick's Day | 10am-noon | £4.50
Saturday 18 March Prairie points quilted cushion | 10am - 4pm | £40
Friday 21 April Knit and Natter | 10am - mid-day | £4.50
Saturday 29 April Make Do and Mend | 10am - 4pm | £45
Saturday 6 May Yarn Shop Day | 9.30am - 4pm

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REPORTS FROM OUR

County Councillors

Thank you all

I am not often lost for words. Events over recent months have given me time to reflect. The award of the MBE in the New Year's Honours list and the reaction which followed left me deeply touched.

I have always been a team player and am lucky to have worked with some special people, fellow councillors, officers, or community groups such as the Development Trust. Whatever I have achieved is only possible because of our shared efforts and none of it could have happened without the support in good times and bad that I have received in every local election since 1983.

I am looking forward to the Investiture which will be an experience.

As an Amble man I am proud to have been part of Amble's journey over three decades now. There have been many changes, most for the better, and Amble is finding a new identity and confidence. It is a very special feeling to have served my home town and its neighbouring communities of Hauxley, Radcliffe, Togston, and most recently part of East Chevington.

My decision not to stand in the next election was not an easy one, but the impact of my disability on my health means I need to consider a different work life balance. I hope to be useful and involved in different ways in the future.

I believe passionately in the importance of local councils: they are the lifeblood of our democracy and we should never take that for granted.

These are undoubtedly tough times, but I have always been an optimist – an essential characteristic for any councillor. The greatest strength we have is our community spirit.

That will see us through any challenge.

Robert Arkless

robert.arkless99@northumberland.gov.uk Telephone: 01665 711938

The further housing developments in Amble have been my biggest issue in the last few months. I know many residents share my concern about the planning applications that are pending or have been passed in the Amble and Warkworth area.

I feel that our already creaking infrastructure will have more strain placed on it and am worried about the effects of what I calculate to be a thousand new homes being built in the next few years.

I am very frustrated as my objections (shared by many others) seem to have had little or no effect and the planning applications continue to be passed.

I believe we have lost local involvement with planning decisions and I continue to put forward this point to the current administration as often as I can in the hope they will listen to our concerns.

I think we need more jobs in the town and not more houses.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to have been accepted as a Harbour Commissioner and I hope I can make a useful contribution to the Commission.

As ever I am available on

jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk
07802385367

Jeff Watson

New history trail and book launched



Four history boards have been unveiled, together with a booklet on Amble's history.

Amble Town Council have updated their history trails with new marker signs to guide

people around the two history routes.

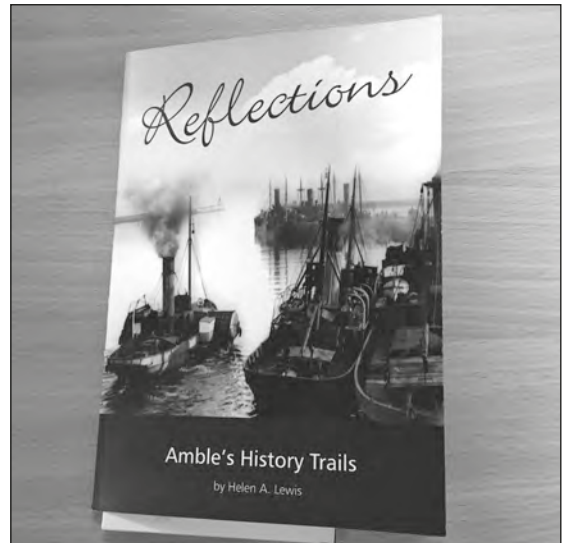
The boards are located just off the A1068 as you enter the Braid, on the 'Mound' (Horseshoe Hill) overlooking

the harbour, at Paddlers Park and along Links Road at the entrance to the Lord Mayor's field.

The booklet is entitled 'Reflections' and is described as a light hearted look at some of the

town's past.

It is available from local outlets as well as the Council Office, Top floor, Fourways 2, priced at £2 a copy.



Coding Club is helping Amble's children gain digital skills

An out of school club aimed at introducing young people to computer programming, is proving popular with girls and boys in the town.

The club is run by Amble Development Trust, with the intention of helping youngsters get to grips with the basics of

coding and digital making.

Organiser Anna Williams said "I'm really impressed by the young people in the club. Some of them are familiar with programming software like Scratch, while others are completely new to it all. But they are all benefitting from what

they're learning, and hopefully this will mark the start of a future career in programming or working in the digital sector for many of them."

The club helps children problem-solve and think analytically, as well as gain skills in coding.

Anna was also pleased at the number of volunteers who have signed up to help. "They are a great help and are really enjoying helping the children."

The club runs on Wednesdays, 6-7pm. For more information, email anna@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

It's a race against time to get the island ready for the return of the puffins and the rest of the birds heading back to Coquet Island.

As Napoleon once said "an army marches on its stomach" so we have taken that saying on-board and are fitting out the RSPB lighthouse quarters with a lovely new kitchen! The old one was falling apart – old age and dampness from the sandstone building has taken its toll on the old lighthouse keepers' quarters and facilities, so Howdens were given the task of providing a new kitchen fit for wardens to test out new culinary skills.

The logistics have been tricky, having to cope with no mains power, planning around winter weather and getting everything over to Coquet Island on Puffin Cruises. The electrician, plumber, fitter and painter are all local fellas... and none of them had set foot on Coquet before, and are now new honorary Coqueteers. Also new is an office with decent furniture, storage and filing system. It will give us room and a proper base to deal with all the data we collect during monitoring as well as a work station for the researchers on the island.

We will still need Tilley lamps, all-weather sleeping bags and hot water bottles but this winter has been a huge step forward in getting Coquet into the 21st century to help the RSPB wardens do their job even better!



The new kitchen arrives on Coquet Island via Puffin Cruises' boat

Rotary's record charity collection and 2017 beneficiaries



Dave Shoemaker presenting a cheque from Rotary to Josh Rutherford, coach of Amble's Walking Football scheme. See back page for more details on the scheme.

The generosity of the public in north Northumberland was praised by the Rotary Club of Amble & Warkworth at the end of their 2016 Christmas season of collecting for local charities. This year takings were up 25%.

Club president, Stephen Kerry announced that £6,103.25 had been collected for local charities as Rotarians deployed their sleigh, with flashing lights and carols playing. The collections began on Sunday 20th November and finished in Widdrington on Wednesday 21st December.

The collection was organised by Rotarian Derek Conway. 143 collectors covered the routes.

Club spokesman, Rotarian Fred Calvert said, "This was a remarkable effort by Amble & Warkworth Rotary, ably assisted by the Inner Wheel Club and the Interact Club (Junior Rotary) based at James Calvert Spence College in Amble.

Fourteen sixth-formers from the college's Interact Club helped, organised by teacher Rachel Parks."

This year local community helpers in Acklington and Widdrington joined with Rotarians to knock on doors. Mr. Calvert commented, "In Widdrington they managed to raise £937 and in Acklington £426, which is a remarkable sum. Overall £2755 was raised in Amble and £1146 in Warkworth."

Rotary president Stephen Kerry commented "This annual collection is very hard work for our members. Often the weather is fairly challenging, but the response on the doorsteps is always so supportive and watching the youngsters looking at the reindeer sleigh and meeting Santa makes the miles of trudging and rattling collecting buckets very worthwhile.

"Our club would like to publicly express thanks to the generous public of north Northumberland."

The groups and charities to benefit in 2017 are:

Amble & Warkworth Inner Wheel Charities	£500
Interact Club of Coquet and Aln Charities	£300
Widdrington Girl Guides	£250
Grange View First School, Widdrington, Junior Football	£200
Acklington Community Team Charities	£200
RNLI Amble	200
North Northumberland Hospice	£400
Alnwick & District Branch of Mencap	£200
Amble & Warkworth Diabetes Group open meetings programme	£50
Tiny Woods Football Academy (Walking Football Scheme)	£200
Coquet Community Trust	£200
Amble Youth Project	£250
Alnwick District Sports Council Junior Achievement Award	£120
James Calvert Spence College Most Improved Scholar	£25
Amble Foodbank	£200
Rotary Youth Leadership Award	£200
The Pelican (Community Newsletter)	£50
The Ambler (Community Newsletter)	£50
Elpha Lodge (Raised beds garden project)	£250
Puffin Lounge - Amble (Drop-in centre for Dementia Sufferers)	£75
Childrens' Society (Warkworth & Acklington Branch)	£200
These donations will leave over £1,900 in the Rotary Club charities fund for any future requests for financial support for local groups.	



Amble pier was lashed with the high winds at the beginning of January. Thanks to Judith Hardisty for this spectacular image.



Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6pm unless stated otherwise

Town: 9th March Amenities: 30th March

HISTORY TRAIL

As you walk about the town you will notice the History Trail way marker signs being erected to guide you along the two routes. There are also four new boards, with the trail map, more information and photographs, being put up. These are just off the A1068 as you enter the Braid, on the 'Mound' overlooking the harbour, at Paddlers Park and along Links Road at the entrance to the Lord Mayor's field. Many people have asked for more information than fits on the boards or leaflets, so we have produced a booklet- 'Reflections', a light hearted look at some of the town's past. Local outlets as well as the Council Office are stocking it and we feel sure many of you will agree it is great value at only £2 a copy.

ELECTIONS

May 4th this year is a diary date to note; it's the day of the Northumberland County and Amble Town Council elections; so if you haven't registered to vote, please do so by contacting NCC Electoral office at County Hall for the appropriate form. If you want a say in how our town and our county develop then we need to take this chance to elect the people who we feel are best to do that. These elections only happen every four years, so look out for the names of those standing and read about their aims and hopes. Then remember to turn out on the 4th and vote.

HEALTHY OPTIONS

Here's hoping lots of you will walk the History Trail because as a Council we are encouraging people to use healthier options for getting around. There are also organised walks on a Tuesday from the Tourist Information Centre.

We all know that Amble doesn't have much car parking, so why not cycle or walk more? As part of the new signage going up around town, we have asked for pedestrian and cycle routes to be more clearly marked.

We are working with NCC to amend the national cycle route so that it no longer comes from the Hauxley end of Leazes Street to the Braid as we do not feel it is safe to go against the traffic in a one way system - even though this can legally be done by the cyclists!

We are also looking at promoting facilities available for cyclists such as standing racks. We are talking to businesses too about improving the offer for those who travel long distances by cycle as they feel they see more of the wonderful scenery by being off the main routes.

There was once an active adult running club in Amble and we are in talks with Active Northumberland and volunteers to start up a beginners group - look out for notices soon. (There is a junior running club meeting every week.)

There are many sporting organisations to keep you fit and a new venture 'Walking Football' for the more mature. Lots on offer - you just need to take that decision NOW.

THE BUDGET is finalised and we have included things which the community has asked about- new signage, CCTV for the central area and Paddlers Park, money towards the lease of the car park behind Tesco's for another year and funding to repair the War Memorial Clock Tower - although we are hoping to get grant help with this and are aware that the community want to help too. We have pruned the usual elements within the budget as much as possible as we are aware that with NCC cutbacks meaning greater responsibilities being given to parish councils coupled with our own 'specials' outlined earlier, inevitably there will be a rise in the parish part of the Council Tax which you pay. The precept request will be £174,950 - a full breakdown is available at the office. We hope this will be cushioned by the additional houses now in the town.

COULD YOU BE A TOWN COUNCILLOR?

Why ever not! Most people are interested in what goes on in their town and its immediate area; and what will happen in the future. Town Councillors are these same people but ones who go one step further by giving their time, with others, to help the whole community in a voluntary way. They are aged from 18 years and come from all backgrounds and interests. They don't need to have any special qualifications, although some

do have useful experience and skills. The main criteria are a keen interest in the town and a willingness to help out. There are legal regulations to satisfy but these are not difficult, for example being eligible to vote, so don't let those deter you from applying. You can choose to stand for a political party or not but Amble Town Council, while respecting personal views, have always advocated that strong politics should have

little influence in its discussions and decisions as we all work together for the whole community.

Still interested? Come along to a meeting, second Thursday in the month, to see the things under discussion. How to apply? Look out for the announcement of the election available by the end of March. This tells you where to get information and forms, when to return them etc. After that, it's up to you how much information about yourself and your ideas that you choose to put out into the ward where you are standing. How you do that is up to you, such as personal calls, flyers through doors. After the votes are counted, if you are successful, then there is one full Council meeting every month which you should attend but others you can choose to be part of depending upon how much you want to be involved. There are events in the year such as litter picks and garden awards where you can also help out. Most people are amazed to realise just how much the Town Council is responsible for, and does, within the town.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

There's lots happening right now: a revamp of Queen Street road and furniture, new signage, launch of the History Trail, new sporting activities and, in the future, restoration of the Clock Tower, CCTV, possibly a new running club, just to mention a few. As a Councillor, the other new things which aren't far away are thoughts of a new County Council and new Town Council. We cannot yet know who will fill these places but just like those who have already done so in the past and at present, we know they will be trying their best to bring future employment, well-being and prosperity to the town. There are many people who complain or talk lots about what should happen, but not as many who are prepared to give up their own free time to help do things for the town. So I join all the Council and the community in saying how wonderful it is to see our fellow Councillor Robert Arckless awarded an M.B.E. acknowledging this service over a long time. Well done. *Cllr Helen Lewis*

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
Friarsgate
14 Magdalene Fields
Warkworth NE65 0UF
Tel 07802 385367

Terence Barton
1 Rivergreen
Amble NE65 0GZ
Tel: 07746676786

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 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

The Puffin Lounge

The Puffin Lounge is open every other Thursday at St. Mark's Church Hall from 2.00-4.00pm. It is primarily a meeting place for people living with dementia, their families and their carers, but we welcome anyone who feels like dropping in and sharing some refreshments and fun.

We chat, listen to music, play dominoes, cards, snakes and ladders and generally have a good time. We cannot provide nursing care, but we are sure you will enjoy the relaxed atmosphere that is there. Helpers to make tea, wash-up, play games, etc. are also made welcome, so, if you feel like a bit of company, come along.



Dementia Awareness

Dementia is a condition about which we are hearing a lot more. Unfortunately, more and more people are having to learn to live with it, or learning to live with people affected by it. The more we know about dementia, the more we can help and understand. As a trained Dementia Champion, I can offer to lead a Dementia-Friendly Awareness session to any organisation or group who would like it. The session lasts approximately 45 minutes and most people who attend then become Dementia Friends. There is no charge.

As a town, Amble is seeking to become recognised as "Dementia Friendly" and the more people who become "Friends" the better.

If you would like to know more, please contact me on 01665 711177 or suepergirl2@icloud.com

Sue Swanston

Highlights theatre

We are pleased to be bringing some more high quality professional entertainment to Amble this year in collaboration with Highlights Rural Touring Scheme.

Our first show is a compelling piece of theatre from Consett based, Mad Alice Theatre, that tells of a little girl growing up with the certainty of loss.

Set in the 1970s this new one-woman show is about an intelligent happy little girl Belinda, who loves life, her two brothers and stealing the Priest's biscuits with her best friend Angela. But her brothers are not walking properly and when she opens 'the drawer she must never open' her world is cataclysmically blown apart...

Based on the performer's experience of growing up with two brothers born with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, this moving, heartening and fun show is a celebration of the courage and resilience of the human spirit. A tragicomedy with biscuits – told with quirky storytelling, projections, music and a little bit of Abba!

She Wins All the Races is performed by Shelley O'Brien and was created in association with Queen's Hall Arts Hexham and Action Transport Theatre Cheshire. It is touring with Highlights Rural Touring Scheme as part of its spring season of shows touring to small, rural communities.

The play will be performed on Saturday 18th March at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, Amble, NE65 0DX. Tickets are £8 for adults, £7 for concessions and £5 for children (under 15), and will be available from N & F Young, Amble. You will also be able to book online at: <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights/>

There will be a licensed bar at the event.

Mike Dixon, Highlights Local Promoter for Amble Parish Hall

RNLI volunteers wanted

The Royal National Lifeboat institution (RNLI) is looking for volunteers to join Amble Lifeboat Fundraising Committee. The charity is calling on people who are looking for a rewarding new challenge for 2017 to get in touch.

Amble RNLI has been celebrating recently after its new state-of-the-art Shannon class lifeboat officially went on service on 23 December 2016.

The Shannon class lifeboat named Elizabeth and Leonard arrived at the lifeboat station in November. Amble Lifeboat Fundraising Committee (ALF) led a successful fundraising appeal to raise

£200,000 towards the cost of the new vessel.

Gill King, RNLI Community Fundraising Manager, explained: 'It's been a really special year for Amble Lifeboat Fundraising Committee as they got to welcome the charity's new Shannon class lifeboat to the town. Their fundraising appeal generated the vital extra money that was needed to complete the building of the Shannon.'

'The committee worked tirelessly and held a multitude of events ranging from coffee mornings through to golf days to ensure that we reached our £200,000 goal. Both this and the phenomenal efforts from

supporters far and wide ensured that the appeal target was reached in just 23 months.'

ALF is hoping to recruit extra volunteers to join their friendly team and help them to have another successful year.

Gill, added: 'Whether you can help us bake cakes for our coffee mornings, help with collections or even have a go at organising fundraising events, we'd love to hear from you.'

'It's a great way to meet new friends and enhance your CV while helping to raise vital funds for our lifesaving charity. If you're looking for a rewarding challenge for the New Year, we'd love to hear from you.'

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Fourways 2 6 Dilston Terrace Amble Northumberland NE65 0DT

1st Amble Guides Autumn Term



This latest term at our unit has been packed to say the least! With two new arrivals, we were keen to show them what we can really do.

The first session back after the holidays was Halloween, so we all got dressed up as our favourite witch or wizard, equipped with hat, gloves and coat, for an evening under the stars. One of our older guides organised an amazing game of the Harry Potter sport, Quidditch, with broomsticks and hoops hanging in mid-air...

On Bonfire Night we had one of our well-loved campfires, singing songs, keeping warm and toasting marshmallows! Who could ask for more? Well, I could have asked for less rain!

Next was the Remembrance Parade at Amble. (See pic above). Here some of our Guides go every year to raise a flag and lay a wreath in gratitude to our fallen heroes of all the wars.

For the next few sessions we had games, stars in jars and a card-making night; our creative juices are certainly not going to run out any time soon!

Then, on November 28, our new Young Leader ran a debate night, posing the statement "Girls and boys should be given the same options for sport in school." At the end, we all voted and it was a unanimous decision for the cause.

We finished off our term with a Hogwarts Feast to complete our Harry Potter Badge. As the Guides had all been planning this party themselves, it also earned them their Party-Planner Badge! All the Brownies and Rainbows were invited and the evening went down a treat; with food, activities and friends. Who wouldn't enjoy it?

Sadly, this term we have had to say goodbye to our friend and oldest Young Leader, Rio, who has been with our unit since she was small. We wish her all the best for her next adventure at university; good luck Rio!

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Guiding, please visit: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>.

Lisa Hobden and Milly

Calling all allotment holders

The Annual General Meeting for Amble Allotment Holders Association will be held on Wednesday April 5 in the Bede Street Club starting at 7pm. Items for the agenda should be submitted to the secretary in writing before March 8.

New statutory rules for allotment holders will be coming into force soon. It is in all allotment holders' interests to become familiar with the changes. The Annual General Meeting will give members the opportunity to hear about the changes and how they will affect individuals.

Warkworth Golf Club

Winter is the time golf clubs can get on with doing those jobs for which there is no time when the grass needs cutting on a daily basis. In the case of Warkworth the major task this year is re-building the Killie Bridge and good progress is being made. On January 16 the fourth and tallest A-frame was erected and the longest span put up. The bridge is now well over half-way across and, subject to reasonable weather, will be in use by the start of the season.

The new Captain, Yorkshire exile Graham Sawley, is settling in and preparing for his drive-in to office on Easter Saturday. Similarly the new Lady Captain, Christine Douglas, is preparing for the forthcoming season. Meanwhile the committee has been strengthened by three new faces.

Club Opens are becoming increasingly popular. The Winter Warmer Texas Scramble Open on March 5 has attracted record entries and there is now a substantial reserve list. Entries are now being taken for the summer Opens: Ladies, Mixed and Seniors. Full details are on the club website www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk and the club entry on Golf Empire.

Membership to the club remains open and with the start of the summer season, if you are interested in taking up golf, or returning after a period away, you can take advantage of the attractive offer of just £250 for the year from April 1 to the end of December. If interested contact the secretary on secretary@warkworthgolfclub.co.uk or visit our website or just drop in to the clubhouse.

Positive pottery workshops

Rainbow Pottery Painting is launching a new arm to the business offering innovative workshops which use a mix of pottery painting and more traditional exercises to grow and develop people, encouraging creative thinking and problem solving.

Workshops are also being developed that are focused on improving mental wellbeing, using pottery painting as an activity that is stress reducing, provides an opportunity to learn a new skill and connects them to others.

Lorna Watkinson, who runs Rainbow Pottery Painting, said "There are three key benefits that pottery painting can offer to improve wellbeing.

"Firstly the experience of pottery painting is very relaxing, completely absorbing and reduces stress.

"Secondly is the sense of pride that all participants feel with their finished piece, whatever their age or ability. No artistic talent is needed to deliver fantastic results first time.

"Finally these pottery painting workshops offer an opportunity for participants to learn a new skill and explore their creativity, helping to boost confidence."

She went on to say "Because pottery painting is such an absorbing activity, it is a naturally very mindful activity which means at the end of a session you feel refreshed and energised". If you would like to find out more about these workshops please contact Lorna on 07788779711 or info@rainbowpotterypainting.co.uk



Bailiffgate Museum

An exhibition 'Illustrating Harry Potter' opens on March 18. Jane Mann, volunteer, said, "We are extraordinarily lucky to have the chance to showcase this Harry Potter exhibition as its last venue on a national tour."

It features stunning original illustrations, sketches, models and final prints from the brand new edition of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, illustrated by Jim Kay. The spellbinding exhibition has been put together by Seven Stories: The National Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle, and Bloomsbury Children's Books.

Visitors will be able to pore over intricate sketches and stunning pencil drawings and discover Jim's complex, creative process from inspiration to final illustration. There will be a full programme of special events and activities for all ages, including costumes, broomsticks and wands.

Join us for 'Speak for Your Self' events throughout the year. This project works with local communities to collect memories and archive them for future generations and is an important part of our work to preserve and celebrate the heritage of the local area.

Alnwick Local History Society and Northumberland Family History Group meet in the museum throughout 2017.

The current exhibition 'While the lamps were out' continues until mid-March. See www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk for more details

Seafood for the squeamish

Come and join us for an evening with award winning chef Martin Charlton from The Old Boathouse Group at the Northumberland Seafood Centre on Wed 8th March. Martin will be giving a demonstration on buying, preparing and cooking a range of seafood caught off the Northumberland coast.

Your feedback has taught us that while you're excited about trying different species of seafood, you're not so confident about preparing and cooking it. Martin will take you through a step by step process of what to look for when buying fresh fish and shellfish through to handling, filleting and cooking it. He'll also show you what to do with live shellfish for those who are squeamish! The demonstration will last approximately one hour, then guests are invited to book a table at The Old Boathouse for an evening meal (to be booked separately). If you're passionate about seafood but not so confident about handling it, this is definitely the evening for you.

- Start time 6.30pm at the Northumberland Seafood Centre, Leazes Street, Amble. NE65 0FD

- Tickets £10 per head available from Northumberland Seafood Centre T: 01665 713580 E: ahoy@creelfishclub.co.uk

- Evening meal bookings to be made directly with The Old Boathouse, Amble. T: 01665 711232

Royal British Legion

The next branch meeting of Warkworth and Amble District Royal British Legion will be Wednesday, 29 March 2017 at 7pm

The Legion Room, Warkworth War Memorial Hall

Our guest speaker Nick Lewis will give a presentation on:- The military history of Lindisfarne Castle from the sixteenth century to the Second World War.

All are welcome! You do not have to be an ex member of the armed forces to join us.

Guests – suggested donation of £2.50 to include supper

Lifeboat Coffee Mornings

In aid of the Amble Lifeboats at the Amble RNLI Lifeboat Station Please come and join us for coffee and home baking on these dates:

February 19 March 19

April 16 May 21

Remember **Harbour Day** on Sunday **August 27**

Once again we would like to thank the community for all of the support you give us.

Amble Business Club

Amble Business Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month. 5.30 pm at the Radcliffe Club.

Any business in Amble is invited to attend. We will listen and help with any problems or concerns about Amble and trading. At our January Meeting we had a visit from Cllr Scott Dickinson, chair of Business for Northumberland County Council, and Cllr Allan Hepple cabinet member for Economic Growth.

Many points were raised about parking, the industrial estate, signage, rates etc. and members felt it had been a very constructive meeting.

Also on the agenda was the forthcoming Puffin Festival in May.

Anyone requiring information on the Business Club please call Ann Burke on 07773024528.

Hauxley Chapel services

March 5 Rev. Ann Shepherdson.

March 12 Rev. Lynda Coulthard. Holy Communion.

March 19 Rev. Keith Harbour.

March 26 Mothering Sunday. Sarah Mitchell.

April 2 Rev. Dorothy Hewitson.

April 9 Palm Sunday. Mrs Annetta Read.

April 16 Easter Day. Holy Communion. Rev. Lynda Coulthard.

April 23 Sarah Mitchell

Low Hauxley on Sundays at 4pm followed by a cup of tea. All welcome.



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Arkless

will hold his final surgery on

Saturday Feb 25th
from 10am-11am in Amble Library

All Constituents Welcome



TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME

01665 710 442

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

***** NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN

Puffin Festival and fringe dates

Clear your diaries for this year's puffin festival, which will take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

On Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May, there will be craft and food stalls and entertainment in the town square, while on the Bank Holiday Monday, there will be stalls by community groups.

Also over the weekend, there will be kites on display, a mini beer festival, sports activities for children, crafts for children, and a steel band and music in the square.

The Festival committee is delighted to welcome the return of best selling novelist Jenny Colgan who will be reading and signing copies of her latest 'Polly and the Puffin' book on Sunday 28 May.

Closer to home, the committee will also be selling their 'Arty visits Amble' book, priced £4.

For those interested in watersports,



Author Jenny Colgan gave a talk for children at the Festival in 2016 and will be returning this year.

Coquet Shorebase Trust will be running 'Come and try' sessions, and evening estuary paddling.

Various 'fringe' events will take place in the town during the rest of the half term week, with guided walks and talks, storytelling and pottery painting.

Saturday 3 June will see the ever popular Colony music festival, showcasing local bands.

And of course, the highlight of the festival, is the chance to see the wonderful Coquet Island puffins (weather permitting) by taking a Puffin Cruise from Amble harbour.

More activities are yet to be confirmed, so keep checking www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk and follow the festival on Twitter and Facebook.



Half term futsal fever



Tiny Woods Academy will be hosting Futsal Fever for boys and girls, aged 4 to 13 years, of all abilities. The sessions will be held at James Calvert Spence College, Acklington Road, on Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February from 10am to 1pm. Cost of Futsal Fever is £25.

Futsal is the only indoor small-sided football game officially recognised and supported by both FIFA and UEFA. Futsal is proven to be a fun, fast and exciting way for children to learn new skills and tricks, and improve their passing accuracy, ball control and decision making.

Futsal is particularly popular in South America and countries like Spain and Portugal. Some of the biggest names in world football, including Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, grew up playing Futsal.

At the end of the week, there will be a presentation where several awards and trophies as well as signed gifts from professional footballers will be given out to the children.

Ring Josh Rutherford on 07714 862292 to book.

Running for beginners

A new running club starts on Monday 27 February at 6.30pm. Meet at Amble Sports Development Centre (formerly Boys' Club). £1 per week (first week free). Contact coach Paul Yeadon for more details: 07467957958. From Active Northumberland. Supported by Amble Town Council.



Wanted: young footballers and coaches

A call has been put out for budding footballers, as a new Under 9s team is being formed in the town. Football coach Gary Chambers is holding trials in March, to start a team for the September season.

He is also looking for coaches to help run the teams. He said, "I've been involved in Amble Juniors for the last 15 years, and we really need new coaches to push things forward. Anyone over eighteen who is interested in helping out, please get in touch." For more info, ring Gary on 07544 599030

Walking football fun and fitness for over 40s



Amble Mayor Jane Dargue takes part in the first walking football session

Walking football was invented in 2011 and is one of the latest crazes in the football world. It is an activity that gives those who have given up, the chance to get back into the sport they love.

As you've guessed, walking football involves a lot of walking! It carries all the same rules as every day football except you can't pick up too much speed. It provides a sociable, fun and safe environment for those looking to be a little more active in their spare time.

If you have concerns about your medical health please contact your doctor and seek advice before participating. Variations and game adaptations can be made to suit participants' needs and capabilities.

Walking football sessions are held every Tuesday, 6-7pm at James Calvert Spence College.

The scheme is for men and women over 40 and is free! The sessions are run by Tiny Woods Academy.