

The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 104 May/June 2017

New housing developments provoke anger

The number of new houses being proposed in Amble is causing concern amongst many residents, who feel the town cannot cope with such growth.

"I am unhappy about this, it is too many new houses in Amble. There's no thought going in to retain the character of Amble," said one local resident at a recent public consultation.

Within the space of seven months, six new developments have been proposed for the Amble area.

This brings the number of new houses to around double the number identified by Northumberland County Council, as being sustainable

for the town between now and 2031.

Comments voiced to The Ambler criticised a lack of infrastructure to cope with such a large number of new homeowners.

Already there is difficulty in accessing doctors appointments, the fear was this would only get worse with significant numbers of new residents.

There was also a concern over a lack of first school places, and traffic congestion, particularly along Acklington Road.

A residents' action group has been set up to discuss the situation and what -if anything - can be done.

Gemma Little who set up the

group said:

"People were concerned because of the vast developments in Amble and the impact on the town.

"Look at the amount of developments complete and proposed from 2011 to now, compared to the need. We want to discuss the concerns of residents and form an action of what we need to do."

See also page 3



Above: New housing plans drew large crowds at several recent consultations

Claims of poisoned water on the beach



Above: Ivor Rackham at Low Hauxley allotments. Part of the allotments are still flooded from December 2016

Investigations have been carried out, after allegations of poisoned groundwater at Low Hauxley.

The claims have been made by an Amble resident, who says that quicksand and groundwater at Hauxley could be potentially poisonous. He has also criticised

some local authorities who, he says, appeared unconcerned with his findings.

Environmental campaigner Ivor Rackham recently carried out an investigation into floodwater and quicksand at Hauxley. He claims that there are large quantities of manganese

in water samples taken from the beach.

Manganese poisoning can result in symptoms similar to Parkinson's Disease.

Hauxley Parish Council have requested information from Northumberland County Council, and The Ambler has asked several authorities for comment.

The Coal Authority and Environment Agency have told us they are now undertaking further investigations, and sampling will also be carried out by Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority, (NIFCA) who expressed concern at the information.

Ivor told The Ambler that his findings are based on information gained via Freedom of Information requests received from the Coal Authority, and analysis of water samples from Hauxley beach.

He claims the manganese levels in the water are 1670 times higher than is considered safe. He alleges that the information

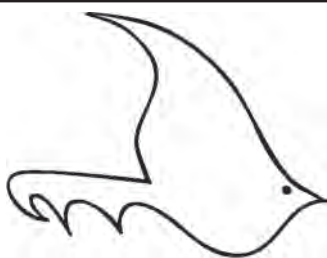
he received via the FOI request "shows that the Coal Authority have been aware of this pending disaster for many years, but have done nothing to stop it."

He also claims a dossier of this information was given to all members of the Northumberland Planning Committee, in advance of last June's debate on the proposed opencast mine at Highthorn, but he says that County Councillors, the Environment Agency and the Coal Authority appear to be ignoring the danger.

The Ambler contacted those authorities for comment. None of them could recall seeing the dossier. The Environment Agency said they did not believe the quality of the water was a health risk to the public, but they told us that together with the Coal Authority, they now plan to carry out further investigations.

Rising water levels

Figures obtained from the Coal Authority and seen by The Ambler continued on p2 >>



The Ambler

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It's democracy, dammit

Well yes, elections are like buses. You wait ages for one and then they all come along at once. Or so it seems.

Is there voter fatigue in Amble? It was only a few months ago we were clamouring for your opinion. Should we remain or should we change? And now The People have spoken. There's no turning back now. Welcome to the future in the Kindliest Port. You Friendliest Port voters will just have to understand that it's democracy, dammit. And a 66% to 34% result.



Then there's all this other malarky; local and general. There's just no getting away from it. We always encourage people to get out and vote, so read page 9 and choose wisely in the 4 May county council elections.

As for the general election on 8 June, not all the candidates had put their names forward when we went to print, so we haven't been able to put a list together for you here, but fear not, we will be covering the event online. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and our website.

Investigations to take place on flooding and quicksand

>> continued from page1

Amble, show that groundwater levels at Hauxley have risen on average 3 metres per year since the pumping station was turned off in 1985.

The water table has risen from being 86.3 metres below sea level in 1988, to breaking above sea level in October 2014 - and it has remained above sea level since then.

Looking at water analysis information also provided by the Coal Authority, Ivor believes that the composition is similar to that from Whittle Colliery which required filtration methods to stop it poisoning the River Coquet.

"Expert analysis of these results has revealed that heavy metals and other pollutants are seeping out into the Marine Conservation Zone's beach, and presenting as quicksand," he claims.

We asked the Coal Authority, Northumberland County Council, the Environment Agency and NIFCA for their comments on the allegations.

Further investigations and water analysis

A spokesperson for the Coal Authority, told The Ambler: "Underground coal mining in the area between Amble and Red Row ceased over 50 years ago in the mid-1960s. However, the area was also subject to opencast coal mining for many years, where the groundwater was artificially lowered by the mine operators pumping water so they could extract the coal.

"When the opencast mining ceased about 10 years ago the private mining companies had turned off the pumps at High Hauxley and the water began returning to its natural rest levels.

"As the responsible opencast mining operators no longer exist, the Coal Authority is working in partnership with the Environment Agency to assess what options may be appropriate to alleviate any potential impacts of the water returning to its natural levels, if this is required. We are also in discussions with other key partner agencies within the local area.

"Water samples taken last summer from the upwellings on the beach reported levels of manganese which are higher than those in samples of water obtained from a borehole into the deep coal mine workings. These results don't support the idea that the concentrations of this metal are

originating from old mine workings.

"We are currently seeking permissions to undertake a pumping test to further evaluate the situation. If these are granted then we will mobilise a temporary pump, power supply and pipework to an existing borehole near High Hauxley. Any future options will need to take in account feasibility and cost-effectiveness."

Mike Hardy, Chief Executive of Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority, told us: "I confirm that NIFCA was not previously aware of the matters referred to

by you or of any analysis by any other Authority. Now that this has been brought to our attention, we are looking into this as a priority."

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said: "We are aware of two separate incidents in Hauxley - flooding on the Low Hauxley allotments and groundwater upwelling on the beach.

"As the Lead Local Flood Authority, Northumberland County Council is looking into the allotment flooding. We are supporting them by taking samples for analysis. The results will help determine where the water may be coming from and what action, if any, is required.

"Groundwater has been upwelling on the beach near Hauxley for some months. The area is clearly signposted and our assessment of the quantities of water show there is no cause for concern or risk to marine life.

"Additionally, we are working in partnership with the Coal Authority to assess water levels in former mining areas in Hauxley and determine if mitigation measures are necessary."

Ivor is hoping for the best: "Something has caused the new flooding of the Hauxley allotments, the permanent lake that's appeared on the land behind them and the polluted water appearing on the beach as quicksand. That the mine's water is over three metres above mean sea level cannot be just a coincidence.

"I am awaiting the test results from the Environment Agency. Then, the best news that NIFCA will come back with, is that there is no pollution into the Marine Conservation Zone and the local fish stock is unaffected."

Anna Williams

The full article appears on our website

Seven housing developments in six months

Never mind whether we're the Friendliest or the Kindest Port, it does begin to look like we're the most popular port. What's the collective noun for planning applications? A bulldozer of developments? Answers on a postcard please...

Since 2015, around 320 homes have either been finished, or are in the process of being constructed in Amble.

In 2015, 48 new houses at Dandsfield were finished, and the 25 apartments at Coble Quay were begun, followed

by the start of the 250 home Persimmon development. Before that, there had not been significant development in Amble since the early 2000s, when around 300 houses at Gloster Park and Robson's Way were built.

Now within the space of six months, seven developments, totalling 1078 new homes are proposed in the Amble area.

It is unsurprising that so many residents feel overwhelmed or even angry about the onslaught.

"It's all getting out of hand," said Mick Walters, who put the blame squarely on Northumberland County Council. He criticised councillors "for ignoring the needs and wishes of the vast majority of residents on planning."

But strategic planners at Northumberland

County Council (NCC) say that it is government planning directives which insist large scale house building must take place.

Most comments heard by The Ambler, questioned the ability of Amble's infrastructure to cope with increased pressure.

Difficulty in getting medical

appointments, a lack of school places and road congestion were the most frequent concerns.

NCC's Core Strategy document says Amble has sufficient capacity to accommodate 600 new homes

between now and 2031. The plan across the county is to deliver 24,000 houses throughout Northumberland between 2011 and 2031.

NCC expects to receive £6.8m for the year 2017-18, from the government's New Home Bonus, a scheme which gives councils six year's worth of council tax for every new home built. It expects to receive an additional allocation of £4.1 million by 2019-2020.

Some recent housing developments sit right next to the Amble parish boundary. At Gloster Farmhouse, permission has been given for 42 houses. At the bottom of Gloster Hill, outline permission has been granted for six homes. Both these developments are within Warkworth's parish boundary. 125 homes in one of the

Housing proposals Sept 2016 - Mar 2017

DEVELOPMENT	NO.	STATUS
Gloster Hill	6	plans agreed Sept 2016
Gloster Hill Farmhouse	42	plans agreed Dec 2016
Acklington Rd	500	plans submitted Jan 2017
Enterprise Pk	51	plans submitted Mar 2017
Percy Drive	275	consultation Mar 2017
Hauxley View	190	consultation Mar 2017
St Cuthbert's school	14	plans submitted Mar 2017



new proposals are within Hauxley's parish boundary. So development at the edges of Amble doesn't therefore bring all the financial benefits (community tax, Section 106 funding) to Amble itself.

At the third planning consultation in as many weeks, several people expressed their anger at the sheer number of houses being proposed. "It's absolutely awful. I want to know how we can stop it," said one woman. "It's going to double the number of people in Amble."

"I can't say how much I strongly object to this. There are too many new houses being built in Amble. There's no thought on retaining the character of Amble," said another. Her husband agreed, "Where are all the jobs coming from? I suspect it is all about lining the developer's pockets, rather than responding to an identified need."

Anna Williams

See centre pages for Artoggraffi's report on the proposed housing development by Arch on the Enterprise Park. See p4 for NCC's report on addressing housing issues in the county.

Left: Areas of recent house building, plus possible new development in and adjacent to Amble

Above: Maurice Sewell director of Cheviot Holdings was on hand at two public consultations in March, to answer questions from the public.

The development company has plans to build 465 homes at Percy Drive and Hauxley Way. They are planning a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraces.

"We work to a high ethical standard, we employ local builders, source local materials and employ local companies" said Maurice.

"Northumberland County Council has identified Amble as an area for growth, and we will offer high quality homes, built to high environmental standards, at a competitive price.

"I am having a conversation with Northumberland Wildlife Trust about a partnership. We've agreed to put in significant funding to NWT to protect the coastline, from Hauxley Nature Reserve to Amble."

Photo by Rod Hardisty



County council looks to address housing shortfall



Artist's impression of rental housing proposed at Amble's Industrial Estate

Following the publication of the Government's Housing White Paper "Fixing our broken housing market", Northumberland County Council has announced how it plans to address housing issues in the county.

The paper places further pressure on local authorities to increase the number of homes being built in their area, and builds upon the previous commitment to build an extra one million homes by 2020.

The council is now looking at a number of different ways to meet the increasing demand for housing across the county.

In the past three years, across Northumberland there has been in excess

of £30m invested in affordable homes. The council has exceeded its target of providing 1,000 new homes through its housing management team, Homes for Northumberland and in partnership with developers, such as Arch.

However, as a result of the government demanding all local councils to cut their housing rents by 1% for the next four years, it is unlikely that council-led building schemes of this scale will be seen in the future.

With more than 8,000 people on the council's housing register the council recognises the need to continue to offer a range of housing options. This means

working with developers, such as Arch, and attracting private developers to build in the county, to meet the need for affordable homes as well as for sale and private rent properties.

A £1.3m Community Housing Fund will also be used to develop more community-led housing projects, to allow local people to remain in the area where they grew up.

The council will work to bring 30 empty properties back into use, using a £750,000 grant from the Homes and Communities Agency.

Allan Hepple, cabinet member for housing at the council, said: "Whilst we welcome the focus the government's white paper has placed on housing, as a council our ability to build affordable homes has been severely restricted. Further proposals, such as expanding right to buy, may see the loss, or further impact upon the building of affordable homes. It is extremely disappointing that the government hasn't given more emphasis on building much needed social homes.

"However, we still acknowledge the need for homes in the community, for the community. We are now reliant on developers such as Arch to come forward with planning applications to meet the shortfall.

"All our residents deserve a place they can call home, in the area that they grew up in."

£9 million investment at James Calvert Spence

Planning is under way for a £9m investment by Northumberland County Council at James Calvert Spence College.

School representatives, NCC officers and designers have met to establish the educational vision for the relocation of the middle school to the James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) site on Acklington Road. In addition, existing accommodation on the site will be refurbished to form one large college for 9 to 13 year olds.

Initial designs and architectural plans have now been developed and a team of quantity surveyors are currently working out project costs to enable progress to the next phase. The building work is set to begin this spring.

The refurbishment will bring with it modernised classrooms, upgraded social areas and a new sixth form suite. The school will also provide more opportunities for the local community to use the new facilities outside school hours.

Councillor Robert Arckless, Cabinet Member for Children's Services at NCC, said: "Delivering the best possible educational environment for pupils is a priority for the County Council and we are committed to deliver a high quality environment for pupils at James Calvert Spence College."

Executive Head Teacher, Neil Rodgers said: "I am absolutely delighted that



Northumberland County Council has pledged a significant capital investment to James Calvert Spence College for us to radically upgrade and remodel our current educational facilities.

"Councillor Scott Dickinson, our former Chair of Governors, and I have worked closely on this project for over a year as we are both committed to ensuring that the young people of Amble and the surrounding area get the facilities they deserve and an entitlement to a first class education in modern, well equipped surroundings.

"Having a new build for the middle school aged children on the high school site is the logical progression for us, having become one 9-19 school last June. It enables us to have the seamless transition between

years, and between key stages, that will ensure all students make the best possible progress with all our talented and dedicated staff together on one site.

"This is a real turning point for JCSC, and for the community it serves."

Councillor Scott Dickinson, Business Chair of Northumberland County Council, said: "This investment is wonderful news for the coastal strip of Northumberland. The building work will see a pre-war building replaced with fantastic new facilities, which will make a huge difference to daily life in the school and will create the best possible educational environment for our young people."

See also Artograffi's page

Sea Anglers' donation to pier repairs

Sea anglers from across the country have donated to a fund set up by Amble fishermen, to help redress an irresponsible act, which caused a good deal of damage, and cast a shadow over a hobby enjoyed by thousands.

A fire on Amble pier on New Year's Eve, was caused by sea anglers who failed to make sure their barbecue was properly extinguished.

The subsequent fire caused around £2,000 of damage and brought into question whether fishing would be allowed on the pier in the future.

The act of recklessness shocked members of Amble Sea Angling Club who set up a crowdfunding site to raise money to help pay for the damage.

Since then, fishermen from all over the country have donated to the cause.

Les Weller of Amble Sea Angling Club handed over a cheque for £300 to Simon Baxter and Paul Morrison of Warkworth Harbour Commissioners.

Les said "This is a token towards the repair of Amble pier, on behalf of responsible sea anglers. The money has been raised and



l-r: Paul Morrison, Warkworth Harbour Commissioner, Les Weller, Amble Sea Angling Club, and Simon Baxter, Harbour Master, with the cheque for £300, raised after the fire on Amble pier

donated through Amble Sea Angling Club, using crowdfunding and donations made at Amble Sea Angling centre. Anglers from all over the country have donated to the crowdfunding page."

Harbour Master Simon Baxter said, "We're very grateful for this generous gesture from Amble Sea Angling club and anglers nationwide."

The pier is owned by Warkworth

Harbour Commissioners, and was closed to the public for several days in early January, while repairs were carried out. The fire had burned right through a section of the wooden boardwalk, leaving a large hole, big enough to pose a danger to walkers or dogs.

Footage from CCTV cameras showed five fishermen arriving in a white van at Amble pier at 7.45pm on 31 December. They left at 1.45am, and the fire could be seen blazing at 4.30am.

The alarm was raised by local fisherman Chris Armstrong at around 6.50am on New Year's morning, who promptly called the fire brigade.

It is believed the fire was caused by embers from a barbecue or something similar. They were tipped out onto the wooden pier, and because of the strong northerly winds that night, the fire took hold and burned through a section of the floor.

The pier was re-opened on 18 January with a plea from the harbour commissioners "Please, no more fires."

Anna Williams

Amble TIC closure announcement



Amble Tourist Information Centre will not reopen this year. Active Northumberland, which is in charge of the TICs, has taken the decision, saying it is looking at alternative arrangements for tourism information in the town.

"Active Northumberland is coming out of retail, as it does not want to be in direct competition with businesses on the high street," said a spokeswoman. "We are working with businesses to try to provide an offer."

The Ambler understands that the building itself may move ownership under a community asset transfer, but this has not yet been finalised. It is the intention of Active Northumberland that whoever does eventually take over the building, whether by asset transfer or sale, would provide some tourism offer for the town.

A poster displayed in the TIC building in the town square cited economic constraints as reason for the closure.

The public toilets next to the TIC will be part of the asset transfer, but will remain open as usual.

"Only 7% of tourists to Northumberland come into a TIC, most people book accommodation and tickets online before they get here," said the spokeswoman.

"In the meantime people will be able to access leaflets and information from the library, although we accept that is not the ideal location long term."

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WHAT YOU SAY...

County Council is a disgrace

Northumberland County Council Labour Councillors and management are an absolute disgrace.

We have councillors showing loyalty to developers and ignoring the needs and wishes of the vast majority of residents on planning.

Residents of Amble are really suffering, really stretching the heart out of the town. Councillors are ignoring their responsibilities to residents whilst they go off on their own agenda.

They leave the county's roads as the worst we've seen in years and cutting services back.

They have money however to waste on their own strategy projects and when these are completed NCC will have reached housing levels 100% above their own estimates of required levels, real madness, or rashness.

There is little or no investment being made in Amble for infrastructure to support these developments.

To add to this NCC are destroying precious green belt land and treating massive amounts of objectors as extraneous or irrelevant.

We were assured by the chief executive at NCC that the new county hall would cost £30 million whereas the figure is now £80.

Conservative Councillor Peter Jackson, the leader of Northumberland Conservatives says that the refurbishment works to the current authority headquarters in Morpeth would cost a maximum of £8 million over five years, ten times less than the cost of the new project.

Is NCC heading towards a colossal debt?

Don't forget the County Council voting is coming soon on Thursday 4 May. Don't forget to vote.

*Mick Walters
Acklington Rd,
Amble*

Thanks from Amble Food Bank

We wish to thank the people, businesses and organisations of Amble and surrounding areas for their generosity with food and donations. These donations are very welcome and indeed are a necessity in providing the food parcels to those who find themselves in need through no fault of their own. In these times of austerity we need to give those in need the help they urgently require.

Thank you from

Bill, Victoria, Ken, Steve, Joyce, Ben and Ann

Amble Food Bank

Please check your bus passes

A lady contacted The Ambler wanting to warn older people to carefully check their bus passes, after she realised hers had expired. The lady, who is in her late 70s and who didn't wish to be named, told The Ambler that recently she had taken an Arriva bus to Newcastle. As she boarded, the driver pointed out her pass had expired. The kind driver had let her continue her journey. "I was mortified and I told him I would renew it first thing on Monday."

After spending the day with her family, the lady was dropped off at the bus stop by her daughter who had to leave for a medical appointment.

"As soon as she left, I suddenly remembered about my bus pass. I didn't have any money because earlier, I had given what I had left to my granddaughter. I got on the bus and told the driver what had happened. I said I will repay the money when I renew the pass on Monday. But he said 'No money, no ticket, no bus ride.' I had to get off the bus. I had two bags of shopping and a walking stick. He didn't care."

"People offered me money to pay for my fare, but I said no. I had to borrow a mobile phone from a person at the bus stop. I rang my daughter who came back to pick me up and took me to stay at her house overnight."

The whole event has left the lady upset, but wanting to warn others so they don't find themselves in the same predicament.

The lady later contacted us to say that Arriva have subsequently apologised and stated it is not their policy to put people off the bus in a situation like that. They are going to check the CCTV camera on the bus to ensure the situation was as described.

Amble bypass has been bypassed

In the last Ambler (Issue 103), Ian Hinson asked readers to comment on his bypass proposal to solve the Acklington Road congestion threatened by the current 500 house Hindhaugh planning application.

As Ian states, the Amble bypass route has been established for decades, dictating the Robsons Way housing boundary and the open cast reinstatement of fields and woodland south of JCS College.

The trouble is the Hindhaugh proposal completely straddles the route, and construction of the bypass would thus severely reduce the area available for housing.

In addition the whole point of a bypass is to provide a fast road with as few junctions as possible, so adding an access halfway along it would be counterproductive, as well as being outside any NCC Highway budget.

Since Ian's letter, we have had public exhibitions for no less than 3 more Amble housing schemes, so there are now over 1200

houses proposed to supply the 600 required by 2031, and they can't all succeed.

One 237 house scheme is for an out of town Cheviot Homes development adjacent to Hindhaugh, which also encroaches on the protected bypass route, ignores the apparent through road indicated on Hindhaugh plans, and requires a new access off the A1068 because the obvious access off the Percy Drive roundabout is owned by Persimmon, the developer for the adjacent 250 houses of Coquet Grange.

Amble housing should be designed to suit Amble needs, not individual landowners and developers who don't communicate.

I therefore propose both these proposals are rejected and the developers asked to resubmit a smaller combined scheme of say 350 houses using the current Persimmon construction access off Percy Drive roundabout and possibly through Coquet Grange estate.

Although still an out of town car dependent housing scheme, it would have the following advantages :-

- Reduced housing numbers closer to Amble's housing needs
- Minimal increased congestion on Acklington Road
- Amble bypass route is protected for future generations
- Easy road access for majority of commuters heading south on A1068
- Pedestrian/cycle access into Amble could be provided along old railway path

Other far more sustainable housing proposals nearer to Amble centre should be allowed to proceed meanwhile, using pre-developed and disused land nearer Amble eg Arch 57 rented houses, Coble Quay, the abandoned Tesco site and possibly 100 houses on the Middle School site when it is demolished.

Tom Lloyd, via email

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 page 2.

New CCTV cameras for Amble

After many months of discussion Amble Town Council have agreed to proceed with a CCTV system with Alnwick based company Alncom

The system utilises up to 32 cameras, and will cost in the region of £20k. It will be purchased by the Town Council and an agreement has been made with Northumbria Police to carry out surveillance from their base in Amble.

The CCTV system will provide coverage of the town centre and Paddlers Park.

There will be approximately 14 high definition cameras which will be wi-fi networked and can be added to in the future if required. Automatic Numberplate Recognition is also a feature on some of the cameras

The cameras will be regularly maintained and there is 24 hour access should a fault arise.

Amble Mayor Jane Dargue commented "We are absolutely delighted that our plans to have a network of CCTV cameras sited within the town have now reached fruition. Our aim was to ensure that we have in place the best CCTV system possible to help combat anti-social behaviour and to protect our town assets. We are very pleased to be working with Alncom on this project as a



l-r: Karl Thurm, Alncom, Mayor Jane Dargue, Martin Horn and Helen Lewis, Amble Town Council, and Stephen Pinchen, Alncom

local company who we believe will deliver a high quality CCTV system that will serve the town well."

Stephen Pinchen, Alncom Managing Director stated "As a local company who provide services to a number of clients in Amble, Alncom have a vested interest in the town so are delighted to be given the opportunity to provide the town's new CCTV solution.

Where many towns are installing HD CCTV systems, Amble have gone a stage

further and will benefit from 4K UHD, with images being four times the resolution of HD.

Using new recording technology with advanced video analytics, the system can deliver live imagery to remote CCTV operators and police hand held devices.

"It's been a pleasure to work with a town council who have the vision to embrace new technology and the foresight to understand how to deliver value for money in a solution that should serve the town well for years to come."

Inspector Liz Hall, Northumbria Police stated "Northumbria Police officers have worked with partners from the initial planning stages to ensure we all work together to secure the right locations to get maximum benefit from this system.

"Northumbria police officers will monitor this from the local Amble police station and use the footage to improve public safety and support prosecutions.

"This will not replace the face to face community engagement and presence of officers in the town centre, Amble police have an excellent level of support from the local community and this will give us an additional tool to keep Amble town centre a safe place to live, socialise and visit."

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Duchess helps charity spring into action

The Duchess of Northumberland welcomed members of the Alnwick Branch of Parkinson's UK to Alnwick Garden to promote Garden Gathering, a new fundraising initiative asking people to host mini-festivals in their own gardens across the country.

The Duchess said: "The fantastic thing about Garden Gathering is that people can be as creative as they like to really personalise their event."

"My perfect summer festival would involve food, family and friends, what better way to bring people together to raise funds for a worthwhile cause."

All money raised from Garden Gathering will help Parkinson's UK to support the 5,600 people affected by Parkinson's across

the North East, as well as funding their work to find better treatments and ultimately, a cure.

Suzanne McKenna, Regional Fundraiser for Parkinson's UK, says: "We're really excited to launch Garden Gathering with the Duchess at Alnwick Garden, the most famous garden in the region! We can't wait to see the different ideas people come up with for their mini-festivals."

"I hope that everyone in the North East gets behind us to make our first year of Garden Gathering a success."

For more information and ideas on hosting your own Garden Gathering for Parkinson's UK and to download a fundraising pack, see www.parkinsons.org.uk/gardengathering



From left to right: Helen Lloyd, Suzanne McKenna and the Duchess of Northumberland with Marilyn Taylor and Ron Bernstein of the Alnwick branch of Parkinson's UK which meets in Alnwick Rugby Club on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm

One million reasons to smile

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is celebrating tipping over the £1 million mark, thanks the UK's largest charity lottery. Since 2008, players of People's Postcode Lottery have supported the work of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, and have now taken the cumulative total raised to £1,144,941.40.

Over the past nine years, money received from players has supported a huge range of projects from repairing vandalism on reserves, installing special newt fencing to prevent the protected great crested newt population going 'walkabout' on its Hauxley nature reserve, connecting with thousands of children and taking hundreds of school groups into the wilds of Northumberland, rehabilitating rescued otters before releasing them back into the wild and searching for the elusive dormouse in the forests of Northumberland.

A great deal of the charity's work would not have been possible without the effort of its army of volunteers, who for many years, have worked in cramped, cold conditions in a small storage area, or even worse, outside in the cold and rain.

Now, thanks to the lottery's players, the Trust has been able to install a new workshop and tool storage facility in the grounds of its St. Nicholas Park - perfect for all kinds of activities such as making bird boxes to be used on its reserves around the region, or simply repairing tools which suffer from a large amount of wear and tear throughout the year.

A small refurbishment of its head office has also been carried out including the installation of a new kitchen and meeting area for staff, volunteers and visitors - something the Trust has wanted to do for a number of years, but never had the money to do so.

Age of insecurity

I can't think of a time when there were so many things happening to make us feel uncomfortable.

Here's a list of some things that have made me think: talk of robotics with workforce reductions; thoughts on child abuse and social media; North Korea with its penchant for murder and missiles; Wikileaks and descriptions of CIA surveillance; the troubles of Trump - many and varied, and often strange.

In addition, we have national problems over funding for education, NHS and social care. In 1994, the average house price was 3.54 times the average annual salary that has now increase to 7.72 times.

A recent genetic breakthrough at Newcastle Medical School to allow the production of embryos from three parents and the elimination of some inherited conditions. The SNP are pushing for another 'once in a generation' independence referendum, at the same time as Brexit. Famine is widespread; national insurance charges for the self-employed have brought confusion, anger and backtracking. The reclaiming of tax from those who hit on the "spiffing wheeze" of claiming that their pay was really a loan could well come back to bite the recipients.

Our former chancellor is now "Six jobs George" and his work/life balance may lead to a parliamentary enquiry. We hear a lot about "Fake news", not least from one of its major exponents D J Trump. Perhaps some of the stuff I mention is fake news? We're so concerned about the subject that it may well become a school subject. Could the study include claims and counter claims on education funding?

The range and complexity of my list of problems could lead to a head-in-the-hands condition. I've always maintained that we must get up in the morning and go to bed at night, coping with the stuff that happens during the day. There isn't even an excuse for nightshift workers. The recent report that nightshift is against all nature could be fake news.

Amble is about to receive a whole lot of houses and, presumably, more people. Looking at a couple of potential housing sites made me wonder if some of the houses may be built on stilts to keep them out of the water. Perhaps one's own pond could be a desirable feature, especially with a few carp.

Harry McQuillen

Harry will be leading daily history walks at the Puffin Festival. Meet 10am Town Square.



Who will get your vote?

Amble (with Hauxley and Togston)



**ROGER
CASHMORE**
LibDem

“ I taught primary school children in Hertfordshire before moving to Northumberland in 2007. My wife's family are Tynesiders and we now have grandchildren locally as well as two in London. We often reflect on the very different environments in which our grandchildren are growing up. I very much enjoy walking and learning about the wildlife around us here. Not surprisingly I am greatly concerned about the possible opencast mine at Druridge Bay and the rapid amount of building taking place in rural Northumberland. We need urgently to get a new core strategy in place to try and control new development within the county. Local services like school places and health services seem to have been forgotten about with the scale of proposed new house building. The condition of our roads and availability of parking are becoming ever more problematic. If elected I'll work with Amble residents to make sure our voices are heard at County Hall. ”



**TERRY
CLARK**
Labour

“ I have worked for Northumberland Estate as a building maintenance worker for 34 years as a painter decorator (signwriter) working in the grandest castle to small tenants cottages in rural Northumberland. I lived in Widdrington Station until I moved to Amble in 1995. Married to Mary an Amble lass, and we have a teenage son together, a stepfather to two adults and a grandfather to four little ones, I feel I can relate to the very young and the older generation. It would be a privilege and honour to carry on Robert Arckless's fantastic work representing the people of Amble, Hauxley, and Togston, I am inspired by Robert's dedication and years of hard work serving our community. Labour Councils are at the forefront in protecting public services they continue to work and deliver for our communities, working hard to improve the economy and quality of life for working people. ”



**JUNE
WATSON**
Conservative

“ Living here for 25 years, ten years as a parish councillor, I understand what needs to be done to enhance Amble and its feeder villages. I have listened to your concerns on the doorstep for the County Council proposal of 1,400 extra homes. Residents opinions have been taken for granted in the past, but now with your support, I guarantee your voice will be heard and that you will have a say on the future of Amble. I wish to restore local democracy and re-direct funding to the town from the south east. Planning decisions have been cloaked in secrecy at County Hall and announced by the press, avoiding scrutiny with our local Town Council. The County Council Constitution states 'residents must be consulted on any development plans'. I want to put the needs of Amble, Hauxley and Togston residents first and our infrastructure improved before new developments are considered. ”

Amble West with Warkworth



**ANN
BURKE**
Independent

“ Born and bred in Warkworth, now I live in Amble where I run a business. In the last few years I have been chairman of Amble Business Club and I have campaigned for parking and better traffic flow in Amble. I instigated a petition of 3,000 names from local people, for more parking in the town. I am standing because I am passionate about rural living, community involvement, the education and employment of the next generation and the care and welfare of the elderly. The local infrastructure, the abundance of new build, the increase in holiday lets, the cuts to local services and the quality of life for all is maintained and improved. The links, rail, road, air and telecommunications with the rest of the country must be maintained and upgraded. ”



**ANDREW
FINDLAY**
LibDem

“ I have lived and worked in Northumberland for 10 years together with my wife and three girls. My background is as a lawyer and I run my own hospitality business. We all want improvements to local services, roads, parking and schools but who will actually deliver those improvements. Thanks to the Conservatives there is less money for our council to spend on the local services. Labour are in disarray under Jeremy Corbyn and have no plans for our area. For me, being a Liberal Democrat is a fairly simple choice. We believe in opportunity - that everyone, no matter what your background, should have the same chance in life. That starts with a strong and stable economy, fit for the long-term, and decent public services - without those, creating opportunity is impossible. I hope you'll elect me to speak up for and improve opportunities for Warkworth and Amble here in Northumberland. ”



**NICOLA
MORRISON**
Labour

“ I have been involved within the local community for several years and would love to further this involvement in the role of County Councillor for Labour. I have been involved with the Army Cadet force for nearly four years. This has involved several community volunteering activities. These have been very community led. Activities such as; litter picks, poppy planting, poppy selling, fundraising, remembrance parades. I have also recently become involved with the Lifeboat Station. I have experience with working with the families of prisoners and my education in criminology and social policy alongside the education system in my capacity as a trained teacher has developed my desire to work with those who feel marginalised by Conservative government policy that is failing whole sections of the rural community. Labour Councils are committed to protecting public services they continue to deliver for communities, working hard to improve the life chances for working people. ”



**JEFF
WATSON**
Conservative

“ Having lived and worked in this area for 25 years I understand it and appreciate its problems. I have been your County Councillor for 10 years and before this a District Councillor. During this time I have been actively involved in improving Amble helping with some of the local issues on the Town Council and other bodies. With your support I would like to continue doing this. I am particularly involved with helping our young people and feel this is important for the future success of the town. I am concerned that the local interests of Amble are in danger of being pushed to one side in favour of south east Northumberland. I believe this is happening now and I want to stop this neglect. The number of housing applications currently under consideration would have a severe effect on our infrastructure. I will do all I can to ensure that our town has the investment in services to cope with its needs. ”

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Business is thriving at the Harbour Village

Martin Homer's coffee has a strong following. He's one of the original Harbour Villagers, opening Mocha Mondo pod in the spring of 2015 and bringing many of the customers from his previous location with him.

Martin began his coffee business brewing lattes and flat whites for commuters rushing for the Alnmouth trains. Six years on, Mocha Mondo's output has grown, but the pace has mellowed.

"I moved the business from Alnmouth station, where I got a reputation for selling good quality coffee. Loads of people remember me from there," says Martin, who was renowned for getting his regular customers' coffee ready as they arrived at the station, and handing it to them as they dashed for the train.

"I came to Amble because I was interested in roasting coffee as well as brewing it. I wanted a micro roaster and I thought it could work in a pod. I thought it would fit in well with the ethos of the Harbour Village; small, experimental type businesses.

The challenge has paid off. Mocha Mondo pod contains a coffee machine, an oven for flapjacks, a roaster and a milkshake blender. Business is thriving and Martin has plans to develop the range of goods he offers.

The pod sells speciality coffee beans and



Mocha Mondo pod at the Harbour Village

their own distinctive single origin chocolate. They provide packets of the roasted beans to shops, and wholesale orders for cafes and restaurant coffee machines.

A new venture for this spring, is their 'Roasted and Posted' mail order service where customers can email their coffee beans and chocolate orders, pay online and receive their goods in the post.

Martin now employs five part-time staff, and hopes he can devote more time to the new parts of his business, including developing his chocolate lines. "We're the only people in Northumberland who make chocolate from bean to bar," says Martin.

Throughout our chat, customers dash in for regular

orders, visitors wander in for a browse, while others tumble in out of the wind, looking for something hot to warm them up.

"I love it here," says Martin. "It's such an iconic location, to have a business next to such a historic harbour. I love the variety of people at the harbour village. They're not rushing for the train, the atmosphere is more relaxed. I can welcome visitors. I prefer to present an understated service, and people are often impressed at what they get."

Mocha Mondo pod is open every day at Amble Harbour Village 10am - 3pm, longer in the summer.

The friendliest cat is feline fine

Oscar the Pod Cat is used to attention. In recent weeks however, the friendly feline has required several trips to the vet, and people from far and wide have donated money to help with his medical bills.

A crowdfunding page was initially set up in March for the homeless cat after he needed a health check. And the fund was crucial a month later, when Oscar arrived at the Harbour Village nursing an injured paw.

Oscar is a regular visitor to Amble harbour, where he is fed, watered and generally admired. He was adopted by the Harbour Village pod owners after they suspected he had no one official home.

At the beginning of March, pod owners noticed Oscar's coat was matted and in poor condition. He was taken to the vet who gave him a thorough check up. The prognosis then was that Oscar is overweight and needs to go on a diet.

Ashley Sims, co-owner of P Pod said "Basically, he's too fat and he can't groom himself properly. That's why he's looking

a bit bedraggled; he can't get round to groom himself!"

The fat cat was put on a diet, and people were asked not to feed him treats. The diet worked well, and Oscar lost 400g.

But a month later, Oscar was back to the vet after hobbling into the Harbour Village on three legs. The vet suspected Oscar had been in a fight, and prescribed antibiotics.

Coquet Cosmetics pod owner Laura Stubbs set up a Go Fund Me page for Oscar's medical bills, and was amazed at how quickly the donations came in for his wellbeing. "I only set it up the night before, because people who don't live in Amble were telling me they wanted to help. Everyone's asking how he is. We've even had people coming to the Harbour Village bringing money for him."

Oscar's fans live far and wide; one lady from Liverpool regularly rings to check up on his welfare. And many people have been posting good wishes on his Facebook page.

He also became a hit at Alnorthumbria Vets, who offered



Laura Stubbs and Ashley Sims with Oscar the Pod Cat

to put him on their Healthy Pet Scheme free for a year.

A post on Oscar's facebook page said: "We would all like to say how grateful we are to Alnorthumbria Pets (especially Fiona and the team at Amble) for the free year of Healthy Pet Club and we have decided to save the total money raised to pay for Oscars next few years of Healthy Pet Club"

Laura said "He's still not putting his full weight on his bad leg. Hopefully he'll start to improve soon. He's still been his usual self, eating lots and enjoying lots of cuddles I'm just pleased we started fundraising when we did!"

Oscar's Go Fund Me site: www.gofundme.com/oscars-vet-bill
Anna Williams

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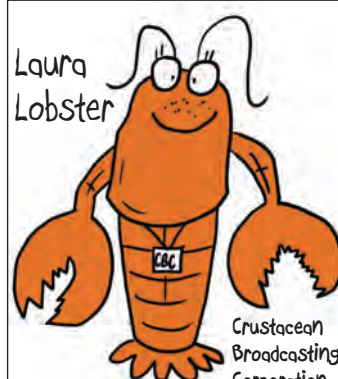
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Teacher publishes poetry book

We managed to get an interview with a poet who recently published her book ‘Amazon,’ Catherine Ayres! (Or Mrs. Newton, as I know her)

How long have you been writing poetry and why did you start?
I used to write poetry when I was at school but then stopped for over twenty years! *What inspired you to write your book?*
I had cancer nearly five years ago, which was a shock because I was only 39. I was off work for a year and during that time I started to read poetry, then write it. I started writing poems about what was happening to me and carried on writing about life after cancer, which can sometimes be very difficult. The book grew out of those first poems.

How long did it take to write your book?
About three years. I wrote most of the poems in a year but some were written before and after that. Then it took two years to put the poems in the right order and edit them, which means trying to make them better by changing words/lines. It drives you mad but it's worth it.

Have you dedicated the book to anyone?
My family.

What's the title, where can we buy it, and how much?
The collection is called ‘Amazon’ and you can buy it directly from the Indigo Dream website www.indigodreams.co.uk for £9.50. Or you could buy it from me and I'll sign it for you!

Are the poems suitable for young people?
There are a few cases of vulgar language and some of the poems are about cancer treatment, so perhaps not suitable for really young people.

Have you published books before?
I have one chapbook published by the Black Light Engine Room Press. A chapbook is a very short book of poems. That one had about 8 in it. Apart from that, no.

Do you want to publish more books?
Yes, I would love to! Hopefully, Indigo Dreams Publishing will want to publish my next book, too.

By George-Anne Carnegie



CELEBRATING GOTHs

World Goth Day is on May 22nd.

This is a day when Goths get to celebrate their own being and lets the rest of the world know of their existence. This celebration started in 2009.

During this celebration there are many events, like Goth bands and charities.

This event is celebrated in the UK, USA, Canada and Australia.

By Emma-Jane Gregory and George-Anne Carnegie



Fun at the puffin festival

This year's puffin festival is a time of fun and activities where you can spend time with families and friends. The main puffin festival runs from the 27th to the 29th May at the town square, Amble.

Some events that caught my eye are: the dog show which is held on the Monday at the Braid near the beacon. It starts at 1pm. At the seafood centre from 11-3pm with Shelia Cartwright there are puffin themed crafts every day over the weekend. For children and families there is watersports at the Coquet Shorebase Trust. There will be a climbing wall near the town square on the Monday.

During the rest of the half term week, there are walks and talks and other events, and the Colony music festival is on 3rd June.
By: Chloe W

EATING OUT IN AMBLE

Recently Amble has undergone many changes. Lots more restaurants and cafes as well as many new houses on the way. All these things are making Amble better and now it has lots more places for FOOD (most important).
Places for food are: the Fat Mermaid, Old Boat House, Old Storehouse, Sea and Soil (used to be called Sea Salt), Dolly's and Daisy's, Taylors, the fish and chip shops and of course Zecca.
By: Ava

NEW HOUSES ON THE ENTERPRISE PARK

Artograffi went to meet Daniel Kerr (an architect), Lara Baker (the project manager from Arch) and Neil Turnbull, head of land and development at Ascent Homes. Arch want to regenerate some of the land in the industrial estate, or Enterprise Park, to make 51 eco-friendly houses. These will be energy efficient, warm and a special Swedish design, similar to flat pack, and they only take 2 days to put up.



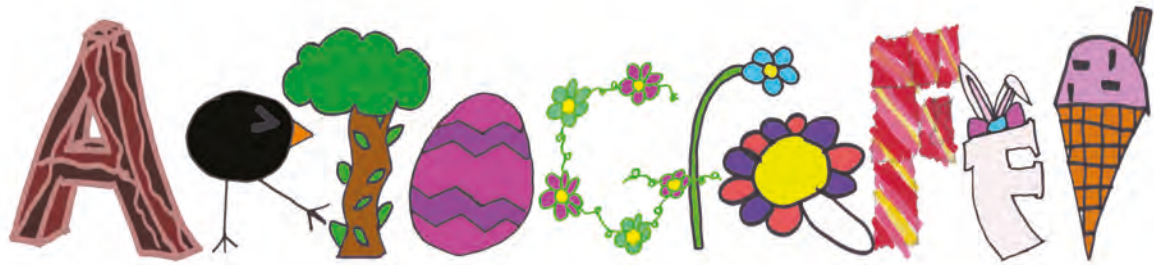
I-r Louise, Lily, Emily, architect Daniel Kerr, Emma, Ava, project manager Lara Baker and Bethany

There are many different designs of these private rental houses. Arch says that there is currently a demand for private rental houses therefore they are ‘filling the sales gap’. There will be houses, flats and bungalows with 1-4 bedrooms and parking.

What we think-
We understand that there may be need for private rental housing in our area but is the enterprise park and Amble the right place? Many housing plans are and have recently been proposed in Amble, with this

plan added on will it be too much for Amble? Will this ruin the way Amble looks?

This could affect schools, doctors, roads and infrastructure with the extra 100 people added to the town but there will be more money spent in Amble. Arch say they are aware of the issues and are trying to make it sustainable. They have improved the footpaths to encourage people to walk not drive and they have used the land effectively. In autumn this year, the houses will be built and finished in autumn 2018.
BY EMILY AND LILY



BINKY AND THE CHOCOLATE HUNT

Binky loved Easter egg hunts; he was really good at them. With his sharp eye he could find the colourful chocolate eggs in seconds.

By the time most pandas had found one he had searched the huge public gardens and almost filled his basket. It was great fun and he knew he would win the huge egg for having the most!

He turned a corner and saw Cedric walk past a berry bush with only two eggs in his basket. When Cedric had gone Binky smiled to himself. The blue and green egg that Cedric had missed was picked up by Binky and put in his basket. Yes, he was definitely going to win.

Binky looked round to the flower pots

and saw his little sister, Ivy, searching a bed of roses with an empty basket.

Eventually she sat down with a tear trickling down her cheek, Binky felt bad but he really wanted to win.

He started to search again but his heart wasn't in it, not when Ivy had nothing. Easter was about kindness after all. Binky walked over to his little sister.

“Here you go,” he said, tipping the contents of his basket into hers. Ivy squealed with delight and hugged her brother, the happiest little panda in the world.

Ivy won the big prize but when they got home, she shared it with Binky.

BY LILY

Top 10 books to read in the holidays

1. Children of Eden by Joey Graceffa
 2. Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins
 3. Really Professional Internet Person by Jenn McCallister
 4. Selp Helf by Miranda Sings
 5. Harry Potter by JK Rowling
 6. The Cursed Child Script by JK Rowling
 7. Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan
 8. Heroes of Olympus by Rick Riordan
 9. A Work in Progress by Connor Franta
 10. Note to Self by Connor Franta
- By Bethany



MINECRAFT CONVENTION IN NEWCASTLE

Nethermind is a Minecraft convention. It was its third year being held in the Newcastle University Student Union. Every year Youtubers are invited to come and meet fans. Some of the sponsors this year were: Granger Games, Computer Planet and Hitbox. Some of the Youtubers that went are: wolfem, phoenixgg2, SirCutieYuki, dangthatsalongname, seapeekay, theorionsounds, cheridet, theturkeydinosaur, jacksucksatlfe. This year it was held on the 11th of February. Originally it was meant to be the 11th and 12th but due to some problems the Sunday was cancelled and so everyone with a ticket for Sunday was invited to come on the Saturday instead.

I was at the convention with my mum. Before the event I looked around the stalls selling games, broaches, plushes and more. At around 11:00am the Youtubers came out and did a meet and greet, signing stuff, and they were extremely kind and happy. After the meet and greet we watched theturkeydino and jacksucksatlfe do a one-against-one on Minecraft.
By Emma-Jane

What happens at Cadets?

We managed to get an interview with the Coldstream Guards Northumbrian Army Cadets based in Amble. Sgt. Craik, Sgt. Cassidy, Cadet Stewart and Cadet Wilkinson came in to talk to us.

What is your favorite aspect of cadets?
Cadet Wilkinson: My favorite part is first aid because you can help people who are injured and you can save somebody's life. In school, you can help people and the teachers know what you're doing
Cadet Stewart: Probably drill.
What are the responsibilities of a cadet?
Courage – mental or physical, discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty and selfless commitment

Roughly how many ranks are there?
There are eight NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) ranks.
What do cadets offer young people?
It's a good experience for young people. In cadets, we can do first aid, drill, and shooting. Outside cadets, we do Cadet in Community where we go to places to help.
What's the most dangerous thing you've ever done?

It's not really a dangerous thing, we take safety very seriously. The most dangerous thing would be either shooting or field craft.

When do you get rifles?
After extensive training, so don't expect to turn up and get to shoot stuff.
Where do you shoot the rifles?
We can do it in detachment, but we do more when on camp.
What are the requirements for joining?
12 years old. Willing. Can-do attitude. If you're aged 12 – 18 and interested, come with a parent or adult on a Tues or Thurs at 6.50pm, to be shown around.
By George-Anne Carnegie



I-r: Cadets Stewart, Wilkinson & Carnegie, with Sgt Cassidy



Easter egg run

The Northumbria Easter Egg run held by local bikers' groups passed through Amble on April 15.

486 local bikers rode from Woodhorn to Blyth via Amble, Alnwick, Bedlington and Bebside.

Easter eggs were collected for children in North East hospitals.

£516.08 collected is to be donated to SOS Support Our Soldiers.

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Hauxley Parish Council

Planning issues

The last County Council meeting agreed that the draft Northumberland Core Strategy should go to the Secretary of State for public examination before the final stage of adoption, hopefully by the end of the year. Northumberland has not had a strategic, county wide, planning framework since 2009. Government removed the regional strategy. They also introduced a "presumption in favour of development" and have an aspiration to build 1 million new homes across England by 2020. All of this, and the recovery of the housing market, means Amble is at the centre of several market driven proposals for new development.

Proposed Housing Development

Representatives from Cheviot Holdings Ltd. and Barton Willmore attended the Parish Council meeting on Monday 13 March 2017. They gave a presentation on the proposed development on land adjacent to Percy Drive. Approximately 125 of the 275 houses will fall within the Hauxley Parish. During the lengthy question and answer session local residents and Councillors expressed joint concerns around the environment, flooding, the impact on local infrastructure including education and health, increased traffic and blurring the parish boundary with Amble. Hauxley Parish Council requested open dialogue throughout the whole process and requested to be consulted on all matters.

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 4 May 2017 for Northumberland County and Hauxley Parish Councils.

Flooding issues

The drain that previously flooded has been cleared and now appears to operate well. The pipe outfall on to the beach has now had a non return flap fitted that should prevent sand and other debris from entering and blocking the pipe. However, the water table in the parish still remains high and Hauxley Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Northumberland Day

Northumberland Day takes place on 28 May 2017 and is the first of what is hoped to be an annual event. The Northumberland Flag is to be erected in Hauxley, and the event will be earmarked for further planning next year. We would welcome any suggestions from residents in the parish for future events.

Thank you to Robert Arkless

Hauxley Parish Council would like to thank Councillor Robert Arkless for his work and dedication over the years. It has been much appreciated and we all wish him the very best in this new chapter.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is 6.30pm on Monday 8 May in the Village Hall, Low Hauxley.

Parish Clerk: Vicki Smith 11 Acklington Road,
Amble, NE65 0NF Tel: 07875445495
Email: Hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk

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

Tiny Woods football events



Above: Former Newcastle United star Olivier Bernard was one of the special guests meeting and inspiring young budding footballers who attended Tiny Woods' Easter Camp.

Futsal, the indoor small sided football game, supported by FIFA and UEFA, starts again on Wednesday at JCSC from 5pm to 6pm. Open for both boys and girls, of all abilities, 4-13 years old. £3 per session.

They came, they saw, they dusted

Following the success of the 'Dusting the Dunes' event to mark the Queen's 90th birthday, Northumberland Wildlife Trust issued a call for volunteers to join in another clean-up at two of its reserves on Druridge Bay - Creswell Foreshore and Creswell Pond.

Staff members were overwhelmed by the number of volunteers who turned up and the amount of rubbish collected. There were teams from Northumberland Fisheries Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Balfour Beatty and members of the public.

In a little over two hours almost 219 kg of rubbish was collected. Items included lorry tyres, large petrol and oil cans, dustbins, pallets, ropes, metal shelving and a carpet. Most upsetting was a fulmar seabird which was wrapped up in a fishing line which had hooked into its

mouth and which was attached by more fishing line to a seagull.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust and its supporters are committed to keeping Druridge Bay looking its best by regularly collecting hundreds of kilograms of rubbish along the coastline. Litter that is dropped at the beach can trap or hurt wild animals, as was discovered during this litter pick. It can also injure dogs when they are running along the dunes.

Aurelie Bohan, Northumberland Wildlife Trust Living Seas Officer who organised the clean-up said: "Even a few years ago, litter was not the problem that it is today, especially along our coastline. Food packaging, plastic bottles and takeaway meal trays have all contributed to a growing menace that affects our wildlife, streets, countryside and coastline, so please take your rubbish home with you."



Above: litter pickers in Amble Town Square. The Town Council leads a regular litter pick throughout the town. Next dates are 24 May and 10 June. Meet at 10am in the Town Square.

Welcome to spring, well and truly. The daffodils are out, the trees are in bud, the clocks have changed and the sun has shown itself, all very welcome signs of brighter days.

In the last edition I said we were waiting for a decision on whether the town had been successful in being awarded Coastal Community status, well I'm pleased to say our application along with Berwick's was successful. Receiving this news meant we had to assemble a team who wanted to aid the compilation of an economic Development Plan for the town which would cover any proposed developments for, at least the next five years.

While our plan was focussing on the economy and job creation, we couldn't have foreseen the sudden unprecedented interest in housing development.

Yes, the land that is in proposed developments for Amble was identified within NCC's core strategy, but the number of houses is considerably more than anyone could have expected.

During the consultations the main objection raised has been about the ability of current infrastructure to cope with the level

of increased demand that would be placed on it, and strong representations have been made to this effect by groups, organisations and representative bodies.

Back to our Economic Plan; the steering group comprises representatives from Amble Town and Northumberland County Councils, ARCH, Northumberland Tourism, Amble Business Club, Warkworth Harbour Commissioners, NIFCA and ADT. Other representatives will be invited to attend future quarterly meetings.

Our plan concentrated on identifying projects that could create employment and training which is the main criteria for any funding application now. But we needed to be creative in doing this to ensure we achieved what the community requires as well as capturing the attention of assessors with something innovative.

So after a few weeks of consideration, writing and rewriting the plan has been submitted the Department for Communities and Local Government for their sign off and inclusion on the CCT website. We will be producing a précis of the plan for anyone who wishes to see what has been included or if in need of a little night time reading, the

full document can be made available.

On the subject of DCLG (Department for Community and Local Government), Ann and Richard have received a letter of commendation for the entry to coastal high street/independent manager category - film crew still awaited!

Anna's Code Club has gone from strength to strength, with regular attendees enjoying the learning process.

Electrical and plumbing work has been carried out at the welfare pavilion. Further work will continue in the shower area and then decorating can commence. We're getting there slowly but surely.

And finally the Lobster Hatchery equipment has arrived and will be fully commissioned by the time you get to read this article. As there are scientific processes involved as well as strict reporting procedures, staff training will take place at the beginning of May. We will however be open at Easter - there won't be too much to see, but the hatchery principles and processes can be discussed with anyone who is interested.

Julia and trust staff
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Let's get active

Now spring is here Northumberland County Council and One You are encouraging adults to enjoy the outdoors and move more. Nationally, around half of women and a third of men are damaging their health through a lack of physical activity; however, everyone can make positive changes to their health by becoming more active.

Adults are being encouraged to aim for at least 10 - 30 minutes of brisk walking each day. This can be smaller bursts of activity spread throughout the day, for example, getting off the bus a stop early to walk further, taking the stairs instead of the lift or trying to walk to places rather than drive.

Just ten minutes of brisk walking every day can get your heart pumping and can make you feel more energetic, as well as lowering your risk of serious illnesses like heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

To help people on their journey to become more active, One You have launched an App to download, Active10, which tracks users walking, recording the time spent walking and how fast. The app allows users to set activity targets and monitors progress, showing the time spent walking and the time spent walking briskly.

To download the Active10 app, visit the Google Play or Apple app store and search 'Active10'.

Fisheries Local Action Group launched



A new local partnership group has been launched. The Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) is led by Northumberland County Council, and supported by North Tyneside Council.

Members of the group, along with officers from Northumberland County Council, North Tyneside Council, NIFCA and the Marine Management Organisation, officially signed a commitment to the group in the Old Low Light Building, North Shields.

Those present met the newly appointed FLAG project officer Simon Baxter, a former harbour master for Warkworth Harbour Commission. This was followed by a short tour of the local fishing quay, and a small celebration.

The group is one of six in England that have £800,000 European Maritime Fisheries Funding available as a grant. This is available to support harbours, ports, fishermen, wholesalers and processors.

FLAG is made up of partners from the private, public and voluntary sectors that have an interest and knowledge of the fishing and

aquaculture sector.

Councillor Robert Arkless, chairman of the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, said: "This new group is excellent news for the north-east's fishing industry. It is one of our greatest assets, and it is important that we do everything we can to safeguard it."

Norma Redfearn of North Tyneside said: "I am really pleased that the group has been launched. In North Tyneside we have fishing communities in Cullercoats and North Shields and it is important that these and others in the region are given the support they need."

The event was also attended by the Creel Club, that supports local fishing in the area. They had a stand giving out information, and you can find out more on their website <http://northumberlandseafood.co.uk/creel-fish-club/>

To find out more about becoming a FLAG member or how to apply for FLAG funding, contact Simon Baxter at Simon.Baxter@northumberland.gov.uk or call 01670 623919.



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Harbour Lights to sing at Festival

In September Amble's community choir will join with hundreds of singers and choirs from across the UK to take part in 'Sing for Water' at the Thames Festival. The concert is to raise funds for the charity WaterAid. The programme features songs written or arranged by women composers, including Harbour Lights' new choir leader Sarah Gray.

Sarah's song, 'Lights', was specially written for the Amble choir. It describes a cold evening's walk at the mouth of the Coquet watching the swans floating back up river as the tide turns and the wind makes you hunch your shoulders and shiver.

"We couldn't miss the opportunity to sing our song on the banks of the Thames," said choir member Vivienne Dalglish.

Sarah Gray is a singer, song writer and vocal coach working in Northumberland, Cumbria and the Scottish Borders. Harbour Lights meet in the Parish Hall from 7.00pm on Thursdays during term time.

We all take clean water for granted, but that is not the case for everyone. WaterAid works with local partners and communities to improve access to clean water and sanitation and promote good hygiene in places where that is not the norm. It only costs £15 to give one person access to clean water for life.

Killie Bridge reopens

The big news at Warkworth Golf Club is that members no longer have to take the 500m walk from the 5th tee-box to the fairway, as the new Killie Bridge is open. The 17 months since the previous bridge, erected in 1971, came to an untimely end, have seen members plan, design and fabricate off-site and finally erect the replacement. Green-keeper Alan Dalby's wood-working skills have been crucial as has the assistance of many members. A formal opening is planned for May. George Robertson, a member of 50 year's standing and who was closely involved with the 'old' bridge has been elected as an honorary life-member of the Club.

On Easter Saturday, 15 April, the new men's captain, Graham Sawley drove into office. Graham has got lots of ideas for the season. Lady Captain, Christine Douglas will have her day a little later into the season. The match play team have high hopes for the season after last year being third division champions. Similarly the Saturday Field day players think this could be their year.

The Club is always keen to see new players, especially juniors. The juniors have coaching from a PGA professional and these sessions are open to non-members who just fancy trying out the game. Any junior interested in coming to a coaching session without any obligation should contact the Club Secretary on secretary@warkworthgolfclub.co.uk

Coquet Canoe Club

Summer is here (we hope) - why not get afloat? We meet at the Shorebase on the Braid on Sundays at 10am - beginners of all ages and abilities are welcome, and juniors have their own sessions. You don't need any kit as it is all available for hire. Just bring old trainers, a warm fleece and bathing costume and borrow one of our long-john wetsuits and a cagoule (not forgetting the all important buoyancy aid).

All sessions are run by qualified British Canoeing Coaches. It's only £6 per session to hire all the kit, and if you want to join the club, it's not expensive.

If windsurfing is your thing, the Coquet Windsurfing Club meets on the lake at Druridge Bay Country Park (next to the Visitor Centre) on Saturdays from around 10.30 am, with the same way of working. Coquet Sailing Club meets at the Lake on Sundays.

If you want a bit of help starting,

we run guided tours of the estuary (we take the rising tide up the river to the Hermitage, and drift back with the ebb. No previous experience is needed, and the guides will help you learn about canoeing and kayaking as well. Sit on top kayaks, open canoes or double seaters. There is plenty of choice.

We also run Powerboat courses. You can get your RYA Powerboat Level 2 certificate over a weekend, useful if you want to hire boats abroad, or if you have your own boat it can reduce insurance premiums.

You can also come to the lake and hire a sit-on-top kayak or open canoe. Just call the office (01665 710367) or drop us an email (info@coquetshorebase.org.uk), or just drop in if you are passing.

Make this the year when you get on the water and enjoy yourself with good company: www.coquetshorebase.org.uk



Above: President of Amble Bowls club Maisie Donkin launches the new season. A new seating area has also been opened this year. New members are always welcome and the annual membership has been capped at £60. Any further information required, please contact the secretary/ coach Carol Nelson on 01665 711236 or the Club direct on 07543012137. Bowls and equipment are always available for you to try it out; all you need bring is flat sole shoes. Hope to see you there.

Bid to stop off road biking on the dunes

Operation Scrambler is a joint partnership between Northumbria Police, Northumberland County Council and The National Trust to stop off road motor bikes and quad bikes from riding on sand dunes and the beaches between Cresswell and Alnmouth.

Some of this land is owned by the council and some by The National Trust. Riding motor bikes and quad bikes in this area causes damage to these natural habitats and huge annoyance to other members of the public in the area for a nice day out.

It is an offence to ride a motor bike or quad bike on land without the landowners permission. Further signage is being put up showing that riding motor bikes and quad bikes is prohibited.

Officers from Amble, Morpeth and Ashington Neighbourhood Policing Teams will be making extra patrols along this coastal area and where persons are caught they will be issued with what is known as a Section 59 Warning. This is part of the Police Reform Act of 2002. Where a person is driving a car or riding

a motor bike off road and is causing alarm, harassment or distress to members of the public they can be issued with a warning by police. If the same person or same vehicle is caught for a second time in similar circumstances by police then they will have their vehicle seized and taken away. The owner will then have to pay to get the vehicle back and if they can not afford it then the vehicle can be crushed.

If you see any motor bikes or quad bikes being unloaded or ridden in these areas, please ring 101 and report it.

Donations from Rotary

Amble and Warkworth Rotary has presented cheques from the proceeds of the Christmas Collection. The first, for £75 was presented by Rotarian Derek Conway to Susan Swanston for the Puffin Lounge where Dementia sufferers and their carers can meet on a Drop-In basis on alternate Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm at St Marks URC Hall for tea and chat and games. There is no charge.

The second a cheque for £250 to the North of England Refugee Service. The service is run by volunteers who look after refugees from arrival to settlement. Over 1700 refugees used the service throughout the North of England in 2016.

The Rotary Club's next major event is the "Garden Party" at The Friary, Alnmouth on Sunday 28 May 2pm - 4.30pm. Admission, to include refreshments, is £4 and children are free. Plant Stall, Tombola, Raffle and Garden Games in a stunning location.

Members of the Interact Club (Junior Rotary), based at the James Calvert Spence College, recently donated £600 to buy a Shelterbox. A Shelterbox provides essential

equipment and shelter to enable a family to survive until they are able to rebuild their homes and their lives following a natural disaster such as the recent mud slide in Mocoa, Colombia.

A typical Shelterbox contains a tent, sleeping bags, blankets, cooking utensils, mosquito nets, tools, solar lighting and activity sets for children. When a Shelterbox is sent the contents are decided according to the needs.



Interact members at James Calvert Spence College with Rotarian Peter Tracey

Rotarian Peter Tracey from Newcastle Rotary Club visited the James Calvert Spence College and set up a tent and displayed the contents of a Shelterbox for members of Interact and other pupils to see what their money was buying.



Staircase to...?

These enigmatic steps lead to an abrupt stop. Perhaps to closer admire the lovely fence which separates Coquet Grange and JCSC South Avenue (middle school site).

Any idea why Persimmon would build steps to nowhere? Conspiracy theories via email please...

Warkworth Show AGM

The AGM of the Warkworth Show was held in the Memorial Hall, Warkworth on 9 February with President Tom Pattinson in the chair. Dr. Sally Sample presented a review of the 2016 show. Then treasurer Dr. Alan Conn presented the annual accounts revealing that the show was in a sound financial position.

Sally Black highlighted that there were over one thousand entries in the industrial categories which cover art, crafts, baking, children's works, photography and written works.

John Howie presented the Horticultural Committee report and noted an increase in the number of younger entrants at last year's show. Show Chairman, Chris Howliston thanked the officers and committees for their support and considerable efforts, which ensured a successful show and preparations are already underway for 2017.

Mr. Howliston said, "For a village our size it is a real community effort to put on such a substantial event and though a small number of dedicated people take on a very great part of that burden, the range of additional volunteers enables us to keep going and provide a thoroughly enjoyable day out for visitors and exhibitors".

In recognition of many years as a senior horticulture judge, the meeting elected Tommy Swan a Vice-President.

This year's show will take place on Saturday 19 August at Warkworth Castle. Further information: Derek Conway on 07515 419050 or email derek@derekconway.com

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Amble Town

COUNCIL

Meetings 6pm unless stated otherwise:
Annual meeting May 11 followed by council meeting
Town: June 8 Amenities: May 25, June 29

COMMUNITY LITTERPICK

Another diary date – Wednesday 24th May 6pm. The previous two community litter picks of 2017 have been well attended. Please come along and join us helping to 'reach those hot spots.' Meet in the Town Square, collect your bag, gloves etc., pick your spot and off you go for a hour or so! NCC and Town Council are currently looking at some larger bins to alleviate the litter problem in Leazes Street.

We all like to see clean streets yet some seem to delight in just throwing litter down for 'them' to pick up. So we are asking YOU to be the 'them' and give a little amount of your time taking pride in your town. Let's get it clean for the Puffin Festival and encourage everyone to keep it that way.

ELECTIONS

Please remember to vote on 4th May; this is your chance to choose your County Councillors. The opportunity only comes every four years.

Those who were nominated for the Town Council were elected unopposed: Central Ward- Jane Dargue, Martin Horn and Kate Morrison; East Ward: Helen Lewis, Ian Parks and Craig Weir; West Ward: Ian Hinson, Tracy Hinton and Jeff Watson.

After 8th May we look forward to working together to get the best for Amble. All are volunteers who willing give their time to help Amble thrive.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Recently there have been public consultation sessions about some proposed housing developments for the town.

Many have quoted NCC Core Strategy as 650 houses for Amble from 2011 up to 2031, whereas if granted these plans will see over 1000 dwellings in that period. These are guidelines only and the government's policy is to encourage more homes to be built.

Concerns have been raised about how the town's facilities will cope, but all utility, highways and environment departments are involved in the consultations; expansion of health facilities are currently based on population and are within the remit of the NHS. Some believe the extra population will encourage businesses, increase employment prospects and add to the leisure facilities.

We encourage everyone to look carefully at the plans and accompanying documentation when they are finalised and permission is requested. You can then consider all the aspects of each plan and use your own thoughts and local knowledge to respond for or against as part of the planning process.

WAR MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER REPAIRS

We have appointed an accredited conservation specialist who is drawing up the tender for the necessary works. Our aim is to submit a grant application by the end of June. We hope that all the preferred specialists will be able to do the work in late August and September so that everything is done for this year's Remembrance Day service, otherwise it will be done in spring. We are grateful to those who have and are supporting the public fundraising towards the cost of the repairs. A justgiving.com fundraising page for individual contributions and a scheme to fill piggybanks by 30th July with a prize for the one who raises the most money is the latest idea. Money from the Town Council's July commemorative event for Passchendaele will also be added to these funds.

DEFIBRILLATORS

The town currently has two community defibrillators which are located at James Calvert Spence College on Acklington Road and the Sports Development Club (Boy's Club) Percy Street.

They are designed to be used by untrained people to provide a shock that basically shocks the heart to stop so that it can start rhythmically contracting again. Using this while waiting for an ambulance increases the survival chances of someone who has suffered a cardiac arrest. It is hoped more may be available within the town in the future.

CCTV

New CCTV cameras are being erected on Queen Street, from the junction with High Street to that with Coquet Street; at Paddlers Park and in Percy Drive. The system has Automatic Numberplate Recognition (ANR) and more cameras can be added in future. It has cost over £20,000 which includes regular maintenance of the cameras and a 24 hour access to the installer, Alncom, should a fault arise. The cameras deliver live imagery straight to remote operators as well as to police hand held devices.

QUEEN STREET AND ONE WAY SYSTEM

Soon everything will be completed: cobbles removed, new surfaces laid, parking areas marked, street furniture painted, signage erected. All that remains is to decide on is the Sustrans Cycle Route. This is a national route which runs along Leazes Street in both directions. Many local organisations and individuals suggested it be changed so that cyclists were not travelling against the one way system. Although legal, this could be dangerous. While we await this hoped for change, please continue to be careful as you travel by car or cycle along this section.

HONORARY FREEMAN/ FREEWOMAN

We are introducing the above as from time to time, members of the community show outstanding commitment and contribution to the wellbeing of the Town over a long period of time. We feel their efforts should be acknowledged.

A nominee, from a voluntary or salaried capacity, must have made an outstanding contribution to the Town such that it can be seen to stand above the contributions made by most other people. A successful nominee would receive a scroll and a pin and be invited to all civic events.

PADDLERS PARK

We are experiencing some drainage problems with the water feature and until these are resolved we cannot turn on the water on. In May, the children's play area will be fenced off as all the old 'wetpour' safety surface is being removed and new installed.

Picking holes in it makes it look terrible but it becomes unsafe for youngsters to climb, swing etc.

For the play area to remain open, the surface has to be renewed but the work is costing almost £12,000!

Please stop anyone you see trying to damage this.

EAST WARD:

Robert Arkless,
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

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Elaine Brown Town Clerk

Minutes available to view in Office or online



I-r: Roy Davison, Co-op Funeralcare, Deborah Lee, manager Queen St Co-op; Noah Armstrong from Amble Code Club; Becky Haig, manager, Harbour Co-op and Anna Williams, Amble Development Trust

Amble Code Club were presented with a cheque for £2,372.46 from the Co-op Community Fund. Amble Code Club applied for, and was chosen to benefit from the new community fund which goes to local causes. Every time Co-op members buy Co-op branded products and services, 1% of their spend goes to a local cause. Amble Code Club organiser Anna Williams said: "We are so grateful to the Co-op Community Fund and all Amble Co-op members, who have helped us with this amazing donation."

Dinosaur keeps Jesus company

For the fourth year both Amble Links and Amble First schools were invited to Experience Easter at St. Cuthbert's Church. In all, over 200 children came. For some it was the fourth time but for some it was the first.

There were six stations around the church telling the Easter story. At each was a storyteller. The children visited each one and at the end were given a stamp to put on a card. As they could not visit the stations in order, the stamps were in order so that they could remember how the story unfolded.

Most who had been before could remember something from previous visits. For example they all said they remembered the bread at "Remember me" and dipping their finger in the water at "Servant King". At the "Alone" site, which was the Garden of Gethsemane they were invited to make little figures so that Jesus was not alone. This year apart from figures of people we had snails, snakes, wolves and even a dinosaur. Once again all the storytellers had a lovely time meeting the children and telling the story.

Thanks must go to Penny Horseman for organising the event and we look forward to next year.

Peter Cordingley on behalf of the storytellers

Sarah's a winner at a losing game!

While most people would be offended to be called a 'loser', one woman from Amble is over the moon to have been named the town's 'Greatest Loser' of 2017.

Sarah Douglas has lost a life-changing 4st 7lbs to take the title, which is awarded to the member of the Amble Slimming World group who has lost the most weight, and feels fabulous as a result.

Sarah, who's gone from 15st 12.5lb to 11st 5.5lb says: "There's absolutely nothing wrong with being a loser when it feels this good! I feel like a new woman since losing weight, in fact, I look so different that people who I haven't seen for a while often can't believe I'm the same person. For me though it's the change on the inside that's been the greatest, I'm happier, healthier and much more confident now."

The proud 46-year-old who joined the Amble group

says: "Before I lost the weight I hated having my photo taken and whenever I saw pictures of myself I knew that my smile wasn't real. My weight impacted on so many aspects of my life, from struggling to find clothes that I like to fit to not being able to do simple everyday tasks

without feeling tired and out of breath."

After hearing about the group from her sister, Karen, Sarah decided to join her local Slimming World group at the Parish Hall. She says: "Walking through those doors was one of the hardest things I've ever done. I needn't have worried though, everyone there was so friendly especially my consultant Rachael and I was so relieved when I found out that my

weight was confidential between me and her. Sarah followed the club's Food Optimising eating plan and swapped takeaway curries for

homemade. She says: "People think slimming means going hungry, eating nothing but salad or obsessively counting every calorie you eat, but it's not like that at Slimming World. I love food and it's never once felt like I was on 'a diet.' In fact, people are always surprised at how much food I have on my plate and can't believe I'm losing weight eating so much delicious food and without ever feeling hungry."

"I still enjoy all my favourite meals like burgers and chips and roast dinners but I've learned how to make small changes like using lean meat or cooking with low calorie spray instead of oil or butter."

Today Sarah's lost a total of 4st 7lb and gone from a size 24 to a size 12. She's also more active and regularly takes part in the Druridge Bay park run.

Rachael Green, who runs the Amble Slimming World group, says: "The changes we've seen in Sarah are incredible. I hope her success will inspire other people in Amble who'd like to lose weight by forming new lifestyle habits and become happier and healthier to take action. There's a warm welcome waiting at Slimming World and, just think, if you start today you could feel like a completely new person just



Sarah Douglas used to hate having her photo taken



Now Sarah has lost 4 st 7 lbs at Amble Slimming Club. She says people can't believe she is the same woman

like Sarah."

The Amble group meets every Saturday at 8:30am at the Parish Hall. To join call Rachael on 07584 568286 or pop along.

Quilts at Belsay

An exhibition of quilting work from around the region will feature work by quilters from Amble. Members of Funky Needlework, based at the Old Fourways, will be showing some of their needlework at Belsay Hall in an exhibition by the Durham, Tyne & Wear and Northumberland region of the Quilter's Guild of the British Isles.

The event runs from Sat 13 May – Sun 21 May, 10am -5pm. English Heritage admission charges apply

One of the Amble quilters said: "We usually have upwards of 200 items on display - quilts, wall hangings, pictures, cushions, bags etc. all made locally by members of our region covering Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and Durham.

"They will be on show at Belsay Hall from 13 to 21 May. We will also have a display of Linus quilts made for children in hospital and refuges - the Linus project was set up in 2000 to provide quilts for children in hospices, hospital and refuges and the quilts are theirs to keep. (The name comes from the Peanuts character Linus who always carries his comfort blanket).

"There will also be a display of work from our Young Quilters - children up to the age of 16 who have produced some lovely items; and a display of work from our beginners' classes running in Amble and Beamish Museum.

"The quilts always look wonderful in Belsay Hall - it makes a great backdrop for them and this is our 9th exhibition. We are very grateful to English Heritage for allowing us to use the Hall."

Helen Pringle, Coordinator

Right: one of the Amble quilts on display at Belsay



Amble WI event

Amble WI is hosting a day on 6 May regarding the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). They have strong links with the National Federation of Women's Institutes who regularly donate funds to them in the form of 'pennies for friendship'.

The event is to be held at the Masonic Hall, Gloster Terrace, Amble, starting at 10.30 for coffee then a talk by Hazel Armstrong, Project Worker about where the pennies go, a lunch of soup and fruit is provided, then Hazel will share some of the information regarding recent projects she has worked on.

The event is open to anyone and costs £5.

Through the lens photo exhibition

St.Cuthbert's Church in association with Amble Photographic Group. In the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street as follows;

Saturday 29 April 2pm to 4pm

Sunday 30 April 1pm to 4pm

Monday 1 May 11am to 3pm

Prize giving will be at 2.30pm on Monday 1 May.

For the Peoples' Prize there will be voting slips for the public to vote for their favourite.

Refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle.

Entry is free but donations would be appreciated.

Peter Cordingley on behalf of the organising committee

Beaconsfield concert

On Friday May 5 at 7.30pm in Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Street. Come and enjoy 'A night at the Tonys.' It features songs from the prestigious Tony Awards, from the Beaconsfield Operatic Society.

Tickets £4.00, includes refreshments. (available from N&F Young, Queen St.) There will also be a raffle.

Local charity seeks volunteers

A north east charity, supporting 200,000 visitors to north east prisons each year, is seeking new volunteers to help support families and children of prisoners.

Nepacs has worked across the north east region for over 135 years to help support a future for prisoners and families.

The charity's existing team of volunteers provide a range of services in all seven prisons in the north east and in the community. They are now calling for more volunteers to help provide support to children and families at HMP Northumberland's visitors' centre and with their family support service in the prison. The charity is looking for volunteers to:

- Help run their tea bars – serving refreshments in the visitors' centre to families and in the visits hall during the visit
- Provide a warm welcome, support and information within the visitors' centre to families visiting their relatives in prison
- Help run the play areas within the visitors' centre and visits hall – providing games and activities for children during normal and special family visits
- Support their family support programme which helps the family throughout the time their partner/relative is in prison, and their new Heading Home programme which works with the family and the person in prison to plan for their release.

Emma Price, Nepacs volunteer coordinator, said: "Our team of volunteers are dedicated to helping prisoners' families across the north east, but we need more volunteers to ensure we can offer the best support possible, particularly in Northumberland which due to its location can be difficult to access.

"The impact of imprisonment on children and families can be devastating and visiting court or prison for the first time can be quite difficult. Our volunteers offer a welcome and someone to chat to, which is particularly important for people who are going into the unknown and are facing a place and situation they may never have thought they would ever be."

Emma added: "If you think you could support us by volunteering and would like to be part of a team that helps to make a difference to the lives of prisoners' families please get in touch with the manager, Adrienne Ruddock for an informal chat, by telephone on 01670 383736 or email aruddock@nepacs.co.uk. All of our volunteers are offered travel expenses and receive relevant training and support."

Details of the full range of volunteer opportunities with Nepacs are on their website www.nepacs.co.uk

Royal British Legion

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 at 7pm Warkworth War Memorial Hall.

The speaker for the evening will be Ian McArdle who will give a PowerPoint presentation on the Battle of Verdun, France. WW1. Everyone welcome!

Non-members – Suggested donation £2.50 to Poppy Appeal to include supper.

Lifeboat naming ceremony invite

Everyone is invited to the naming ceremony of our new Shannon class lifeboat ELIZABETH AND LEONARD on Saturday 27 May 4pm. Thank you for all your support.

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 the following dates between 10.00am and 1.00pm

21 May, 18 June, 16 July.

Other up and coming events include Harbour Day on Sunday 27 August. Once again we would like to thank the community for all of the support you give us and if you would like to help us in our fundraising for 2017 please email Jill: jill.faulconbridge@gmail.com

Acklington Art Group

The Acklington Art Group are holding an exhibition of their work on Sunday 21 May from 11-4pm in Acklington Village Hall Free entry.

Crafts and refreshments available

Hauxley Chapel Services

Sunday May 30 Rev. Jim Magee.

Sunday May 7 Rev. Lynda Coulthard. Holy Communion.

Sunday May 14 Rev. Ron Forster.

Sunday May 21 Area Service 4pm, Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval. No service at Hauxley.

Sunday May 28 Mrs Sarah Mitchell.

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

If you would like to get in touch with one of us, please contact:

Rev. Lynda Coulthard, Trinity Methodist Church, Amble, on 01665 713251, or Tim and Rachel Jones on 01665 712467.

Alnwick & District Choral Society

Come and sing. Mozart's Requiem Sunday 18 July. Come and take part in a performance of this glorious piece of music even if you've never sung it before. Our Music Director, Peter Brown will keep us moving in the right direction, with the accompaniment of organist Alan Gidney.

In addition to the Sunday rehearsal you are also welcome to join our rehearsals at 7.15pm on Wed 7 and 14 June, Swansfield Park Primary school, Alnwick NE66 1UH, where you will have an opportunity to warm up your voices, become more familiar with the music, and beat the rush by collecting music in advance.

Sunday rehearsal and performance in St. Paul's Church, Percy Street, Alnwick.

Registration, complimentary tea and coffee, secure room for possessions in The Mechanics' Institute (opposite the entrance to St. Paul's Church) Cost: £10 (includes loan of music if needed)

£3 for audience participation at the performance

Donation to "Singing for Syrians" appeal.

Novello version of the score will be used.

For more information go to alnwickchoralsociety.co.uk

Amble Pin Cushion charity total

Amble Pin Cushion wish to thank everyone who took part in the Acharity event in March.

We raised a total of £92.65 in our raffle and tombola which was held from 11 to 18 March. Proceeds will go to support Indian orphanages and destitute children in South India. In a caring environment they are fed, clothed and educated to enable them to escape the poverty trap and build better lives for themselves and their families. Support is also given to a school which gives over 300 children living in slum conditions a free education and a daily meal. You can find out more about the charity at www.faithwelfaretrust.org

Norma Miles, Amble Pin Cushion



**Live, Laugh & Learn
in Northumberland**



Northumberland College will be running some
fun leisure courses
in Amble from April to July.

*These include Watercolours, Crochet and
Photography.*

We are also delivering lots of exciting courses
in other venues
across Northumberland.

Find out more by visiting
www.northumberland.ac.uk
or contact Karen Clough
karen.clough@northland.ac.uk
01670 841200 ext. 425



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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 fun: the events so far...

For times and more information on these activities, please check www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk
You can find us on Twitter @AmblePuffinFest and Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmblePuffinFestival. More activities will be announced in the run up to the Festival. During the Festival, there will be daily updates in the Town Square, Harbour Village and on the puffin boards around town. *Events and times may be subject to change.*

27 - 29
May

Sat 27 May

Kite display on the Braid.

Fair in the Square. Craft + food stalls and children's amusements in the Town Square

Morning history walk: with Harry McQuillen and Bart Rippon. Meet at Town Sq 10am

Mini beer festival at Coquet Yacht Club.

Stand up Paddleboard taster sessions. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.

Samba drumming and workshops. in the Town Square & Queen Street.

Football based activity with Tiny Woods Football Academy at Welfare Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Puffins ahoy! Live feed/video footage of puffins and wildlife on Coquet Island. In the Town Square.

Puffintastic Crafts. Puffin-themed crafts. At the Seafood Centre. £2. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Find out about Puffins, how they live & a secret! Suitable for children 7 - 12 yrs. £1.50pp Venue TBC. Children must be accompanied by an adult

Go canoeing with Coquet Shorebase Trust: Come and try it at Ladyburn Lake, Druridge Bay £3 Just turn up. All ages: parental consent required for U16s.

Explore the Coquet Estuary by canoe/kayak: at Coquet Shorebase Trust. No previous experience needed. Ring 01665 710367

Naming of the Lifeboat. Join Amble RNLI for the official naming of the new Shannon lifeboat "Elizabeth & Leonard". At the Quayside 4pm.
EVENING EVENT*: Coastal Rowing Club *Puffin festival ceilidh* at Masonic Hall 7pm £7 pooled supper. Licensed bar. Tickets available from Amble Development Trust, N+F Young (8 Queen St), and 42 Queen Street.

Sun 28 May

Kite display on the Braid
Fair in the Square. Craft + food stalls and children's amusements in the Town Square.

Puffins ahoy! Live feed/video footage of puffins and wildlife on Coquet Island. In the Town Square.
Find out about Puffins, how they live & a secret! Storytelling from RSPB volunteer Dennis Proctor. Suitable for children 7 - 12 yrs. £1.50pp. Venue TBC. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Puffintastic Crafts. Puffin-themed crafts. At the Seafood Centre. £2. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Mini beer festival at Coquet Yacht Club.

Stand up Paddleboard taster sessions. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.

Harry's Ramble around Amble. Guided history walk with Harry McQuillen. Leaves the Town Square

Puffin Cruises from the Harbour (weather permitting). Booking essential. Ring 01665 711975 or 07752 861914. www.puffincruises.co.uk

at 10am. Approx 1.5hrs. Free.

All Stars Cricket hosted by Warkworth Cricket Club session on the Braid. All equipment supplied. For boys and girls. Suitable up to Year 8.

Cramlington Caribbean Crew steel drums. Throughout the day.
Old Amble including the railway. Afternoon walk with Bart Rippon.

Meet at Seafood Centre. Free.
Explore the Coquet Estuary by canoe/kayak. Meet at Coquet

Shorebase Trust. Ring 01665 710367.
Polly and the Puffin: Sunday Times bestselling author Jenny Colgan, reads her new puffin book for children. At 42 Queen Street. For children 4+. £1 per child, includes gift. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Mon 29 May

Kite display on the Braid

Community day in the Square. Stalls and children's amusements in the Town Square.

Puffins ahoy! Live feed/video footage of puffins and wildlife on Coquet Island. In the Town Square.

Puffintastic Crafts. Puffin-themed crafts. At the Seafood Centre. £2. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Kirkley Hall climbing wall. Next to Town Square £3.

Historia Northumbria. Historical re-enactment of a medieval settlement on Coquet Island, with period instruments, pottery, textiles, etc. In the Town Square.

Stand up Paddleboard taster sessions. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.

Harry's Ramble around Amble. Guided history walk with Harry McQuillen. Leaves Town Sq 10am.

Approx. 1.5hrs. FREE

Music and entertainment, hosted by Bart Rippon. In the Town Sq. Harbour Lights Choir, Tribe Zuza

Rainbow Pottery Painting. At 42 Queen Street.

Kick Start Sports. Throwing, catching, kicking, running & jumping for children. On the Braid. Free.

Mini beer festival midday at Coquet Yacht Club.

Radcliffe Club Family Fun Day. Free entry. Fun and Games with JPS Disco, bring along own picnic all drinks to be purchased from club. Character appearances and family fun.

Radcliffe Club, Charles Rd NE65 0RA
PARRT dog show. On the Braid, by the beacon. Registration from 11am. Show starts at 1pm.

Blessing of the Fleet. Service by Fishermen's Mission North Shield. At Radcliffe Quay (Harbour Village).

Explore the Coquet Estuary by canoe/kayak. Meet at Coquet Shorebase Trust. No previous experience needed. Ring 01665 710367

30 May -
3 June 2016

Puffin fringe

Tuesday 30
May

Harry's Ramble around Amble. Guided history walk with Harry McQuillen. Leaves Town Square 10am. Approx 1.5hrs. Free

Rainbow Pottery Painting. At 42 Queen Street.

Surfing taster sessions. 1hr tuition with Northside Surf School. £10pp. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.

Old Hostelries of Amble. Afternoon history walk with Bart Rippon. Meet at Seafood Centre. Free.

Explore the Coquet Estuary by canoe/kayak. Meet at Coquet Shorebase Trust. Booking advisable. Ring 01665 710367

EVENING EVENT*: Talk with slides: Say hello to the Coquet Puffins. By Paul Morrison RSPB. Top Floor FW2. 7pm £3pp

Wed 31 May

Quilting workshops. At Amble Pin Cushion: Beginner's quilting. 10am - midday Scissor holder in seabird fabric 1.30pm-3.30pm; sewing tidy and pincushion in seabird fabric. £TBC.

Harry's Ramble around Amble. Guided history walk with Harry McQuillen. Leaves Town Square 10am. Approx 1.5hrs. Free
Children's Storytelling with Stephen Finlay. Interactive storytelling for 4 - 12yrs. At Harbour Village. Free

Surfing taster

sessions. 1hr tuition with Northside Surf School. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.
Rainbow Pottery Painting. At 42 Queen Street.

Flowers and birds of Coquet Estuary. Afternoon nature walk with Atholl Swanston. Meet at Town Sq 2pm Free

Explore the Coquet Estuary by canoe/kayak. Meet at Coquet Shorebase Trust. Booking advisable. Ring 01665 710367

EVENING EVENT*: Talk with slides: *The Coble Coast.* By Colin Robson Masonic Hall. 7pm. Licensed bar. £3pp

Thurs 1 June

Harry's Ramble around Amble. Guided history walk with Harry McQuillen. Leaves Town Square 10am. Approx 1.5hrs. Free

Children's Storytelling with Stephen Finlay. Interactive storytelling for 4 - 12yrs. At Harbour Village. Free
Flowers, Butterflies and Birds of the Dunes. Afternoon nature walk with Atholl Swanston. Meet at Town Sq 2pm. Approx 1.5hrs. Free

Surfing taster sessions. 1hr tuition with Northside Surf School. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.

Kite making workshops. At Little Shore. 1.30pm and 3pm. Limited numbers. Pre-booking advisable. Ring 07751229739. £1pp



EVENING EVENT*: Talk with slides: *Now and Then:* Bartle Rippon - Masonic Hall. 7pm. Licenced bar. £3pp

Fri 2 June

Explore the Coquet Estuary by canoe/kayak. Meet at Coquet Shorebase Trust. Booking advisable. Ring 01665 710367

Surfing taster sessions. 1hr tuition with Northside Surf School. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.

Children's Storytelling with Stephen Finlay. Interactive storytelling for 4 - 12yrs. 45 mins. At Harbour Village. Free

Harry's Ramble around Amble. Guided history walk with Harry McQuillen. Leaves Town Square 10am. Approx 1.5hrs. Free
Old Amble incl the railway. Afternoon history walk with Bart Rippon. Meet at Seafood Centre 3pm. Free

EVENING EVENT*: Music and Poetry: *All beak and no flippers:* Philip Stuckey (songwriter) Ian Williams (poet) - Masonic Hall. 7pm. Licenced bar. £3pp

Sat 3rd June

Surfing taster sessions. 1hr tuition with Northside Surf School. Ring Jon to book: 07944398115.

Explore the Coquet Estuary by canoe/kayak. Meet at Coquet Shorebase Trust. Booking advisable. Ring 01665 710367
Come and try canoeing on the Little

Shore. With Coquet Shorebase Trust. £3 (approx 20 mins on water). Just turn up. Suitable for beginners. All ages: parental consent required for U16s

The Colony music festival. Live music from local bands. Refreshments. Children's amusements. 12midday - 8pm at the Little Shore. Free entry.

EVERYDAY

To see the puffins, and thousands of other seabirds, take a Puffin Cruise from the Harbour (weather permitting). Booking essential. Ring 01665 711975 or 07752 861914. www.puffincruises.co.uk

• 'Arty Visits Amble' book sale - available from various outlets. Email helmick72@sky.com or ring 07751 229739.

• Pete the Puffin trail. Where is Pete the Puffin today? In shop windows throughout the town!

• Children's puffin artwork displays in various shop windows

• Fishermen's gansseys display at 42 Queen Street

Tickets for events marked * are available from N & F Young (8 Queen St), and Fourways2, Dilston Terrace. Tickets for talks are also available on the door.

