

The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 90 Dec 2014 / Jan 2015



Anna Williams

Biggest hello to Christmas

Top: Dexter dragon waves to the crowd. The Christmas Lights procession was the biggest Amble has seen. Below clockwise from right: Rianna Waddell switches on the lights, stallholders in festive mood, handmade lanterns filled the street, excited youngster in the parade. *More photos on our website.*



Steve Emerton www.steveemerton.com

Thousands of people turned out to watch Amble's Christmas lights and procession, which was the biggest one yet, say organisers. Queen Street was filled to bursting with happy families watching or taking part in the festive parade. Floats were festooned with fairy lights and filled with shiny happy people. A range of super and furry animals danced and waved to the crowd. Music, drums and a rock and roll band provided a carnival atmosphere for the parade of 120 handmade lanterns made by children from first schools in Amble, Warkworth, Widdrington, Acklington, Red Row and Broomhill.

Amble Christmas Lights Committee had done their usual sterling job with the beautiful lights along Queen Street. Local businesses and groups excelled themselves with festive floats. Others donated time, money and even a Christmas tree for the town.

Earlier in the day, shops along Queen St provided fun and activities, including Santa who spent the afternoon with a queue of youngsters. There were crafts in St Cuthbert's church hall, an angel display in the church and a children's funfair and calypso band in the Town Square.

"Thank you to everyone who helped," said organiser Elaine Brown. "Thanks to the numerous individuals for their tireless and much appreciated efforts, and to the hundreds of families who helped make this such a fantastic occasion."

Organising groups: Amble Town Council Events Committee, Amble Christmas Lights, Amble Development Trust, Amble Business Club. Lanterns by Elaine Porter.



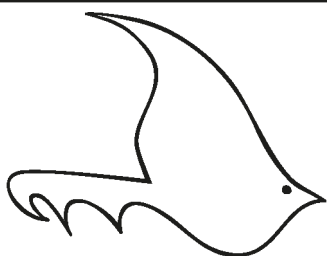
Bartle Rippon



Anna Williams



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Keep a haad

Here we are again at that time of year, when tradition has it we look back and reminisce about the year just gone, then clear away the last of the mince pies and vow to make the year ahead more healthy. In this issue we have articles about the past (p6, p17) photo memories of Remembrance Day (p5) and the opportunity to visit an old friend before they move to shiny new premises (p3).

We have an exclusive report from Amble space scientist Professor Fred Taylor on page 3. It's not every day Amble can boast of a connection with international news - this is a galactic story in every sense of the word!

So what of the year ahead? Hold tight for changes, especially around the harbour. The Harbour Village, the Coble Quay development, parking throughout the town, and the soon-to-be one-way system along Leazes St, are subjects which provoke much debate on our Facebook page. As always, we welcome and encourage your opinions for and against new initiatives and developments in the town, but we do monitor the Facebook page, and will remove comments which may be seen as defamatory or offensive. So please have your say, but remember we are a community page.

Merry Christmas from The Ambler team, and we wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.

Coquet island no longer 'at risk'

The remains of a monastic cell and a medieval tower on Coquet Island have been removed from the Heritage at Risk register after repairs and a grant of £93,000 from English Heritage.

Coquet Island is an RSPB reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with populations of breeding birds including the protected Roseate Terns.

The work to the scheduled monument and listed buildings included urgent stone repairs to the

remains of the medieval monastic range and the medieval tower beneath the lighthouse.

The team used the repairs as a chance to train students in traditional heritage skills such as working with lime mortar and masonry.

The project was 'highly commended' in the building conservation category of the North East RICS Renaissance awards in 2014.

The site is one of 17 in Northumberland no longer on English Heritage's at risk register.

Harbour Village celebrates first residents

Amble Harbour Village is delighted to announce the first phase of the project will launch in December.

We welcome our first five fantastic businesses that will be trading from their Pods, selling a variety of gifts, services and tasty treats.

The businesses are largely existing businesses

looking to expand and develop into Amble, recognising the potential of the town and the exciting opportunity on offer.

There is one start up business, two existing businesses from the local, neighbouring areas, and two businesses expanding from our very own Queen Street!

Boat Shed Gallery

A unique and inspiring range of affordable art, prints and gifts from Northumberland and further afield.

BLUE

A selection of nautical themed gifts & beautiful bespoke cards of local views. Soft sea creature toys for children and other perfect stocking fillers.

The P Pod

Gifts, Gallery & More... Individual Art, Fashion Accessories, Seasonal Ranges & Body Care

Coquet Cottages

Award-winning, luxury cottages located in the most enviable coast and countryside locations of beautiful Northumberland. Short breaks and full weeks available all year round.

The Amble Butcher

Suppliers of locally sourced beef, lamb and Welsh white rare breed pork. We dry cure our own bacon and make our own sausages using recipes and techniques exclusive to Amble Butchers. We have artisan-made 'lush' Northumbrian pies; home cured, roasted and boiled hams and cooked meats: all prepared in house.



Left: The first Pods arriving at the Harbour Village

To mark the first phase of opening, we will be hosting some festive activity down at the Harbour Village.

We are planning tasty treats, gift wrapping for customers purchasing gifts in Amble*, Christmas tunes, and an ice carving display.

Keep your eyes open for posters and online information for all the fun including an ice sculpting display.

See www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk or join us on Facebook and Twitter.

So make the most of shopping in Amble. Buy some gifts from the local shops and Pods, meet up with friends and family for a drink and a bite to eat in one of the excellent cafes or restaurants in Amble, before finishing your shopping.

Sarah Dunne, Harbour Village Co-ordinator

*T&Cs apply

What is comet 67P made of? Amble space scientist aims to find out

Professor Fred Taylor, who was born in Amble, is part of the Rosetta comet mission. Professor Taylor and his team are using equipment on board the Rosetta spacecraft to analyse the structure of comet 67P. Professor Taylor sent this exclusive report to *The Ambler*

Rosetta had its origins in the 1980s, in the Alpine resort of St Moritz, where I was a member of a team of experts that had been invited by the European Space Agency to discuss the scientific priorities for future space missions.

After much debate, we recommended a project we called Comet Nucleus Sample Return, which would involve not only flying to a comet but landing, collecting samples, and bringing them back to Earth. This was deliberately ambitious, and eventually the sample return part had to be discarded because of the high cost, which even without sample return is well over a billion pounds.

Now, nearly 30 years later, we have Rosetta flying around Churyumov-Gerasimenko (usually called by its catalogue number 67P, for obvious reasons) and the small lander called Philae has just landed on the surface.

Analysing the structure of the comet

The role of the lad from Amble in the mission is as a member of the spectrometer team on the Rosetta orbiter, the large 'mother ship' that released the lander. Our team has about thirty members from several countries, including France, Germany and the USA, and is led by scientists from the National Institute for Astrophysics in Italy. Together, we study the comet's surface, and the gas it gives off when it gets near the Sun, by taking images at a wide range of visible and infrared wavelengths. By analysing these, we can find out what the comet is made of.

At the moment, 67P is still outside the orbit of Mars and is too cold to emit much gas, so since arrival in August we have been looking at rocks and ices of various kinds on the surface of this strangely-shaped object (see picture).

The plan is to continue observing as we

follow the comet on its orbit around the Sun and it develops the characteristic long, bright tail of gas and dust.

Rocks, ice and black tarry stuff

The little lander may not last that long, and as I write the day after landing there is a struggle going on at mission control in Germany to keep it upright on the rough, irregular surface so it can even begin to make its planned measurements.

Our spectrometer team is relying on it to help solve a puzzle: one of the things we are seeing on the surface, along with the expected rocks and ice, is some black tarry stuff that seems to be organic but is proving difficult to identify from spectroscopy alone.

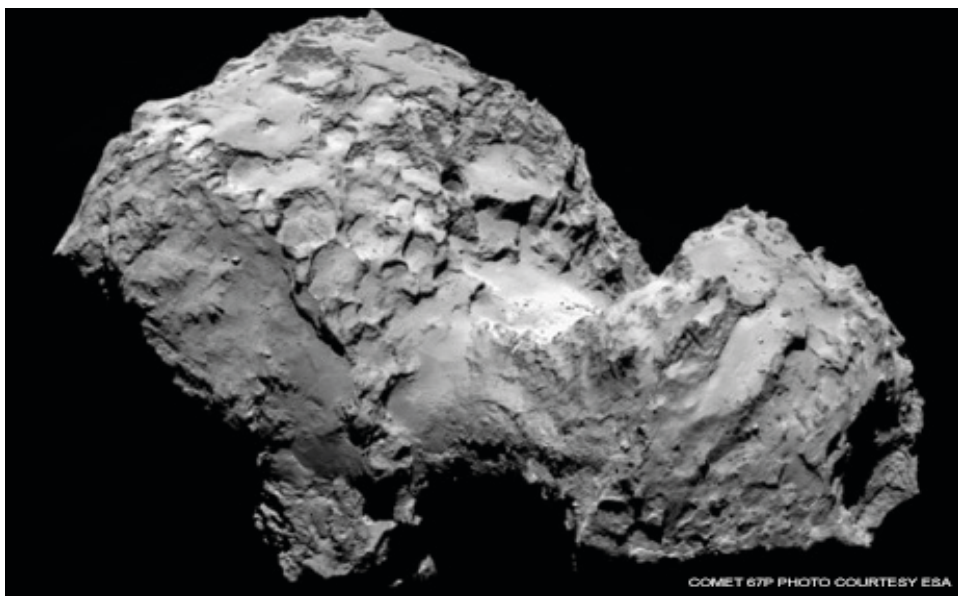
If Philae can analyse some of this directly,



Amble born Professor Fred Taylor is Halley Professor of Physics (Emeritus) and has written many books on atmospheric physics and the planets of our solar system.

using its on-board chemistry lab on the surface, it will help to pin down exactly what this material is. Our fingers will remain crossed for a while yet.

*Professor FW Taylor
Halley Professor of Physics Emeritus
Fellow of Jesus College
University of Oxford*



The nucleus of comet 67P, photographed from the Rosetta spacecraft from its orbit about 30 miles away. This, the solid part of the comet, is less than three miles across in the longest direction, but later, when it gets near the Sun, it will emit gas and form a bright coma and a tail many thousands of miles long. (Photo: ESA).



Last chance to see...

Following completion of our new premises upriver, we will be vacating the Shorebase early in January, prior to the site being cleared.

We know there are many people who will have memories of studying in the classroom and launching from the slipway (and its predecessor) over the years, so we are having an open day on Saturday December 13th between 10am and 2pm.

Everyone is very welcome to drop in for a last visit, or just to find out what the future is for watersports recreation and training in Amble.

(PS - you'll be able to come and see the binnacle again in the new building.... it isn't going far.)

Hope to see you there

*Vic Brown
Coquet Shorebase Trust*



Left: Vic Brown in the old Shorebase Trust classroom



Above: Denise Dunn, Head of Faculty Northumberland College; Jordan Watt, trainee chef; Martin Charlton, chef/owner of Old Boat House restaurant; James Beswick, student; Elaine O'Connor, Senior Manager Employment & Skills at Northumberland County Council

Cookery school opens doors for all

A new cookery school has opened in Amble to provide young people with skills and qualifications in catering and hospitality.

Based in the Pride of Northumbria premises on Queen Street, the Culinary Institute of Northumbria is offering NVQs and Apprenticeships as well as Food Safety, Health and Safety, and Customer Service courses.

A successful open evening event was held in November, with over 30 visitors enjoying freshly baked bread, delicious canapes, and various bite sized delights, all prepared by the trainees in the new facility.

The free courses in Food Safety, Customer Services, Health and Safety, and First Aid have started and places on these are being booked up quickly. There are also 29 students signed up for NVQ courses.

Martin Charlton, owner-chef at the Culinary Institute of Northumbria and the Old Boat House Restaurant, said "We are really pleased with the initial response to the opening of the Culinary Institute and are very excited about delivering on the potential and opportunities it offers to young people in Amble and also to local employers." Martin will be leading the training.

A brilliant cook book launch

We launched our new cookery book, 'Recipes @ St Cuthbert's', on Saturday 4th October. It proved to be an amazing event attended by a great crowd.

Adam Robson, Executive Sous Chef at the Tree House restaurant in Alnwick, performed a cooking demonstration of one of his recipes from the book. His relaxed humorous style was very well received, and we are very grateful to Adam for helping us make our launch the huge success it was.



Above l-r: Meg Dixon, Adam Robson and Doreen Colbourne

Various recipes, featured in the book, were also available for people to taste. So in the relaxed atmosphere, with a glass of wine in hand, people chatted to the contributors, as they tasted their recipes.

This brilliant idea, gave everyone the chance to ask any questions before trying the recipe for themselves at home.

Over 100 copies of the book were sold at the launch party, which has given us a great start.

'Recipes @ St Cuthbert's' sells for just £5:00, which makes it an excellent stocking filler for Christmas.

The profits we make on the book will be divided between the Myanmar (Burma) Health Worker Training Programme and St Cuthbert's Parish Church in Amble.

The books are now on sale, in Amble, at N&F Young Decorators 8 Queen Street, 'Strands' gift shop 45 Queen Street, Nu.U. Hairdressers 9 Wellwood Street and Spurrelli's Ice Cream Boutique 12 Coquet Street.

They will also be available via mail order, visit www.stcuthbertsonline.com for more details.

Meg Dixon, St Cuthbert's Church

Free childcare places

Parents may be eligible for free childcare for their two-year olds. Northumberland County Council is asking parents in receipt of benefits to apply, as existing benefits will not be affected.

All the childcare is provided by registered professionals who are fully trained and have been police checked and Ofsted inspected. Contact Northumberland Families Information Service: 01670 623592 or www.northumberland.gov.uk/freechildcare

Warkworth residents fear overdevelopment of village

A protest meeting was held in Warkworth, against planning applications by Northumberland Estates, for more housing in Warkworth. According to organisers, 90 people turned up. The Parish Rooms couldn't accomodate all, so they moved into the church.

Proposals are for 27 affordable houses off West Close, 37 houses off Morwick Road, 6 houses off Station Road, 11 houses off Watershaugh Road and 50 houses off Guildens Road.

The protesters say the plans submitted would have an impact on the village by overdeveloping.



There would be too many houses built at one time and they estimate that the population could rise by 25%, if all were built and occupied, based on three people in each house.

They believe that it would put too much pressure on local amenities, such as schools.

The three applications will be considered at NCC Full Planning Committee on 8th January 2015.

The applications can be seen online: Watershaugh 14/03313/OUT, StationRd 14/03312/OUT, Guildens 14/03494/OUT.

Objectors have until 10 December to register their opinions.

Solumn tribute to those who gave their lives



Remembrance Sunday was another proud day for Amble. Hundreds of people filled the Town Square to watch Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland lead the tributes to those who gave their lives in war.

Prayers were led by Rev Diane Westmoreland, Rev Lynda Coulthard and Rev Alison Mills. A trumpet sounded the last post as the maroons blasted for the two minute silence.

The Duchess, who is Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, laid a wreath on behalf of HM the Queen. Wreaths were then laid by war veterans and their representatives, by the armed forces, public services and local organisations.

The Mayor laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Amble, and young people from the army cadets, guides and James Calvert Spence College also laid floral tributes.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the people of Hauxley and tributes were left at the Radcliffe Memorial which as usual was flanked by two standard bearers.

At the end of the service the National Anthem was sung. The event was organised by Amble Town Council, who estimated over five hundred people attended on Remembrance Day.

Photos: Bartle Rippon More images on our website



Armistice Day tribute from Amble children



On Tuesday 11th at 11am, children from Edwin Street School and Brambles Nursery held their own memorial service in the Town Square. Prayers were given by Rev Velda Nicholson.

The children, aged between three and nine, all honoured the two minute silence and afterwards laid a wreath and a hand-made poppy cross on the war memorial.

Photos: Bartle Rippon & Anna Williams





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YOUR LETTERS

Is this a public access way?

This is a photo that I took of what looks like to be an abounded access way, which can be found situated at the back of the Amble West Cemetery adjacent to the cremation remains section of the site.

I've taken an interest in this access way, as I'm currently wondering, is there supposed to be a public footpath from the back of the cemetery over the field it overlooks which has been proposed for a housing development in recent times, giving you direct access onto the nearby Mariner's View housing estate?

If it is a public access way I'm sure everyone reading this will agree with me,



that it is nonsense having it taken out of use and the public should be entitled to use it. However if it turns out not to be an access way, could anyone possibly tell me what it's supposed to be?

*Name supplied
via email*

AND EMAIL

Harbour parking causes problems for youngsters

We think that cars should not be allowed to park on the side of the harbour near the Quayside chip shop because it is causing a traffic jam. It is hard if you are trying to cross the road.

We also think a car park should be built for the public to use.

*Yazzy McCann and Georgia Ramsay, age 12
Straffen Court*

Whatever happened to Tommy the Polis?

I am an Old Age Perisher living in a small seaside village called Pevensey Bay, in Sussex on the south coast. My mother was born in Amble, but came to Bexhill on Sea, Sussex as a 16 / 17 yr old, 'in service', as they did back then. My father was born in Mountain Ash, Wales and walked to London with some friends, looking for work, as they did back then. They met, were married and I was born in 1935 as the result! (How's that for potted history?)

When WW2 broke out, my mother insisted we moved to Radcliffe in Northumberland where she had a sister. Some of my memories of living in Radcliffe are still very vivid and even now, in my late seventies words like divn't, willn't and amn't come to mind, as well as other words which I have heard described as 'Pitmatic!' (?) Although I now speak with a Southern accent I can still speak in 'God's own tongue' broad 'Geordie' if I want te!

Tommy the Midden Man

I tell my disbelieving grandchildren about Tommy the Midden Man coming around with his horse and cart to empty the middens and 'netties' with a shovel. How we had to get our water in 'pails' from stand pipes in the road and everybody had a 'liffin tin' quart enamel jug to fill kettles and pans from the pail. Hygiene was a major problem with a very strict 'order of the bath' because of the inconvenience of re-filling the tin bath with buckets (sorry, 'Pails') of 'watta' from the boiler. How we used to beg the miners for rides on the pit ponies when they came to the surface up the 'drift mine' shaft.

I have just remembered that my favourite pony was called 'Anchor'!

Catching tiddlers at Amble harbour

I vividly remember the night the land mine hit the village, and how my mother, in a blind panic, dragged me and my baby sister from our house to her sister's home. To us, who had never experienced bombing it seemed like the end of the world had come!

I also remember the 'skelps' I had from my mother for walking from Radcliffe to Amble after school without her knowledge,

of Radcliffe! What happened to 'Tommy the Polis'? From memory (which is now being well stretched!) he was an Irishman, and the village bobby. He just vanished! I was between six and ten at the time but I can still remember seeing numerous policemen in the village, which was an unusual occurrence in any case, but I also remember seeing a bloodhound for the very first time! I wondered if there had been any mention of the mystery since the war, or if he had ever been traced.

There was 'talk' of spying or involvement with the I.R.A. I would imagine that there must have been a 'file' on the subject in police archives, but doubt that it would have been made accessible to the public.

Has there ever been any mention of the incident to your knowledge, or can you advise me as to where I might find an answer? If not, I suppose it is much too late for some investigative journalism to solve the mystery. If in fact it still is a mystery!

It has been an interesting nostalgic trip down memory lane for me, and a reminder to write a few words about life during the war for my grandchildren.

The life we lived and what we took for granted because we knew no different is now history, only known by those of us who actually lived it (and still have enough of our marbles left to remember!!). If it is not recorded it will be lost forever so I must make the effort!

*W.T.J. (Tom) Day.
via email*



to catch tiddlers with a bent pin on a piece of thread from a ledge we used to stand on by the harbour arm. When we were there we would sometimes see the fishermen either putting to sea or returning, having to row like demons to 'stem the tide' whichever way it was running because in those days they either could not afford outboard engines or get the fuel to run them.

Village Bobby mystery

My query boils down to the biggest mystery that we ever had in 'the Holy City'

YOUR LETTERS AND EMAIL

Seaquest: A Boat Reborn

I had one but the wheel fell off is a joke about a car
But I spotted a boat at Amble in bigger trouble by far
Upside down and cut in half it'll never stay afloat
What kind of person would do this to a boat?
I was in a hurry and never stopped to ask
Why they're undertaking such a complex task

I searched the web and found out why
The proud boat Seaquest is now home and dry
Two local gents are behind the new look
Feeding fish foodies by hook or by crook
I admire their vision in using the old boat
I wish them success so they can sit back and gloat



Sarah Clark, Amble 15 October

Seeking information on John H Gilbert

I am searching for information on John Henry Gilbert whose mother lived at No 3 Edwin St. Amble in 1919.

J H Gilbert, a soldier (Regimental no.202289) was wounded in France in 1918 and later served in Russia, 1919. He was in Archangel as an observer.

Later employment was as a representative for the News of the World newspaper followed by employment in Whitchurch, Hampshire, in 1923.

Margaret Haywood (Grand-daughter) via Facebook

Stop dog mess spoiling the pier - pick it up and bin it!

Can anything be done about the amount of dog mess along the pier. I was walking with my four month old in her pram and passed over 20 lots of mess! It is disgusting!

It is just such a shame that the pier has been spoilt for people. I just can't believe that it is so hard for people to pick it up and bin it!

Allison Jones-Christopher, via Facebook

Affordable homes on target

Readers will have noticed that the new development next to Dandsfield Square is coming on well.

The contractors, Galliford Try, hope to have it finished by next April, subject to the weather and installation of services.

When finished, there will be 12 one bed flats, 8 two bed bungalows, 20 two bed houses and 8 three bed houses.

All of them are social housing, managed by Homes for Northumberland on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

If you want to apply for any of these you need to register in advance with County Council Homefinder.

Any member of the Homefinder team or Peter Mitchell, on 01670 620260 will be able to help and note your interest. See the Homefinder website: www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk

Watch out for seals

Now that the first seal pups have started making an appearance along the North East coast, Northumberland Wildlife Trust is encouraging members of the public to be vigilant.

At just a few weeks old, the young pups head off to sea to prepare to live an independent life. However some will turn up on beaches along the coastline as they learn to swim and feed.

If you spot any young seals basking on the coastline on their own, do not panic. Just leave them alone. Their mother is probably close. Dog owners are asked to ensure that their animals are kept away from young seals.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is also asking for help to monitor the number of dead seals. There is an apparent rise in numbers of deaths and the trust is working with other organisations to investigate the cause of seal deaths along the coast.

Some are shot, some are diseased and some are thought to die as a result of injuries caused by contact with ship propellers.

If anybody finds a dead seal, please contact Aurelie Bohan, Northumberland Wildlife Trust Living Seas Officer on: 0191 284 6884 or email her at Aurelie.bohan@northwt.org.uk with details

of the exact location and, if possible, a digital photo. This will help establish the cause of death. Although post-mortem is more accurate, this method will be valuable and is cost effective in monitoring the issue.

Random reports of dead seals are helpful but we hope an increase in reporting rates will help to establish reasons for deaths.



Northumberland has an important breeding population of these animals. The county therefore has a role to play in conserving this species and it's important that we know what is affecting that in both positive and negative ways.

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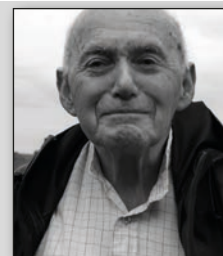
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© Included in the puzzle are two Northumbrian place names. Can you find them?

Harry McQuillen, our new columnist, talks about life in a new age:

Age of insecurity



The enemy of insecurity is confidence, a commodity in short supply these days. Prospects of secure, well-paid employment, and the lifestyle that accompanies it, are a remote prospect for many people in our area, young and not-so-young. The days when a man (and most workers were men) could make a decent living through being “strong in the arm and thick in the head” are long gone. Today’s jobs are often part-time and insecure: decent pay is hard to find.

The “green shoots of recovery”, much trumpeted by our politicians, may be just around the corner. Here in Amble we have new businesses especially in the area of the harbour. Now what we need is a campaign to encourage our young people to work at the things that will make them marketable. My advice is to work on fitness and communication skills together with a range of practical skills. The demand for tradesmen (and women) in many areas of our economy can only increase. To get a job you have to show an employer that you can learn what he wants you to learn. It’s a good thing to be articulate, but a hard-headed boss knows what he’s looking for and that’s a really productive worker who can increase the firm’s profits!

A recent survey showed that the North East is one of the areas showing job growth. My hope is more of our local people, of all ages, can play an active part in growing the economy.

Harry McQuillen

News from Coquet Yacht Club

Congratulations to Mark Phillips who has just qualified as an RYA Senior Dinghy Instructor which continues our move towards becoming an RYA Training Establishment.

Alongside this we have just purchased two Bahia sailing dinghies which are excellent for training. They have been on the water with sailors aged between 16 and 60. That’s the beauty of this type of dinghy: they are good for all ages which fits our strategy of appealing to all, particularly families.

With the balcony completed and the “river lounge” almost complete, friends, families, members and visitors can watch the activities of the club and “comment” on their enjoyment while sipping a glass of wine with perhaps a tasty bite to eat.

Our membership continues to grow

and our aim of being appealing to Amblers is succeeding. Even Aussies who have just moved to Amble were ushered down to CYC by the Town Mayor! Thank you, Craig.

We’ve had a very successful offshore racing season and most of the yachts are now out of the water ready for a good cleaning and maybe some tender care.

We recently had our annual “Guardian Angels Evening” where we invite our local life boat crew, the MCA (Marine Conservation Agency) and the “whirly birds” from Boulmer to say thank you for looking after us at sea. We try to fill them with drink and food. Not an easy challenge.

The club is open Wednesday and Friday evenings, all day Saturday and Sunday for Lunches. As part of our objective to become a base for most water activities we’ve been

asked to host a surf kayak competition, which is part of a national surf series. This will take place March/April 2015. For more information on this event please contact CYC member Darren Broderick on 07967 833610.

This time of year sees the moorings team carry out their work, our new moorings raft the job is somewhat safer and easier.

If you are interested in a mooring please contact Michael Irwin on 07806 862294. For membership contact Mark Aberdeen on 07736 690144.

For functions, with an unbelievable view, contact Cliff and Pam on 07850 241186. For general enquiries contact me, Phil Derry, on 07710 423550. Come and see us and enjoy the atmosphere.

Phil Derry
Commodore, Coquet Yacht Club

Dog owners fall foul of the law

Northumberland County Council is reminding dog owners to clean up after their pets or face a fine.

Three people have been fined at South East Northumberland Magistrates Court for not picking up after their dogs, in contravention of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Darren Nealey aged 48, of Cramlington was fined £200, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £50.

Julie Davies aged 49, of Bedlington was fined £100, costs of £50 and a victim surcharge of £20.

Marian Stappard aged 55, of

Cramlington was fined £37, ordered to pay a contribution towards costs of £25 and a victim surcharge of £20.

As well as the three taken to court, 105 fixed penalties of £75 each have been issued to dog owners so far in 2014.

Not only does dog fouling spoil the environment; it poses a major health risk, especially for young children, through round worm eggs (Toxocara) which may be present in dog faeces and can cause blindness.

The worm eggs can survive in the soil even after it has rained so children playing on grass at home and in public places can be at risk.

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, policy board member for street care and environment said: “Not picking up after your dog is socially unacceptable.

“The purpose of dog control orders is to allow all users of public land to have an enjoyable and safe experience. These prosecutions send out a clear message that the Council takes this issue very seriously and we will direct our resources to take action against irresponsible dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs.

“We are committed to the protection of our environment for the benefit of all our communities.”

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Anna Williams



More fun at Amble Lights event. Meeting Santa, Queen St elves, youngsters in procession. More photos on our website

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or grouted in this past year
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To view our menus please visit www.theoldstorehouseamble.co.uk/christmas

For more information call **01665 710500** or pop in and speak to the team.

*When you dine with us between 16th November and 31st December we'll treat you to 20% off food when you visit us again between 2nd January and 28th February. Terms and Conditions apply. Booking required. We reserve the right to alter or withdraw this offer at any time.



Hasn't time flown...

We've obviously been having lots of fun here at the Old Storehouse as the last year has just flown by and we've just recently celebrated our first birthday! It seems like only yesterday we were excited to open the doors and show you all our new look. As with any birthday we celebrated with a party, music, drinks and of course, cake! We'd like to thank everyone who came, it was a fantastic weekend and we can't wait to do it all again next year!

2014 has been a great year for us full of firsts and wonderful events from sausage competitions and summer barbecues to fun days and parties, but it's been a learning curve too and we're always trying to enhance and improve our food and service. We're constantly striving to offer the best we can from our customer service and the food we serve to the look of our website and the offers we have available, and we already have plenty of ideas and events pencilled in for 2015 to ensure you continue enjoying each and every visit.

...we've just turned 1!



Before that there is of course the Christmas season, and to make it extra special we've prepared a magical festive feast for the run up to Christmas, a stunning Christmas Lunch menu and even a sparkling New Year's Eve celebration, so you don't have to worry about a thing. Whether you're planning a Christmas meal with friends or dread the thought of cooking on Christmas day we're here to help with everything from that first drink to the last delicious mouthful.

Now we're in the festive spirit we want to give all of our valued customers an extra little gift. When you dine with us from any of our festive menus or our autumn winter menu this month we'll give you 20% off food to redeem when you dine with us again in January or February!*

To view our menus and book your table visit our website www.theoldstorehouseamble.co.uk

Don't forget to like our Facebook page to keep up to date with our latest offers: TheOldStorehouseAmble

*Terms and Conditions apply. See website for more details

The Old Storehouse, Links Road, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0SD

www.theoldstorehouseamble.co.uk 01665 710 500 [TheOldStorehouseAmble](https://www.facebook.com/TheOldStorehouseAmble) [@oldstorehouse](https://www.instagram.com/oldstorehouse)

WINTER POETRY

Winter is golden bells ringing and jingling joyfully in the faded distance. Winter is green-wrapped presents being torn and ripped open, eagerly and excitedly. Winter is hot chocolate silently bubbling in the warm cup, peacefully.

Winter is orange gingerbread being snapped gently in someone's hands.

Winter is plunging into icy, cold silver snow.

By Niamh S

Winter is: Orange, yellow, grey, pink and white. Orange carols warm singing.

Yellow fire leaping flames.

Grey smoke a cloud of grey cough.

Pink sweets popping in your mouth.

White frost a slippery danger.

By Catherine

In your hands, keeping them nice and warm, a big cup of cocoa with little marshmallows.

Staring at the clock hoping it's the morning.

Bursting with excitement 'cause it's nearly here. The most festive day of the year.

You're all snug in your PJs watching T.V, your mum sitting next to you with a nice cup of tea.

You are finally in bed just hours to go until the morning to get covered in snow.

With presents galore and food by the dozen.

It is my favourite winter day by far all these wonderful things they are best by far.

Holly on trees as spiky as can be, with little red berries so cute and sweet.

By Martha



Bronze laughter, funny faces
Purple presents, wrapping paper
Brown hot chocolate, white marshmallows
Peach roast yummy spuds
Rose PJ's, comfy bed

By Gaby

When snow is falling and children are a-calling for presents.

Everybody wrapping up in blankets, coats and hats.

Do you think Santa will come on his sleigh?

Maybe he will bring some slippers to warm and soothe my feet.

Maybe he will bring some cocoa to soothe my timid tongue.

By Annabel



IS IT BETTER TO BE AN ONLY CHILD AT CHRISTMAS?

Do only children get the most presents? Or is it best to have a brother and sister or twins or whatever, but who gets more presents at Christmas?

I asked Artograffi - is it better to be an only child?

Lily said "I have a sister. It is nice to have my sister because we share stuff but when you are an only child you get more presents."

Anna says "I have a step family and I like having siblings because I get more presents"

Niamh says "I am an only child and I love being one, because you get more presents and if I did have siblings I would have to share."

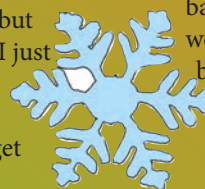
Romy says "I have an older brother and I like having a sibling on Christmas because we play with him."

Mark says "Siblings are better, it is more a celebration but the bad thing is my birthday is on Boxing Day and so I just get a Christmas and birthday present mixed together."

Catherine says "I have a brother and I think it is better to have siblings because lonely"

So who knows, but what do you think?

By Hope



BE SAFE, BE SEEN

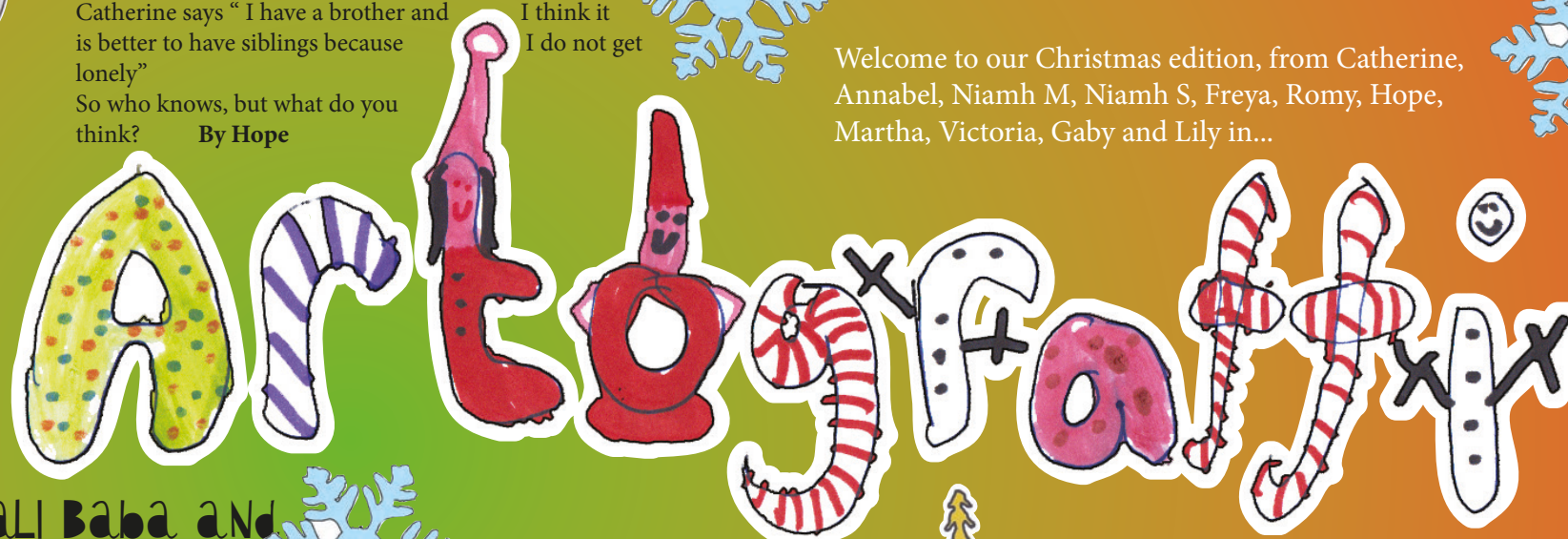
Children from Nursery and Reception at Amble Links School were given 'Be safe, be seen' badges by Claire Hudspith of Amble Co-operative funeralcare and CSO Darin Fawcett.

The children heard about the importance of wearing fluorescent coats or bright coloured coats when walking to and from school.

Claire handed out fluorescent badges so the children could wear them on their coats and be safe.



Welcome to our Christmas edition, from Catherine, Annabel, Niamh M, Niamh S, Freya, Romy, Hope, Martha, Victoria, Gaby and Lily in...



SANTA'S LOST REINDEER



One day Santa was with his new reindeer who is called Rudolph. Rudolph had a bright flashing red nose which the others laughed about.

Poor Rudolph had felt the odd one out from the other baby reindeers.

Santa knew what was up, so he let Rudolph help pull his sleigh on Christmas Eve.

Off they went with all the big reindeers. Rudolph felt nervous, but he noticed that Santa had dropped a present. It was nowhere to be seen, so Rudolph jumped out to look.

As he jumped, he fell next to a house, but the sleigh carried on and Rudolph was left all alone. He began to cry,

The house belonged to Santa's friend Jack Frost. Jack Frost was there when Rudolph was born, so when Rudolph cried he opened the door and said "Rudolph, poor you, what happened?"

Jack Frost let Rudolph in and called Santa, who was relieved. Santa came and brought him home. Now

Rudolph is going flying on the sleigh for Santa, and with his red bright nose.

By Hope



ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

This year Ali Baba and the forty thieves is Warkworth drama group's pantomime. It will be performed on the 11th 12th and 13th of December. We think you should go and see it because it is epic and if you can, make the effort to see it. No pressure!!!!

Our amazing director Antonia Hoskins has worked very hard to put this performance together. Hope you can make it!!!!

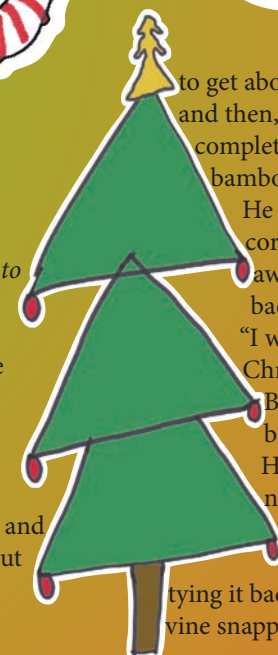
By Victoria and Gaby

BINKY AND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

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

Binky puffed as he dragged the large piece of bamboo into his room and plonked it down into the corner. It was Christmas Eve and he had tried to pick the stick with the most branches so he could hang the grass and flower baubles on it. There were about 42 baubles and 3 branches.

Binky sighed as he only managed



to get about 2 on each branch and then, as the cherry on the completely ruined cake, the bamboo fell down on top of him. He pushed it back into the corner and was about to walk away when it fell straight back onto him.

"I wish I could have a proper Christmas tree!" mumbled

Binky grumpily, pulling the bamboo back up.

He didn't get to sleep that night because of the tree falling down every five

seconds. First he tried

tying it back to the wall, but the thin vine snapped and sent it tumbling

back down. Then he tried ignoring it, yet the rustle of leaves on the floor seemed not to stop at all.

Just as he was about to stomp on it and break it, Binky heard a thump and a jolly-looking panda, clothed in red, fell down into the fire place.

"Panda Claus!" Binky cried and ran to help him up, "Are you ok?"

"Ho, ho, ho, of course I am! The question is, are you? That tree's been keeping you up for ages!"

With that he produced a perfect Christmas tree, Binky ran to look at it, but when he turned round, Panda Claus was gone.

Binky went to bed, dreaming of presents, Christmas trees and Panda Christmas!

By Lily



NEW ROYAL baby

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expecting another baby in April. Just like the first time Kate was pregnant, she is sick again but her sickness is improving. Their second baby will be fourth in line to the throne.

By Martha



EBOLA IS A HORRIBLE DISEASE

Ebola is a horrible disease which is killing lots of people in Africa and all around the world and has killed over 5,000 people and 75,200 are infected with Ebola.

Symptoms

The people in Africa start by feeling sick so they will be stuck in bed and then will start getting a horrible fever with bleeding and it starts anywhere between 2 and 21 days after exposure to the Ebola virus.

Cure

Scientists are still working on a cure but there are treatments that are helping people get better. The most important thing is keeping your distance, so the doctors have to cover their mouths and wear big suits that cover their entire body so if someone touches them, they don't get the virus.

By Romy

Pennies collected for mosquito nets

St Cuthbert's Junior Church in Amble has been very busy collecting pennies for mosquito nets.

St Cuthbert's PCC's chosen charity is the Myanmar (Burma) Health Worker Training Programme run by the United Society, and we are already busy raising money for this worthwhile cause by selling our recently launched cookery books.

The money Junior Church has collected will be specifically used to buy mosquito nets for use in the villages in Myanmar. These nets will be an invaluable help to combat the battle against malaria, and other tropical diseases, faced by the people there.



The money raised was £82.59 and we would like to say well done to everyone in Junior Church who helped make this possible and a big "well done" to the youngsters!

The picture was taken at our recent Café Church service, and unfortunately not all the young people from Junior Church were there, so a big well done to them too!

www.stcuthbertsonline.com

Justin wins bronze medal in national competition



Volunteer at The Amble and Northumberland College student, Justin Cooper, has won bronze in the IT Support Technician section of the WorldSkills UK national competition.

As part of the systems support technician category, Justin was instructed to build a computer from scratch. He also had to repair another computer and link them to a network.

"It was a good experience and it has

built my confidence," said Justin. "At the competition, everyone was nervous. I just had to take a deep breath, and focus on the task. By the end of the second day I was sure that I hadn't won a medal.

"On the night of the presentation, I got dressed up smartly, just in case. When my name was announced, and displayed on the big screen, I was shocked. Hands reached out to shake mine, and I walked up to the stage to receive my bronze medal."

Ready for the challenge?



Pictured are: Alecia Barnes of Amble, Bethan Roberts of Warkworth, Rebecca Middlemass of Widdrington Station, Caitlin Belisle of Hadston, Lauren Robson of Longhoughton, Caitlin Brown of Felton and Leah Scott of Widdrington Station with Youth worker Lucy Roberts and Leader of the county council Grant Davies, who presented them with certificates for completing the new Northumberland Challenge. You may have seen some of them dressed as puffins at the puffin festival, or jumping into the sea off Howick beach.

To take the challenge contact Lucy Roberts, Area Youth Worker on 07824 383035 who is happy to meet up and let you know what is involved.

Back home ... but not forgotten!

Northumberland Wildlife Trust has received a surprise £125 donation all the way from a resident of the USA.

Sally Brown from Richmond, Virginia was driving through Northumberland with her mother when they saw the signs for the wildlife charity's Hauxley reserve on the road and decided to follow them.

Aided by trust staff members, Druridge Bay Estates Officer, Alex Lister and Hauxley Warden Jim Martin, Sally's mother was transported down to one of the reserve's bird hides to view the fabulous array of birdlife, making their visit even more enjoyable.

Sally said: "We saw many wonderful birds from the hide and the rangers helped us figure out the ones we were not sure of when we got back to the temporary visitors centre. Thanks to them and to all of you at the trust for what you do for wildlife and for bird-watchers who enjoy wildlife."

It goes to show that impressions do count, so well done Alex and Jim.



Amble Links scarecrows

On October 7 saw the annual scarecrow competition at Amble Links. As usual the families came up trumps with some amazing scarecrows of all shapes, sizes and themes. There was a prize for the favourite scarecrow from each class. One of the winners, a Mr Heeley scarecrow, also managed to lead part of assembly; much to the children's amazement!

This month, we've also been really pleased to receive four balance bikes and helmets for our youngest children to use in our Foundation Stage outdoor area. These were kindly purchased by our PTA who raised money throughout the year through discos, film nights, quizzes and other events.

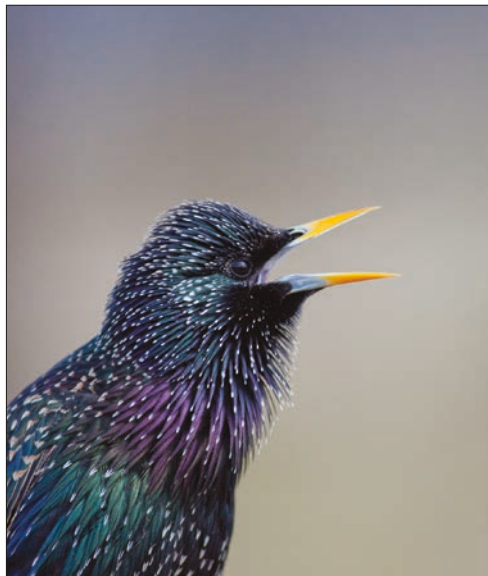
Paul Heeley
Headmaster, Amble Links School



Christmas poem by Norman Clay

As Christmas draws near	face
I wish you all the best and	Is something you cannot
good cheer	replace
To leave a present to a girl	To give or receive Xmas
or boy	cards
Lights their face with	Means so much
great joy	It's most important that
To see the smiles on their	friends keep in touch

Snap to it ... it's back again



Following the success of the last two North East Wildlife Photography Competitions, three north-east Wildlife Trusts - Northumberland, Durham and Tees Valley - have again joined forces with the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) and the Great North Museum: Hancock, to launch the 2015 competition.

There are six competition categories this year, with each category winner and runners-up receiving a prize and an overall winner being selected from one of these categories for the main prize of £250.

There are two new categories: Mobile nature: photos of wildlife and plants taken with a mobile phone or tablet; Nature up close: photos of plants, insects and other wildlife, taken close up.

Existing categories include: Young people's: photos of wildlife and plants

taken by anyone aged 16 or under; Wildlife portraits: photos that capture the character, essence or traits of a species; Wildlife in action: photos that capture interesting, funny or amazing behaviour; Wildlife in the landscape: photos that show wildlife in its habitat, landscape or setting.

Entry is free and open to everyone, but photographs must have been taken in the North East.

The closing date for entries is midnight Sunday 10 May 2014. The winners will be announced at an award ceremony on Thursday 9 July 2015 at the Great North Museum: Hancock in Newcastle with winning photos being displayed in the Museum before going on tour around the region. For details of how to submit your entry visit www.northeastwildlifephoto.co.uk or contact Steve Ashton on 01287 636382.

Interact float their boats

Following their successful sponsored kayak trip down the Coquet recently, members of the Interact Club of Coquet and Aln presented a cheque for £534.50p to Wishing Well, a charity to help underprivileged children in Ghana.

This represents half the total collected. The other half is to be donated to The Hillcrest Respite Centre for people suffering with Aids in Durban, South Africa.

The Interact members are all students at Amble's James Calvert Spence College. Interact is a junior branch of Rotary International.

L-r: Hannah Fraser, Shirley Fraser and Nicola Brennan from Wishing Well and Joey Morley (Club President), Zoe Wilson, Rebecca Dargue, Fay Rochester, Scott Harvey, Georgia Soan and James Oliver from Interact.



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Kenyan visitors impressed with Amble young learners

Amble First School recently welcomed head teachers from Nairobi, Kenya to our town, as part of their ongoing Connecting Classrooms project.

Funded by the British Council, the aim of the project is to promote global education and international understanding through shared topic work and friendship.

Pupils really enjoyed showing their work to the guests, who took part in lessons and answered many, many, many questions about their own schools, lives and country.

The African visitors took part in Beach School activities on The Little Shore, when lessons in all subjects transferred to the seashore for the day and were impressed by the high levels of imagination and creativity that the children demonstrated in their work. They also joined in classroom work at Edwin Street – the picture shows them participating in a year 4 maths lesson.

This visit will be followed up with a return trip to Nairobi by UK staff next year, offering similar learning experiences to children in the partner schools in Kenya and providing a host of exciting new ideas for staff and pupils at Amble First to explore.

Joyce Jenkins

Headteacher, Amble First School



Amble Allotment Holders Society

DOORS ARE OPEN every weekend in December between 10.30am -11.30am. Non allotment holders can come and purchase gardening items from the hut at very competitive prices. •gardening compost •fertiliser •hen food •wild bird food. Or you can just pop in and say Hi!

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* Terms and conditions apply

Sam Coward: Diary of a WW2 sailor

My father Sam Coward was an Amble man, my early childhood memories are populated with summer holidays spent in the town visiting my grandmother and uncles, John, Joe and George. Days were spent fishing from the pier, walking home along the harbour where real fishermen unloaded boxes of fresh salmon caught off the Coquet. When we weren't fishing it was picnic lunch with my granny on the links beach, where I climbed the dunes and scoured rock pools for crabs.

My father served in the Royal Navy during the war, but somehow we never got around to discussing those years. He had an interesting post war career, designing and installing catapults on carriers.

In retirement he enjoyed a passion for gardening and rode his Rudge motorcycle the length and breadth of Britain attending rallies and visiting friends. He embraced technology, viewing computers simply as the world moving forward, though spam exasperated him.

One day in 2006 while clearing junk from his hard drive, I came across a folder entitled 'Sam's diary 1942'. Though not in the habit of reading his personal mail, on this occasion curiosity got the better of me.

The diary detailed his daily life onboard HMS Arethusa, sailing from Greenock in May 1942 down the west coast of Africa to Johannesburg, around Cape Horn, then up the east coast through the Suez canal into the Mediterranean.

On the 18th November, while escorting a convoy to Malta, Arethusa was torpedoed. 156 crewmen perished in the initial explosion, which should have sunk her, but after an epic three day voyage she made port in Alexandria, where dry dock exposed a hole in her hull the size of a bus.

Aware that I was reading a copy of an existing diary and not the recollections of an old man, I sought out my father and asked him about it. His response was: 'so you've found that have you', then told me where in his desk I would find his original diary. A few minutes later he was recounting the events as if it were yesterday, as I thumbed the pages he had written 64 years previously.

He mentioned taking 'snaps' (photographs), I enquired as to their possible whereabouts and was sent back to his desk where I found an envelope containing a packet of negatives.

Torpedo strike

The Arethusa web page www.hms-arethusa.co.uk documents the voyage, the torpedo attack and the aftermath, providing a detailed account from the Naval perspective, which complemented my father's hand written account of the time.

Friday 26th November 42 'sitting on the quarterdeck now it seems it ages since that paralysing explosion and the subsequent 25 deg list yet it is only nine days'.

He was standing by the port throttle when the torpedo struck. Orders from the bridge were to maintain full speed, but he instinctively seized the throttle and reduced speed, aware that if he didn't, the ship would have gone to the bottom.

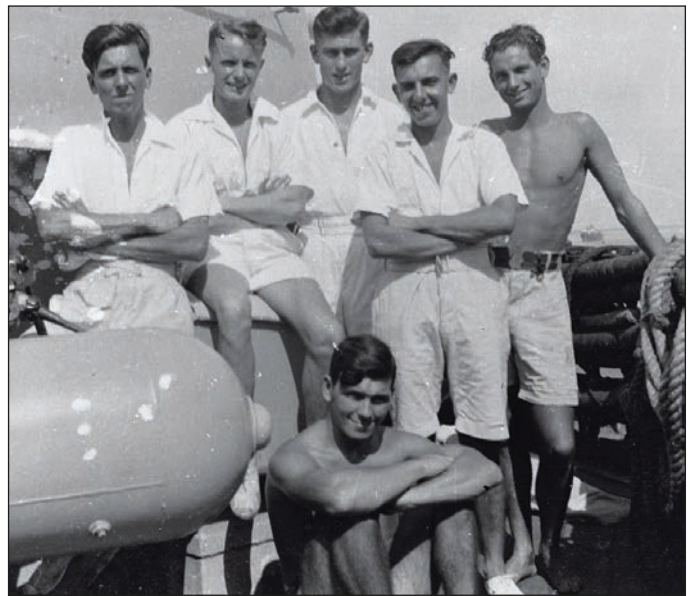
After handing over the engine to his shipmate he made his way up on deck, where he found the sea coming over the gunwale. He clung to the guard rail, then climbed down into the aft engine room, his 'action station'.

There he found the port side ring main dead (electrical power). He spent the next twelve hours rigging up emergency leads to fire and ballast pumps, extractor fans etc. Later he writes, *'a huge fire had threatened to engulf the ship, but great things had been done, men worked hard, brought it under control and finally it was extinguished'.*

Impressive actions

Over the next few months I put together a book, scanned pages of his diary accompanied by 'snaps', in which my father managed to name most of his shipmates.

The more I wrote the more his actions impressed me. Reducing the throttle was in direct conflict to the orders given and he was only 22 at the time. I asked him about rigging up emergency leads, only to be told, 'it was nothing' and that, 'everyone had been shown how to do so.' I imagined climbing into the bowels of a ship that appeared to be sinking and connecting up emergency power supplies.



Crewmates on HMS Arethusa: Left to right, Stuart Cooper, Ted Mullin, George Woods, Stan Brightman, Pete Pursier, sitting Sam Coward

My father passed away peacefully at home in 2007. Sometime after, as you do, I found myself scrolling through the Arethusa site, reading comments, when I recognised a name: Ted Mullin. I had a photo of him with my father, so wrote an email introducing myself. The following day I eagerly opened his reply, well aware that he must be around 90.

Ted survived the torpedo, but lost all of his possessions. I sent him photos of his shipmates and told him about my life in France, he in turn told me about his, as a retired headmaster living in Canada.

I sent him my father's, 'crossing the line certificate', which he subsequently photographed his name onto. 'For my grandchildren,' he wrote.

On his retirement, at the insistence of Iris his wife, he had written his account of the attack, entitled 'Three Fateful Days'.

Ted wrote in detail, his story ran to 20 pages, one of which contained this line: *'Although the port side was impassable due to buckled steel plates and debris, the fire main, miraculously, was intact, because full water pressure was available as soon as the hydrant was turned on'.*

I read the line several times, reflecting that great things had indeed been done by Ted and his shipmates, but my thoughts went down below decks to my Dad.

Sam Coward (Jnr)

Be inspired and entertained

If you are feeling tired, stressed or you want to put your feet up and get a pick-me-up, then you can pop down to your local library and boost your mood with a recommended read.

With the dark nights now upon us Northumberland County Council is backing national charity, The Reading Agency's Mood Boosting Books scheme. This is a national promotion of uplifting titles,

including novels, poetry and non-fiction. Reading groups around the country are recommending and reviewing mood-boosting books to other readers.

Winter depression (Seasonal Affective Disorder, SAD) is thought to affect up to one in 15 British people every year between September and April. Many more of us (about 17%) get a milder form of the condition, known as the winter blues.

Northumberland County Councillor Val Tyler, policy board member for community infrastructure and culture said, "Reading great books can directly affect your sense of well-being and transform the way you see the world.

The libraries hold a great many titles so there is plenty of choice for you. So find a great book, cuddle up, get inspired and entertained, and enjoy."

For more information see www.readingagency.org.uk www.mylibrary.co.uk.



Hauxley Parish Council

Remembrance Service: Rita Callender, Chair of the Council, attended the Service of Remembrance in Amble on Sunday 9 November. She laid a poppy wreath on the Radcliffe Memorial on behalf of the people in the Hauxley Parish.

Budget 2015/16: The budget for the precept is planned to be considered at the January meeting of the council for submission to NCC before the deadline of 2 February.

Local Transport Plan Programme 2015-16: NCC Officer Richard Mackenzie informed that the reduction of the speed limit, from Hauxley Links car park past the entrance to Low Hauxley, from 60mph to 30mph, and removing the 30mph sign from the bend at High Hauxley to near the entrance of the caravan park, cannot be implemented as there is no frontage development to justify a 30mph speed limit.

Reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph at Kirkwell Cottages and Low Hauxley can be considered. The Clerk will ask for the 30mph signs to be moved nearer the farm cottages on the caravan park entrance bend.

Street lighting replacement: The Hauxley Area is in year three of the project for replacements, beginning Jan.2015. It was agreed that the clerk request earlier consideration for the Hauxley area.

Hauxley Lane: The faded road markings were due to be refreshed by NCC, commencing 17 November. The resurfacing of Hauxley Lane will go onto a capital maintenance scheme programme, to be resurfaced during 2015-16.

Co-opted vacancies: There are six seats on the parish council. Two are presently vacant. You can apply to be co-opted onto the council, if you are on the Electors Register and live in or within three miles of the parish or your only place of work is within the parish. Write to the clerk (contact details below). The deadline for applications is Sunday 4 January 2015.

Next Meeting: 6.30pm on Monday 12 January 2015 in the Village Hall, Low Hauxley. The public are welcome to attend.

Contact details: Parish Clerk:
Miss Elaine Brown
Address: 4 Simonside Crescent
Hadston, Morpeth NE65 9YB
Telephone: 07588659600 Email:
hauxleyipc@hotmail.co.uk

Ben is king of the castle in dad's winning shot

A photo taken by a visitor to Dunstanburgh Castle has been chosen as the front cover image for next year's Northumberland Coast Visitor Guide.

Andy Freeman from Cheshire snapped a shot of his son, Ben, looking out from the ruined castle. The image was chosen as the winner of the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership's photographic competition and will feature on the cover of forty thousand visitor guides next summer.

Andy said "The photograph was taken during our visit to Dunstanburgh Castle. My son loved the castle and was taking in the view of the Lilburn Tower when I asked him to stand still so that the top of the tower looked like a crown on his head, and he was a king surveying his land below.

"I thought that the shot conveyed how much fun kids can have in the castles around Northumberland whilst, hopefully, learning something too. This is fantastic news for me because I have just started a Higher National Diploma in photography so that I can make a mid-life career change."

The judges also highly commended three other entries:

Two Arctic terns on Inner Farne by Amy Nathan from Sheffield; The Aurora Borealis over Bamburgh Lighthouse by Dru Dodd from Warkworth; and Holy Island Causeway by Norma McKellar from Benton in North Tyneside



Rotary notes

Rotarians from Amble and Warkworth turned out in force to attend the Memorial Service for Rotarian Allan Richmond.

Allan was a native of Pately Bridge and was a member of the Rotary Club of Pontefract from 1970 to 1977.

He worked for Huwood Mining Engineering Company and became a Director of the company. He was awarded the MBE for services to the mining industry.

On his retirement to Warkworth, Allan rejoined Rotary and was President of our club in 2000-2001. Along with another club member he was jointly instrumental in negotiations which led to the naming of "Rotary Way".

Allan will be missed in the club for his wise counsel and ever present sense of humour. He leaves a widow, Carole, sons John and Graham and five grandchildren.

Change of venue

On 2 September the club decided to move their weekly venue from The Sun Hotel, Warkworth to The Old Storehouse in Amble.

Members of the club paid their annual visit to the Rotary Club of Seahouses on 9 September. The



Rotary Club President Chris Ward (left) presenting the salver to John Young

following week, meeting at the new venue for the first time, the speaker was Rotarian Alan Jones who spoke of the many overseas Rotary Clubs he had visited during his career.

The new District Governor, Rotarian Jean Thompson paid her first official visit to the club and congratulated members for the work they do for the community and for international projects.

Golf competition

At the recent Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club annual golf competition held at Alnmouth Golf Club (Foxton Hall), Rotarian John Young from Amble won The Brown Salver for the seventh time.

John first won this trophy in 1972, his father having won it on six previous occasions between 1953 and 1965.
Fred Calvert

Recycling for Charity

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

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

If you wish to donate, please do so to Evelyn at 21 Newmoor Close, Amble or Janice at Treetops, Station Road, Warkworth. Please telephone 712 579 or 714 758 if collection is required or if donating bulky items
Janice Charlton, James Cox, Evelyn and Michelle Dodd

Details of charities for 2014-5 are on <https://sites.google.com/site/recyclingwarkworth/>

Merry Christmas everyone, time to get those stockings stretched, its nearly time to hang them up for Santa! There is so much happening around the town that it is hard to know where to begin this round up of news.

Let us begin with parking. After many years of perseverance, there is at last some light at the end of the tunnel, and we are making progress. There are new parking orders on Queen Street and soon there will be an extended one way traffic system leading on from Queen Street through to Leazes Street. While this only creates a few additional parking spaces, the main aim was to try to ease traffic flow and congestion along Leazes and Broomhill Streets. This system has been introduced on a one year trial and will be monitored for its effectiveness. The majority of people who have passed comment think it is a good idea, so let us hope it works and Santa doesn't get held up in a traffic jam!

There are lots of reasons why it has taken so long to get to this point. Many people have given up valuable time to try to find solutions to the many issues, and this work will continue, but thanks should be offered to everyone who has brought constructive ideas to the table for consideration.

Harbour Village

All good news – we already have businesses signed up to open prior to Christmas and are planning a Christmassy opening on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th December, so please come along and see what is on offer. Obviously there is still work to do but the pod side will be complete. After all the hard work it's good to get to the exciting bit.

From the enquiries we've had, it is obvious there are many businesses wanting to open up in Amble. Some enquiries we cannot help with, because they require larger premises that the pods offer and there aren't many towns that can boast they have no empty premises – so Amble must be getting something right!

By the time you receive your copy of The Ambler the Christmas Procession will have been and gone, but we hope you have enjoyed it and joined into the festivities.

I will sign off by offering all our trusty volunteers, whatever you do in the town, a hearty thanks. To our community, we thank you for your support and offer you the very best of Christmas wishes, and a healthy happy new year, from all at Amble Development Trust.

Julia Aston, Director julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Amble history is on DVD

Looking at old photos of where you live can bring memories flooding back to share with family and friends. A DVD of old photos and archive footage of the Amble area is now available from www.sixtownships.org.uk, priced £5.79. It is available to schools and residential homes free of charge via our website and we cover the cost of postage too.

Sixtownships has been established since 2002 and the group produce DVDs of Northumberland. Memory Highway takes us on a nostalgic journey as we look back at Amble and surrounding area of Warkworth, Chevington, Broomhill, Red Row, Hauxley and Shilbottle, using archive footage and photographs. Included are shops, streets, coal mining, transport, salmon fishing on the River Coquet, the era of steam and much more.

Everyone has their treasured memories and we have included a good selection to ignite them and bring them flooding back for you.

Gather round the television, start your DVD and enjoy this trip down memory lane. You never know who you may recognise: it could be you, a family member or a friend.

If you need additional information please contact me on 01670 840733 or my mobile 07850465009

John Dawson, Secretary, sixtownships.org.uk

Walks for ambling Amblers

Walk 3 A walk from Amble to Warkworth, taking in the Black Bridge, the Mill Walk, and home again.



1. Walk past Amble West Cemetery, and then follow the track to New Hall Farm.
 2. Turn right along the road for 20 or 30 yards, and then turn left at the white gate, across a field, down a grassy track, then along a stony track.
 3. At the crossing of the track you're on a road made by the Opencast Executive (I think!) turn right through the green gate.
 4. Follow the concrete road past New Barns Farm and on to the top of Barns Road in Warkworth.
 5. If you like you can walk down Barns Road until you meet Morwick Road, where you turn left. However, the observant walker will see a gap in the hedge at the top of Barns Road.
- Go through the gap, and then right along the side of the field for about 20 yards, through the gap between the hedge and the wall then left along a short bit of road until you meet Morwick Road.
6. Walk up Morwick Road until you see the right turn into Watershaugh Road. Walk along Watershaugh Road for about 100 yards then turn left into the other bit of Watershaugh Road. This bit takes you past the Grange Care Home and down a steep hill to the Black Bridge. The path to the Black Bridge is on the right side of the road.
 7. Admire the scenery for a few minutes, and then walk back up the steep hill and along Watershaugh Road until you reach the T-junction. Turn left and walk down the hill until you reach the Mill Walk beside the River Coquet. Walk into Warkworth.
 8. Then it's the pub, or a café, the bus or a walk home!

Harry McQuillen

Harry is often available for guided walks with individuals or groups of people. Ring 01665 710216

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Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6.30p.m. unless stated otherwise

Town: 11th December (Fourways 2), 8th January

Amenities Committee: 27th November (Council Meeting Room)

TRAFFIC UPDATE

AMBLE IS AN OLD TOWN with a narrow centre built long before the volume of traffic we see today - finding land and then carrying out negotiations with owners regarding a permanent large car park is proving quite difficult but attempts carry on; meanwhile a Park and Ride and Temporary Parking Area were tried. We all realise that there were problems with these and the comments will be looked at when the ideas are reviewed early in the new year.

New traffic regulations are in place and it is hoped that the relaxation of restrictions on Queen Street will help both with parking and traffic movement - but don't park in the loading bays! The experimental one way system will soon be in place - we all know about the traffic congestion along Leazes Street, especially at weekends, and the worry that emergency vehicles won't be able to get through. This is an attempt to try and ease those problems - it may also help with parking along there. To aid traffic flow, Lawson Street and George Street have been included.

There will be some initial confusion and frustration; it may not be right straight away; but it is flexible so that it can be amended over the next year before public consultation on whether to make it permanent.



EVENTS

★ CHRISTMAS IS FIRMLY FIXED in our minds now with the wonderful Procession and Lights Switch on. Although now under the Council's 'umbrella' this could not take place without lots of hard work by many organisations and individuals - it's not just those who you see on the day, but those whose efforts for weeks beforehand get everything organised and in place for the day.

Too many to name individually lest someone is forgotten - but many, many thanks to you all.

Preparations are already underway for next year's Puffin Festival starting on May 25th. We are always on the lookout for new ideas for talks, events, activities etc. so if you've got something you think would fit in, come along and get it booked into the programme early. Not only are fresh ideas welcome, but offers of help too as there's always plenty to do especially on the opening day and the following weekend.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Councillor Craig Weir (Mayor)

ANOTHER YEAR GONE and what a year for Amble! So much has happened and we look towards next year with more to come.

Amble has held some great events in 2014, including the WW1 commemoration and the Puffin Festival. More restaurants, shops and the start of the Harbour Village - all good for the image of the town - bringing with them jobs and an increase to the economy.

Next year will hopefully see work start in the Paddlers area and new build houses at Mark's Bridge, the completion of new apartments at Coble Quay, the new work at Coquet Yacht Club and the Shorebase Trust.

All this and much more - all beneficial to Amble and the community. Let us all look towards the future together.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to wish you all a Happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

RAISED BED ALLOTMENT

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a few months make! All those who took over the beds earlier in the year have already been rewarded with decent crops. The site itself no longer looks neglected although it's a hard job keeping the weeds down on the uneven surface. Most people are now clearing out their bed for the winter weather to work on the soil. If you would struggle to manage a full allotment but, despite your physical problems, still want to grow a few tasty vegetables or some fruit, put your name down at the Town Council office for a raised bed at the West Allotment site.

The walkway from West Avenue to the centre of the West Allotment site has been deteriorating for a number of years and has been eroded too by the weather. It is used not only by Allotment tenants but many people taking a shortcut to the bottom of the Wynd and the Braid. With help from the Allotment Society, the council is carrying out some repairs to improve it. Whilst not all the walkways will be done, we hope doing this main entry will help everyone who uses the area. It would also be greatly improved if all the dog owners, not just the responsible few, would pick up after their dogs - there are bins at the bottom of the Wynd and along West Avenue for the waste.

HIGH STREET GARDEN

WITH THE REMOVAL of the wall, this area can now be improved in the spring. The old cracked hardstand will be removed and replaced; the notice board will be moved nearer to the footpath to make viewing easier; a new seat and litterbin will be installed; the central bedding area and new borders will be planted. This will then once again become a lovely little garden at the entrance to our main shopping area where you can sit and chat or just 'watch the world go by'.

TESCO SITE

WOW! At long last after many, many months of negotiations between NCC and Tesco management, the old buildings have been demolished. Tesco's reluctance to do this before building work began - their normal practice - has been overcome by the urgency of the possible safety aspects. Although we are all pleased to see the 'new' look, we are equally sure that many people would prefer to see construction begin but in the present business circumstances that seems unlikely for some time in the future. Let's hope all the exciting things happening here make them reconsider the timeframe as a new store will create more jobs which are needed.

EAST WARD:

Robert Arckless,
37 Anne Crescent,
Amble NE65 0QZ
Tel: 01665 711938

Helen Lewis,
5 Meadowburn,
Amble NE65 0PH
Tel: 07762069026

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

WEST WARD:

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

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

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

CENTRAL WARD:

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

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

Peter Robinson
7 West Court,
Amble NE65 0JG
Tel 01665 711687

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

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

Elaine Brown (Town Clerk)

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

Minutes available to view in Office or online

I'd rather be in Amble

A friend of mine gave me a small gift for my birthday last August. Opening it up I found a T-shirt and printed on the front was 'I'd rather be in Amble'. I smiled... well, laughed. Laughed with joy. Someone knew me well enough to buy a gift like that. That started to make me think. I moved away to University in 1972, worked in South Shields for the next 27 years before disappearing to Australia for the next 12. So, for some 40 years or more, I have not lived in or near the place.

Last year, 2013, I began my new lifestyle - early retirement. It was fabulous: no more noisy children, no more confinement to the four walls of a classroom, no more 'red tape'. It was bliss. Then we bought our caravan in Warkworth and here I was back on home territory, back to where life began.

I popped into the Development Trust to say 'Hello', as I usually do and was immediately enlisted to help with the very first Puffin Festival. I was also asked to take photographs for The Ambler. I was beginning to be part of my old home town again. It may have been a little contribution but it was a good one. Also this year I returned to St. Cuthbert's Church, joined the

choir and met up with Eddie Young again, in his 90s and still singing.

As I became more involved in activities the more I rediscovered my love for my home town. Those wonderful days of the late 60s and very early 70s when I worked for R.H. Charlton's milk business in Queen Street. I loved delivering the milk to the door steps as it got me meeting folk.

I have seen the town change considerably. I haven't made my way around all the eating places yet. I have been taking photos of the new development at the harbour. When I go around wearing my 'Ambler' press badge I get questions asked about the town, by people who are not from Amble as I can tell by their accents.

Recently along the breakwater I spoke to some folks from Chester-le-Street. They were

Photo: Sameena Jarosz



Bart Rippon (centre) giving a guided walk during the 2014 Puffin Festival

day visitors, who love coming to Amble. They love the people and the quaintness of the town.

So where from here? Well I return to Perth, Australia, at the end of November, missing Christmas in Amble, unfortunately.

I'll be returning in March as my oldest daughter is having her first child, our first grandchild. Once I'm back, it's then another year of the Puffin Festival, Lifeboat Day and any other exciting event to be involved in that makes Amble where I would rather be.

Bartle Ripon

REPORTS FROM OUR

Budget

Planning for the next County Council budget is well in hand. There will be consultation with the public and Parish and Town Councils. The figures are stark. Cuts of £42 million over the next two financial years are being considered. By the end of the next financial year Northumberland County Council will have lost 40% of its revenue budget as a result of Government cuts since 2010. Proposals will include a Council Tax increase of just under 2%. The balance of funding services is shifting with more coming from local tax payers. There is no way these cuts can avoid impacting services; there will be an attempt to protect the most vulnerable but as this scale of cuts continues it gets harder every year.

Amble's buzzing

The harbour village works are progressing; the disruption has been difficult for residents and visitors but hopefully the end result will be worthwhile. The idea is to build on Amble's strengths, especially its harbour and local food. Tourism is very important to our economy now but the new training initiative based at Pride of Northumbria and the replacement for the Coquet Shorebase will have a wider legacy. I am thrilled to see local youngsters given the chance to learn new skills under the direction of a proven business leader. The new shorebase is the end of a twenty year plan. Funding from Jeff Watson and myself via the County small schemes pot has helped both projects. Amble's past success have been based on good partnerships and I hope the Harbour Village will be the catalyst for a better future.

Christmas wishes

The community comes together to brighten our town and neighbouring villages at Christmas; the culmination of months of planning and fund raising. Thanks to all of the volunteers we enjoy the lights and the procession. We all appreciate what they do. My very best wishes for Christmas and the year ahead.

Robert Arkless
robert.arkless99@northumberland.gov.uk
telephone: 01665 711938



County Councillors

I want to start by saying how wonderful it was to see so many residents turn out on Remembrance Sunday to honour our armed forces personnel who died in the service of their country in the past. The consensus of opinion was that it was a good service and a fitting tribute.

Well done to all those involved in the arrangements, particularly the Town Council.

We will remember them !

By the time you get this copy of The Ambler we should have a new bus shelter on Acklington Road which Councillor Arkless and I funded, as ever it seems to take a long time for projects like this to happen, but we get there in the end.

The new layout of parking areas on Queen Street would seem to be working quite well but I note that some drivers are still parking in loading bays, these designated areas are important for delivery vehicles and if you park in them you are risking a fine. Please don't complain if you get one, you have been warned!

I am proud to have been involved in the new developments in Amble and I believe the Harbour Village area and the new training facility on Queen Street coupled with landscaping etc will vastly increase Amble's appeal as a tourist destination. There is definitely a buzz in the Town, lots of new activity and new businesses and interesting developments that should help to ensure opportunities for employment particularly for our young people.

I welcome anything that will help to make our wonderful town prosper. As ever I am available on Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk and by phone 07802385367

Jeff Watson

Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year to all residents of the town.



Meet Santa at Circa

Get your ticket to meet Santa on 6, 13 or 14 Dec. 11am, 12pm 1pm or 2.30pm. Includes: Welcome from Mrs Claus, meet Santa, gift

from Santa, gingerbread treat. £10 per child. To book, ring 01665 711735 www.circa-ambles.co.uk or see Facebook page

Rotary's Santa tour

Santa Claus and his helpers from The Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth will be touring the district starting on 8th December:

Mon 8 Dec: Red Row and Hadston North
Tue 9 Dec: Hadston South and Hauxley
Wed 10 Dec: Acklington and North Broomhill
Thur 11 Dec: Amble West
Fri 12 Dec: Amble Middle

Mon 15th Dec: Amble East
Wed 17th Dec: Amble South
Thu 18th Dec: Warkworth South (Woodlands and all points west and south)
Fri 19th Dec: Warkworth Central and North including Station Road.

The Rotary Club regrets that it is no longer possible to visit Widdrington and Felton but wish to thank those communities for their support in the past.



Pantomime: Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

Imagine you are in ancient Baghdad where love, music and dance mingle uneasily with thievery, treachery and stupidity, and you have the perfect backdrop for a highly entertaining show.

Ben Crocker's version of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves gets the Warkworth Drama Group treatment with a panto full of fun and laughter, and thrills, squeals and spills.

Directed by Antonia Hoskins, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves will be staged at the Warkworth Memorial Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11, 12 and 13 December at 7.30pm with a matinee show at 2.30pm on the Saturday.

Tickets, which are £6 for adults and £4 for children, are available now from Warkworth village store, N&F Young of Amble and via the group's website: www.warkworthdrama.org.uk

A ten per cent discount for groups of ten or more can be applied for by post (see website).

St. Cuthbert's community cinema

As part of our church's mission to the community of Amble, we aim to show films monthly, in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street until April. The next date this year is 20 December. In 2015 the films will be shown on the 3rd Saturday in the month.

Doors will be open from 6.30pm and admission is FREE. Any donations (£3 recommended) will contribute to the cost of the improvements of the church buildings, including disabled access. We hope to offer hot drinks and try to create a socially welcoming experience.

Details of the films to be shown will be displayed in the church. Further info from Hugh Williams on 01665 710907 or Peter Cordingley on 01665 710877.

Royal British Legion

The Warkworth and Amble branch would like to thank British Legion members, local Poppy volunteers, members of the public, businesses, and Amble Army cadets who helped make the Poppy Appeal 2014 a great success. To see the results of your hard work log on www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/warkworth

Next Meeting: Legion Room, Warkworth War Memorial Hall Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 7pm.

Speaker: Nicola Day of Northumberland Fusiliers Museum, Alnwick A talk with slides on "Northumberland Fusiliers during WW1".

March Meeting: Wednesday 18 March, 2015 at 7pm

Speaker: Chris Davies – Author "Almost Forgotten" The Search for Aviation Accidents in Northumberland

Subject "The American Beaufighter plane that crashed near Warkworth, Northumberland, World War Two"

St. Cuthbert's 'Access for All' appeal

Our parish church has recently been granted faculty permission to build a permanent sloping path to the main entrance to improve access for people with disabilities. The cost will be significant as it has to be of a design and quality in keeping with the building and a fundraising campaign is under way. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the appeal should contact the Treasurer Mike Dixon: Tel: 01670 760007 or mike.dixon@yahoo.co.uk.

East Coquet Local History Society

Meeting in St. Mark's Church Hall

3rd Thursday of every month at 7.30pm

Jan. 15: Family history – fishing and coal Hilton Dawson

Feb 19: Social evening

Mar. 19: Cresswell curiosities and Hauxley dig 2013 Barry Mead

ALF coffee mornings

14th December Christmas Coffee Morning with Tombola, Sales Table and Christmas Hamper as first prize in raffle

18th January 2015 Coffee Morning

15th February 2015 Coffee Morning

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 January 2015 in the Lifeboat House, starting at 7pm.

All members of the public are welcome.

Thank you all for your tremendous support over the past years and hope it will continue. We need you. On behalf of the ALF committee may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and hope 2015 brings good luck, good health and happiness.

Eleanor Cassidy Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers

NE Settlement, Shipping and Industry

WEA: North East Settlement, Shipping & Industry

Tutor: Tony Barrow

11 week course starts Jan 8, 2015 Thursdays at 10am-12noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Str., NE65 0AG

Looking at evidence for the rich history and industrial heritage of N.E.England. Physical remains of past industries survive in cities and market towns. The course will explore this evidence through case studies, using some of the key archive collections available within the region.

Enrol at 1st or 2nd meeting
Further info: Norma Hinson, 710583 or Hilga Peacock, 711156

Live music

Mason's Arms

6 Dec State Four

20 Dec Steve Ballantine

Harbour Inn

6th Dec Barking Mad 20th Dec Karaoke

26 Dec Tommy James

1 Jan Too Good to Go

Out of the Trees music festival

Northumberland's only alternative music festival returns for its tenth and final year on Saturday 3 January 2015. The day-long festival takes place in The Hermitage Inn, The Masons Arms and in the village Memorial Hall. www.outofthetreesfestival.com

Puzzle solution from page 8

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

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E	S	R	Q	G	I	L	M	Y	X	V	F	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	A	B	O	J	K	T	Z	N	D	H	U	W

hidden place names.
AKELD WARK SNITTER

"Worse things happen at sea"

A rather unexpected turn of events this autumn resulted in site manager Dr Paul Morrison (*The Ambler's* Captain Coquet) and I, becoming stranded on RSPB Coquet Island, battling a gale with limited food and water, no hope of rescue and a set of cameras to film for an ITV documentary...

It is, of course, no surprise that ITV producers read *The Ambler*, and when they saw 'Diary of a Coquet Islander' they wanted to recreate it for their TV series 'Tales from Northumberland'. RSPB Coquet Island is a closed reserve and protected sanctuary; landing is illegal all year round to protect the island habitat, and no visitors are permitted.

I had volunteered to film a video diary over a couple of days finishing up work at the end of the season...

Marooned on Coquet Island

by Coquet Island warden, Kate Lowes

Read her full 'Diary of a Coquet Islander' on our website



It took some time to get used to talking into a camera (- something I have never done before!) but soon filming was underway, capturing 'normal' life on the island including footage of the birds, seals and people.

The video diary was supposed to take a day or two in between winter storms arrived...typically this did not go to plan!

What was planned to be a couple of sunny days enjoying island life turned into over a week of battling gales, rough seas, limited food supply and Paul and I being completely and utterly marooned, with no hope of rescue. There wasn't much else to do but **KEEP THE CAMERA ROLLING!**

The storm eventually passed but the sea was still incredibly rough, we contacted the mainland for help.

Our brilliant skipper, Hilary began to plan our

rescue; consulting the Coquet Shorebase Trust and local fishermen to determine the safest plan.

A complex rescue plan was being devised and with experienced

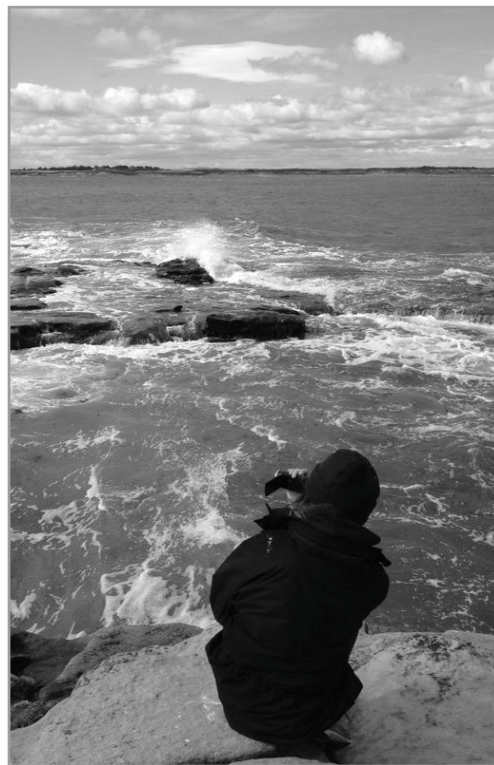
seafarers working hard to save us Paul and I knew it was just a matter of waiting out the storm.

The whole story will be broadcast as part of 'Tales from Northumberland' in January 2015 including our unbelievable rescue.

RSPB Coquet Island is one of Northumberland's best kept secrets. It is a unique, beautiful and environmentally important place but with such limited access most of the world will never know life on Coquet Island.

I hope this video diary will open up the hidden world of our secret island so everyone can understand the beauty and importance of this special place.

Kate



Our little boat eventually came crashing through the waves to our rescue; Hilary delivered two very soggy islanders back to the mainland after over a week of stormy weather and rationed food.



Puffin Cruises



Dave & Betty Gray wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Arckless

will be holding surgeries on

Saturday January 31st

from 10am-11am in Amble Library
and

Friday January 30th

at 6pm - 6.45pm in Hauxley Village Hall

All Constituents Welcome



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Word from the Woods

In our new column, we will endeavour to bring you news from the Tiny Woods Academy as well as keeping you informed of the progress of Amble Community Team.

We have just completed a successful Autumn Camp with over 40 kids participating and the feedback from the children and parents was fantastic. Due to the successes of previous camps we intend to organise a February half term camp.

Our Saturday morning sessions, which are linked in with Amble Development Community Sports Centre, have proved to be a big hit with children and parents; these are held at Amble Welfare on a weekly basis at 10am. Anyone wishing to join is welcome.

Tiny Woods Academy and Amble Community Team joined forces to refurbish the pavilion and develop the welfare for the local community. Amble Community



Tiny Woods Academy at the Christmas lights parade

Team are actively clearing and cleaning the pavilion on a regular basis; anyone wishing to join Amble Community Team to donate or contribute towards the project is more than welcome.

Tiny Woods Academy is supporting a charity which is providing wheelchairs for young children. This is achieved by collecting plastic milk bottle tops, all colours. They can be dropped in at Amble Development Trust at Fourways2 or at the pavilion on a Saturday morning.

Everyone at Tiny Woods Academy would like to wish the Ambler readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and all the best for 2015.

Josh Rutherford

Tracey Sample, Triathlete

Following a long season from early May to mid September triathletes from the region have competed not only for individual prizes at races but have also swum, biked and run to pick up points for the regional Grand Prix with the five best race finishes in the season counting towards the Grand Prix prizes.

Placings in the Regional Grand Prix are tough to get as athletes have to be good throughout the whole season and participate in the regional races on top of any national or international races they have qualified to compete in. Triathlon is a hard sport which can take a lot to recover from, which is why it is almost impossible to maintain good, consistent performances throughout the whole season.

With excellent results at Darlington Tri and Alnwick in May, Northumberland Triathlon in June, QE2 Triathlon in July and Newbiggin Triathlon in September, never being

off the podium in the Vet (40-49) category and always within the top seven females overall, Tracey Sample was assured of being well placed in the regional Grand Prix.

On Saturday 8 November, these prizes were awarded at the Triathlon England North East Region Awards Night in Washington with Tracey Sample picking up 2nd place in the Female Vet category and 3rd place overall of every female in the region.

This topped off a fabulous year where she represented Great Britain in the 40-45 Age Group Category at the European Sprint Distance Triathlon Championship in Austria in June 2014, coming 16th in Age Group.

2014 has also been a good year for Tracey which has seen her start her own business, the 24:7 triathlete, where she coaches athletes to swim, bike, run and also coaches injury rehabilitation. She also helps out at Breeze2Fitness in Amble taking spin classes for people of all abilities as the spin classes are a great way to train on the bike over the winter months.



Tracey represented Great Britain at Kitzbuhel, Austria, in the European Triathlon championships in June

Amble CRC: Rowing to success



Rob Angus talking to Robson Green

This time last year Amble Coastal Rowing Club had three members, no money, no boat and one big idea: to build a traditional wooden skiff and encourage the local community to get involved.

This year the club has gone from strength to strength. Following their successful Big Lottery Fund grant application in the spring, the club moved into the Flow Mill and turned it into a fully functioning boatyard to build their first skiff. Over the next few months the skiff developed and so did the membership with new people, young and old, getting on board.

After five months of hard work the club's first skiff, "Coquet Spirit" was formally launched into the water for the first time as part of Lifeboat Day on 24 August. With a crowd of well wishers on the beach and our local

clergy present to perform the blessing, the day was a huge success and a fitting tribute to a beautiful hand crafted boat.

The ITV programme, "Tales from Northumberland" with Robson Green, also took a keen interest in this community project. Robson even came down to take part in Coquet Spirit's first race in September. Watch out for the series which is to be aired early in the New Year.

The club is currently looking for accommodation to enable work to begin on a second boat which will hopefully be built over the winter, so no doubt 2015 will bring more opportunities for folk to get involved.

www.amblecrc.co.uk
www.facebook.com/AmbleCoastalRowingClub

Tracey's Background

"I've been doing triathlon since 2004, having previously done no sport for 20 years." Tracey told The Ambler.

"I got into triathlon through my husband, and I entered my first Alnwick triathlon in Sept 2004. I didn't even own a bike, couldn't run a mile and my swimming wasn't very good. I was really bad in my first race and I spent 18 months being last or almost last but I was hooked on the sport.

"I've gradually improved but not many people these days believe that I was ever last. I was at my best in 2010 when I was ranked 8th in the world for my age but then had to take two years out of the sport due to a hip problem that required surgery. I was told at the point I had surgery that I'd probably never compete again, that I'd only be able to cycle socially, so I'm really proud of the fact that I've worked hard at my rehab and slowly built up through 2011 - 2013.

"Although I'll probably never be as good as I was in 2010, I consider I'm doing OK but not brilliantly. However it's actually pretty good by most people's standards!"