

# The Ambler

## Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 91 Feb/April 2015

### One way system ignored by motorists

A one way system introduced at the harbour area in December is still being ignored by a handful of motorists, say residents. And despite increased signage and road marking, motorists are still driving the wrong way along Leazes Street.

The temporary one way system was introduced from the bottom of Queen Street, along Coquet Street and Leazes Street, ending at Newburgh Street. The intention is to trial the system for twelve months to see if it will ease traffic congestion along the harbour area.

In the last issue of The Ambler we told readers of the County Council's one way plan, which was due to be introduced on 15 December. However, two months later, some motorists are still driving west along Leazes Street, and the change has increased the number of HGVs now using Lawson and George Street.

Poor signage and a delay in implementing the one-way system was blamed on the initial confusion.

A failure by the County Council to notify residents of the change, resulted in the start of the scheme being delayed for a week, until just before Christmas. Many locals had not been made aware that Lawson Street and George Street were included in the one way system.

During January the scheme was monitored by the County Council and signage and road markings were improved. But some drivers are continuing to drive the wrong way, causing concerns among locals that an accident is waiting to happen.

Several commenters on our Facebook page claimed not to know about the one way system. One claimed it was unnecessary and 'a farce'.

'Old habits' were cited as a reason, as was the width of the Leazes Street junction making it difficult to see the new 'no entry' signs and road markings.

Here are a selection of your Facebook comments:

DH: "It's a mixture of habit and people not looking at signs"

CT: "I do believe there is a few innocents (the signage needs to be better at the large junction ) but I see regulars who are zipping down the wrong way to Broomhill Street. There has been more police presence stopping cars but, my concern is cyclists.



Motorists claim the width of the Newburgh St junction onto Leazes St makes it hard to see the new no entry signs

Not yet, but come summer they are allowed to go in the opposite direction to traffic. This may be part of the national cycle way but I think this needs to be considered - cycle lane maybe ? Just a thought ...."

JF: "the [Leazes Street] junction is big ...but so is the letters saying NO ENTRY !"

RW: "What if a child came out of their house and just looked one way in the direction the traffic should be coming? Would people be saying oops then or saying the child should have been taught the green cross code and check both directions? If you drive then you know the Highway Code and know how important it is to follow it."

Give us your views; email [editor@theambler.co.uk](mailto:editor@theambler.co.uk) or join the discussion on Facebook/TheAmbler



Above: Amble Town Councillors Robert Arkless and Craig Weir at the Paddlers play area.

### Big steps towards Paddlers makeover

At a recent town council meeting it was agreed to grant £20,000 towards the Paddlers renovation. Members have been considering innovative plans for the Paddlers play area which has fallen into a state of disrepair over many years.

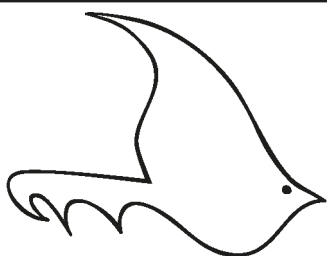
The project has already secured £20,000 from Northumberland County Council and £30,000 from the Small Schemes allowances of Councillor Robert Arkless and Councillor Jeff Watson. This amount is set to be matched by NCC from its parks and green spaces capital projects programme.

Craig Weir, Mayor of Amble, said that he was "very pleased that the hard work carried out by the Town Council, and in partnership with Northumberland County Council has reached this stage. The proposed work will be an asset to Amble and bring great pleasure to all who use it in the future".

"I am using my full year's allocation of funds to support this exciting project," said Jeff Watson. "It seems to me to be very appropriate to breathe new life into the Paddlers and give a recreation facility that young and old can enjoy."

"I remember playing at the Paddlers as a boy," said Robert Arkless. "I am delighted to support this project which will give the same chance to youngsters in the future. I welcome the staunch support of the County Council and Amble Town Council who have worked in partnership to make the scheme a reality."

As well as the new water feature, the paddling pool area will be landscaped, footpaths and entrances improved, and outdoor table tennis and gym equipment installed. Tenders will be invited for the work in the next few weeks.



## The Ambler

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## Heap lie on

There's still a lot going on in Amble town and this issue is crammed with activity of all kinds - some received with excitement, some received with horror. We've got articles on projects that have been visited by a Baroness (page 14) and an MEP (page 16), plans that people didn't know about (page 3), plans that people didn't want to know about (page 4) and plans that people have been expecting to hear about (pages 2 and 3).

We'd like to draw your attention to a wonderfully thoughtful and mature article written by 10 year old Lily Tibbitts. She and two other members of Artogرافي have been considering the complexities of freedom of expression. Please read her article "Is it ever OK to insult someone's beliefs?" on the Artogرافي centre pages.

Spring is definitely here because there are daffodills at the top of Percy Drive - bringing a welcome cheer and brightening up the roadworks at the fish roundabout. Welcome to Persimmon (finally) and to the new properties next to Dandsfield Square; the population of the Friendliest Port will soon be nearing the size of Alnwick!

## New initiative will sell Amble fish directly from the harbour

Alongside the new Harbour Village, wanderers along the quayside will doubtless have noticed the construction of the curvaceous new Seafood Centre. This will be home to the Northumberland Seafood Initiative, the first ever centre of its kind in the North East.

Helen Spark and Andrew Gooding have been appointed to job share the Seafood Broker role. "We will be selling fish and developing new markets within the region," said Andrew.

"We'll be selling directly to customers and through shops and restaurants," said Helen. "And we'll be setting up a fish club, there will be fish auctions and people can buy fish directly from the Seafood Centre."

The aim of the Northumberland Seafood Initiative is to put more local fish on local plates. By supplying both wholesale, retail and consumers directly with locally caught fish, the intention is to take some of the strain off overfished stocks, introduce consumers to new types of delicious seafood and help support Amble's inshore fishing fleet.

"As a nation, us Brits are a pretty unadventurous bunch when it comes to seafood," said Helen. She explained that over 75% of all the seafood we eat comes from the big five: salmon, cod, haddock, tuna and prawns.

"We don't catch enough of these

in the UK, so we end up importing the majority of it," said Andrew. "This massive demand puts a lot of pressure on a handful of fish stocks. If we want to help solve the problem, we need to diversify what we eat."

The UK's inshore fishermen catch a huge variety of quality, fresh, local fish, using low impact methods. But most of their catch is shipped straight to the continent. New European legislation is also putting increased pressure on fishermen to land 100% of their catch with no allowance for any discards.

Andrew and Helen have put together a short survey to gather information on people's needs, preferences, opinions and behaviour when it comes to buying and eating local seafood. You can collect a hard copy version from Fourways2, or access it online via: [www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk/news-events](http://www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk/news-events).



## Harbour Village

After some disappointing delays last year and into this year, Amble Harbour Village is finally in the last stages of construction. 15 Pods are now in place and the Seafood centre is very near completion.

There is still some work to do on site and on the walk-way from the harbour and around the waterfront towards the Marina but it is all scheduled for completion by 20th March 2015.

There is a launch event planned for the first Saturday of the Easter holidays (28th March 2015), where there will be a nautical theme with cooking displays, arts, crafts, food & drink, displays, and fun activities for the kids.

We also plan to have a heritage display and an offer in place to support the Amble Lifeboat as

well as celebrate the Harbour Village opening.

Our Seafood Brokers are now in place. Helen and Andrew will be opening the doors to the seafood centre and sharing their plans for the year ahead.

Please come along and support our businesses in the pods and their fantastic range of products.

We hope to announce three new businesses very soon so keep up to date with all news and event information on [www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk](http://www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk), follow us on Twitter @AmbleHV, or like us on Facebook/AmbleHV

Sarah Dunne, Harbour Village Co-ordinator



# County Council is ignoring the needs of local businesses

Traders on Amble's Industrial Estate met together to set up a petition about what they see as a lack of communication and accountability by Northumberland County Council.

The business owners were angry about the removal and subsequent destruction of their signage, claiming they received no prior notice of the action taken by the County Council. Neither had they been informed about the intended closure of the main access road into the Industrial Estate from the A1068 to construct a roundabout.

Jon Priest, owner of North East Kayaks and Paddles stated that the signs had been placed on the fence because of the lack of a main notice board at the entrance to the Industrial Estate. The fence is owned by Arch, a development company of the County Council.

"Arch never said anything to us when we put the signs up on their fence" said Jon. "No-one was informed our signs would be removed." He claimed the lack of signage had had an immediate effect on his business.

Mark Breeze of Breeze Bikes agreed "It's out of sight, out of mind. If people can't see your sign, they think you've gone."

Fears were raised that the construction of the new roundabout and drainage work, together with the housing development on the Marks Bridge side of the A1068, meant that it would look like the entire Industrial Estate was closed.

"It already looks like the whole site is up for sale by Arch," said Jon. A lot of us will go under. We're not cash-heavy businesses, we rely on passing trade and seasonal trends. They don't understand how quickly things affect us".

Janneil Dixon, co-owner of Castle Mania, claimed she had been unable to speak directly to a County Council officer: "I wanted to get information so I can inform my customers, but she wouldn't speak [directly] to me. They asked how I found out about the road closure, I told them it was posted by the Town Council on Facebook. I was then told I shouldn't believe everything I read on Facebook! This closure will have a massive effect on customers, deliveries etc. Why couldn't we just be informed?"

Other members of the group claimed they too had contacted the County Council over the recent issues and there was surprise that no-one from the County Council or Arch was present at the meeting.

Sarah Mitchell, working on behalf of MP Sir Alan Beith, and prospective Lib Dem candidate Julie Pörkson were at the meeting and offered to contact the County Council, which was accepted by the group.

Julie said: "It is shocking that Northumberland County Council and



r-l: Julie Pörkson, Mark Breeze, Jon Priest and some of the other Industrial Estate business owners. Sarah Mitchell is pictured at the far back (with scarf).

Arch are totally ignoring the needs of local employers in the way they are closing the main entrance to Coquet Enterprise Park to undertake roadworks for the new housing estate. They need to keep local businesses informed and listen to their views to minimise adverse impact on their trade. No business can afford to lose custom and the Council's plans will really put businesses at risk if nothing is done to help retain regular customers and passing trade. We will try and make sure the Council take action so that customers know Amble is open for business as usual during the chaos and diversions that will result from these lengthy roadworks."

The road closure is due to last from 9th March until 13th June.

"Ninety percent of our customers use that road," said Mark Breeze, "It's that critical. We might not be here in June."

## Tesco drops Amble store and puts land up for sale

Tesco have cancelled long-standing plans to build a supermarket in Amble, blaming the cancellation on their recent economic troubles. In a statement, Tesco's new boss Dave Lewis announced they would close 43 "unprofitable" stores and would cancel the construction of 49 new stores, including the 30,000 sq ft eco store in Amble, which was to have employed 150 people.

Spokespersons from Amble Business Club Amble Town Council and Amble Development Trust all expressed their

disappointment at the decision, with the loss of jobs as a blow to the town.

Sir Alan Beith MP visited Amble on the day after the cancellation. He told The Ambler: "The announcement leaves a big gap for the economy of the town. It is very disappointing. It's true the location was controversial, but it would have contributed a lot to the town centre and brought many jobs. Northumberland County Council are going to have to start thinking and talking with Tesco, who are offering to be as helpful as possible."

The last two years have seen Tesco sales falling and profit warnings issued. An accounting scandal in 2014 also resulted in several senior executives leaving the company.

A spokesperson for Tesco told The Ambler: "We are actively looking at what is possible and appropriate for the Amble site, which includes inviting interest from parties who may want to purchase the land.

We're just asking for submissions at this stage, asking interested parties to come forward as opposed to being prescriptive."

*Anna Williams*

## Shorebase moves upstream

The old Shorebase buildings, home of Nautical Studies for decades, was demolished in February. It was good to see some of the former pupils visiting us in December to reminisce about their time in the classroom and see the old teaching aids still in use.

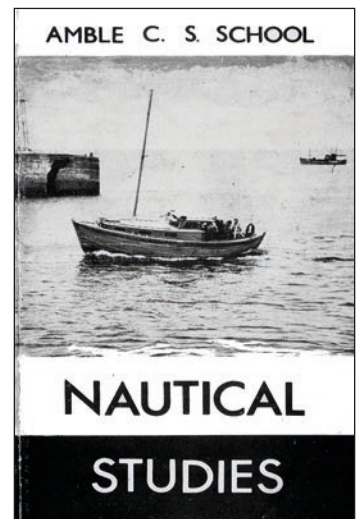
We used to have all the photos from the launch of the whaler 'Collingwood' in 1951, and the log of the Seaquest from the 60's and 70's, plus other archive material but all this was lent to the Amble Middle School when they were celebrating their history, and they requested to keep it, as it was just as much part of their history. However, many of the teachers involved at the time are now retired, and no-one seems to know what happened to these documents.

We do still have a leaflet advertising the Nautical Studies course in the 70s, (see photo) and even the Lodging book - detailing the money paid to landladies for boarding boys who came from other parts of the county to do the course. In 1971, they were paid 62p per day for this (it went up to £1.92 by 1979).

We would love to know where the other information has gone to try and put it all together for the future. If you have copies of any photos from the early days of Nautical Studies in Amble, we'd like to take a copy for our records.

Come up and visit us in the new building there is usually someone in the office Monday to Thursday 9 - 1pm: just drop in.

*Vic Brown*



# Residents unhappy at proposed developments

## •Forty four houses at Mariners View

Residents at Mariners View, are unhappy at the prospect of a further 44 dwellings in the area, and are objecting to the proposed development at Gloster Hill Farm.

### Flooding risk

John Bird says "In heavy rain there is massive run off from local fields and the inadequate sewerage system would be overloaded. Even now heavy rain results in untreated sewerage being forced up through manhole covers at the bottom of Gloster Hill. The Water Board is on record as having serious reservations about the impact of this development."

Martin Horn says "The plan does say something would be done about surface run off but there is no solution proposed. Permission should be refused until this is changed."

### Archaeology

There is criticism that no plan is in place to explore the archaeology and heritage of

the site. The report does not mention the find of a hoard during the development of Mariners View and Martin feels that a full

survey of the site is needed."

### Traffic safety

"The access road to the farm element of the building site at the top of Gloster Hill has a blind 90 degree dangerous bend," says John.

"The Council has already rejected two applications to develop the farm site because of this hazard."

Martin says: "The planned access to most of the new properties is via a tight gap between two properties on Mariners View. The proposal does admit that this junction does not comply with basic requirements as it has

inadequate line of site and width. This is an accident waiting to happen.

The design is totally unsafe for pedestrians especially those

with pushchairs and/or young children. This in itself should be enough to reject the application."

### Wildlife

The campaigners say the area attracts numerous wild birds and animals, and there is also a great variety of plant life.

Another concern for the campaigners is loss of privacy when new houses are located feet from existing homes, and putting two storey building overlooking existing bungalows, especially as the new buildings are at a higher level.

John says: "This is the wrong development in the wrong place and the developers won't even begin to acknowledge its damaging effects."

And he asks "Please make your concerns known to Northumberland County Council, Warkworth Parish Council, local MP's and prospective parliamentary candidates".

*Vivienne Dalgliesh*

## •Touring caravan site at Hauxley

At a recent Hauxley Parish Council meeting, residents and members of the public voiced their objections to a proposed new caravan park at Beacon Hill Farm, Hauxley.

Concerns were raised about the scale of the development which includes 30 touring pitches, approximately 5 tent pitches, an office/coffee shop and a toilet/shower block.

The prospect of scores of caravans and motorhomes negotiating the narrow roads

on a daily basis was cited and the lack of existing footpaths on Hauxley Lane, which has several sharp bends and is reduced to a single lane in several areas, would make the area more dangerous to walkers, including children and holidaymakers, it was claimed.

Wildlife and the existing Hauxley Nature Reserve were also mentioned; it was claimed the area adjacent to the proposed caravan park is home to nesting barn owls, red squirrels and bats, and concern was raised over the thoroughness of the ecological survey.

Noise from holidaymakers and the proximity of the caravans to

local dwellings was also a cause for concern, with one resident commenting that the caravans would be within 19 metres of his bedroom. "And I go to bed sharp!"

At the meeting, the Parish Council voted to object to the development.

In their written response to the application, they claim that the application is in violation of Policy T3 in the Alnwick Local Plan regarding Areas of High Landscape Value.

They also claim that in the Northumberland Local Plan, Policy 26 acknowledges the possibility that small-scale developments can have a major adverse impact on

the landscape in sensitive rural settings.

"Hauxley Parish Council believe that in the context of the village size, this proposed development constitutes a major development ... this will increase the numbers in the village by a third."

In their application, the owners of the proposed development cited the need for spaces for touring caravans in the area, and claimed the caravan park would bring jobs to the village and to help boost tourism in the area. They were not present at the Parish Council meeting.

*Anna Williams*

## Amble is 'a safe place' to live

"Amble is a safe place to live, work and visit," these are the words of Paul Truscott, Neighbourhood Inspector for Alnwick District.

He rejected the suggestion that a recent increase in burglaries in Amble was due to a reduction in police presence.

"There has been a recent spike in crime for the area, although the figures overall for the past year have shown a reduction on previous years," he told *The Ambler*.

This spike has featured 20 reported break-ins since November 2014; the majority of these have been sheds (14) located either in the allotments or on the Radcliffe estate. (Five of these sheds were insecure.)

The property stolen included power and hand tools, cycles, garden equipment and food stuffs.

"As a result of police action, two local men were arrested and are currently on bail, and a 50 year old man from the Sunderland area has been arrested and is on bail; the expectation is he will be charged with five offences," he said.

In addition to the arrests, three warrants have been executed in the town, which have led to the recovery of stolen property.

Inspector Truscott was keen to stress that police numbers in Amble have not changed.

"The number of officers patrolling Amble remains the same and they are supported by

a strong Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Amble Police Station currently remains open to the public and acts as a patrol base for officers," he said.

To help safeguard the area members of the community are encouraged to ring the police on 101 if they witness anything out of the ordinary or 999 if it is an emergency.

Inspector Truscott added: "To make life more difficult for the criminals, please think twice about purchasing items which may appear bargains but are part of the black market for the regeneration of stolen goods."

**Amble Neighbourhood Policing Team are:**  
PC 3527 David Donaldson PC 2136 Ray Ashby  
PCSO Darin Fawcett.



# Health Centre news

## Goodbye to staff

This spring sees several members of Coquet Medical Group leaving after a combined total of over 50 years of service at the practice. Receptionists Sandra Atwell retired in February after nearly 24 years' service and Wendy Boyd will be retiring in March after 17 years' service.

Practice Nurse Moya Mason, will be retiring after seven years and Kay Clarke, District Nurse will also be retiring in March.

Dr. Ryan Whitehouse will be leaving to join a GP practice nearer his home.

A spokesperson for Coquet Medical Group said "We will miss them all very much and would like to thank them for their loyalty and dedication over the years and wish them every happiness in their new lives."

The practice is busy recruiting and will announce new staff when they have been appointed.

## Online facilities

Patients already have the opportunity to to book, view, amend, cancel and print appointments online. In addition patients can order online, as well as viewing and printing a list of repeat prescriptions or medicines and appliances.

The health centre plans to offer patients facilities to view online, export or print any summary information from their record, relating to medications, allergies

and adverse reactions, subject to availability. A spokesperson said "We will publicise and promote our online services to our patients through our website, waiting room leaflets, posters and the Patient Participation Group by 31st March"

## New Registrar

GP Registrar Dr Simone Nagiah will be joining the practice for six months from the beginning of February.

## GP Appointments

We are aware that increased demand has resulted in the perception that it is more difficult to get an appointment.

We have a working group constantly reviewing and trying to adapt our strategy to ensure that all our patients can be accommodated in a time frame that meets clinical needs.

The practice offers a range of appointments, including:

- Telephone consultations - some matters can be dealt with effectively over the telephone. This includes routine as well as more urgent problems. If a face-to-face consultation is then required, this can be arranged.
- Same day "on call" appointments for problems that require rapid assessment.
- 24-48 hours appointments - released daily for people that need more immediate access.



- Longer term appointments – to review chronic problems.

Early and late working day and Saturday morning appointments are available for those that find access through the week difficult.

Unfortunately, there are still problems, and to tackle this, more doctors and nurses than ever before are employed. Changes behind the scenes to get the balance right will continue.

## Diabetes

The practice is working in partnership with Diabetes UK to establish a support group. We are looking for volunteers to take on the roles of chairperson, treasurer and secretary.

A meeting will be held in April at the Parish Hall, Dovecote St. with Christine Fox from Diabetes UK and representatives from Coquet Medical Group to outline the plans. All diabetic patients will be contacted with further details.

# AMBLE VALETING SERVICES

Our services start off at the entry level of a wash & dry, then we move up to wash & vac valet, then we move up to the next level which is the mini valet, then we have the interior valet, then we move up to the full valet.

Prices start from £5 for wash & dry up to the full valet which starts from £50.

If you do not see a valet that suits your needs we can customise a valet to suit you. All our products are environmentally friendly with no acidic chemicals used during valeting

## Wash & Dry

from **£5.00**

Car is pre soaked then hand washed followed by a hand dry

## Wash & Vac

from **£10.00**

Same as wash & dry plus seats, carpets & boot vacuumed

## Mini Valet

from **£20.00**

Wash & dry, wheels cleaned & tyres dressed, dust & clean all internal plastics, vacuum seats, carpets & boot, polish interior windows

## Interior Valet

from **£30.00**

Vacuum & shampoo seats, carpets & boot, dust & clean all internal plastics including dashboard & door panels, clean all door checks, polish interior windows

## Full Valet from £50.00

Same as interior valet plus, hand wash & dry exterior, remove tar spots as required, polish exterior of car & door checks, treat all exterior plastics & bumpers, dress tyres & polish exterior windows



## Hours of business:

10.00am	16.00pm	Monday
10.00am	16.00pm	Tuesday
10.00am	16.00pm	Wednesday
10.00am	16.00pm	Thursday
10.00am	16.00pm	Friday

Pet hair removal & heavily soiled seats & carpets will incur extra charges  
All items should be removed from interior & boot prior to bringing your vehicle for valeting

Unit 7 Coquet Enterprise Park, off Percy Drive, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0PE  
web: [www.amblevaletingservices.co.uk](http://www.amblevaletingservices.co.uk) email: [sales@amblevaletingservices.co.uk](mailto:sales@amblevaletingservices.co.uk)

**Tel: 07947955453**



# WHAT YOU SAY...

## Public access way - your replies

In response to the reader's letter (*Is this a public access way? Letters Issue 90*) in which a photograph of an old blocked off access way at the west cemetery is queried. I have looked at the definitive map of public rights of way, which is available to members of the public to view for free on the County Council's web site at: <http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/prow/>

There is no recorded public right of way (e.g. a public footpath or a bridleway) existing at this point between the cemetery and Mariner's view, and it is possible that this could be an old private access between the cemetery and the adjacent field.

However it may be possible to claim that a public right of way exists if there is good historical or user evidence of this route being used as a public path.

*Tony Derbyshire, Area Countryside Officer, Northumberland County Council*



Regarding the right of way letter, that has never been a right of way out of Mariner's View. Until recently that field was used for grazing and the access was used to get feed in and out. If you look at a high definition Ordinance Survey map, you can see there is no public right of way.

*Martin Horn Mariners View, Amble*

Having recently received my copy of *The Ambler*, as Amble Town Council have a policy of non response to anonymous letters, I would like to personally give the requested information to the writer of the letter regarding the gate at Amble West Cemetery.

The field beyond this gate was part of the Cemetery land until some 10 years ago when this area became part of a land swap for the land which is currently the Natural Burial area and future interment site.

The gate was in situ previous to this time solely to allow access to Cemetery staff for maintenance of the field area and has never been a public right of way or even a pedestrian access path at any time. (Those of us who can recall even further back may remember that the field was let for horse grazing for a number of years!).

After the land swap this gate was permanently closed as staff no longer had a need to use it when the maintenance became the responsibility of the new owner.

Regular visitors to the Cemetery and readers of the Council newsletter page in *The Ambler*, will be aware that the Cemetery is the responsibility of Amble Town Council whose Clerk is well versed in matters pertaining to the Council. By identifying yourself in a telephone call or email you can therefore be assured that most queries are answered quite quickly.

*Helen Lewis, Amble via email*

## Charity bags adding to landfill

I wondered if, like us, other residents of Amble have been (and are) inundated with plastic charity bags coming through the letterbox!

First let me assure you we are a charitable family and donate through the year to charities of our choice, but cannot believe the quantity of plastic arriving. So much so that on January 1st 2014 we started counting, and at the end of December 2014 the grand total was 65 bags. Over 1 per week and impossible for a normal household to contribute so the quantity of bags going to landfill must be staggering.

I will not get into the subject of are they legal or not. If supermarkets are charging for plastic bags to save pollution how can this waste be allowed??

*Concerned, Amble via email*

## Looking for Thomas Anderson Stewart

I wonder if you can help. I've been researching my family tree for almost 40 years, but there's one person I cannot find beyond 1915, my great-grandfather Thomas Anderson Stewart. Thomas was born in Hauxley in 1880, lived on Broomhill St until he married in 1908, then lived on Lime St. Between 1914 and 1915 he is listed living in Victoria St. Other than census returns (especially for 1911), the electoral register for 1914/15, and his younger son's death certificate showing Thomas enlisted 7th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers, the only record I have is in the June 1914 *Morpeth Herald & Reporter* reporting his arrest on Coquet St, for being drunk and disorderly! After 1915 Thomas vanishes.

The MoD have no record, he was awarded no medals, and he has no death certificate. If Thomas was still alive I'd find him in the Guinness Book of Records. Any information as to Thomas would be gratefully received. Thank you.

*John Stewart Hillam  
via Facebook*

## Thank you for helping with our lights

Another festive Christmas lights season has now come to an end and judging by so many favourable comments from both local and visiting people, I think we can consider it to have been a great success.

The efforts of the lights workshop team have paid off once again and I know this is greatly appreciated by so many in the town. It is not just our efforts that need to be recognised though. There are so many other people both locally and further afield that make a huge contribution towards both the lights and the associated lantern parade. One without the other would definitely lead to a poorer show. As always, on the night of the switch on, the atmosphere in the town was fantastic and it is so rewarding for us to see so many families taking part.

But of course, the "Christmas Lights" would not exist without the financial support we receive from so many in and around the town. While it is not possible to name every contributor, may I give a big round of thanks in the following way. To Amble Town Council, all the many shops and businesses, restaurants, pubs, Amble Development Trust, Churches, Rotary Club, Thursday Club, the market traders and not least the many individual townspeople who have contributed: We offer you all our heartfelt thanks and I apologise if I have missed someone out!

The workshop team have no intention of resting on their laurels, so in the next few weeks we shall return to the workshop and begin renewal and repair work in order to make ready for the lighting displays 2015/16. While on the subject of the workshop team, may I make a plea to anyone out there who may wish to help in some way. Obviously, people with electrical skills are always needed, but we have a real need for men, happy to work up ladders. We usually meet up on Wednesday mornings and it seems to work out best for newly retired folk. If interested, please call me on 01665 711453.

Once more, on behalf of the entire Amble Christmas Lights team, I thank you all and wish you well for 2015.

*Trevor Colbourne,  
Chairman, Amble Christmas Lights Committee*

We welcome your letters, email, Facebook and Twitter comments for publication.

Your name and address must be supplied, but will be withheld on request. Letters may be edited. Contact details on page2.

# WHAT YOU SAY...

## Pick up your dog's mess

Plea to all Amble dog owners and minders- You are making the footpaths and the cuts on the housing estates into disgusting places by failing to clean up after your dogs – a simple task and there are plenty of bins around the town.

It is impossible to walk along the various cuts and some of the town footpaths at night without bringing dog dirt into my home and onto my carpets. Quite frankly I find this disgusting in this day and age.

Come on Amble dog owners and minders you are getting worse not better. Pull your socks up please- it is a fineable offence.

*Name and address withheld*

## Security upgrade for rare birds

A community fund, set up by Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird QC, has awarded the RSPB a grant of £2,000 to help prevent wildlife crime at its Coquet Island reserve.

Coquet Island is home to tens of thousands of breeding seabirds during spring and summer including the UK's only colony of roseate terns. As a result, the island is designated as a wildlife sanctuary and landing on it is prohibited without consent.

The RSPB will use the grant to upgrade the island's outdated CCTV system so staff can monitor the island effectively for illegal activity such as egg theft and disturbance of roseate terns.

Although surrounded by sea, Coquet Island's wildlife is at risk from wildlife criminals. In 2004, rare roseate tern eggs were stolen and in July 2012 two brothers from Amble caused reckless disturbance to breeding roseate terns when they landed on the island.

Warden Paul Morrison said: "This generous grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner means that we will be able to provide greater protection for the UK's rarest seabird and make staff feel safe and secure when working on the island.

"It is also a powerful endorsement of the RSPB's view that wildlife crime is a serious issue that needs to be tackled head on with the right resources."

Vera said: "Tackling wildlife crime is an important priority and I am pleased that we have been able to support the excellent work of the RSPB to help protect some of the UK's rarest seabirds on Coquet Island. Northumbria Police and I will continue to work closely with the RSPB to help protect rare birds and stop the theft of birds eggs."

## More donations please

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), watches, jewellery, spectacles, CDs, vinyl records, DVDs, working televisions and HiFi

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*

Charities for 2014-5: <https://sites.google.com/site/recyclingwarkworth/>

## Shannon lifeboat appeal

The Co-operative stores in Amble – Newburgh Street and Queen Street have come up trumps yet again by raising the fantastic sum of £1005 for Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers (ALF). Elise Rutter, Newburgh Street, handed the money to Eleanor Cassidy, Vice Chairman ALE Staff in both stores have been great supporters of ALF for several years and have worked hard to raise this money – a very big THANK YOU to all.

Amble Lifeboat Station is due to receive a new 'Shannon' Class Lifeboat in July 2017 and £200,000 needs to be raised. This donation will go into the 'Shannon' Lifeboat Appeal fund.

*Eleanor Cassidy, Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers*

Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers' Coffee Mornings and events

Sunday 15 March: Coffee Morning at Lifeboat Station 10am

Saturday 4 April: Car Boot Sale for Shannon Lifeboat Appeal

Sunday 5 April: Coffee Morning at Lifeboat Station 10am

More letters on page 8 >>

## Corner

Captain Coquet's

### *Island stirs into life after long winter*



The new water tank arrives on Coquet Island

Over the winter months the RSPB staff and volunteers have been busy doing all those jobs that can't be done when the birds are nesting.

With the completion of the restoration of the monastic bits of the buildings around and under the lighthouse, we have turned our attention to improving our water saving and storage. This involved diverting rainwater from the roof and upgrading the drainage pipes to the underground tanks in the gardens.

Last year we had to increase the number of staff staying on Coquet to provide a more effective 24 surveillance,

guarding the birds from disturbance and egg theft attempts; and we ran out of water for essentials! Northumbrian Water stepped in to help, and donated a giant water tank, which was delivered by Puffin Cruises.

Grass cutting is an annual task but this year we have been helped by 140 Canada geese that have been regular visitors. It's amazing how much grass they devour!

Already the fulmars are on their ledges and the puffins and black-headed gulls are making Coquet Island their home for the summer. We are all waiting for the first of the terns to arrive from their winter holidays in Africa!



# WHAT YOU SAY...

## Cancer - thank you Amble

On the 17th December, at the Freeman Hospital, I was told that the tumour in my gullet had gone and so had the one on my right lymph gland: I was completely free of cancer. It was a wonderful Christmas present for me and the family.

But it was also a humbling experience to recall just how many people had worked to produce this result. From the front-line staff at the Amble Health Centre and Dr Matthew Pettifer to the Northern Centre for cancer care at the Freeman Hospital, via Outpatient Oncology Ward, the Clinic and the staff of the Palliative Care Ward all at the Wansbeck Hospital; the Royal Victoria Infirmary and the multidiscipline diagnostic team who identified the problem and the best treatment, the teamwork was remarkable. Finally, under the direction of my Consultant, Clinical Oncologist Dr Paula Mulvenna MRCP FRCA, a treatment plan was chosen and implemented and was successful.

Not only the teamwork, but the individual care I received, from all those who dealt with me, whatever their job, was impressive. I felt that my well-being mattered to each of them.

I think that here in Amble we are incredibly lucky to have such a fine example of the National Health Service within such comparatively easy reach. But it needs vigilance on our part to keep it that way. Read between the lines of all the leaflets coming through your letterbox in the next week or two to help you identify those who don't agree.

Yours sincerely

*Ian Hinson, Eastgarth Avenue, Amble*

## Raffle thanks

A big thanks to all who donated prizes for the Christmas Lights raffle.

Derek and Susan - The Schooner  
Susanne - The Harbour Inn  
Bede Street Club  
Amble Market  
Neil Davison Windows  
David Stewart Aquarius Bathrooms  
Mossman and Gilliard  
Northern Structures  
VG. Food Store  
Amble Fishing Tackle Shop  
Robert Thornton  
David Dunn  
In-Sync  
Amble Scaffolding  
Northern Partnership Training  
Bev. Bell  
John and Susan Kent.

A special thanks also to all who bought tickets which raised £714.00

*Trevor Colbourne  
Chairman, Amble Christmas Lights*

## Looking for ex-forces Les Anderson

My name is Dean Fry and I am looking for an ex forces friend of mine, Les Anderson, his family lived in Amble and I visited many years ago in fact the 1980s.

He had a brother called Neville and whilst visiting we would go to a pub called the Dock. I know it's a long shot but your help would be appreciated as we have a mutual friend who is very ill and would love to speak to Les again.

*Dean Fry  
member@fryo.freemove.co.uk*

## Cromie's new look pharmacy



L-r: Gillian Stewart, Valerie Green, Linda Douglas, Cllr Scott Dickinson, Mark Burdon, co-owner of Cromies Pharmacy

A major refurbishment has taken place at Cromie's Pharmacy on Percy Street, which has already made a big difference for staff and customers.

And four new jobs have been created since the business changed hands last May.

Owner Mark Burdon told The Ambler: "We are really pleased with the refurbishment work, which has made a big difference to the services the pharmacy can offer to patients.

"There are now three consultation rooms which have allowed us to expand and introduce new services to help people stay healthy; such as

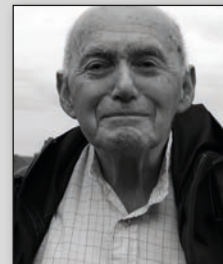
stop smoking services, contraception and supporting people to get the best from their medicines.

"The staff now have much more space to work, in a much improved environment. We are still stocking the same range of health and beauty products."

The refurbishment was officially unveiled in December, by Councillor Scott Dickinson.

Mark added: "All of the existing staff remain, and since we took over Cromie's, in May, we have brought in four new staff. Notably Gillian, our delivery driver."

## An age of insecurity Harry McQuillen



Many years ago I asked my younger daughter, then at primary school, what she thought about newspapers. Her answer was straight. "I'll read them when they talk about GOOD THINGS!"

I've been thinking about her answer recently, and the constant stream of bad news. We hear about Food Banks, Payday Loans, homelessness (are there really rough sleepers in Ashington Woods?) sanctions on vulnerable benefit claimants, toothlessness (is this a return to the thirties?) We hear of dangerous climate change, and international conflicts. In a recent conversation with a politician a lady of a certain age talked of Public Squalor and Private Affluence in the USA - the richest country on earth.

My thoughts turned to our own infrastructure. We have clean water, sewage, gas, electricity, refuse collection, libraries, leisure centres, swimming pools, our NHS, and our Welfare State. Some of us remember when things were very different. I remember a remark by a social commentator about "A felicitic calculus". I think that he meant the balance between good and bad.

People have always had problems, some more than others. We'll never solve all of them for everybody. Most of the things we do are well-intentioned.

A perfect illustration of this is our recently introduced one-way road system near the harbour. I've just watched a number of cars turn left from Newburgh Street into Leazes Street. The answer will be new, clear "Signage" And the time it takes for everybody to get used to it!

Management of Change is the modern watchword. We'll ALL have to get used to whatever comes along. It will all work so much better if we HELP ONE ANOTHER!

*Harry McQuillen*



# Sea Angling is perfect for all ages

On a fiercely cold but bright January day, one of those days when the tide is so far out you're almost convinced Coquet Island has rejoined the mainland, small dots of colour could just be seen, perched on rocks and outlining the shore. Blinking my watery eyes into focus, the tiny shapes morphed into sea anglers, picking out the very edges of the wild Northumbrian coast, ignoring the icy wind, determined to match their skill against the biggest, the heaviest, the most elusive fish.

From Lynemouth to Seahouses, 515 hardy souls took part this year, in the biggest open sea angling competition in the country. The Penn Amble Open Shore Championship is organised by Amble Sea Angling Club, a group of around 40 local fishing fans, who have done their part in transforming a traditional pastime into a hobby enjoyed nationally by thousands of people of all ages.

"Angling is the biggest participant sport in the country," club President Ken Middlemist tells me "There's more people participate in angling than football."

Amble Sea Angling Club was formed back in 1974. Over the years, as their

membership swelled, the group met in a variety of pubs before settling on a home at the Radcliffe Club.

"The first Amble Open was in 1976, that was run from the Boys' Club," says Ken. "80 people took part in that. In 1991, 987 took part, that was the most we've had so far. This year was our 38th Open shore championship and we had 515. Our

Open is one of the biggest and best supported in the North East. This shoreline is perfect for catches, there's something for everyone, including youngsters. Along most of the shoreline there are safe places to fish."

After 5 hours of baiting, casting and waiting, it's time to call it a day. The weigh-in at the Radcliffe Club decides the winners and there is a huge selection of prizes, all donated by local companies.

Club Secretary Les Weller said: "it's been a brilliant day. Congratulations to 13 year old Rebecca Abbot who won this year's event. She caught 14 flounders totalling 10lb 14.3/4oz, and won three categories; the



Gary Pye presents first prize to 13 yr old Rebecca Abbot



Above: Ken Middlemist is President of Amble Sea Angling Club and he is also a veteran fly dresser. Ken will be demonstrating the art of fly dressing at an international exhibition in Germany in April.

heaviest bag, Junior and Ladies' categories."

In second place was Gordon Fairley with 18 flats totalling 10lb 12.3/4oz and in third place was John Tveddell with 14 flats totalling 10lb 7oz.

The competition brought visitors from as far away as Yorkshire, Cumbria and Scotland, with scores of people staying overnight in the Friendliest Port.

"We'd like to say a big thank you to the whole organising committee and to all the local tackle shops involved," said Les.

If you would like to know more about the Sea Angling Club, phone Les on 0790 0695 538, or see their Facebook page.

*Anna Williams*

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## My chance to become a spy

I have entered a competition to see if I could become a spy!!!!!!!!!!!!!! A popular CBBC programme called Blue Peter offered viewers a chance to become a spy, and a trip to go to the headquarters of the British Intelligence service, MI5. The headquarters is so top secret that only people who work there are allowed to enter.

8 extremely lucky children will be selected to go to a 'spy school'.

Three of the children will be selected to become CBBC Intelligence Officers and complete a special project for Blue Peter. I hope I will be one of them, although if I am, I wouldn't be able to tell you about it because it is top secret! Those three children will go to MI5 and will get to look around the headquarters; which is something that only the intelligence service get to do.

By NiamhS



## Is it ever OK to insult someone's beliefs?

At the beginning of January, in Paris, 10 journalists were murdered by gunmen after creating a cartoon in the magazine 'Charlie Hebdo' that was offensive to the gunmen's religion.

In Artograffi, me, Hope and Niamh discussed freedom of expression (being able to express what you feel is right); it was very confusing.

First we thought that freedom of expression is important because everyone has an opinion and they should feel free to express it. Sometimes a new opinion brings about a new theory.

Yet also we think that if your opinion will hurt others' feelings, you shouldn't express it quite so much because (in the words of Niamh!) "*when someone insults your feelings and beliefs it feels like they've been trod on*".

But does that mean you can't express your opinions in fear that you'll offend others? Help!!

So for example, if we drew a cartoon of something we believe to be wrong, but others were offended because they believe it was right, should we state our opinion? Or should we not print it, so we didn't offend them?

Artograffi then thought that you shouldn't write or draw anything that might offend others and apologise if you do. So then, does this mean we can't express our opinions?

We concluded that we should feel free to express our opinions, but at the same time should respect and not mock others' beliefs. I think we can take away from this that it's stupid to argue and even die over little things we can prevent, by showing a little respect for one another!

By Lily Tibbitts

## Help get rid of litter and graffiti



The park in Amble also known as the Welfare has quite a lot of litter. Help stop litter by picking up empty wrappers and different litter. The only cure for litter is you! So please pick up your litter make our world healthy and if you see someone drop litter pick it up or tell them.

By Romi

## Constipated goldfish gets £300 operation

An owner of a sick goldfish took it to the vets and paid £300 for surgery. The fish had a lump blocking its bottom, which a vet called Faye Bethell successfully managed to remove from the goldfish (clever lady).

Anaesthetic was bubbled through the goldfish's water so he went to sleep. The goldfish was kept wet throughout the operation, and its

heart rate was monitored with a tiny probe.

"The goldfish was constipated because he had a lump blocking his bottom, rather than because of his diet or any other reason," Faye said.

"At the end of the day they're all pets and everybody does have a commitment to their pet," Faye also said.

By Hope



## Awesome LEGO exhibition starts at Woodhorn Museum

I went to see this exhibition, it is cool! There were so many things to see all made out of LEGO; signs, an airport, a train station, even The Oscars, which was my favourite. There was also models of places from all around the world, like Niagra Falls, and Las Vegas and even Woodhorn, itself!

Some things were cool, like on the train station you can see the clock actually moves and tells the time. On some of the models, they say how many bricks they have used. the exhibition is on now until 22 March, and then from 1 April to 31 May.

The amazing models have been created by LEGO artist Warren Elsmore. You can have a go yourself in the creation station of LEGO!

There are also North East's landmarks include the Tyne Bridge, Angel of the North and Bamburgh Castle, all specially made for this exhibition.

By Hope Vernon

Below: Hope at the Brick Planet LEGO exhibition at Woodhorn



## Vlogger Zoella joins Comic Relief Bake Off special

Youtube star Zoella is swapping blogging for baking - and starring in the new series of the BBC's 'Great Comic Relief Bake-Off' this year. Zoella will be joining other celebrities to take part in the special version of the baking show, all in the name of charity of comic relief.

She said she is a big fan of the show, and was: "genuinely a little bit shocked and very excited when I was asked to take part".

The series begins on 11 February and 16 celebrities will be competing against each other in a series of baking challenges.

Some of the other celebrities are Radio 1 DJ Jameela Jamil and fashion presenter Gok Wan.

The winning celebrity will then be crowned star baker by judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood. Zoella is so excited.

I hope she wins. I like Zoella I love her book I like watching her amazing blogs on youtube. She is amazing and brilliant.

By Hope

## Dolphins

Dolphins live in salt water but they can also live in freshwater locations. Only a handful of the species though are known to thrive in freshwater regions. They tend to stick to the shallow areas of the water found along the continental shelves. You can get all different types of dolphins like: river dolphins, white beaked, bottle nosed.

Some are in danger, like the river dolphins. They live in hot places but some live in cold places. They are in danger because there is lots of pollution, they eat it and it gets stuck in their throat .

By Rose-Alice Vivien Taylor

## Binky's bus ride

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

Binky wanted to go to town. Binky's mum did not. As much as Binky persuaded and cried and wailed, his mum wouldn't budge; she was a stubborn panda. So Binky decided to go on his own, the only problem was he didn't have a bamboo truck. Binky gulped, he would have to take the bus.

Binky Bamboo ran to catch the bus, but the scrawny driver said...

"No no no! No pandas on my bus!"

Binky got off. That was attempt one, he thought, failed.

Maybe he could hold onto the back, it would be scary but he could try. Binky waited patiently for the next bus; when it came, he launched himself on the back and held on tight. As it started, the bus gave a jolt and the poor panda was thrown off.

Binky sighed, he'd never get to the village. Unless...Binky jumped up, seeing an abandoned sledge by the road. As the next bus came, he was ready. A vine went around the back, then the other end went round the sledge.

Binky jumped on the sledge just as the bus started to go. Soon he found himself riding behind the bus, to town and beyond!

By Lily

## My Auntie Connie is 108!



Above: Niamh with her Great Aunt Connie Mossman and the birthday card that Artograffi made

My great auntie has celebrated her 108th birthday on Sunday (8th February) and everyone at Artograffi made her a special card; we each wrote a small message inside the card and signed our names. On the back we made a sort of memories page; for example she used to work in Mr Smith's Shoe Shop in Amble and we put that on the back.

On her Birthday I went down to her house and gave our card to her. We even got a picture of her on her Birthday. She lives with her Grand Daughter near castle mania. Connie used to like dancing and going to the bingo on Friday night. She really liked her card.

By Niamh Shiels

## The book that's all about Amble



Children from Amble First School have written a book called 'All About Amble'. The book has a lot of pictures of my grandma Alice Bell; she was a pupil there and then she worked at Amble First School.

The children have drawn lots of pictures and there's lots of information on the history of Amble from 1090 until today. Amble First School opened in 1909 and it is still open today.

By Rose –Alice Vivien Taylor



## Baroness visits women's workshop

Have you seen the building on the industrial site and wondered what it was? Well Fourth Action a branch of the North Northumberland Women's Network, initiated the self-build project so women could learn through experience to build their own workshop space.

A group of volunteers, numbering about 100 over the course of the project, have been involved, with the help of Mary Kelly an architect who uses the Walter Segal Self-Build Trust methods. Steps so far have included discussing the planning and deciding how to keep the site safe. They were involved with purchasing tools planning the training and involving the local community.

Construction involved making and raising the frames, adding joists and rafters and battening, laying the floor, building the structure of the walls and insulating, putting a waterproof surface on the roof, fitting windows and doors, lining the interior with board and plasterboard and building a stud wall for the toilet area.

Courses in tool safety and maintenance were run on a regular basis and volunteers had to attend these sessions before getting involved.

Childcare was provided at Brambles Centre while the work or training took place; transport needs were met if required.



Viewing the women's self-build building: Baroness Maddock and Hala Zaluckowska

On Friday 30th January, Baroness Diana Maddock came along to view the building project in her role as patron of the Women's Fund which is administered by the Community Foundation.

She will be addressing the assembly at the Women's Fund fundraising lunch on 9th March at the Hylton Hotel in Newcastle and wanted to visit some of the projects that have benefitted from the fund.

Fourth Action have had two grants from the Women's Fund the other one being the Aspire 2B project which worked with BME women to support their employability.

Baroness Maddock has a great interest

in timber built housing and energy efficient homes having lived for several years in Sweden.

She asked a number of pertinent questions about the workspace that was being constructed and made suggestions on how to make improvements. She then went on to visit Brambles nursery.

Women are currently severely under-represented in construction and manual trades within Northumberland. Training is often difficult as it is aimed at 16 to 18 year olds.

There is evidence through the NNWN of continuing discrimination in the workplace, where women who have successfully achieved qualifications (one with distinctions) find themselves unable to gain employment in the construction field.

To promote women's issues Baroness Maddock's advice was to lobby any woman in public office. There are other organisations that encourage women in this field, one is aptly named 'Chicks with Bricks.'

To get involved with the Amble women's self-build project, contact Hala Zaluckowska Projects Manager, email [hala@nnwn.org](mailto:hala@nnwn.org)

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## Susan says 'thank you' for a splashing time



Scores of people turned out for a New Year's dip on Amble's Little Shore.

The hardy group braved the cold of the North Sea, in order to raise money for cancer charity Bright Red.

A large crowd came out to support the dippers, and there were free hot drinks and soup for everyone afterwards.

A magnificent sum of £4000 was raised from sponsorship money and donations.

"My Mam Susan Wintrip wants to thank each and everyone that took part on 1st

January, and also Kath Elliot her best friend, who organised the sponsor dip/swim at the Little Shore," said spokesperson Kerry Allan.

"All the money will go to Ward 33 at the Freeman hospital, they saved my Mam's life," she said.

"My Mam is doing well, she's in remission. Our family are so grateful to all the doctors, nurses, all the staff on Ward 33 at the Freeman; all their time, care, looking after our Mam. That's why she wants to return the favour and say thank you to them.


The money raised from the New Year dip will be added to the proceeds from another fundraising event to be held on Saturday 7th March at the Radcliffe Club. Popular band "The Range" will play, and there will be a raffle with lots of prizes. Tickets are £5.

"We are so proud of our Mam and we are so pleased she's doing well," said Kerry. "We love her dearly, her husband Kevin Wintrip, daughters, me (Kerry) and Paula, her son Ryan and of course her grandkids, who kept her strong."

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-  **24V DV motor for power, speed and reliability.**

For quotations and free advice call **01670 293700**  
or visit **[www.openice.co.uk](http://www.openice.co.uk)**



## Jellyfish blast off...



The Year 1 Jellyfish Class at Amble Links First School have been learning all about space. In their topic entitled 'Blast Off' the children were set a mission to investigate the planets.

They planned their voyage, including what they needed to take and then travelled to space on their own class rocket (with real smoke!).

They ate dry ice cream (just as real astronauts would) and learnt about gravity. The children worked in research teams using non-fiction books and the internet to find out about planets. Their next mission is to learn all about Neil Armstrong.

### Scottish Celebrations

For Burns Night, the Foundation Stage children learned lots about Scottish culture. Mrs Wilkinson treated us to a rendition of Scotland the Brave on her bagpipes and taught us some very tricky Scottish dancing moves! The children have been creating their own tartan in the craft area, designing castles and making Loch Ness monsters as well as making their own shortbread and tasting haggis, 'neeps' and tatties!!

*Paul Heeley Headteacher, Amble Links First School*

## Minister visits EU funded housing development in Amble

Housing, regeneration and health projects in Northumberland have all been showcased during a visit by North East Euro MP Paul Brannen.

Projects that have received European Funding, and others which will have a significant impact on quality of life for residents and important locations for business growth were all part of the visit.

The day was hosted by NCC's business chair, Councillor Scott Dickinson.

The council is building one of the first new council housing developments in the county for 30 years at Dandsfield Square. A total of 48 new homes are due for completion.

The County Council has an ambitious affordable housing programme which

is aimed at building or supporting the development of at least 1,000 new homes by 2017.

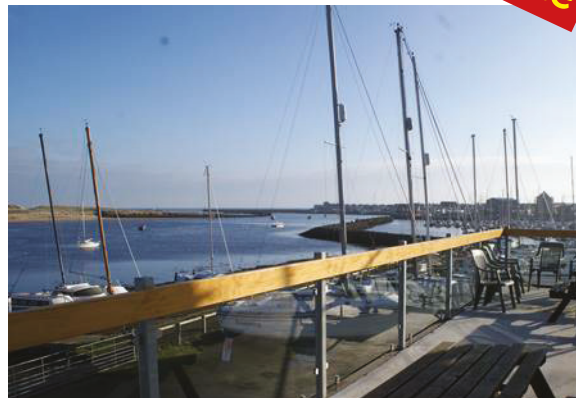
Speaking about the visits in Northumberland Paul Brannen MEP said: "It was great to see European funds in action creating jobs and growth.

Scott Dickinson said: "We were able to showcase some fantastic projects to the MEP.



## COQUET YACHT CLUB

**News update**



**B**y the time that you have read this we will have completed our new River Lounge, The Balcony and the whole club site will be fenced.

The membership keeps growing with full (sailing) or social members. A mixture of individuals, couples and families have joined the club. Our target has always been to get to 200 memberships (380 ish people) and we should do this by the end of 2015.

We are continuing to move towards our goal of becoming a full RYA Training Establishment with club members becoming senior dinghy instructors and other members completing the power boat instructors course. Information on the courses that we will run will be available shortly.

We've a very full programme for sailing and social activities throughout the year. The clubhouse is attracting more bookings for Wedding receptions, birthday parties and dinners for choirs etc.

Our Sunday lunches are getting more and more popular. We do, of course, have river moorings. Please come and see us for a taster!! *Phil Derry 07710 423550.*





Sam Coward Jnr sent us this photo of Amble RC schoolchildren. The photo dates from 1928 and includes his father, who we featured in our last issue (Issue 90 p17). Sam Coward Snr is third from left top row (with holes in his jumper).

## Save the memories walk

A charity walk to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society will take place on Saturday 18th July 2015.

The 'Save the memories' walk is 14 miles along the beautiful Northumberland Coastal Path, from Craster to Amble and dogs are allowed on the walk.

Walkers will stop at Alnmouth about halfway for about an hour to let people catch up and have lunch. There will be another rest at Warkworth before stopping at Amble at Angies Tavern for celebration beverages and grub!

I will post updates and a Registration form on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/xsavethememoriesx](http://www.facebook.com/xsavethememoriesx). Look forward to seeing you in July!!!

*Gemma Little*

Donation Page: <http://www.justgiving.com/Gemma-Little-xxx>

## Senior Maths Challenge

The Senior Maths Challenge is aimed at all 16-19 year olds studying mathematics and is organised by the UK Mathematics Trust. Every year JCSC enters students from various year groups in either the junior or senior challenge.

Congratulations to Fay Rochester, Hannah Gordon, Sophie Walker and Daniel Cook for finishing 12th out of 22 teams in this year's Senior Maths Challenge. It was the first time James Calvert Spence College had entered a team. The highlight of the day was being first to finish Round 2 of the 22 teams and scoring 42 out of the 44 points available.

## Changes at St. Cuthbert's

If you have walked down Church St. recently you may have noticed some changes at St Cuthbert's. The most striking thing is the new glass on the inner doors which lets lots of light stream into the building. Through them you can see the new floor which has been laid at the back of the church, which will allow people in wheelchairs and with mobility aids, or those with prams and pushchairs, to come right into the body of the church.

Once the weather improves, we hope to start on the next phase of the work, which is to put in a sloping access path to the south side main entrance. This will be in addition to the steps, not replace them. Everyone will then be able to access the church under their own steam.

These improvements to the Parish Church are quite costly, and so St Cuthbert's has launched a small appeal – 'Access For All'. If you're able to

support us with a donation, you will see some collecting boxes around the town.

All that goes on at St Cuthbert's is paid for through the generosity of the local congregation, and so we are extremely grateful to all those regular worshippers who have helped us make these improvements. The Parish Church is YOUR church; it's there for everyone and nowadays is open during daylight hours every day, so you can come in and use it for quiet prayer, time to think, or to look around at the stained glass while you wait for the bus!

Bishop Frank White, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, is coming on Sunday March 1 to celebrate these improvements with us. Everyone is welcome to come and join us that day at 9.30 a.m. for a special service of celebration, and to see how our new floor and doors look.

*Penny Horseman*

## Amble's oldest FEPOW dies aged 93

In December, WW2 veteran Clarence Hedley died aged 93. Cla had survived the horror of the Japanese war camps, forced to work on the now infamous 'Bridge over the River Kwai'. He was another of Amble's big characters and will be sadly missed.



Your Facebook comments:

**AH:** When I first started working at Shilbottle colliery as an apprentice electrician in June 1971 I had the privilege of meeting Cla, and later loved to hear his stories about his life. Clarence was a gentleman of the highest order and will be sadly missed, R.I.P sir

**LS:** Ah so sad to read this, Cla was a very good pal of my late Dad Jim Siney, also a FEPOW, yes a lovely man..RIP Clarence x

**DM:** yes what a man told me Japanese called him geordica while in the pow camp...

**JE:** When I started the pit in 1979 I was put along with Cla what a character R.I.P





## Hauxley Parish Council

Welcome to a new Councillor - Iwan Thomas of High Hauxley was previously on the Parish Council 10-15 years ago for a couple of years. He has resided in the village for 25 years and is keen to put 'something back' into the local community. The Members agreed to co-opt Mr Thomas unanimously.

**Budget 2015/16** - The Parish Council have agreed to increase the precept to £3600. This will enable the continued maintenance of assets in the village and to also facilitate improvements. The Parish Council are responsible for the seats, bus shelters, roads in the square at Low Hauxley, litter bins, planters and floral displays the village.

**Community litterpick/tidy up day** - The Parish Council will hold a community litter pick and tidy up day on Saturday 9th May. All are welcome to meet at the Village Hall at 10.00 a.m. to collect litter picking equipment which will be provided by Northumberland County Council. To register to take part either contact the Parish Clerk in advance or simply turn up on the day. Refreshments will also be provided in the Village Hall.

**Bus shelter at Low Hauxley** - We are currently pursuing quotations to have the roof and fascia of the bus shelter repaired.

**Street Lighting replacement** - It was noted that assurances could not be given at this stage on bringing the lighting replacement scheme forward in Hauxley. The project programme was risk based and is predominantly in the South East of Northumberland for the first 18 months, it will then move north before heading west. Further communications are expected with Parish Councils before the end of the financial year, asking for views on various matters which may include the programming. Once this information had been gathered NCC will have a better idea on what they can do with the programme. If any residents of Hauxley have any views on the street lighting they would like the Parish Council to raise, please contact the Parish Clerk or attend the next Parish Council meeting details below..

**Co-opted vacancies** - Hauxley Parish Council have 6 seats for Councillors and we presently have 1 vacancy. You can apply to be co-opted onto the Council; if you are on the Electors Register and live in or within 3 miles of the Parish or your only place of work is within the Parish by writing to the Clerk via the contact details below. The deadline for applications is Monday 2nd March 2015.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the Parish Council is 6.30pm on Monday 9th March 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:**  
hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk

## Views sought on cycling plans

People are being urged to have their say on ambitious plans which will see cycling at the hub of Northumberland's future plans. A Walking and Cycling Board has been set up to bring all agencies together to boost the economic, health and tourism benefits for the county.

A new Cycling Plan has been set up which has three objectives:

- To maximise the role of cycling as a mode of transport, to reduce the use of private cars, to improve the health of people and to enhance the environment.
- To contribute to the development of a sustainable, safe, convenient, efficient and attractive transport network, which encourages active travel and the use of public transport.
- To raise the profile of cycling in Northumberland, highlighting its importance for transport, health and tourism.

The consultation document has gone out to organisations with an interest in cycling. British Cycling will forward it on to affiliated cycling clubs in Northumberland and Tyneside, inviting comments.

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, Policy Board Member for Streetcare and the Environment, said: "The county's cycling plan supports our other work on roads and footpaths and will provide a focus for improvements which will enable local people to cycle more easily as part of their normal day, as well as encouraging sustainable tourism. This is an opportunity for residents and interested groups to help shape the future of cycling in the county."

Councillor Anne Dale, who chairs the cycling and walking board, explained: "What we want is to enable cycling and walking to become a normal part of everyday life for all ages."

"Our cycling plan is one of the cornerstones of our Board, which aims to promote all the benefits of walking and cycling to a wider audience, including visitors."

"Cycling brings so many benefits, both to the individual and the wider community, and we hope as many people as possible will take a few minutes to look at the plans and let us know what they think."

Details can be found at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1426](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1426)

## Rotary notes

At a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth, the guest speaker was Rodney Burge MBE whose subject was the Amble Lifeboat.

Rodney was the coxswain from 1986 - 1999 and was awarded the MBE as a result. He then became the Operations Manager and subsequently, the Crew Assessor for the northern region.

The current Mersey class boat is due to be replaced with the faster and more sophisticated Shannon class which has a much longer range. Each Shannon Class boat costs £2m and the Amble station is faced with raising £200,000 over two years as the local contribution towards the overall cost.

The annual Christmas Collection raised almost £5,000 and the Rotary Club wishes to thank the residents of Amble and Warkworth and surrounding villages for their generous donations.

The club has had some excellent speakers in recent weeks. They included: The

Reverend Mike Dent (Mother Theresa) : Rotarian Bill Wake (The Advent of the Health Service); Vicky Brown (Coquet Shorebase Trust) and The Reverend Colin Horseman (Kenya).

Members enjoyed an excellent Burns Supper at The Old Storehouse in January and the annual Carpet Bowls evening in The Memorial Hall on 17th February.



L to R: Rotarian John Young, Chairman of the Amble Lifeboat Management team, Rodney Burge and Rotarian Chris Ward, the Rotary Club President. Chris handed over a cheque for £200.

The club has agreed to give donations to the following local worthy causes:

Alnwick & District Mencap £1,000  
Senior Citizens' Outing (Summer 2015) £650  
Amble Youth Project £250  
Hadston, Togston, Amble & Warkworth Christmas Lights £50 each  
RNLI Amble £200  
Royal British Legion £100  
James Calvert Spence College (Prize) £50  
Northumberland Gazette Sports Awards Prize £100  
The Ambler and The Pelican £50 each  
New Prospects (support to the disabled) £300  
Pride in Amble and Warkworth in Bloom £100 each  
St Cuthbert's Church, Amble (disabled access) £200  
Brambles Nursery £90  
Elpha Lodge £200  
Warkworth Cricket Club (for Junior Training) £150  
Amble Links, Acklington, Warkworth, Red Row and Amble Edwin Street Schools £100 each



Spring has sprung – well I may be jumping the gun a little but from here it certainly looks spring like. Shame its so blooming cold!

### Harbour Village

I begin this Trust Life article with an apology to those becoming known as our Pod People. Sadly due to a number of factors we just could not get the pods delivered on time for a Christmas opening as promised.

There were logistical issues that needed to correct at the time of delivery e.g right weather conditions for crane movement, and this was the main sticking point. There were days when high winds were predicted but didn't happen and other days when winds were not predicted but did gust over the threshold that cranes could work in.

Other works had to be carried out on site that were dependent upon the pods being in place before the site could be handed over to NCC which would have allowed tenants to move in. So all in all it ended up being rather complicated and we had to make a decision on whether or not to pursue an opening or cancel and wait until the site was nearer to completion. We knew that either way there were going to be some very unhappy people and it is to them that we apologise as well as anyone who had hoped to buy presents.

On the bright side all pods are now in place and some of the minor snagging jobs are being carried out – yes on the roofs!

When you try something different you have to accept there will be some unforeseen problems to deal with. To all would be pod

tenants, thank you for your patience and looking forward to the 28th!

I am pleased to report that we now have our Seafood Brokers in place. Andrew Gooding and Helen Spark are carrying out the role on a job share basis and will be located in the Seafood Centre once it is complete. They are working on a range of initiatives that we hope will assist our fishing fleet. There are some novel and new ideas being discussed which we hope to bring to fruition.

### One way system

A contentious subject, but something that needed to be tackled. Meetings continue and will do so until everyone feels the thorny subject of traffic movement and parking has been resolved, so I predict many meetings still to come.

There have been many comments on Facebook and Twitter, some in support and others not so. While all comments are listened to and assessed, they have to be taken in context of how best we overcome the many problems encountered: and sadly some come from those who just don't like change.

What we have to remember is the town and road infrastructure was not originally built to take the numerous vehicles, both our own and our visitors, that we now see trying to find parking spaces around the town.



Other comments are valid and will be dealt with wherever possible. But it should be remembered this is only a pilot which will run for one year and then the public will be asked for their views and comments to see whether it should be made permanent or not. The decision is still to be made.

### Persimmon

At last there is action on the site! I have not heard anything official but it is there to be seen. This doesn't mean however that ADT has actually received any funds, so we are still waiting patiently.

Hopefully it won't be as long as it has been, but no doubt you will hear a very loud hurrah when it does happens!

### Tesco

Well certainly not the outcome many wanted given the jobs they were going to create, but I think we had all come to the conclusion that the build was unlikely to happen. Especially if you followed the business news and monitored the Tesco story.

I know others will be pleased, but what next for the site? Sometimes its better the devil you know!

And on that cheerful note...Its goodnight from me and all of the ADT team.

*Julia Aston*

*Director, Amble Development Trust  
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk*

## Through the lens photography competition

This year's competition is not far away so you need to get out with your cameras. The subjects are "Town and City" and "Colours".

Closing date for entries is 31 March 2015. There are three age groups; up to 10 years, 11 to 18 years and adult.

Entry is free for the younger categories but £1 per entry for adults. A maximum of 10 photographs from each participant.

Please use one entry form per

photograph, on the back of the photos put your name, e-mail or phone number and the section in which you are entering the photo. Mounts must not exceed 20" x 16".

Entry forms will be available in due course at the back of St. Cuthbert's Church and from N & F Young in Queen Street.

The exhibition will be on Saturday 2nd May and Sunday 3rd May from 1pm to 4pm and Monday 4th May 11am to 3pm Prize giving in the afternoon.

Refreshments will be available.

There will also be an opportunity for you to vote for your favourite photograph. A prize supplied by Amble Photographic Group will be awarded to the most popular photo.

Finally if anyone would like to sponsor a prize please let one of the church wardens know.

*Peter Cordingley*

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# Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6.30p.m. unless stated otherwise

Town: 12th March Amenities Committee: 26th March

Please note meeting are now held on the top floor in Fourways 2

## COUNCIL PRECEPT

TWO MAIN TOPICS we receive comments about are the parking situation and the state of the Paddlers pool area. These are being progressed from the meaningful discussions begun last year between ourselves and Northumberland County Council.

In conjunction with Amble Development Trust and Amble Business Club, it was agreed the town desperately needs more parking facilities for residents as well as visitors. Whilst looking at a long term solution for a large car park, NCC are trying to negotiate with landowners to temporarily lease an area of land. However the amount NCC is prepared to pay is less than the price a landowner requests. Therefore to progress this community matter, the Council has agreed to help by offering £2000 for each of the next two years and a contribution from NCC Councillors Member's Small scheme's money is being asked for too. At the moment we are still awaiting the outcome.

The Paddlers improvement scheme is nearing the final draft stages with promises of financial help from NCC and County Councillors. We still hope to begin work in April to have a better offer for everyone by the summer. However this will require a large input of money from your Council too- the greater support we have, the better the chance of securing other sources of money to expand what can be done. We are taking responsibility for the play area and this will no longer incur a special expenses charge on your Council tax. We have cut costs where possible to help to offset the extra funds needed, but inevitably there will be a precept rise of approx. 7%; however in money terms this will only result in an increase of about 10p a week.

## COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

RECENTLY WE HAVE worked with Amble Community Team at the Welfare, helping to remove the fencing around the Dog Area. They continue to litter pick, keeping the weeds down in the grassy area, working on improvements to the pavilion itself.

There are many volunteer groups working to improve Amble and its facilities. Examples are the Christmas Lights group, Pride in Amble group, the Lifeboat Fundraisers and the Skiff group using traditional skills: you probably know of many more. Council was recently asked for their input by St. Cuthbert's Church which is undertaking a project seeking views on Amble and how the church can best be involved in the community's future. All of these volunteer groups need your support, so please join one. Even an hour a week of your time, or helping at only one fundraising event will be valuable. We can only get more for our town or improve on what we already have by working together.

## WELFARE

AS PART OF the Council's work with schools during local democracy week last October, pupils from year 7 at James Calvert Spence College South Avenue held a debate about 3 areas of concern at the Welfare: litter, dog fouling and graffiti. They voted on which issue they would like to do something about using money the Council had allocated. Following this decision, there will be new signage in the Welfare to encourage people to be more responsible dog owners. The designated Dog Area has disappeared as it was not being used for that purpose; the old fencing has replaced the wire netting at the entrance. Dogs will still be allowed in the Welfare but not onto any of the recreational areas. Pets should be kept to the outside perimeters and owners should clean up.

## CEMETERY FEES

INCOME FROM the Cemetery fees is considerably lower than the actual costs, so the Council recently decided to assess the full cost of everything connected to the operation of the cemeteries in order to ascertain fee levels for the future. Many prefer the town to have its own cemetery, separate from Northumberland County Council administration. However, dividing the cost between the relatively small number of about 30 interments per year, would certainly deter the majority of people from using our cemetery, resulting in a larger deficit. Council has decided to begin raising fees to be closer to a more realistic amount to contribute towards the costs. There will be a fee increase this year of approximately 20%; whilst this is a substantial rise, the estimated income will still only cover just over 50% of the expenditure and in the majority of areas still remains below the charges set by Northumberland County Council.

## GRANTS & DONATIONS

THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, Amble Town Council have supported a number of our local community organisations with grants and donations: Alnwick Playhouse Trust, Amble Christmas Lights, Amble Coastal Rowing Club, Amble Community Sports Development Centre, Amble Development Trust Artograffiti Group, Amble Darts Open, Amble Rangers, Bramble Berries, Coquet Shorebase Trust, Friends of Alnmouth Station, Harbour Lights Choir, Pride in Amble and Tiny Woods Academy. We are pleased to be able to help these groups continue their efforts.

## STAFF CHANGES

OUR ADMINISTRATION Assistant, Angela Burn, left at the end of last year. We are grateful for all her help and wish her well in her future endeavours. In mid- January we welcomed Penny Harrison who has an extensive background in public sector work and will no doubt bring new methods of dealing with our administration tasks and fresh ideas to all we do.

**EAST WARD:**  
Robert Arckless,  
37 Anne Crescent,  
Amble NE65 0OZ  
Tel: 01665 711938

Helen Lewis,  
5 Meadowburn,  
Amble NE65 0PH  
Tel: 07751 229 739

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, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT Tel: 01665 714 695 ask@amble.gov.uk www.amble.gov.uk

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

Elaine Brown (Town Clerk) Penny Harrison (Admin Assistant)

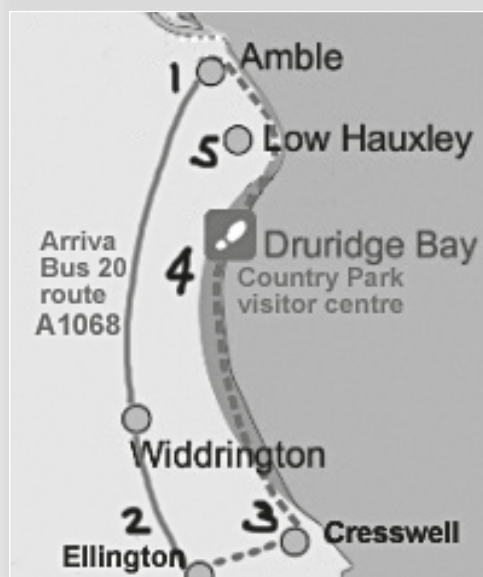
Office hours: 10-11.30a.m. & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday

Minutes available to view in Office or online



# Walks for Ambling Amblers

*Ellington to Amble via Cresswell*



1. Take the No.20 bus (8 minutes past the hour) to the Bank Top shop in Ellington, walk down the road to Cresswell, then north along the beach to Amble.

2. Walk south until you find the road sign to Cresswell, opposite the old school.

3. Walk the 1½ miles along the road with a footpath. Find the fingerpost to the left of the houses, and walk onto the beach. Head north.

4. A possible break at Druridge Bay Country Park Visitor Centre, with toilet facilities and a pleasant café (open at weekends and all summer). Back onto the beach and head north.

5. Low Hauxley is always worth a look. Back to the beach and head north.

6. Arrive home in Amble.

This walk is best done when the tide is OUT. Check tide tables in the Gazette or the Harbour Office.

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



Harry McQuillen



1. Bank Top shop



2. Turn opposite old school



3. Fingerpost at Cresswell

## REPORTS FROM OUR County Councillors

Tesco and after...

For more than 20 years I have been involved in efforts to widen the choice offered by supermarkets in Amble, either by the expansion of existing stores or by attracting new providers. I know this is a concern of residents, especially those on limited incomes and with no transport. It is obvious that the major supermarkets are facing challenges, sometimes because of their previous practices or bad decisions by senior management. In the end the decision by Tesco to pull out of the development of a new site at Amble was no surprise to anyone. So what happens next?

We are fortunate to have some good local businesses and there are encouraging signs on Queen Street of recovery. The harbour village development is intended to build on Amble's strengths. It is just as important to encourage existing businesses. The County Council has played a key role in securing the investment for the harbour village.

Amble Town Council, Northumberland County Council, Amble Development Trust and the Business Club are working closely together on a range of issues including parking and establishing links with Arch, the County's regeneration company which now owns the Coquet Enterprise Park.

All the local partners need to consider carefully how Amble's business base can be strengthened. There is much speculation in the area about supermarkets interest and on which sites. Any proposals would have to go through the planning process. Tesco had planning approval for a new store, not housing or anything else.

Truthfully, the idea that "the Council" can bring in a particular supermarket is a long way from the reality of very powerful companies making decisions based on what they see as their own best interest. The major supermarkets drive very hard bargains with suppliers like local farmers, not to mention flexible employment contracts which can make life tough for their own employees.

How we strike the balance between encouraging more people to shop locally while recognizing the reality that people will use their cars and the internet is a big challenge, and not just for Amble.

Robert Arkless

robert.arkless99@northumberland.gov.uk

Telephone: 01665 711938

A planning application for the Gloster Hill area has been lodged and has given rise to a lot of activity from local residents who do not wish to see the development taking place. The application was considered by both Amble and Warkworth Councils as it will affect both settlements although it is wholly in the Parish of Warkworth.

I understand that Amble Town Council objected but Warkworth planning sub committee have asked for further information as they feel unable to decide with the level of information they currently have. Residents have many concerns but the chief concern of the Warkworth Committee at the moment is one of over development.

For quite some time now concern has been expressed to me by motorists and residents about the football shirts, scarves etc. that have been placed at the scene of the two tragic and very regrettable accidents that happened some time ago at the Amble end of Rotary Way.

Whereas many people are sympathetic to the reasons for these articles to be there, they feel that amongst other things, they are a distraction to motorists and as they have been there for some time it is time they were removed. I don't know anyone who feels that a bunch of flowers or something similar would be inappropriate, so perhaps it is time for the respective families to consider removing these articles from that place and to commemorate their loved ones in some other more appropriate way.

I have read letters in the press from residents about the fact that Tesco have announced they are not going to develop the site that they own in Amble. I think that it is a great pity they are not coming as Amble needs a new supermarket; the jobs it would have brought would have been very welcome. It is obvious from reading a letter in the press that some people are still trying to say that the Industrial Estate would be a better spot. It is about time that people recognise that the Industrial Estate has covenants on it that prevent a supermarket. Tesco, like all multiples, decides itself where it wishes to build a store and it should be remembered that a large number of residents as well as the Town Council were in favour of the development proposed.

I sincerely hope another multiple steps in and takes over the development.

I am available to you at  
Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk and on 07802385367

Jeff Watson



## Brace yourselves for the 2015 Puffin Festival

This year's Puffin Festival will take place from 25th (Bank Holiday Monday) - 31st May. As usual there will be a mix of family fun, guided walks, local history and nature talks, crafts watersports and live music.

There will be stalls in the Town Square on Bank Holiday Monday and Tuesday, Puffin HQ and children's amusements in the Square Monday - Friday, and of course (weather permitting) the chance to see the wonderful puffins in real life, with Puffin Cruises. Please ring ahead to book as places are limited.

**Puffin Cruises: 01665 711975**

If you would like to help (we always need volunteers) please ring Elaine on 01665 714695.

Details of times/events on [www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk](http://www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk)

STOP PRESS>>

PRE-FESTIVAL Beer Fest at Coquet Yacht Club on Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May



## Fairs Club anniversary invitation

The Fairs Club are hosting a special function on Thursday 16th April, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Newcastle United winning promotion as champions of the then Division 2 to Division 1.

The promotion was remarkable in that it was achieved with a squad of just 14 regular players. Thirteen of the fourteen original squad will attend the event, and members of the public are invited to join in the event.

Those taking part are: Stan Anderson, Frank Clark, Jim Iley, Bob Moncur, Dave Craig, Ollie Burton, Ron McGarry, Dave Hilley, Willie Penman and John Craggs.

The function takes place at High Howden Social Club, Howden, Wallsend. It will begin at 7.30pm and will take the form of a talk-in, hosted by sports journalist and Fairs Club President John Gibson.

Tickets are £20 and can be purchased by ringing: Bill Gibbs: 07812935195, Mick McGill: 0191 2873832 or Harry Watson: 0191 2620544

## Bailiffgate Craft Fair

Our Craft Fair 2015 will be held in the Northumberland Hall, on Saturday 21st March from 9-30 until 12-30. Admission will be £1.50 including refreshments.

Stallholders will include local textile artist, Jane Jackson, whose March Hare has been adopted as the mascot for this top quality event. Gathered together are a large number of some of the very best artists and craftspeople working in the north east and Borders today. We include stunning photographs by Lee Kershaw, exquisite knitted lacework by Mavis Clark and a kaleidoscopic array of home spun yarns from Jennie Howes. There will also be patchwork, felted, knitted, willow, wood and glass items, jewellery, cards, soap and candles. The usual Tombola stall, a scrumptious Cake Stall and a grand raffle, with prizes provided by the local businesses.

Two other great opportunities include:

Win a portrait of your family pet by artist Tracy Jones.

Plus - win one of Jane Jackson's large prints - a March Hare worth £90.

Further information is available from the Museum on 01665 605847 or [ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk](mailto:ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk)

## Mad Jam Woman's tasting day

The Mad Jam Woman is hosting a tasting day at The Old Fourways Centre, on 2 April from 10 am to 2 pm.

Come along and sample her homemade jams, relishes, hot sauces, pastries, cakes, and frangipanes.

## Royal British Legion

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 18 March 2015 at 7pm, Warkworth War Memorial Hall

Speaker Chris Davies - Author "Almost Forgotten" The Search for Aviation Accidents in Northumberland.

Chris will give a talk regarding "The American Beaufighter plane that crashed near Warkworth in World War Two."

Pooled supper.

## Café Church

Café Church – surely it is either a café or a church. It can't be both can it?

Since September, St Cuthbert's Parish Church has been holding regular times that we call Café Church. On the first Sunday of each month we meet for refreshments at 3.30 pm. During the Christmas season these have included cinnamon stars to fit in with our Christmas theme of following a star.

After sharing a cuppa and a snack together we sit around our "café" tables to share an informal time of worship together at 4.00 pm. We sing and pray but instead of a sermon we have a discussion, listen to a story and maybe even make something together. In this way we are able to share our thoughts about the big questions of life. People who come have found that they feel supported and get to know other people as well as exploring more about faith. It lasts about 40 minutes.

We welcome people of all ages. It is good to see families coming together to join us.

Why not give it a try? In March we will be meeting on Sunday 1st and in April Sunday 5th (Easter Sunday).

Look out for our posters around the town which have the theme for the month.

St Cuthbert's welcomes you.



## Alnwick & District Choral Society

Alnwick & District Choral Society are presenting **Handel's Messiah** on 29th March 2015 at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church, Alnwick with invited orchestra and soloists: Lorna James, Soprano; Jeanie Larkin, Alto; Paul Rendall, Tenor;; Paul Gibson, Bass. Admission £10 at the door

## Hauxley Chapel services

March 1 Area Service, Stakeford Methodist Church 4 pm  
 March 8 Rev. Ian Farnsworth.  
 March 15 Rev Gary Ridley. Mothering Sunday.  
 March 22 Rev. Dr. Diane Westmoreland. Holy Communion  
 April 29 Rev Kay Alberg. Palm Sunday.  
 April 5 Rev. Lynda Coulthard, Holy Communion. Easter Day  
 April 12 Mrs Annetta Read.  
 April 19 Mr David Simpson.  
 April 26 Rev. Dr. Diane Westmoreland. Holy Communion.  
 May 3 Mrs Barbara Allen.  
 We are a small ecumenical congregation who worship in Low Hauxley on Sundays at 4pm unless otherwise stated, followed by a cup of tea. All are welcome.  
 If you would like to get in touch, please contact: Rev. Lynda Coulthard, Trinity Methodist Church, on 01665 713251, Rev. Dr. Diane Westmoreland, St. Cuthbert's Church on 01665 714560 (9am - 8pm), or Tim and Rachel Jones on 01665 712467.

## Equestrian event at Hope Farm

A show jumping competition is to be held at the Hope Farm Equestrian Training Centre, on Sunday 1st March starting at 1pm. This is an in-house competition, outside competitors can only compete by invitation only, but the public are welcome to come and watch and support the riders.

The event will also feature a cake stall and raffle to raise money for Hospice Care, Northumberland.

Any enquiries contact Enid on 07896978155

## Health walks

Recent evidence shows that walking clubs are very beneficial for people with chronic diseases (eg COPD, asthma, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease etc) and Coquet Medical Group are keen to encourage patients to engage with Amble walking group.

This group meet at Amble Tourist Information centre on Tuesdays at 1.30pm - all welcome. See : <http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/north-east/north-northumberland-health-walks>  
 Jon Monks 01665 605030  
[jon.monks@northcountryleisure.org.uk](mailto:jon.monks@northcountryleisure.org.uk)

## Experience Easter at St. Cuthbert's

Some of you may remember seeing this logo last year, outside the Church, during the weeks before Easter. You may have wondered what was happening or you may even have popped your head in to take a look.

Last year we hosted this popular event Experience Easter and had visits from the children in both of the first schools in the town. We are repeating this again in 2015.



From March 17th until Easter Sunday (April 5th) the church will be set out with six displays which will represent six incidents from the last week of the earthly life of Jesus. Anyone is welcome to come in and wander round to explore these for themselves. We have invited the schools to participate once again. Many children are already booked in, to come with their teachers to listen to our trained group of storytellers as they make the story live for pupils of all ages.

If you would like to visit the exhibition, the church will be open during daylight hours as always. Take a walk around the building and feel the peace and quiet of this special space. We have just finished some alterations to the back of the church which give us more room for events such as this and for meeting for refreshments after our services.

Do come and see what has been done. St Cuthbert's welcomes you.

## Gallipoli commemoration concert

Amble Town Council presents  
 "YEARS TO REMEMBER" CONCERT at St. Cuthbert's Parish Hall on Friday 24th April at 7.45 (doors open at 7.30)

The concert, timed to coincide with the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign, is a commemoration of the First World War and an evocation of the times in song, dance and verse.

Featured performers include Amble's Own "Harbour Lights" Choir, "Mouthing Off", champion "Star and Shadow" rapper dancers, Mary Hollins as the "Liverpool Linnet" and "Dolly Grey", the Northumbria Army Cader's Pipes and Drums with Highland Dancers, the Amble Suffragette Rally and Mr Ron Creasey playing The Last Post.

Compere - the irrepressible and multi-talented Mr Alex Swailes MBE.

There will be a raffle, refreshments on sale and song sheets will be provided. Don't miss this unique opportunity to join with others in what will be a truly memorable community event.

You are urged to buy your tickets priced at £8 in advance from Amble Town Council or by phoning 01665 714695.



**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
 COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Councillor Robert Arckless**

*will be holding surgeries on*

Friday March 27th

at 6pm - 6.45pm in Hauxley Village Hall  
 and

Saturdays Feb 28th and Mar 28th  
 from 10am-11am in Amble Library

*All Constituents Welcome*



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## Tiny Woods Academy

First of all, I hope all the Amble Readers had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

I would also like to thank the community for their tremendous effort in collecting Milk Bottle Tops as part of a Charity Project to provide wheelchairs for young children.

We managed to collect well over 5,000 Milk Bottle Tops; you are a credit to your community. The project is now closed.

Tiny Woods Academy have been very busy behind the scenes since the turn of the year. We have announced new courses and schemes for the children of this community.

We are holding a 'Striker School' in the February half term holiday and we run 'Little Dribblers' on a Monday night. For further details please contact us.

Recently, we were given a defibrillator by The Stephen Carey Fund. Tiny Woods Academy have always been long term supporters of The Stephen Carey Fund having already been fundraising over the last year. Again, Tiny Woods Academy would like to thank Dougie McEwan, Scott McEwan and Daniel Carey who came and handed the defibrillator over.

Tiny Woods Academy and Amble Community Team are still working tirelessly behind the scenes in order to raise funds to redevelop the facilities at Amble Welfare and the Pavilion. Anybody wanting to jump on board and help support the project?

Please get in touch with us. The more bodies, the better!

*Josh Rutherford*



## Are you the Amble Beast?

How many of us are still applying our 'this year, I will keep fit, lose weight, get ripped, be awesome' type fitness resolutions? You? No, me neither. One of the biggest reasons that people fail to stick to anything, especially fitness related, is that you have no goal to aim for. Going to the gym 'just to keep fit' is about as inspirational as watching a bucket go rusty in the rain. It's plain boring. Yes, you can buy all the lycra gear, hi-viz trainers, Beats ear phones and get your swagger on blasting the cross trainer, but how long does it last?

Goal setting is key. Be it going on holiday, wanting to get to a certain dress size, getting to the correct weight to fight, whatever, little goals help you stick to your programme.

So, with this in mind, we at the Amble Community Sports Development Centre have come up with a fun based strength competition, to give people something to train towards.

On 30th May 2015, in conjunction with the Amble Puffin Festival, we will be holding the Amble Beast Strength competition at the club. This will be open to males with all types of fitness and strength levels (we are looking into running a female one later in the year if the interest is there).

The first prize will be for the overall leader on the day. This will be the person who wins the most events or has the most points from the events.

But the main event is the 'Pound for Pound' champion. Pound for Pound is a world recognised technique for creating fairness. This means that you are not competing against anyone but yourself. It doesn't matter what you weigh or how tall you are, pound for pound testing levels the field. This way, a person weighing 80KG and dead lifting 120kg would actually score more points than a 100 KG person dead lifting 140KG. We have done this so anyone can enter, and anyone can win, regardless of size, weight or height.

Overall, and it's important to remember this, the competition has been set up to promote health and fitness in the local community. That's the main aim. By giving people something to train for, we will be promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle. But why is it called The Beast? Because no one knows what all the events are! There are 8 events in total, and the first 3 are

• Dead lift • Bench Press • Squat

As for the other 5... no one will know what they are, until the day of the competition. Hence you just have to 'beast' yourself on the day!

All of the 8 exercises are basic movements though. If you go to the gym on a weekly basis and carry out a basic Back/Bi's/Chest/Tri's/Shoulders/Legs type workout, then you will be able to do the exercises that will be there on the day. It's about getting as many members of the community involved as possible, so we have to keep to the basic movements.

The entrance fee is £10 and all monies raised will go to offering more community based sports programmes through the club. You must live within three miles of Amble to take part and entry forms must be returned by 30th of April. There will be no 'walk in's' on the day.

We are also looking for sponsorship from any local firms; any financial help would be appreciated. Again, all monies go back into offering sport based programmes for the children and adults of the local community.

Don't make excuses! If you go the gym now and carry out a moderate exercise programme, you are fit enough to compete. Give yourself a goal and enter the competition. You will be surprised how well you will do. It will be a great day, loads of banter, and 100% you will get a PB on at least one of the lifts!

As this is the first year, there will be no spectators allowed in the gym. Only competitors will be allowed on to the premises.

For forms and more info, please email: [amblebeast@outlook.com](mailto:amblebeast@outlook.com).

*Bruce Durham*



Warkworth Golf Club is the Amble area's local course. A seaside links, it was laid out in 1891 by Old Tom Morris. Originally comprising 12 holes, it is now a nine-hole course – the extra three were located on what is now the caravan site at the far end of the current layout.

It is bounded on the seaward side by the extensive dunes that are a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and to the south is the area recently opened up by the Environment Agency to re-establish the salt marshes.

Each hole is served by two very different tee positions meaning a player is faced with

18 different challenges. While not long by modern standards at 5,900 yards, its narrow fairways make scoring difficult. A particular feature is the four par 3s, with the shortest being 170 yards; the 245 yard 15th is the longest par three in Northumberland.

The photo shows the view looking south towards Amble with the first green in the centre. Membership of the Club is just £322 for 12 months. Juniors under 18 pay £10 and this includes complementary coaching. There are staged increases for those aged 18-30. The Club website [www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk) has full details.

*Tim Capron (Secretary)*

## Warkworth Golf Club



Photo: iVography.com