

The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 95 Oct/Nov 2015

Vote for Amble!

Amble has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award and could be in the running for a share of £80,000.

The Great British High Street of the Year Awards is run by the Dept of Communities and Local Government. They chose Amble, Bognor Regis in Sussex, and Prestatyn in Wales as finalists in the Coastal Communities category.

Julia Aston, director of Amble Development Trust said "We entered Amble into the competition, in partnership with Amble Business Club. We're thrilled to have been shortlisted. It just strengthens our belief that Amble is a fantastic place to live and work."



AMBLE

is a finalist and needs your vote to win a cash prize
Vote at thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk
@TheGBHighSt #GBHighSt

This year's competition saw a record 230 applicants and now, for the first time, the public has the chance to vote directly for their best-loved high street online. Between now and November you can cast your vote for free via their website or Facebook page.

Ann Burke, chair of Amble Business Club said "I think it's fabulous we've got this far. It's a reward for a lot of hard work by a lot of people. Now we have a lovely, vibrant High Street, which is welcoming to visitors. It's a culmination of everybody's efforts."

Now the town needs your vote. The winner will be decided by a combination of a judge's visit, and online voting.

You can join in on Twitter @TheGBHighSt #GBHighSt and www.facebook.com/TheGBHighSt

VOTE FOR AMBLE!

Vote before mid Nov at:
thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk

Tour of Britain whizzes through town

Large enthusiastic crowds greeted the Tour of Britain cycle race on Sept 9 as it whizzed through Amble.

Stage four of the famous tour saw the cyclists which included Sir Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish leave Edinburgh, cycling through Ford, Wooler, Alnwick, Warkworth and Amble, ending at Blyth.

Decorated bikes and flags greeted the teams as they sped up the Wynd

and along Albert Street. Stage four was eventually won by 21 year old Columbian Fernando Gaviria cycling for Team Etixx Quick Step. More photos on page 14. Video and slideshow on our website.



Bottom row nearest to camera is Mark Cavendish (with white shoes). Bradley Wiggins is next but one (dark outfit, white socks).

Wounded soldiers welcomed by youngsters



Brambles' nursery children had a busy start to their new term; one of their first activities was meeting the Walking with the Wounded team who are raising money for

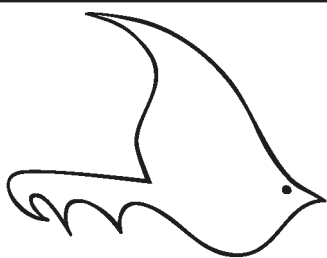
their charity. (More about the Walking with the Wounded team in Amble on page 3).

And Brambles' Multiple Magic group recently celebrated winning Community

Group of the Year at the 2015 Best of Northumberland awards.

Pauline Common, manager of Brambles said "I am so very proud of all our staff

and grateful for the support from families and funders. It was a very emotional evening, with a lot of inspirational people in that room, so humbling".



The Ambler

Fourways 2
6 Dilston Terrace
Northumberland NE65 0DT
Tel: 01665 712929
www.theambler.co.uk
editor@theambler.co.uk
Twitter: AmbleByTheSea
YouTube: AnnaAtTheAmbler1



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Editorial Team:
Vivienne Dalglish - Norma Hinson
Mir Jannetta - Tim Jones
Lou Pickering - Cath Teasdale
Anna Williams

Thanks to:
Mark Beswick & The Artograffi Crew
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It's aal gan here like

There's no let-up for an Ambler reporter or photographer. Just when we were having a bit of a sit down and a nice cup of tea, after one of the busiest summers we can remember, lo and behold, Amble is thrust into the limelight once again!

This summer saw the Friendliest Port on national TV twice - albeit briefly. First, Brambles' nursery children claimed Look North stardom when they met the Walking with the Wounded soldiers. Then ITV4 broadcast the Tour of Britain - although it was irritating to find most of the Amble section interrupted with adverts. So if you want to see exclusive footage of the race through Amble, check out our YouTube video (the link is on our website). Both these stories are on our front page.

Many of you have been commenting on articles via our Facebook page. Several people wanted to share their sadness at the loss of RAF Boulmer's Sea Kings after 40 years' service (p7). And of course we have grown used to seeing them at Harbour Day each year. See page 11 for photos of this year's event and the impressive amount that was raised for such a worthwhile cause. We may have even greater need for a new state-of-the-art lifeboat if the nearest search and rescue helicopter service is over an hour away.

Lastly, to the latest glow of media attention: please encourage all your friends and family to vote for Amble in the Great British High Street awards: www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk

Amble bistro forced to change its name

Getting noticed is not always a beneficial thing. We were sorry to learn that popular Amble bistro Sea Salt has had to change its name, after Cornish clothing company Seasalt objected. The clothing company said: "From the outset of our business, we have always tried to be distinctive and to this end we trademarked the name 'Seasalt', not only for clothing, but also for restaurants and cafés."

Bistro co-owner Julie Lunn-Bird explained the change of name on their Facebook page: "We tried changing it to Sea-Salt Amble, Sea & Salt Amble and a few others but they 'own' the rights to so many variations of the words." She told The Ambler: "We are disappointed, but unfortunately we can't afford the legal fees to continue to fight them." So Julie and Jonny's restaurant will now be called Sea & Soil.

Residents parking consultation

Residents in George St and Lawson Street are being consulted by Northumberland County Council, on the possible implementation of a residents' parking scheme. Letters will be sent to all residents of the two streets at the beginning of October, outlining possible options.

One-way system

In addition, the County Council will canvass

opinion from Amble residents on the trial one-way system from the bottom of Queen Street along Leazes Street.

We will hopefully bring you updates on this in the next Ambler.



Public toilets to close during winter

One of Amble's public toilets will close over the winter, following a review of all the county's conveniences.

Budget cuts have forced Northumberland County Council (NCC) to consider whether all their public toilets need to be kept open all year round.

The Council say they recognise the importance of public toilets although there is no legal requirement to provide them. And over the last year, NCC say they have invested £50,000 to refurbish public toilets.

The review looked at the 62 public toilets the County Council currently owns or operates across Northumberland. They are approaching parish and town councils to discuss their needs and how best they can be provided.

More local businesses and organisations with customer toilets have been approached about

joining NCC's 'You're welcome to use our loos' scheme, where local businesses are offered a £500 a year (£250 for winter) to make their toilets available to the public.

NCC believe the review is expected to result in £120,000 savings and, if approved, would recommend nine toilets being closed, with winter closures for some.

The council currently spends approx. £600,000 a year on public toilets, with a third of the cost relating to the opening, closing, cleaning and re-stocking of the toilets.

The average cost of running a toilet block a year, taking into account business rates, building maintenance and utility costs is between £8,000-£14,000.

The review recommends that the closures will take place from November. For a full list of the toilets due to close, see NCC's website.

Don't get inconvenienced: winter closures of public toilets

Amble

Tourist Information - no change.
Broomhill St - toilets to close during the winter.
Toilets are available at the Tourist Information Centre and additional provision is being secured via the 'You're welcome to use our Loos' scheme.

Warkworth

Warkworth Beach - to close during the winter.
Brewery Lane - to close during the winter. The

council is progressing the 'You're welcome to use our Loos' schemes in the area.

Alnmouth

Marine Road - discussions with the Parish Council regarding funding /to maintain existing opening hours, otherwise the toilets will be closed during the winter.

Alnwick

The Shambles & Greenwell Rd - no change.

The Friendliest Port greets brave soldiers

Amble once again proved it is the Friendliest Port, as a large crowd gathered to welcome a group of disabled service personnel, as they stopped in the area overnight.

The group are walking 1000 miles from Scotland to Buckingham Palace in aid of the Walking With the Wounded charity.

The Friendliest Port provided the biggest greeting yet for the team of six walkers on their 72 day challenge.

The charity, whose patron is Prince Harry, raises money to help service men and women who have been wounded, to re-train for careers outside the military.

The Walk of Britain is the group's latest challenge to raise awareness and money for the charity. Previous years have seen challenges in the North Pole, Mount Everest, and the South Pole.

The team set off on August 22nd and are passing through 150 villages, towns and cities along the route to Buckingham Palace.

September 1 saw the team leave Eglingham after breakfast, stopping at Alnwick at lunchtime where they met the Duchess of Northumberland.



They arrived in Amble at just after 4pm, walking down Queen Street to the Town Square, where they were met by a crowd of around a hundred people who cheered and clapped. The group was escorted into the square by Northumbrian Piper Beverley Palin.

Once in the square, they were presented with a cheque from Amble Town Council for £100 and a book commemorating WW1. Amble Churches Together and other groups presented money and a gift of a photograph.

Team member Matt Fisher, told The Ambler: "It's great to be here! It's so nice to see Amble. I had been planning this stage of the route, so it's great to actually see it in the flesh. And it's so good to see such a big turnout from local people. I wasn't expecting

all the presentations. This is the biggest turnout so far" he said.

The six walkers have all suffered traumatic injuries while on duty. Individual incidents such as bomb blasts, a helicopter crash and gun shot wounds have all resulted in amputations or severe and on-going injuries. The team was made up of four British soldiers and two US Marines.

Generous local businesses offered the group icecream from Spurreli and an evening meal at the Old Boat House. Their overnight accommodation was provided by the Sun Hotel in Warkworth.

"Amble can be really proud of itself" said a spokesperson from Amble Town Council.

Anna Williams



American Marine remembered in Amble

US Marine Kirstie Ennis is the only female Walking With the Wounded member. Kirstie was badly wounded in 2012, while serving in Afghanistan.

At various stages of her walk, 24 year old Kirstie left ID (dog) tags belonging to fallen US servicemen. She placed one inside the clock tower; a fitting resting place as it is also Amble's war memorial.

She told The Ambler: "I'm carrying 25 dog tags with me on this walk. Some of the servicemen were killed in action, others fell to PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Every 40 miles along the walk, I place a dog tag along with a poem I wrote."

Kirstie herself was badly injured in a helicopter crash in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. She suffered severe facial, head and brain injuries, spinal injuries, hearing impairment and a devastating leg and foot injury. She has had 38 operations so far.

"Six of my crew died in the crash" she said.

"Ours was a memorial helicopter, painted in memory of Captain Daniel Bartle. His helicopter crashed six months before ours, in exactly the same place."

Kirstie says she is walking to honour and remember her friends and colleagues who didn't make it home. The dog tag she chose to leave in Amble belonged to Captain Bartle.



Left: Kirstie Ennis with the dog tag and poem left to the memory of Capt Bartle (right)

More photos and Kirstie's poem can be seen on our website



Marine Capt. Daniel B Bartle, Helicopter Pilot. Squadron: HMH 363 based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii
Killed with all crew in a helicopter crash in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on January 19th 2012.
Capt Bartle was 27, from Ferndale, Whatcom County, Washington State, USA
He was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Amble entrepreneur joins Northern Powerhouse talks

The North is in desperate need of more effective business leadership says an Amble entrepreneur. At a recent Northern Powerhouse meeting, aerial photography engineer Nigel King met the Chancellor of the Exchequer, where the possibility of elected regional mayors was discussed.

Nigel was invited to the meeting together with around 60 other business representatives from the North. Nigel is the founder, owner and director of QuestUAV, an aerial photography and mapping company, which designs and manufactures unmanned aerial vehicles, known as drones.

"I met Anne-Marie Trevelyan a few months ago, before the election" he told The Ambler. "She was very interested in what we do, and our potential for technical development and apprenticeships. We were invited to 11 Downing Street to participate in the Northern Powerhouse meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other local MPs."

Items under discussion included the role and funding of Local Area Partnerships (LEPs) and the possibility of a regional mayor.

"We need someone with business acumen who would help people work together, especially in the areas of infrastructure and technology," said Nigel.

Nigel is passionate about the potential in the local area. "The North East is the only area of the UK with a positive export figure and is the major exporter in the UK.



Nigel (left) with Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, Peter Lovering, CEO of BeemCar Ltd and Guy Opperman MP

We've got so much going for us. It's true a lot of it is down to Nissan, but we have some tremendous tech start-ups. And of course an especial interest to me is the unmanned aviation industry that is happening here.

"I believe we need a more unified approach in government, with more truly skilled business people in the system, who can make effective and timely decisions for our area. One of the things discussed with George Osborne was about trying to have more effective results from our LEPs and what the future looks like."

QuestUAV started manufacturing their aerial mapping drones on Amble Enterprise Park back in 2008. Since then they have grown to cater for a global market, with clients in Mexico, Brazil, Canada and South Korea.

"We work mostly in the areas of agriculture and surveying. We end up with a very accurate model of the area, so accurate you can take dimensions which can then be turned into engineering drawings. We take around 1500 hi-res images per flight. These are used by farmers to analyse crop health, and help answer food production issues."

Nigel's enthusiasm for his product is evident, but he is realistic about what he can achieve in the near future. QuestUAV have recently taken a new office suite in The Core, Newcastle, but remain committed to their manufacturing base in Amble.

"We're starting to attract some really big clients now. Wells Fargo asked us to pitch for 900 UAVs and the Brazilian government's food agency is also talking with us."

"These are £10m. contracts, were we able to fulfil them. We're not big enough yet. We have plans to expand over the next three to five years, to expand our staff to 60 in four different locations around the world," said Nigel. "But our workshops are staying in Amble."

See more about QuestUAV www.questuav.com

Anna Williams

Fears that Council charges may lead to more flytipping

Northumberland residents taking rubble, soil and plasterboard to household waste recovery centres in the county are being advised that from September 14, a small charge will apply for some items.

But concerns have been raised that this will lead to more flytipping, as some will attempt to avoid having to pay.

The council is under unprecedented pressure to save money to protect frontline services, and this is one of a number of measures that have been considered in order to avoid other service cuts.

The council consulted users of household waste centres, and almost half of those spoken to considered that a small charge for some items of DIY waste would be more acceptable than the other options of reducing opening hours or closing sites.

While local authorities have to dispose of ordinary household waste they are not

under an obligation to take DIY waste. A number of other councils have already introduced charges and some provide no facilities at all for DIY waste.

Soil, rubble and plasterboard are subject to a £2 per bag/sheet charge - with charges of £12 for a load in a standard car/hatchback; £20 in a small trailer/estate car/small van; £40 in a longer trailer and £80 in a transit van. Users of vans, trailers and commercial vehicles will also need a permit.

Payments will be by credit or debit or pre-paid payment card only – and visitors to the sites should agree the charge and pay before depositing their waste.

These charges to residents will still not cover the total cost of disposing of this DIY waste and the council will continue to fund the rest of the cost. There is still no charge for taking garden waste and other DIY items such as sink units and bathroom suites to waste recovery centres.



Charges will now be made for taking plasterboard, building rubble and soil to the tip. Photo Flickr/Philip Bragg

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, cabinet member responsible for local services at Northumberland County Council said: "We know that our household waste centres are highly valued by residents, and introducing these small charges has not been an easy decision. However the council has to save money so that it can maintain essential frontline services, including those for the most vulnerable."

"We are not obliged to dispose of householders' soil, rubble and plasterboard, and a number of other councils have already introduced charges – many higher than these for Northumberland."

Some of your comments on our Facebook page:

CC HY: So there will be more rubbish dumped at the beach presumably? Great move!

MS: anything for more money are they stupid people will just dump more rubbish down back roads and in woods and beaches

SG: I suspect it will cost more to deal with the fly tipping that is likely to ensue.

A vision for Amble football

In its fourth season local men's Saturday football club Amble St.Cuthbert's FC completed a league and cup double by winning the North Northumberland League Division 2 trophy and the Robson Cup. This followed two other cup triumphs in 2014. As club founder, chairman, secretary and manager, I have a plea to make to the local community.

Amble and its surrounding villages have produced a remarkable number of professional footballers over the decades. The tradition continues today as the community supports Luke James and Nathan Buddle and many more who simply enjoy the game.

I find it surprising that Amble does not have an amateur club of its own playing in a little stadium at a decent level of football. There are Morpeth Town, Alnwick Town, Ashington FC and no Amble...FC? Yet, the local football history is shown on every cup the Cuddies play in. There is the name of Amble. Amble United in the 2000's, Amble Vikings in the 80s and 90s. Amble FC too reached the

Northern Alliance in the last ten years. The older generation tells of crowds watching a team capable of giving any side in the North East a good game in the 50s.

What is needed is a group of local people, united enough in a common vision to create a football club that will last! A club that could support the development of local talent or give local lads somewhere to proudly play for their home town with their mates.

My hope and vision is a St. Cuthbert's club with a first team that attracts a healthy crowd on a Saturday afternoon, reserves, youth teams, and ladies' teams. I and the very committed players of our formative years have got things started. We now need help. Help to take responsibility to build a local football club, help with finance (it costs



Amble St Cuthbert's FC celebrate winning the 2015 Robson Cup

£2,000 to play with one team in one league). Help also with coaching, and practical help like goalpost maintenance and kit laundering.

I am very grateful to Steve, Margaret and Elaine at the Blue Bell for their vital support and fundraising. My law firm Palin & Twyford Solicitors will continue to support the club. But, we desperately need other local businesses to give some long-term financial support. A £40 donation to be a matchday sponsor can make a huge

difference. A £100 donation to have a pitch side advertisement banner put up at every match will also assist. Other possibilities including kit sponsorship can be discussed.

To discuss any ideas of support, financial or football related, please email me at samuel.palin@btinternet.com with contact details. Can you or your business support your local club? Amble St.Cuthbert's FC Est.2011 Let's make sure it lasts.
*Sam Palin, Chairman
Amble St Cuthbert's FC*

THE RAILWAY INN

Rachel, Helen & the team
would like to invite you to their

HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

at the Railway Inn on
Friday 30th October

A 3 course meal followed by
live entertainment

Fancy dress (optional)

Tickets £15

To book call: 01670-760320

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Machines & Repairs	Soaps & Fragrance Melts	Handmade Clothes & More	Button Art	Fabrics & Notions	Quilting & Machine Embroidery
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WHAT YOU SAY...

Save Lolita the Orca

I'M A 17 YEAR OLD GIRL who has lived in Amble all my life. Recently I started a campaign to free a captive orca and I've made a link to it so you can check it out. This orca lives in Miami (I know it's not Amble) but I thought if I could get my locals to sign my petition it would make a big difference. I understand everyone in Amble is fully aware of the Ambler and enjoy reading it which is why I thought this would be a good way to spread the message.

The whale's name is Lolita and she has been living and performing in her illegal tank for over 40 years. If a small town like us could make the slightest difference to her release it would mean a great deal. A lot of celebrities are already boycotting orcas in captivity and over 700 people have signed my petition already but unfortunately it's not enough.

All people have to do is go on the website and sign; it takes no more than two minutes.

Here is the link to my petition- <https://www.change.org/p/freelolita-sign-to-send-her-home>
If you could give it a read it would mean a lot to me, thank you for your time.

Beth Keen via email

Royal Navy old shipmates

LOOKING for old shipmates?

I think it's a pretty safe bet to say that many readers would have served in the Royal Navy at some time or other. The older ones who saw service in the Second World War will no doubt have been recently casting their thoughts back to the end of the war with the commemorations around the country. Others will remember National Service, the younger still serving in our much reduced Royal Navy.

They will all be remembering the camaraderie and friendships formed at the time, wondering what happened to old Chalky White on H.M.S. Rustybucket.

Lots of the ships have Associations, full of their old shipmates and a new monthly service has recently started to help find all of the other 'Old Chalkies'. This monthly service is totally FREE because it is all done by email.

Are you on the monthly mailing list? Nearly 400 are. Looking for someone? A good start is to meet up at a reunion. Get in next month's emailing list. Get the latest news. Did you serve in the Electrical Branch in the Royal Navy? Exciting news coming up soon if you did!

R.N.Shipmates are having another reunion next April.

Interested? Send brief details to mike.crowe1@btinternet.com

*Mike Crowe
RN Shipmates*

Thanks to all from Audrey

CONGRATULATIONS to Brian Foster, who won the quilt that I made and gave to RNLI to raise money. The quilt was raffled and raised £2,100, far more than the £1,000 we were aiming for.
Thank you to everybody who bought a ticket or tickets.

*Audrey Jones
Ladbroke Street*

MacMillan fundraising

KAYLEIGH Brown held a MacMillan Coffee Morning at Amble Youth Project on Saturday September 12 and despite the rain the community turned out and helped raise a humongous £824.60!

Kayleigh has worked very hard again this year and with the fantastic support and donations from local businesses and help from her family this great amount was raised. Well done Kayleigh. You should be very proud of yourself

*Tracey Hinton
Amble Youth Project*

CROMIES pharmacy raised £1,430 for the Macmillan coffee morning. A big thank you to all who helped and supported the event. Our customers have been amazingly supportive and generous and it's much appreciated. Thanks also to owner Mark Birding for his generous donation.

*Alison Lowes
Cromies Pharmacy*

Poem

For many years I've been forced to roam,
Trying to find a place called home.
At last my search is over,
I'm no longer a homeless rover.

Dolphin Court is where I reside,
I found a warmth and love inside.
Two young wardens they give their all,
Always helpful when residents call.

My neighbours friendly and kind,
The best people you could find.
Over the years old friends fade away,
We think of them most every day.

*Norman Clay
Dolphin Court, Amble*

We can see you

I AM A RESIDENT on Panhaven Road. Like many residents I witness people walking their dogs on the links. Most are responsible dog owners who pick up and put their dog waste in the bins provided. But a minority of irresponsible dog owners still think it's OK to leave the mess behind or think it looks good to put it in a bag and are too lazy to walk as far as the bins to dispose of it. I have seen people just drop the bags in the longer bits of grass when they think no one's looking.

You know who you are. Don't you realise children play on the links. People cross on the links. It's not your back garden or a toilet for bags of dog poo. It's there for all to use. So please; if you are one of those irresponsible dog owners who think a poo in a plastic bag will just rot away or that dog worms can't make a child go blind, just open your door and let your dog out in your own garden. We residents on Panhaven Road have windows and we can see you.

Maggiemay via email

Christmas lights thanks

ON BEHALF of the Amble Christmas lights committee, I would like to thank everyone who supported our recently held annual fund raising Tombola event.

We were supported by so many shops and businesses, restaurants and pubs and the Sunday market traders once again did us proud. Additional thanks must go to so many individual people in the town, neighbours, friends and our own families who supported us with gifts large and small for the table. On the day itself Peter and Bill, organisers for the Sunday market, gave their usual support and of course, we must not forget all the people both local and from further afield, who took a chance and paid their pounds.

By the end of the morning we raised £453 all of which will be put to good use for the lighting displays and all we have to do for upkeep and renewal. On behalf of the entire lights team I thank each and everyone of you. Your continued support is greatly valued.

This year the carnival parade and switch on will be on Sunday 22nd November 2015, we hope you and your families manage to attend the event and in the process have some fun!

Once again, we thank you all.

*Trevor Colbourne,
Chairman, Amble Christmas lights*

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.

A ringing endorsement for Margaret at the Blue Bell

An Amble landlady has raised her glass to a decade at the helm of the Blue Bell.

Margaret James celebrated 10 years of being in charge of one of the town's most popular pubs. She took over the Admiral Taverns owned pub on Albert Street in 2005 after having a number of links to the pub; her grandmother was actually born on the premises.

Customers joined Margaret and her husband Steve in celebrating her anniversary with a big party. She said: "We had a great time! I've got a great bunch of customers and it was brilliant to celebrate with them."

The Blue Bell is a true community local. Margaret offers home cooked Sunday dinners and the pub is a hive of local sporting activity. It has 14 different team activities including men and women's darts, dominoes and football teams.

Margaret is also raising money in memory of close friend and regular of the pub, David Coulson, who sadly passed away in February. Locals have so far raised more than £1,000 towards a defibrillator which will be located on the high street.

All the activity of the sports teams and the three B&B rooms at the pub mean every



l-r John York of Admiral Taverns presenting flowers to Margaret and Steve James

day is a busy one for Margaret but there are no signs of her calling time yet: "Running this pub is everything to me. I work late nights and have very early starts but I wouldn't have it any other way. Even after 10 years I still love it."

John York, Admiral Taverns' Business Development Manager for the area said: "It's a great achievement for Margaret to have been in the Blue Bell for 10 years. She runs a great pub and I hope she will be running it for another 10 years."

Goodbye yellow bird and thanks for the last 40 years



Crowds at Amble Harbour Day were able to watch one of the last rescue demonstrations by an RAF Boulmer Sea King.

The iconic yellow helicopters ended their 40 year service at the end of September. The government's decision to axe the search and rescue (SAR) cover by 202 Squadron at RAF Boulmer has been met with sadness by many local people.

The Ambler spoke to Engineering Shift Manager Dan Green who worked on the Sea Kings at Boulmer for nearly eight years, and for whom the Sea Kings were always a part of his life.

"It's going to be a miss. I think in some sense we've all taken it for granted that they'd be there. I remember looking

at the Sea Kings as a child in my uncle's fishing boat at Newbiggin. And then when I was in the Army as an avionics engineer, I thought working on the Sea Kings at Boulmer would be my dream job."

Just as we're talking there's a noise overhead and Dan moves the phone away for a moment. "The last Sea King is actually flying over my house right now," he tells me.

Is he emotional about the end of the SAR at Boulmer?

"Oh definitely, and I know there's a lot of 'rough tough' blokes that will probably have a tear in their eyes.

"I think the overriding memory I will have is of the camaraderie. You would just drop everything to focus on

getting the aircraft to respond at any time. The ethos of the crew and engineers was second to none... their willingness to do their job in any conditions or time of day. I don't think anything will replace that."

Most of the helicopter engineers and crew at Boulmer have found alternative work - though often at great distances from Northumberland. Dan now commutes on a week on, week off basis to Aberdeen where he works for helicopter company CHC Scotia.

"There's now no real aircraft engineering in the North East," said Dan. "It's quite a changed industry. Many of the engineers are now making trains in Newton Aycliffe."

A privately-run search and rescue service owned by US company Bristow will replace the Sea Kings. The new Sikorsky S-92 helicopters will be based in Caernarfon, Prestwick and Humberside, and run via the Coastguard Agency.

Dan is cautious about the change: "It leaves a massive empty hole in the North East. The new helicopters are faster aircraft, but if those aircraft are elsewhere, you can't replace the fact that there used to be an asset in Northumberland."

Anna Williams


Some of your comments on our Facebook page:

AR: Devastated. The end of an era. Loved to see those yellow helicopters around and about. People will lose their jobs and if there's an emergency in this area, will take vital time to get the Sea King helicopters from other areas to carry out rescues

SH: Awful loss of an amazing service. They will be a big miss.

KM: they were a part of our community along with the lifeboats and coastguard. It was reassuring to see the Sea King flying low over our coastline. I will always remember my flight in a Sea King quite a few years back. These guys have done a fantastic job and I wish them well.

RW: Very sad to see this go and the amazing guys who help save lives alongside our brilliant local lifeboat team. Feels like we're going back in time to cut such a heroic lifeline. Thanks for the 40 yrs guys you will be sadly missed.

AH: Such a shame, unfortunately a sign of the times. Cut backs in place of saving lives! It will be interesting to see statistics on how many SAR have taken place since the sea king became operational. How many lives have been saved by this fantastic service? 

Remembering the 'forgotten army' VJ Day 2015



Amble played its part in the 70th anniversary of VJ Day, with a two minute silence and a moving tribute to the Far East soldiers and prisoners of war of WW2.

Members of Amble Town Council paid their respects and laid wreaths on behalf of the people of Amble and Radcliffe.

Representatives of the armed services also laid wreaths. Around seventy members of the public joined the service in the Town Square.

Mayor Craig Weir read out a description of the horrors endured by the Far East soldiers; those who were captured rarely spoke of their ordeal, but thanks to Amble veterans like the late

Clarence Hedley, some details of the starvation, disease and forced labour have gradually come to light.

Town Councillor Jane Dargue read 'For the Fallen' by Robert Binyon

At the beginning of September, Amble and Warkworth British Legion held a Pipe Band Concert with Pie and Pea supper to commemorate VJ Day and to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal. The band played a rendition of "Heroes of Kohima" written to remember the 'forgotten 14th Army'

Anna Williams



Clockwise from top right: Wreath-layers; Veterans waiting for the ceremony to begin; Salute at Amble war memorial; At Radcliffe war memorial



Local men who survived the work camps

August 15 marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the war over Japan, and after the allies dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki World War 2 was brought to a close.

The 9th Division of the Northumberland Fusiliers were part of the allied forces sent to repel the Japanese troops.

Many soldiers were killed and the survivors became prisoners of war when General Percival surrendered in February 1942. The Japanese incarcerated many of the men in Changi Prison

before dispersing them to work camps on other islands and by sea to Japan. It became for them a constant struggle to survive the cruel treatment and harsh conditions and even those who returned endured ill health and nightmares as a result of their experiences.

The late Clarence Hedley of Amble F.E.P.O.W. Club was one of those imprisoned. He kept a list of his fellow Amble comrades in the 9th Division, Northumberland Fusiliers who survived their ordeal in the Far East. Most of these ex fusiliers are now deceased.

Among them were:

Robert Davison
Dennis Charlton
George Thomas Smith
Jim White
Peter Dixon
Jim Baxter
Robert Dodds
Joe Park

Henry Chambers
George Hall
Robert Cullingworth
Billy Richardson
David Wilson
George Rochester
Gordon Oliver
George Henderson
Jack Henry
Bill Nelson

Eddie Lye
Reginald Stanley
Jim Siney
Jack Hardy
J. Shotton
Jim Miller
Billy Clark
Bart Woodcock
W. Adamson
J Wallace

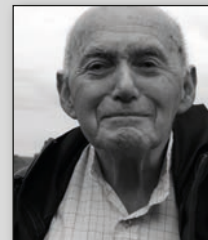
We will remember them!

June Watson, Amble and Warkworth British Legion

(See also page 15)

Age of insecurity

by Harry McQuillen



A recent meeting with an enthusiastic young lady on Queen Street made me think of trust.

She presented me with a leaflet on TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)

Her fear was that, if we allowed American corporations into parts of our economy that we hold dear, they would go to law, in the usual U.S. fashion. The essence of litigation is lack of trust.

Most of us were brought up to rely on the integrity of other people and institutions. Unfortunately, our trust has been eroded over the years, so that we question the actions and motives of others in our selfish society; bankers, corporations, public servants and others are subjected to verbal (and sometimes physical) abuse. It appears that 'Freedom Of Information' has led to increasing suspicion of the things that other people do.

Instant media exposure short circuits the more careful gathering and analysis of earlier times. That good old Latin expression "bona fides" (good faith) may be the way forward. Whether locally, nationally, or internationally, we need to think before we judge!

Everybody has difficult decisions to make, but they need time to make them. What cheers me up no end is the creative energy I see every day.

Recently I went to Seaton Sluice, to a great little hut where Tom Newstead of Shanti Art displays his work. I won't try to describe it to you; go and see it for yourself.

Locally I love the work of Libby Watkins; her cards and pictures make me wonder why I can't draw.

Libby isn't alone; look at the other artists, photographers, and craftspeople who display their work in our area. Let's all open our eyes and our minds and think positive!

In Amble there's always a good turnout for an event or a parade. Most of us talk to one another.

Perhaps we could encourage one another (old and young) to take part in local events and to help where we can.

JCSC: "Best ever results at A Level"

James Calvert Spence College Sixth Form, which was rated "Good" by Ofsted in 2014 for the first time has confirmed its judgement with fabulous results this year at A Level. Staff are suggest these are the best ever results.

High performers at the college achieved success and first choice offers at universities across the country.

The results demonstrate a recent trend within the college of continued strong improvement.

Students and parents were pleased and couldn't speak more highly of the support and education received from the staff at James Calvert Spence College.

Some students achieved multiple A* results continuing their journey on to places like Loughborough University to study Mechanical Engineering or Glasgow University to study Veterinary Science just to name two.

Other Universities offering places to JCSC students were – Durham, Newcastle, Oxford Brookes, York, Northumbria, East Anglia, Sheffield and Teesside.

Those who chose not to go to university have moved on to fantastic employment opportunities, apprenticeships and further education with places like Newcastle College.

Chair of Governors, Cllr. Scott Dickinson was delighted with the students' performance and said: "The college has been through much change,

all our staff have worked incredibly hard to support students. They deserve all the grades they have received and they will continue with bright futures because of the hard work they have put in.

"JCSC will continue to improve; I am pleased the results reflect the good judgement received from Ofsted in 2014 for our Sixth Form.

"I am delighted to see JCSC students receiving offers from well-respected Universities from across the country."

James Calvert Spence College was among the best improved schools in Northumberland this year and has climbed the Counties KS5 league table from its position last year. James Calvert Spence College continues to offer free transport for post16 students and is set to have a fantastic start to the new term.

Sue Bell, Head of sixth form, said: "I am really pleased that the Year 13 students at JCSC have achieved some fantastic results of which they should be proud as they have worked incredibly hard over the last two years.

"The students have been able to fulfil their aspirations of going to university, into further education, employment and training.

"I would also like to thank the staff and parents for their continued hard work and support which has enabled the school to achieve its best ever post 16 results. I would like to wish students the best of luck for the future."

GCSE results much improved across Northumberland

Students across Northumberland received their GCSE results and the figures show that the county average has risen significantly.

Cllr Robert Arkless, cabinet member for children's services at Northumberland County Council, said:

"I would like to congratulate GCSE students in Northumberland for the results they have achieved this year.

"It is difficult to make too many comparisons due to the changes which have taken place nationally within the education qualification system, but there is no doubt that overall the number of students achieving good grades has improved significantly.

"Across our 16 schools and academies there has been on average a 4% increase compared to last year in the proportion of young people achieving five or more A* to C grades. This is a testament to the hard work of pupils and their teachers."

Based on provisional results, on average, schools in Northumberland achieved 57% 5A* to C grades, including English and Maths, which is a significant improvement on last year's 53% figure.

Cllr Arkless added: "The improvements in many of our schools and academies are even better than this, and the figures also show that our young people can achieve extremely well when compared with students in other parts of the country.

"It is pleasing that this trend of improvement has started. However I still believe that some of our schools and academies can perform better.

We will continue to challenge and support school leaders so that they can help students to achieve the very highest standards."

South Avenue and Acklington youngsters celebrate Roald Dahl Day



Year 5 students at South Avenue enjoyed celebrating not only the start of their first term at 'Big School' but also Roald Dahl Day on Monday September 14. The day celebrated the birth of this amazing and much loved writer. The day also took place at our new addition Acklington First.

The day began with an assembly to learn a little bit more about Roald Dahl and his books. During the morning lessons started

with teachers reading from their favourite Roald Dahl book. In the afternoon we held a Roald Dahl 'make and do' session; book prizes were awarded

Our Year 5 teachers appeared in costume as characters from one of his books and the children were encouraged to come to school dressed as characters. They had worked hard: we had mice from the Witches, witches (as Halloween is coming up), a fox with a very bushy tail and many more....

The idea behind the day was to have fun, celebrate an inspirational writer and to remind children about the pleasures of reading on your own or with others.

Claire Percy, JCSC South Avenue

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Roseate Tern on Coquet Island

Funding has been secured for the RSPB's work on Coquet Island from the European LIFE fund, to progress the work on safeguarding the roseate tern population there. Coquet Island is the only place left in the United Kingdom where roseate terns nest.

The funding comes as the numbers of nesting roseates have topped the 100 mark for the first time since the reserve became a nature sanctuary in the 1970s.

Paul Morrison, Coquet's site manager, explains: "A lot of effort has been devoted to safeguarding and providing ideal conditions for the roseate terns on Coquet Island, and as a result, the numbers attracted to the island have increased gently but steadily over the past 15 years."

"This is set against a backdrop of total decline and loss of roseate colonies elsewhere in the country."

This funding will help with continuing our work on Coquet for the next five years and also aims to help re-establish roseate terns in places in Europe where they were once colonised."

Coquet Island, despite its tiny size, is home to more than 44,000 nesting seabirds each year and is now firmly on the international stage for conservation best practice.

The safeguarding project was launched on October 1 and one of the plans is to provide a live video link from the island to the World Wide Web, so everyone can enjoy seeing the bird spectacle on Coquet Island.

Cool down energy bills

With thousands of homes across the region living in fuel poverty, the landmark energy efficiency scheme Warm Up North is urging residents to find out how they could benefit from energy saving measures.

From quick fixes like turning down the temperature of hot water in the home, to long-term measures such as replacing an old inefficient boiler before winter, these handy tips can help reduce the cost of energy bills, leaving residents with more money to enjoy.

Warm Up North's Graeme Stephenson, said: "Making small changes to our daily habits can make a big difference to the cost of energy bills."

For more information on Warm Up North and energy efficiency measures including £250 gas boilers for eligible residents visit www.warmupnorth.com

First School Open Afternoon

Acklington CE First School
OPEN AFTERNOON
Please come along to our open afternoon and take this opportunity to have an informal look around the school with your child. You will be able to talk to our staff and pupils, and ask any questions.

THURSDAY 8th October 2pm - 4pm

10K raises £6K

This years Druridge Bay 10k raised a fantastic £6000 for the RNLI Amble Shannon Appeal.

Next year's run will be held on Sunday May 29, 2016 and several local charities will benefit from the proceeds.

Andrea (Secretary) DB10K Committee

Please help homeless youngsters

Youth homelessness charity is appealing for volunteer hosts in Amble and across Northumberland as demand for its services increases.

Nightstop North East provides emergency accommodation for homeless youngsters. Hosts provide a bed for the night for those left without a roof over their heads.

Organisers are appealing for new volunteer hosts to take in a young person for the night and offer them a warm bed and a listening ear.

Project manager Kester Young said: "We have a network of volunteer hosts but we need more in order to support the growing number of young people approaching us for support."

"Unfortunately, the demand for our service tends to increase after Christmas, so we are asking people who have some spare time to think about giving up a couple of hours a week to help those less fortunate than themselves."

Volunteers must be vetted but they receive out-of-pocket expenses and full training and support.

For more info, phone Nightstop North East on 0191 253 6161 / 07957165488 or email nightstopne@depauluk.org.

New look at First School helps children play and learn

At Amble Links First School we have been extremely busy during the summer holidays getting our new look Foundation Stage Unit ready.

The children were welcomed back by a terrace of three brightly painted playhouses (special thanks to Cathie Gascoigne and Emma Barnes for their work) and attached kennel (children love to play dogs!)

Each playhouse has its own special focus on maths, literacy or role play – the children couldn't wait to go upstairs in them and explore.

A new water play area allows the children to explore with water. Our covered sandpit area has been freshly painted (thanks to AB Decorators) and our mud

kitchen dug over and ready for business.

Inside we have a newly refurbished children's toilet area, new flooring, and new furniture to give us great flexibility.

Our staff team is getting to grips with a new assessment system using ipods to take photos and make videos, record their observations and share these with parents.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has helped get our school ready for September and given up so much of their own time during the holidays – it's been a real team effort with every member of school staff helping



out, often with family members tagging along too (special thanks to Dave Rutherford!)

We're looking forward to

seeing the children flourish in this great new space.

Paul Heeley, Headteacher



Thousands of people thronged the quayside and Harbour Village for Amble's annual Lifeboat Day.

The crowds were treated to a rescue display by the Amble Lifeboat crew and a Sea King from RAF

Boulmer. Music from Northumbria Army Cadets' Cassino Band entertained everyone, there were stalls, raffles, and an abundance of tasty food and drink on offer.

This year, fundraising was directed to Amble RNL's Shannon appeal. Organisers announced that £18,176.58 was raised on the day, bringing the grand total to over half of the £200,000 needed.

Many more photos on our website: www.theambler.co.uk

Clockwise top left: Cassino Band; both lifeboats in action; pirate fancy dress Indie Smith (3) Lyla Smith (8); crowds enjoying the day



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MOG ON THE TYNE ALSO KNOWN AS THE CAT CAFE



I have been to a new café in Newcastle called Mog on the Tyne. This café has 9 cats: Maggie, Sir Francis, Sybil, Rum, Gizmo Tokyo and his brother Jaffa Cake, Tyrion and Stan. For this café you have to have no shoes on don't feed the cats or pick them up. These cats are really friendly and all are cute in their own way.

by Hope

BINKY AND THE HIBERNATING HAMSTER

Binky lifted Fudge cake, his new pet hamster, out of her cage and into the runway he'd built her. She ran along the tubes and tunnels, her nose leading her at junctions, until she found the bowl of treats. Binky watched happily as she snaffled them up. Watching her had made him hungry too, so he quickly left to get a bamboo snack.

When he came back, he found... Fudge cake was gone! Binky gasped and frantically started searching for her until he found the naughty hamster. But she was lying on the floor, eyes closed; was she dead?!

Sobbing, Binky told his mum about what had happened and, to his surprise, she laughed!

"She isn't dead Binky!" his mum smiled at him, "Fudge cake's hibernating for the winter!"

Binky's mum helped him set up a crate with straw and blankets inside then tucked Fudge cake in to it. They placed it by the radiator so she could keep warm.

"See you in spring!" whispered Binky into the blankets, hoping his hamster was going to have a good LONG sleep!

By Lily T

DOG KENNELS PLAYS ROCK MUSIC TO SCARED DOGS

I wanted to know what happens to pets/animals on bonfire night. So I asked a local vet and the dog kennels at Whitley Bay: *I was wondering do animals get scared from bonfire night and what do you do? Do you think bonfire night a good thing?*

Richard from the kennels said: "I wish more people asked that question. The weeks surrounding bonfire night fill us with dread.

"As you probably know, most shops start selling fireworks from October so, they're easy to buy. In Whitley Bay from about mid-October there are fireworks being let off almost every night.

"As soon as we hear or see them we go out to the kennels. Some dogs hide and others will become agitated and are looking for help.

HIBERNATION

Hibernation is an amazing procedure in which animals store energy as fat to keep them warm over winter. Running about uses a lot of energy so sleeping allows them to store energy and warmth while it's chilly.

Some animals sleep a lot, but not true hibernation.

I asked the Ulgham nature sanctuary what they do for their animals that hibernate in winter and they said that they have two animals that hibernate, their tortoise and the hedgehogs.

They stop feeding the tortoise before he goes into hibernation so he can sleep with an empty stomach (it's good for him, don't worry!). They weigh him, put him in a crate with lots of straw and, when he wakes, they place him in a bowl of lukewarm water to rehydrate him.

They will either overwinter the hedgehogs or let them sleep, depending on whether they are over or under 500gms. If they are over, they will hibernate just like the tortoise. If the hedgehogs are under, they will overwinter them - put them under heat lamps and provide them plenty of food and drink so they have no need to hibernate. Because of their size, they wouldn't survive hibernation.

Ulgham nature sanctuary had to close down to public and their only source of donation after a zoo license was requested. Now they are relying on us to help save the animals, even blankets and biscuits can really make a difference!

By Lily T



If there are not too many fireworks, we can calm them down usually in about half an hour or so by distracting the dogs by being loud and playing, but that's still not much fun if we are having to help them at 11 at night or later!"

"Firework displays are different. Usually the people organizing it will come and let us know in advance. Just before the display is due to start

, we go out to the kennels with a large stereo and play very loud rock music as loud as we possibly can. We also set up some portable floodlights and try to make the kennels as light as possible. The hope is to drown out the bangs and lights from the fireworks as much as we can.



By Hope.

But, it doesn't prevent the dogs from getting really stressed out and upset - it's not a nice thing to watch!"

Fiona at the vets gave some advice for dogs at home "Firstly the dog should be kept at home in a part of the home they feel comfortable and secure in. Extra soundproofing of the room can be helpful. Scared dogs often like to run to a 'bolt hole' for example a cupboard, under a bed or their favourite sleeping place so this area should always be available.

"Long term there are also some special programmes to introduce dogs to loud noises but these have to be started many months before firework night to be helpful."

So keep your animals safe on bonfire night.



WHEN I MET TWO SCARY AUTHORS

If you like reading scary books you might have heard about Derek Landy and Darren Shan.

Derek Landy has been described as the scariest author around. He is the author of *Skulduggery Pleasant*.

On 7th September last year I met him at Waterstones in Newcastle. He came to sign books and it was amazing he was really kind. I went with my Mam and my Sister. He is one of my favourite authors. My favourite book of his is *The Faceless Ones*. We were talking for ages, which really annoyed the other people waiting to get their books signed.

Another author I have met is the master of horror...Darren Shan! He is the author of books like *zom-b clan* I went to see him on the 6th July last year

with my Mam and my Sister because my sister loves him and his books. She got 2 or 3 books signed. I got a hug, by Emma-Jane



VAMPIRE DOLLS ARE ALL THE RAGE

You might have heard about Reborn dolls but have you heard of the vampire one? We both own and adore Reborn dolls.

Some people treat Reborn dolls like real babies, they spend money on things that are not needed, for example: real baby food, real baby nappies, packs and packs of baby wipes, a proper Reborn changing table and baby cots.

We know this because we have seen YouTube videos on Reborn dolls where people try to feed them with real food. Some people buy vampire Reborn dolls! Or they just buy the doll and get a customisation kit to make them into vampires.

Here's our vampire doll! She is called Ellisabat.

By Bethany and Lily W



WHY 13 MEN WANTED TO BLOW UP THE GOVERNMENT

Guy Fawkes is amazing. If you've never heard of him listen more in your history lessons!

On November 5th 1605, Guy Fawkes was one of 13 men who didn't like King James the first and went against him in the gunpowder plot.

The gunpowder plot was against the king because he didn't like Catholics and they weren't allowed to do many things. Robert Catesby was leader. They wanted to kill the king with gunpowder. Thirty six gunpowder barrels were stored in a cellar under the House of Lords in London.

The group worked hard and soon realised innocent people would be hurt even people on their side. One of them sent a letter to their friends telling them to watch out. The king found the letter and demanded forces to stop them. Sadly Guy Fawkes was in the cellar and forces came down into the cellar, they quickly killed him.

To celebrate the safety of the king they made a bonfire which we still do today. Some people still wonder whether they were celebrating the safety of the king or honouring attempt from Guy Fawkes and his friends to do what they thought was right. By Ava



Here is a picture of my 'pearcock' I made for Warkworth Flower Show. I used a pear for the body, carrots for the legs and beak, raisins for the eyes, green grapes for the feathers and blueberries for the feather details.

I came first in the Year 5 and 6 'An animal made from fruit and/or vegetables'

It took me five minutes to make. I couldn't eat it at the end, because there were wasps and people might have sneezed on it!

By Hope



Tour of Britain photos

Clockwise from top left: Puffin with race official and with Edwin St children by Joyce Jenkins; Puffin live on ITV4 from Laura Nisbet; Bradley Wiggins and peloton by Ian Hinson; peloton at top of Wynd by Mark Cooper; cyclists at bottom of Wynd by Steve Emberton; JCSC South Avenue children cheering, thanks to JCSC



COQUET YACHT CLUB News update

The photos below give you some idea of what goes on at Coquet Yacht Club. What a privilege it was to host the wedding celebrations of John and Rascene Nolan (Northside Surf). This is the third wedding we've hosted with more to come and our location and views make them a delight to be involved in.

The photo on the right taken at Newton shows 11 of our members yachts after they've cruised up from Amble. New members who don't have their own boats crewed just for the experience and new members who've just bought a boat



ventured out for the first time. Sailing is obviously the real heart of our club and right in the middle of this busy weekend of cruising and wedding

celebrations Mark Phillips was steering us through an audit by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) which licences CYC to be an approved RYA Teaching Establishment.

We are still carrying out building development providing the club with a shore side classroom which will be an excellent asset for the club. so if you'd like to book the club for a special event or experience and learn to sail and just while away you time on the balcony.

For more information contact phil.derry@coquetyachtclub.org.uk 01665 712990.



Amble tribute taken to national memorial



A poppy cross tribute has been placed in the National Memorial Arboretum on behalf of the people of Amble.

The tribute was originally placed on Amble's war memorial on VJ Day, by Kings Royal Hussars veteran Peter Proctor Cannon.

Peter attended the annual Memorial Parade of Northern Ireland veterans at the Arboretum in Staffordshire, and decided to take the poppy cross to honour the memory of the Northumberland men who became Far East Prisoners of War in WW2.

The dedication reads:

For those who served in the Far East and their families. Especially for Northumberland FEPOW.

*From the people of Amble.
In Remembrance.*

"I placed the cross on the FEPOW Memorial at the Arboretum. There is a section of the actual 'Bridge over the River Kwai' railway that the men built, which has been brought over to form a lasting memorial."

Readers will no doubt remember Clar Hedley, Amble's own 'Railway Man' who passed away last December. *The Ambler* documented his memories of the years of dreadful hardship, illness and cruelty he and his comrades had to endure as prisoners of the Japanese during WW2.

"My regiment's motto was MEREBIMUR - which means We Shall Be Worthy.

In particular, I was thinking of Clar," said Peter. "I hope he would have been pleased."

Anna Williams



Peter triumphs at Mason's Arms leek show

The Masons Arms hold the only surviving annual leek show in Amble. Here are the results of the 2015 show held in September:

1st P Griffiths 321.64 cu in

2nd C Johnson 342.55 cu in

3rd W Stott 286.98 cu in

Best Leek In Show: P Griffiths

Most Improved Grower: W Stott

3 Onions Fresh Dug: P Griffiths

1 Blanch Leek and Dressed Onion: P Griffiths

The show was judged by Alan Davison of Blyth. Thank you to sponsors C Aston, J Kelly, Amble Scaffolding, P Donaldson, D Flannighan, Co-operative stores, The Schooner Inn, The Blue Bell, Coquet Store, Cliffwell Garage, N Wilson. Special thanks to hosts Amanda and Nigel.

Amble Leek Show Committee



Above: Peter Griffiths with his winning leeks

Tell them what you think

People living in Northumberland are being asked for their views about a range of issues, including what it is like to live in the area, what they think needs improving and how satisfied they are with how the county council runs things.

More than 8,000 questionnaires are being sent by post over the next few weeks to a random sample of residents in the County to help the Council to prioritise and develop its services. The results of the survey are expected in January.

The questionnaire is being carried out on behalf of the council by market research experts Ipsos Mori. All completed surveys will be treated confidentially and only seen by IpsosMori. Northumberland Council will receive a report on the overall findings.

Deputy Leader for Northumberland County Council, Cllr Dave Ledger said: "It's really important that we ask the people of Northumberland for their views on the area, our services and their priorities.

"The residents' survey is one of the ways in which we do this. If you receive one of the questionnaires please do take the time to complete and return it. We are here to serve the people of Northumberland so it's crucial we know what residents think and care about, especially during these difficult financial times."

If anyone has any queries about the survey they can contact Ipsos Mori on 0808 141 3087 or email NorthumberlandResidentsSurvey2015@ipsos.com

What are the county council's priorities?

Residents are to be given a final chance to have a say on a key planning document for the county.

The core strategy sets out the county council's priorities for Northumberland in the future – which include the creation of 10,000 additional jobs by 2031 and extending choice in the housing market.

The council wants to make sure that Northumberland thrives economically, while preserving and enhancing the county's special environmental qualities.

"This will involve releasing some green belt land as there aren't enough brownfield and previously developed sites. However this is only proposed in exceptional circumstances," said Councillor Allan Hepple, cabinet member for economic growth at Northumberland County Council.

"I hope that people will take the opportunity to look at and comment on the final plan before it goes off for independent examination. You will be able to comment on whether you feel that it is a sound plan that is able to be delivered."

A leaflet will be posted through every door explaining the consultation and how to have your say. Drop-in events will be held across Northumberland, where residents will be able to ask questions of council officers.

The full draft strategy, all of the evidence work that supports it and feedback forms will be available on www.northumberland.gov.uk from October 14, 2015. Following this consultation it is expected that the core strategy will be submitted to Government in March 2016, with the examination taking place during that summer.

Show jumping and more at Hope Farm

Hope Farm Equestrian were thrilled at the turnout for their show jumping event and dog show in August, and have now begun to put on regular competition events.

"A massive thank you to everybody that helped today at Hope Farm, amazing turnout, show jumping, great to see new faces. Brilliant dog show too. So proud to have a fantastic team here at the centre," said manager and event organiser Enid Grant on their Facebook page.

The equestrian facility in Amble is becoming very popular with youngsters. Dressage clinics by Paul Langford are so popular, that extra days have been arranged. Boasting a new indoor arena, the facility also offers lessons, DIY, rehabilitation and breaking livery. Contact Enid on 07896978155 for more details and to book.



Keep Out!

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is strongly reminding members of the public that its Hauxley nature reserve on Druridge Bay is still closed, whilst its new Wildlife Discovery Centre is under construction. The site will remain closed until spring/summer 2016.

The reminder follows a number of recent incidences where people have blatantly ignored the closed sign, not to mention the padlocked gate, and climbed over the fence to get onto the reserve.

Not only is such behaviour causing damage to the fence, it is also dangerous as the entire reserve is classed as a construction site with everybody having to comply with the guidelines set out by the Health and Safety Executive.

Now, volunteers who would have been assisting with the construction are being diverted to patrolling the site and repairing the fencing, which in turn, is having an effect on the building's progress.

There are still five other reserves along the bay for visitors to enjoy: Cresswell Foreshore, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Linton Lane.

You can follow the progress of the build at www.facebook.com/HauxleyNatureReserve

Hundreds join Bartle's trip down memory lane

A Facebook group devoted to old images of Amble and the surrounding area has captured the imagination of hundreds of viewers.

The 'Amble In Old Photographs' group was set up by Bartle Rippon in 2014 and at the time of writing, has topped 1300 members, with scores of people adding their own vintage photos and sharing memories.

Bart told The Ambler: "It was just over a year ago when I set the group up. It was extremely quiet for many months then all of a sudden it exploded to life."

Bart is thrilled that the group

has become so popular.

"The best thing is how members have felt. Their sheer enjoyment of the memories. Also re-uniting forgotten friends, classmates and families. People saying things like 'this is what Facebook should be about'. It's much better than playing the games. Everyone has something good to say.

He continued: "Some people complained they can't get to bed for reading the stories. Even one person said they were nearly late for work because the site was so interesting: 'it was a good job I didn't have far to go!'"

But as anyone who has ever tried to look back at old posts on Facebook will have discovered, finding things on the popular social media site is not always straightforward.

"Facebook is great for sharing photos and discussion, but it isn't always easy to find posts a few weeks later. So we are archiving some of the images on The Ambler's



FROM SHIRLEY WALLACE

website where they are easier to find," said Bart.

The site has become so popular Bart is even thinking of turning it into a book.

"One of the Facebook group suggested I turn stuff from here into a book. But getting the photos together in some kind of broad order will need a lot of planning."

You can see the beginning of the Amble In Old Photos archive on The Ambler website: www.theambler.co.uk/category/ambleinoldphotos/

Bart's Amble In Old Photographs Facebook group can be found at: www.facebook.com/groups/236599456501286/

Anna Williams



FROM EVYNE MORTON

Welcome to Trust Life. I won't say anything about the weather or the summer disappearing before it got started. I begin with the news that we have at long last received the first tranche of Persimmon funds.

So, to begin the big spend we have instructed Sullivan Associates to complete the plans for the housing units then go out to tender.

Next we have asked a local ground works company to review the drainage problem at the welfare as well as items requiring repair on the play area.

Once all items are costed, we will discuss with user groups a work priority list to see what we can achieve with the funds available.

Unfortunately while we repair the facilities in one place, someone causes more damage elsewhere. Recently a group of youngsters decided to remove part of the low level fence around the children's play area. Fortunately these actions were seen, the fence panel secured and the incident reported to the police. For this we thank ACT members, Ivor from JCSC and John Kelly – saving the Trust from a large replacement bill!

Harbour Village. Harbour Week - Sarah the HV co-ordinator organised a week of activities leading up to Lifeboat Day. Pirates and marauders wandered the quayside looking for their next 'recruits'. Pieces of 8

were distributed widely around the town to be collected for the players' treasure chest. Over the two weekends there were craft and food markets, with produce from local allotment holders being given for donations to the RNLI appeal. Over £800 was collected for the appeal.

Before Christmas there will be other events and activities organised. Information can be found in the Seafood Centre window or on the website: www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk

The Seafood Centre is now operating and open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings for the sale of fresh fish. Times are displayed on the premises. While we have received some criticism about the opening times our intentions were not to provide direct over the counter sales. We are not here to compete with the long-established business in the town. We are looking for new methods and markets for local produce, such as internet sales and local restaurants. We have responded to requests for direct sales but within limited periods and obviously only when fish is available. Unfortunately, many people believe all species of fish to be available all year round. One told us to look at a particular supermarket fish counter, missing the point that if it wasn't landed on the North East Coast we don't sell it. I wonder where the supermarket got theirs.

Another aspect of the Centre is educating the public on seasonality, local catch and use of 'ugly' fish, a term used to describe the lesser known species, often more tasty than the better known cod or haddock. We have a lot of work to do on that score!

We welcome Northumbria Police to Fourways2. They are now installed in their new offices. With the Police, Town Council, ourselves, The Ambler, employment services and other business tenants we have achieved what the building was designed as: a community hub offering a broad range of services.

Public consultation on the one way system will begin either late September or early October. If you live in the area involved (bottom of Queen Street, George, Lawson and Leazes streets) you will receive information on the project and how to make your opinion known. Everyone else can check on the county council website.

If you have comments to make, please make them – these will inform future action. This is your opportunity to be involved and shape the traffic system in the town.

Next: the Torchlight Procession on November 22nd. The most anticipated event in the town? Looking forward to it already!

So with this update written, I'm off for a hot chocolate – it's that cold!

julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

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14 Albert Street, Amble NE65 0LT (opposite The Wellwood)

Rotary club gives £5,100 to local charities

Following the success of the Rotary Charity Golf Day held at Foxton recently, the Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth has presented three cheques of £1,700 each to The Great North Air Ambulance Service, Hospice Care North Northumberland and SSAFA Forces Help (Northumberland).

Dick Wailes told the Ambler: "The Rotary Club is most grateful to all those who took part in the Golf Day and particularly to all those individuals, clubs and businesses who gave prizes and sponsorship for the event".

*Fred Calvert
Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth*



l-r: Brian Finlayson from SSAFA, Dave Shoemaker (Rotary Club President), Audrey Jones from the GNAAS, Dick Wailes (Chairman of the Golf Day Committee) and David Atkinson (Trustee and Treasurer, Hospice Care).

Trident Soccer: 20 years of football development founded in Amble

Trident Soccer's foundations belong in "The Friendliest Port", says Director Ryan Jobson. "Twenty years ago, there wasn't anything of its type locally; my brother Shaun and I were very lucky to receive FA coaching at centres in Ashington and Newcastle.

"When we turned 16 and 15 respectively, we began obtaining coaching qualifications and started sessions out of Coquet High School Sports Hall."

Trident Soccer Academy developed from weekly "gatherings" and 5-a-Sides competitions as well as a Goalkeeping Academy, courtesy of the late Newcastle United and Port Vale and England B goalkeeper, Ray King.

After playing and coaching professionally in Massachusetts, USA, in 2001, the Jobson brothers returned to Amble and decided to set up a Schools Programme, first at

Amble St. Cuthbert's R.C First School and then Amble First School. Their Schools Programme now includes schools all over Northumberland.

Two decades of football development in Northumberland has allowed thousands of local children the opportunity to develop their skills.

Local professionals such as Luke James and Nathan Buddle benefited from the Schools Programme at Amble First School.

England Women's International Lucy Bronze, who recently starred in the FIFA Women's World Cup Finals in Canada, had been identified as a future star at Trident Soccer sessions in Alnwick. Lucy was subsequently sponsored by Trident Soccer to attend Soccer Camps at the University of North Carolina in 2005.

Other international players such as Stefan Dill (Bermuda) and John Matkin (Guam)

have been involved with Trident Soccer related activities.

Former Scottish World Cup star and UEFA Pro Licence Coach Willie Donachie, is a valued member of the coaching team.

Ryan adds, "Whether a student ends up as a professional or enjoys playing the game, we are happy to support our players. Twenty years' knowledge and experience has enabled Trident Soccer to become a unique role-model for player development within Northumberland and I thank the students, parents, schools and communities that have supported Trident Soccer.

The whole coaching team values the contribution Amble has made over the past 20 years, continues to make, and will continue to make in the future.

It's a huge tribute and a big thank you to 'The Friendliest Port' - for what has been achieved."

Hauxley Fun Day call for volunteers

We had another good day at Hauxley for our annual Fun Day and although it was on the chilly side there was a good turn out to join in the fun. All the usual side shows were running and the well stocked bric-a-brac stall proved as popular as ever. With the sand castle competition, the art competition, the pet show and our two raffles, as well as the tombola stall, there were great prizes galore to win.

We are very grateful to all the businesses in Amble for their generous support in providing prizes; there are too many to list them all here but we really appreciate their help.

The usual volunteers offered their help to run the various side shows, the refreshments and the stalls, and without them we couldn't manage such a variety of events, so thanks to them all. We would also welcome hearing from anyone new who can help next year.

Thanks to everyone who came and supported us and we look forward to doing it all again next year. If you have any suggestions or comments on Fun Day we would love to hear from you on our Hauxley Village Facebook page.

Don't miss out on a great day for all the family and we hope to see you next year!

Hauxley Village Hall Committee



NIFCA's new patrol vessel

A new fisheries patrol vessel named after one of Northumberland's most famous saints is set to become a familiar sight on our coastline.

St Aidan, the new £700,000 vessel belonging to the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA), was officially named by Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland in August.



The new 16 metre GRP (glass re-enforced plastic) catamaran, which replaces the 14-year-old St Oswald, will be used for a mixture of fisheries enforcement work, environmental studies along with seabed scanning and underwater surveying.

St Aidan has double the speed of her predecessor, while using only half the fuel. It can cover the 60 miles to Berwick at the northern extremity of its patrol area from its base in the North Shields in three hours.

The NIFCA's district extends six nautical miles into the sea and runs from the Scottish border to the southern border of North Tyneside Council and includes river estuaries and the existing UK and EU and international marine protected areas.

The organisation is jointly funded via a precept by Northumberland County Council and North Tyneside Council.

Authority Chairman Northumberland County Councillor Robert Arkless said: "Our coastline is one of our greatest treasures and it's vital the seas are managed

responsibly for present and future generations.

"This is a proud day for everyone associated with NIFCA and the new vessel is sure to become a familiar sight to all those involved with the fishing industry in our region."

Walks for ambling Amblers



Harry McQuillen

A Walk through Newcastle From the Haymarket Bus Station.

1. Walk down Northumberland St to Pilgrim Street, turning right to Grey's Monument.
2. Turn left past Grey's Monument, down Grainger Street to the Central Station. Have a good look at this wonderful Victorian station.
3. Come out onto Mosley Street and turn right. When you see St. Nicholas' Cathedral on your right. Go in and enjoy this lovely building.
4. Come out onto Mosley Street, turn right and walk along to Dean Street.
5. Turn right down Dean Street and continue down to the Tyne Bridge (it's big and green).
6. Turn left along the Quayside until you arrive at the Millennium Bridge.
7. Walk across the bridge, then turn left and enter the Baltic. Take the lift to the 5th floor. Go onto the viewing point for the 'best view ever of Newcastle.'
8. Walk down the stairs and view the exhibits as you go
9. Leave the Baltic by the main door and go straight ahead to the Sage building, the large glass building. Look inside and have a cup of coffee.
10. Leave the Sage, cross over the Millennium Bridge and turn left to find the Q2 bus stop.
11. Take the bus back into town, alighting at the stop around the corner from the Theatre Royal. Find John Dobson Street, turn left and find the Laing Gallery. Enjoy the exhibitions.
12. Come out and walk onto Northumberland Street, with its shops and coffee, then bus home (X18 or X20)

REPORTS FROM OUR

A year ago I wrote about the new Council housing development near Dandsfield Square. This is now complete, tenants have moved in, and new life has come to that part of town.

These are the first Council houses built in my 32 year term as a Councillor and I am very proud of that. The site includes a play area and I was pleased to see it being used on my last visit. I want to thank everyone in the area who have been incredibly patient while all this has been going on.

I know there are some outstanding problems particularly where damage has been caused to existing footpaths, and difficulties about grounds maintenance. I have raised these concerns with senior planners, housing officers and neighbourhood services.

It was always my hope that the new development would boost the whole estate. I am determined that the problems are dealt with for the benefit of new and existing residents.

I have supported the harbour village development and it is good to see what a hive of activity it has become. It was an ambition to link the town centre and the harbour. That has happened and it has helped existing and new businesses. The RNLI fete day was amazing – big crowds, a record amount raised in support of the lifeboat, and a really good atmosphere.

It is also good to see the improvements at the Paddlers becoming a reality. As an Amble lad I know what a special place this is. New developments like these enhance what we had before. We are definitely on the map – whether it be an endorsement in the national press or appearances on TV.

I really enjoyed joining local school children as they cheered on the elite cyclists from the Tour of Britain. As ever Amble and our neighbouring villages provided a very warm welcome.

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

County Councillors

As the winter approaches I have been reflecting on the summer and trying to see the problems and what could be improved for next year.

The Harbour village has been an undoubted success after startup problems have been solved. It is a positive asset to the town's economy. It has created traffic issues but the experimental one way system seems to have improved the traffic flow and given some extra parking spaces. Its layout is due for final consultation, after which I think we will have a sensible traffic flow system. Parking stays an issue: it is a problem but a working group will hopefully arrive at a practical solution.

The Welfare ground has been better maintained this year with the help of a few volunteers and work is under way to solve some of the long standing problems. The skate park remains popular as does the children's play area. Unfortunately this area is still damaged by vandals. I just wish the perpetrators could see the effect on our small children, robbing them of their fun.

The new affordable housing development will provide excellent quality housing for local people. The Paddlers redevelopment nears completion as I write and will be a very pleasant area for young children. The Shorebase Trust, and the Youth Project amongst others, continue to play an important role in the social structure of Amble.

So all in all it has not been a bad summer but we still suffer from the old problems of litter and vandalism. For example, the coal tub outside the High School has had plants stolen and somebody tried to remove it altogether!.....such a shame.

I am available on

Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk And by phone 07802385367

Jeff Watson



Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6pm unless stated otherwise- **please note new time**

Town: 12th November, 10th December

Amenities Committee: 26th November

Wreath Laying: 8th November Amble Christmas Lights Procession: 22nd November

LITTER

THERE AREN'T many towns the size of Amble with as many litter bins and yet we still have a problem! Maybe we should adopt the European way - no litter bins, everyone takes their litter home with strict enforcement of fines. Currently NCC are urging everyone to be aware of the problem and are working closely with businesses to reduce litter. Whilst your council is responsible for providing the bins, NCC still empty them. We have been relocating bins to the areas where they would be most useful but NCC do not have the manpower or capacity to empty any more.

We are beginning to replace bins in poor condition, starting in the centre of town, but this will be a long process as each bin costs in excess of £700 including delivery and installation. The new bins are made from recycled plastic with a wood effect, and should be more robust. Please report any vandalism as every damaged bin is one less replaced elsewhere in the town.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

'WHAT ON earth do you want to do that for?' a colleague said when I applied to be a councillor. 'Ooh your great Auntie Norah was a Councillor in Morpeth' said mother.

Not difficult really; having lived and worked here for 14 years and seen how its thriving - the 7th 'coolest' coastal town in the country- I wanted to be part of its ongoing development and what better way than to be part of a team who all have Amble's best interests at heart.

It's been a steep learning curve - who knew what being a Town Councillor involved? Everything from cemeteries, planning, young people's activities and empowerment through the newly formed Youth Group (watch this space), recreational activities - The Paddlers, grass cutting, bin replacements, pot holes, Harbour Village, Christmas Lights Parade, Democracy week, Town Trail, Garden competition, transport and highways priorities, consultations, allotments, volunteers and recruitment, the list goes on - all on a voluntary basis.

Thankfully with the support of extremely knowledgeable councillors I am slowly getting to grips with the task, ably supported by the Town Clerk (thank you Elaine). So in these changing and challenging times, if you want to know something about Amble's development and its surrounding community don't be afraid to ask - if I don't know the answer I'm sure I'll find a Councillor / Clerk who does.

Councillor Katrina Cassidy

REMEMBRANCE

THIS YEAR the Remembrance Day wreath laying takes place in the Town Square on Sunday 8th November commencing just before 11am. We have many groups and individuals placing tributes and lots of people paying their respects. A service will follow at St Mark's United Reformed Church.

In September the 'Walking with the Wounded' group passed through Amble on their tour of Britain - raising money for their charity. It was magnificent to see so many in the Town Square to welcome them and give them a good send off. They were overwhelmed with the reception and delighted that, so far, this was the largest crowd who had turned out! One of the group was carrying 25 dog tags from her wounded and fallen comrades and leaving them along the route. We were honoured that our town was chosen to receive one and plans are being discussed about how to mount it with some background information for posterity.

WW1 COMMEMORATION

THE BEAUTIFUL banners produced by JCSC as part of the WW1 centenary have been presented to Acklington, Hauxley and Warkworth. Next year we are planning an exhibition and we hope that all the groups in the town with connections to the Great War will take part. Even if the groups were not actively involved in Amble itself, groups such as the churches and emergency services played a vital part in the war efforts. Please get in touch if you have any information to share or indeed to offer to come along and take part.

FINANCIAL CHANGES

THE GOVERNMENT is making audit changes. From April 2017 the government appointed external auditor will no longer be in place and this council will need to appoint its own. The changes include having a website covering agendas, minutes, financial procedures and policies and there will be a cost involved in setting up and maintaining it. We are looking to refresh and expand our current website so we can upload more information such as 'In Memory of the Fallen' and make navigation easier.

From next year we must offer all our employees entry to a pension scheme, and as we do not currently do this, there will be an increase in our budget to cover contributions.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Preparations are under way for the Christmas Lights Parade on November 22nd. Last year there were lots of magnificent floats which must have taken hours to prepare. The volunteer groups each have a number of willing people but would really welcome some extra help. The Lights group spend time checking everything and weekends putting the lights in place; but the event organisers need more help on the day - whether manning Santa's grotto, setting things out in the Town Square or 'rattling buckets' on Queen Street- it's never too early to offer your services. If you can't give your time then please start saving your change; all the money goes towards the lights and future events.

YOUTH GROUPS

HOW OFTEN do we hear young people say, 'There's nothing to do?' So the council decided to get all the groups and organisations providing activities for youngsters of 18 years and under together. We found out what they offered, when, where and who to contact. The prime aim was to make this available on our website for all to access. Surprisingly even we weren't aware of how much was on offer.

We held 2 worthwhile quarterly meetings and we want to build on these. There will be lots of people in our community providing other activities and sports whose contact details we do not have; please email Cllr. Helen Lewis at helmick72@sky.com if you would like to attend the meetings or even just to give details of what you do. We would like the list to be as comprehensive as possible to show the vast variety of things available for young people. We'd also like to hear of activities under 18s would like which are not currently available. There maybe volunteers willing to start something up.

EAST WARD:

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

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

Craig Weir (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

Katrina Cassidy,
18 The Close, Amble.
NE65 0HZ

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

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Email ask@amble.gov.uk Twitter: @AmbleTC Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmbleTownCouncil

Office hours: 10-11.30a.m. & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday Elaine Brown Town Clerk Minutes available to view in Office or online

Amble Photographic Group

Did you know that Amble has a lively and welcoming Photographic Group? Founded in 2006 by digital photography enthusiasts, APG aims to share the enjoyment of photography through talks, demonstrations, practical sessions and field trips.

We hold monthly club competitions with feedback from expert judges. Meetings are held throughout the year on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 12 at Trinity Methodist Church Hall in Percy Street, Amble.

If you enjoy looking at photographs you might like to check out our website where you can see some of our competition winners. www.amblephotogroup.com

We have people of all abilities in our group. If you are a beginner to photography, club members are always happy to help and share their knowledge.

Come along and give us a try. You will be most welcome.

October	
9	'10 Picture Challenge' Members summer pictures
16	International Print Salon Alan McCormick
23	York field trip presentation
30	Club morning
November	
6	Talk by Laurie Campbell Wildlife photographer.
13	Competition morning 'Natures Gifts' P Yearnshire
20	'Irish Landscapes' Richard Poyer
27	Vintage Photography 'Mac' McKenna
December	
4th	Club morning

Brambles' busy diary

A night with Joshua James (singer and entertainer) at The Old Storehouse Amble on **Friday 16th October** Doors open 7pm Tickets cost £7.50 this includes buffet. All monies raised go to the Brambles Childcare Centre Outdoor Project. Tickets can be purchased from Brambles or The Storehouse. (Tickets limited, first come first served basis).

Our annual Bonfire night on **Friday 6th November** doors open 6pm tickets £5 inc's Soup from Jaspers, tickets on sale from Brambles.

Greys shopping days on **Thursday 12th & Friday 13th November** from 10am-5pm. If you mention Brambles Childcare Centre, Grey's will kindly donate 10% off your total of purchases to Brambles.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Coquetmouth Group Winter Programme 2015

Oct. 19 - Hugh Tindall Breamish Valley wildlife
Nov 16 - Stuart Sexton Moths
N.B. There is NO meeting in December

All indoor meetings are held in St Mark's church hall, Wellwood St, Amble, starting at 7.30pm

Entrance fee: £1.50 which includes coffee/tea and biscuits. All welcome. Ring Sue Swanston 01665 711177 for more info.



Open day with the Mad Jam Woman

At The Old Fourways Centre on **Friday 13 November** 10am - 2pm Pride of Northumbria Christmas hampers, cakes, preserves, gifts etc. Tombola in aid of Amble Christmas Lights.

Please note this event is not on Queen Street

Brilliant atmosphere at Amble's first 'try-a-tri' event

On 15th August 2015, Alnwick Tri Club hosted a try-a-tri event at the Amble Pool & Leisure Centre. Under the banner of GoTri, which is the triathlon equivalent of a Park Run, a family event was organised with children's and adult fun races.

The 8-13 year olds raced over 80m swim, 1.5km bike and 500m run with the bike being three laps of the same grassed area used for the run. The bike was surprisingly tough considering it is right on the links so has no real hills but the undulations in the grass, combined with the grass being very wet from 2 days of rain made slippery and difficult conditions.

This is the first time Alnwick Tri Club have organised a children's race due to restrictions such as the children having to be within sight of a marshal at all times and they cannot cycle on the road so it is very difficult to find a suitable and safe venue, but this was perfectly contained and probably the toughest children's pool based race in the area due to it being on the undulating grass.

Sadie Bryson won the girls race in her first triathlon and Ben Murray-John won the boys race, both in fantastic times but special mention goes to the youngest competitor Maia Humphreys (8 years old), for whom the 80m swim was a huge challenge and the bike was so hard that she was exhausted by the time she came to run but there was never any thoughts of quitting. After finishing, it took her a while but even she started talking about the next race she would do.

The Adult race was over the slightly longer distances of 200m swim, 3 miles bike and 1km run. The bike for this was on the Links Road from Amble to



Front row (l-r): Ben Murray-Jones, Jess Swan, Sadie Bryson, Matthew Park, Harris Hall. Back row: Dan Fletcher, Faye Park, Maddy Hall

Hauxley and back but there was a lot of standing water to deal with despite the sun which had appeared in time for their race.

The run was on the same course as the kid's race, just 2 laps of the grass.

There were only a handful of the adults who had ever done a triathlon before so it was a brilliant atmosphere with everyone uncertain of what was to come. The finishers came over the line with great big smiles but also saying how tough it was for a race which took less than 30 minutes to complete.

Dan Fletcher won the men's race and Faye Park won the ladies by 2 minutes in her first triathlon.

Thanks to The Old Storehouse next to the pool for providing great bacon butties after the race (and hot chocolate all round for the kids).

Tracey Sample

Dementia-friendly Amble

We are opening our Dementia-Friendly 'Lounge' on October 8th. This is to be known as The Puffin Lounge and will be held in St. Mark's Church Hall, Amble, on **THURSDAYS every other week** up to Christmas, from 2-4pm.. (i.e. Oct 08 and 22, Nov 05 and 19, and Dec 03 and 17)

Whether we continue in the New Year depends on how it goes. All are welcome although we are primarily targeting those people with dementia, their families, friends and carers. There'll be tea, coffee, biscuits, table-top games (if required) time for chatting, and information about dementia. Subsequently, we shall try to provide what people tell us they want. I have had some offers of help for serving refreshments, but more would be good.

Further details on 01665 711177 or sue_pergirl2@hotmail.com

A night of musical nostalgia

Join us for an evening of musical nostalgia at Alnwick Masonic Lodge on Friday October 30 beginning at 7pm until approx. 10.30pm

Horace Silverman and the White Gardenias is a very special six piece band, performing music of the swing era of the 20s, 30s, and 40s. Dress – 40s period (optional)

Tickets priced at £15 includes Canapé & Fizz reception. This event is by kind permission of the Alnwick Masonic Lodges in support of HospiceCare.

Tickets strictly limited. Available at www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk or send a cheque to HospiceCare, Castleside House, Alnwick NE66 1JQ For more details call Julie Frost on 01665 606515 or email jfrost@hospicecare_nn.org.uk

Golfing opportunities

We have mixed Texas Scramble Open coming up on Sunday November 22. Teams of 4, any combination of ladies and gents. Just £40 per team which includes coffee and a bacon roll on arrival. Entry forms on www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk or Golf Empire.

The early nights in late November mean there will only be a limited number of start times so if you want to play you are recommended to get your entry in promptly.

Tim Capron, Secretary, Warkworth Golf Club

British Legion awards Agnes

We are pleased to announce that Agnes McIntyre of Amble (pictured), a devoted volunteer member of our Poppy Collecting team, has been recognised by the Royal British Legion with an award for giving 40 years of service collecting for the annual Poppy Appeal in the Gloster Park area of Amble.

Agnes was recently one of four people shortlisted for the grand final of the category "Lifetime Achievement" in the "Best of Northumberland Awards" scheme, organised by North East Press. The annual award scheme is a celebration of bravery, commitment and achievement throughout Northumberland.

Commemoration concert was a great success

The Northumberland Church of England Academy Combined Cadet Pipe Band (Coldstream Guards) and traditional Irish dancing team performed at our VJ 70th Commemoration Concert held in September at The Trap Inn, Broomhill. We raised £273.87 for the branch Poppy Appeal. Thank you to everyone who supported us on the night and also those members and businesses that provided prizes. Many thanks to Mike and Sandra at The Trap!

Next meeting

Our next branch meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 November at 7pm in the Legion Room at Warkworth Memorial Hall. The speaker will be WW2 veteran Bill Wake who will give us a talk on his experiences in the "British Pacific Fleet World War 2". Non members welcome. Donation suggested of £2.50. Pooled supper and drinks after our meeting. Do come along - our meeting room is warm and comfortable with refreshments available. You do not have to be ex service to be a member and we have an equal number of men and women in the branch of all ages.

Youth Project summer activities

Young people from Amble Youth Project have been bowling, ice-skating, cinema and picnic at Morpeth Park during the summer, as well as enjoying extra sessions put on throughout the holidays around healthy eating.

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Events for stargazers in November

Nastro will be running two events in November for beginners to astronomy.

Nov 12: Choosing and using a telescope. A brief guide to different types of astronomical telescopes (and binoculars). NASTRO members will have a variety of telescopes on hand for demonstration and discussion. We'll talk about different types of telescope mount (including equatorial, alt-az and GoTo) and eyepieces. At the end of the session you'll have a much better idea of what you can expect to see through various telescopes and how much they cost.

Nov 26: Introduction to astrophotography. This session will cover the basics of how to take pictures of the moon, stars, planets, aurora and meteors. We'll look at various methods of imaging through telescopes and software needed to do image processing. NASTRO members with imaging experience will be on hand to demonstrate their cameras and equipment and to answer your questions.

Both meetings take place at The Trap Inn, Broomhill starting at 7.30pm. These events are both free of charge.

See nastro.org.uk for details of these and other events



Warkworth ceilidh nights

Make a date in your diary to join Sandra Kerr and the Reel Northumbria Ceilidh Band at 7.30pm with their caller Elaine Carter for some lively dances (no experience required) and engaging entertainment. Tickets priced at £5 each may be bought from the Post Office or by calling Pete Burnham at peter.burnham@gmail.com or 01665711388

Forthcoming ceilidh: November 10 and December 8 in the Memorial Hall.

Guided tour around St. Lawrence's

St. Lawrence Church, Warkworth is offering an extra service to visitors on Wednesday October 28 when a great team of people will act as guides in this lovely Church. They will be on duty from 11.00am to 4.00pm to show people around and answer any questions.

If you have an interest in joining us whether Christian, cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological then please get in touch with Andy Webber on acwebber@btinternet.com or 01665 713439.

What is Café Church at St Cuthbert's?

It is a short (40 minutes) service in an informal setting. We sit around tables and have refreshments but also worship God, pray and learn more about faith together.

You could call it church for people who don't usually go to church. People of all ages are welcome.

We meet in Church on the first Sunday of each month. We invite you to come and join us. Come with friends and family or come on your own and be welcomed into a friendly atmosphere.

During the autumn our themes are taken from the Parables of Jesus – Tales of the Kingdom.

November 1st "Forgiving"

December 6th Advent—the King and the Kingdom.

3.30 pm for refreshments—4:00 pm start.

Please support the Poppy Appeal

The annual British Legion Poppy Appeal will begin in late October and continue until Remembrance Sunday on November 8, 2015.

Please give generously to help support those men and women who have given loyal service to their country.

Many have been seriously maimed in the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan and will need financial and medical support for the rest of their lives. Many families lost loved ones and they too need our constant support.

A remembrance service will be held at St Lawrence's Church, Warkworth at 9 am with a short service afterwards at the war memorial in Dial Place.

If anyone would like to order a Poppy Wreath or help us with the house to house collections tel: 07785 753100.



British Legion member and WW2 veteran Edith Hunter of Amble was a guest of honour at the preview opening of the "Weeping Window Sculpture" which features 5,000 handmade ceramic poppies at Woodhorn Museum. Edith is pictured with Wing Commander Gareth Taylor RAF Boulmer.

Remembrance Day in Amble

This year the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony will take place in the Town Square on Sunday November 8 commencing just before 11am.

After the ceremony, the Amble branch of the Northumbria Army Cadets will lead a procession via Queen St and Wellwood St to St Mark's United Reformed Church for a Service of Remembrance.

Torchlight procession

This year's Torchlight Procession and Christmas Light switch on will take place on Sunday November 22, starting at 5pm. The procession will begin from The Wellwood, moving down Queen St. to the Town Square. There will be stalls and children's fun fair in the Town Square in the afternoon.

If anyone/any groups would like to join in the procession with their own float, please contact Julia Aston, Amble Development Trust 01665 712929.

This is one of Amble's best-supported community events, so we hope to see you there!

Alnwick & District Choral Society

Remembrance Day Concert on Sunday November 8 at 7.30pm

John Rutter Requiem and Motets for Remembrance Day

Conductor Peter Brown,

Alan Gidney - Organ, Deborah Thorne - Cello

St Paul's Church, Alnwick Admission £10 at the door students free

Food, fish and festivities at Amble Harbour Village

To celebrate **Seafood Week** beginning (Oct 12), Northumberland Seafood will be teaming up with Sea & Soil, (formerly Sea Salt) Bistro and The Old Boathouse restaurant to offer two bespoke seafood evenings on Mon 12 and Tues October 13 where there will be preparation, filleting, and cooking demonstrations from Jonny Bird and Martin Charlton, followed by a three course meal in their respective bistro-restaurants.

Regular Seafood sales will also continue on Thursdays (1-4pm), Fridays (12-4pm) and

Saturdays (10am-12pm).

Half Term:

During October half term there will be Big Fish Lantern building. From 10am-3pm on Sat Oct 31 & Sun Nov 1 we will be looking for families to come and help build the Harbour Village/Seafood centre fish lanterns under expert guidance from Elaine Porter.

Festive Fun begins!

On Sunday Nov 22, the day of the Torchlight Procession/switch on of lights, all Pods will be open all day with festive activity and we will reveal our

'Christmas Wishes Tree' where everyone is invited to come and help decorate our tree with their Christmas wishes.

The tree and the hanging of wishes will remain until 24 Dec. when a randomly selected name from the wishes on the tree will be chosen and a gift of a hamper of goodies from the Harbour Village, will be given.

Late Night Shopping:

Every Thursday Nov 26 - Dec 17. Pods will open 12pm-8pm and from 4-8pm, a selected local organisation/ Charity/ Group will have 10% of the profits

donated to them.

Amble Harbour Advent Calendar! 1 - 24 Dec a door is opened each day to reveal... Well you will have to wait and see... but there will be something new to see/do each day in the Harbour Village area until Christmas! Including.... Sat/Sun 5/6 Dec - Crafty Elf days, Christmas themed crafts for the kids Sat/Sun 12/13 Dec - Mini Christmas craft fair. Sat/Sun 19/20 Dec - Mini Christmas food/drink market. www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk/news-events



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Arkless

will be holding surgeries on

Saturday 31 October and 28 November
from 10am-11am in Amble Library
and

Friday 27 November
at 6pm - 6.45pm in Hauxley Village Hall

All Constituents Welcome



TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME

01665 710 442

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

***** NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN

Tiny Woods activities are a huge success



Futsal is a hit with the community

Over 100 children attended Tiny Woods Academy Summer Camp over the summer holidays at Stobswood Welfare and it was hailed a massive success by both children and parents. Everyone had a fantastic time participating in fun and technical practices.

The children focused on ball manipulation, individual possession and team possession, creating space as an individual and as a team. They were encouraged to be creative when on the ball and learned new fundamental skills.

The children were encouraged to design and use their own session. They also hit 'Ashes Fever,' played football-cricket and had a Premier League Tournament to kick off the new football season.

After the summer camps we hosted a new course; Goalkeeping Masterclass.

It was designed specifically for budding goalkeepers and covered the important aspects of goalkeeping, starting position and set position, handling and footwork techniques, positioning from angles, shot stopping and distribution.

We would like to thank Amble Town Council, in particular Town Clerk Elaine Brown and Mayor Craig Weir, for their generosity to fund much needed equipment that has helped to set up the new Futsal scheme, which is proving to be a hit with the community.

'Futsal' is every Wednesday night at James Calvert Spence College, Acklington Road Gym from 5.30pm to 6.30pm for both boys and girls of all abilities from ages four to 13 years.

It is an exciting, fast paced small sided football game that is widely played across the world; it is officially recognised by both UEFA and FIFA.

During the October half term holiday Tiny Woods will host a Striker School at Stobswood Welfare.

This again caters for both boys and girls,

of all abilities, aged four to 13 years. Starts Monday October 26 to Friday October 30 from 10am to 1pm. Cost of 'Striker School' will be £25.

We are delighted to announce a special guest for this Half Term Camp!

Former Newcastle United Head Coach John Carver has agreed to visit the children who attend Striker School!

Do you want to improve your goal scoring abilities? Want to learn how to score goals under pressure? Striker School is for any player who wants to improve their goal scoring techniques and skills!

At the end of the camp, there will be a presentation of prizes, trophies and signed gifts from professional footballers. Book your place now!

Finally, congratulations to our football coach Josh Rutherford who won the Community Champion award in the Best of Northumberland Awards for 2015.

Tiny Woods Academy



Josh Rutherford with his Best of Northumberland award

Amble Triathletes battle heat and a tornado in World Championships

Sporting prowess doesn't come much better than to represent your country in a World Championship. To have three local people competing for TeamGB in the 2015 Triathlon World Championships is a remarkable achievement.

Amble athletes Tracey Sample, husband Ian Simon and Aquathlon European Champion Jo Gascoigne-Owens travelled to the Championships in Chicago for the four day event, which was held on 15-19 September.

Jo competed in the Elite Aquathlon, and Ian and Tracey in the Age Group Aquathlon and Sprint Triathlon on back to back days - a tough schedule.

This was Jo's first race as an Elite so she was up against the world's best swimmers. Could she reach their standard? She was 10th out of the water and running an 18 min 37 sec 5k as the 6th fastest run, putting her in a finish position of 8th.

The age group racing took place in the fierce midday sun at 36 deg C. Ian was 16th out of the water and ran a 17:55 5k, running 4th fastest of the day to finish in 5th position in the male 45-49 age group. Tracey was 20th out of the water and finished 19th in the Female 45-49 age group.



Above: Ian Simon on US TV as he crossed the line; Right and below: Tracey Sample and Jo Gascoigne-Owens in their respective races

The following day both Ian and Tracey were in action again, swimming and running but with a 20km bike between. The heat was worse at 38 deg C; tornado warnings almost cancelled the race. In fact the final races of the day were rescheduled and distances reduced to ensure the safety of competitors. The tornado did arrive - just two hours after the finish of the race.

Unfortunately a current was in place that made the swim worse than the aquathlon. Ian was 43rd out of the water but 17th fastest on the bike and had the 6th fastest run to pull himself up to 12th place in the male 45-49 category.

Tracey was 47th out the water but despite gaining places on the bike lost most of them again on the run, to finish 46th in her age group.

Jo's was an exceptional achievement as she was racing against professional athletes.

Tracey wrote on her Facebook page: "Again extreme weather conditions dictated the outcome of my race. I finished mid table but wanted to be top third. Not as good as I wanted but better than I initially thought when I finished. Tried to enjoy the atmosphere and did get some high fives in at the end. It is an amazing experience and I'm privileged to be part of it."

Jo told The Ambler: "It was a great experience all round. I was 8th in the Elite Aquathlon, so delighted with that in a very strong field.

"Tracey and Ian did really well in the aquathlon and triathlon too. Not bad for three folks from Amble!"

