



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 96 Dec 2015/Jan 2016

Amble is the top Coastal Community town in Great Britain, according to a national competition. The Friendliest Port beat its two rivals in the Great British High Street of the Year awards, to scoop the top slot in the Coastal Community category.

The Great British High Street of the Year awards singled out Amble as one of the three finalists in the Coastal Community category. Prestatyn in Wales and Bognor Regis in Sussex were also shortlisted, and residents were able to vote via email every day over the four week competition. Amble took the lead after week two, but were overtaken again towards the end.

It was a nailbiting wait to find out who had actually scooped top of their category, and who was the overall winner. Julia Aston, director of Amble Development Trust, and Ann

Amble is a winner!



Ann Burke and Julia Aston celebrate Amble's achievement

Burke, chair of Amble Business Club travelled to London to hear the announcement.

"I am so happy for Amble; for such a small town to be up against larger competitors. This

achievement is wonderful," said Julia, who originally put Amble's name forward for the competition.

"I'm thrilled to bits, delighted for Amble," said Ann

Burke.

"To have taken the town from decline following the closure of many shops and local factories, to a vibrant, welcoming high street of independent traders, is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to everyone who voted and supported the town."

The Great British High Street award is run by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The winners of the categories then go on to compete for the top prize of Great British High Street of the Year; sadly judges declined to choose Amble for the overall prize.

Winners of each category get a share of a pot prize worth £80K, which includes expert training and tailor-made tips from Google for 100 of their shops, bars and restaurants.



Torchlight Procession draws biggest crowds yet

Thousands of people turned out to watch the annual Torchlight Procession and switch-on of Amble's Christmas Lights.

Queen Street was packed with onlookers, while the procession itself described as being bigger than ever.

Community groups got in the festive mood and many youngsters wore decorated fish hats instead of the usual lanterns.

"We were really pleased with the turnout" said Amble Town Council clerk Elaine Brown. "It looked like the biggest parade to date. Amble knows how to party!"

Special guests the Transformers joined the parade and later performed dance routines in the Town Square. Tribal dancers Tribe Zuza also performed to an appreciative audience, along with community singing, stalls and a funfair to entertain the crowds. Santa also made time to greet local children.

"Thank you to everyone who helped make this another wonderful festive occasion," said Elaine. "Everyone has worked together, and it has been worth it."

More photos on back page >>



Left: Fish lanterns and the Amble skiff in the parade. Photo by Steve Emberton. Above: Hugs for Santa from 3 year old Eva Jury. Photo by Anna Williams.



The Ambler

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Seasons Greetings to all our readers

This Christmas and New Year edition is
as stuffed as the proverbial turkey; once
again we've tried to bring you as much local
information, excitement and goings-on as we can.

There are serious
stories; two fishermen
who were saved after
their boat sank is on
page 3, the plight of
the puffins is discussed
on pages 7 and 10,
and on average, two
families a week are
using Amble Food
Bank (centre pages).

Amble people
have shown

tremendous support for Remembrance Day and
for the Torchlight Procession, both events saw
bigger crowds than ever. See front and back pages
and page 4. There's also video of the Torchlight
Procession and the Transformers on our Facebook
page and our website.

'Amble's on the up' is an expression we hear

more and more these days, and it is obvious that
people are continuing to invest their time and
money into the Friendliest Port.

We discuss two new businesses who have just
started up on the
Industrial Estate (see
page 10 and 15), and
a landlord's welcome
return to a local pub
(page 9).

But it's not
just businesses
contributing to
Amble's growing
sense of positivity.
Creative people too
are drawn to the

Friendliest Port. A local author has just published
her fourth book, (see page 8) and a world renown
photographer has opened a gallery here (page 7).

It just remains to thank you for reading The
Ambler over the years, and the team wish you
all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and
Happy New Year.



Late night shopping and festive fun at the Harbour Village
(see ad on page 17)

Final say on the one way system

The traffic order for the temporary one way system trialled in the harbour area
is due to expire on 15 December. Northumberland County Council propose
to extend the order for another three months, after which the one way system
will become permanent.

The temporary one way system runs from the bottom of Queen Street, along
Coquet Street and Leazes Street, ending at Newburgh Street. It was introduced
in December 2014 to see if it would ease traffic congestion along the harbour
area.

According to a poll on The Ambler's website (see below), 46% of people
who replied, believe the one way system is easing congestion along Leazes St.
35 % believe Leazes St is better, but the one way system has moved congestion
elsewhere, while 15% believe things were better the way they were. We will leave
our poll up until Christmas if you
wish to take part.

If you want to comment on
the council's plans, either for
or against, you are invited to
email, write or visit the County
Council's website.

Email: highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Via letter: NCC, Technical
Services, Sustainable Transport,
County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF
(Marking the envelope Amble
One Way System).

Closing date for comments is
31st December 2015.



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14 (1)

AMBLE TOWN CENTRE

(TEMPORARY ONE WAY SYSTEM) ORDER 2014

FOR INFORMATION

The above named 12 month Order is due to expire on the 15th December 2015. The County
Council proposes to extend this temporary Order until 15th March 2016.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the scheme has been a success and would support a
permanent Order on this basis in the New Year; together with associated restrictions
complimentary to the road safety aspects of a one way system scheme i.e. double yellow
road marking to improve sight lines throughout the scheme.

Any comments on the introduction of this scheme of this scheme on a permanent basis may
be sent in the following ways:

Via email: highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk

Via letter: NCC, Technical Services, Sustainable Transport, County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF
(Marking the envelope Amble One Way System).

Via website: Northumberland County Council.

Closing date for comments is 31st December 2015

Traffic Team

Sustainable Transport

Is the new (temporary) one-way system at the
Harbour easing congestion along Leazes St?

Yes, it's much better along Leazes St
now (46%, 12 Votes)

It's better but it's moved congestion
elsewhere (35%, 9 Votes)

No, things were better the way they were
(15%, 4 Votes)

It's a bit better (4%, 1 Votes)

Total Voters: 26

Two fishermen rescued off Coquet Island after boat sinks

Two fishermen whose boat sank off the Northumberland coast on 18 November were rescued following a search operation involving four RNLI lifeboats and the new Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter.

The alarm was raised just before 9am, by Tom Lillico and son Jason who were on their fishing boat the *Boy Liam*, when they spotted a man clinging to a lobster pot marker. They radioed for help after pulling him on board their vessel.

"The water was very cold," Amble RNLI coxwain John Connell told *The Ambler*. "He

must have had tremendous strength to hang on for that length of time. He must have had a strong will to live."

Amble RNLI all-weather and inshore lifeboats were launched to search for the second fisherman, and Newbiggin and Seahouses RNLI lifeboats were later requested to join the search.

"We were searching for about an hour," said John. "We spotted some flotsam from the sunken vessel; fish boxes, ropes etc and we followed that. We didn't know where the second lad was."

"The inshore lifeboat went in close to Coquet Island and spotted someone waving.

Fortunately it was the lad we were looking for."

The man had managed to swim to the island after the boat sank.

"Just as our lad walked up onto the island, the helicopter

arrived," said John.

Martin Lowe, Coastguard Senior Coastal Operations Officer for the Amble area told *The Ambler*, "The [SAR] aircraft was from Humberside. The response time was 57 minutes from the Ops room requesting the helicopter to it being on scene at Coquet Island."

"These are two extremely lucky fishermen. The water is very cold and they were in the water some time but they did what they could to look after themselves until help arrived," said John.

"We always hope for a positive outcome but we are all very, very relieved that the two fishermen have been found and we wish them well for a speedy recovery following their ordeal."

When news of the rescue became known, many people left messages of congratulations on



The *Boy Liam*, whose crew pulled one local fisherman to safety



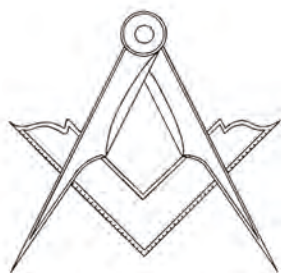
Amble inshore lifeboat crew at Harbour Day

The *Ambler's* Facebook page, describing all the rescuers as heroes.

But John was uncomfortable with the description. He said: "The RNLI is here to provide a service to the community and the seafaring community. We're just glad that we can."

Anna Williams

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Hundreds attend Remembrance Day service



Right: Amy Griffiths and her son Tyler placed a wreath on behalf of Amble Tavern FC. Top: (l-r) Lynn Camsell, Dep. Lieutenant of Northumberland; Amble Mayor Craig Weir and Cllr Jane Dargue with Hauxley Parish councillor Wendy Appleby. Above: Wreath bearers from armed services and community groups Below: Crowds in Town Square



On Remembrance Sunday, in an event that is growing in numbers year by year, hundreds of people once again turned out to pay their respects to Amble's war dead. The town square was packed with wreath bearers and local people, who braved the driving rain to watch the service.

A maroon marked the beginning and end of the two minute silence, after which the last post was played. Poppy wreaths were then placed on Amble and Radcliffe memorials.

Two rows of tribute bearers flanked the steps of the memorial gardens. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Queen by a representative of the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, and on behalf of the people of Amble, Radcliffe and Hauxley, by County, Town and Parish councillors. Wreaths were then placed by representatives of the armed services and community groups.

Prayers, readings and a blessing were spoken by Amble clergy. The service ended with the National Anthem. Afterwards, a procession moved along Queen Street to St Mark's church for a remembrance service.

To mark Armistice Day, Amble First School, Busy Bees and Brambles youngsters joined others in the Town Square. A two minute silence and a short service was held, and the children placed handmade wreaths at the clock memorial.



Left: Amongst the cross tributes, one was placed for US Marine Capt Bartle. In September, the 'Walking with the Wounded' team passed through Amble on their charity walk from Scotland to Buckingham Palace.

As part of the walk, wounded US Marine Kirstie Ennis (inset) placed 25 dog tags along her route. When in Amble, Kirstie placed an ID tag of fallen US pilot Captain Daniel Bartle in Amble's clock tower. (See Issue 95 p3 and our website). National media reported that at the end of the walk, Kirstie gave Prince Harry the final dog tag.

Right: Busy Bees youngsters with their handmade poppy wreath.

Photos by Vivienne Dalglish and Anna Williams



Amble veteran George Skipper receives Légion d'Honneur

In a remembrance ceremony at Durham Cathedral, Amble war veteran George Skipper was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, France's highest military honour, by the French Consul for the North East and Cumbria, Dr Andrew Robinson.

The French government are honouring those surviving veterans who helped liberate France during the second world war. 92 year old George, who had taken part in the Normandy landings on D-Day, was presented with his medal, along with 17 other veterans from the North East.

"I was very proud," said George, who served in the Royal Army Service Corps. "And I was thinking of the people who never came back. There were thousands of Americans who died on the beaches."

The medal was bestowed on George as part of the Festival of Remembrance in Durham Cathedral on 7 November. Hundreds attended the event which included a muster parade, performances by military and community choirs and bands and a poppy drop from the

Cathedral tower.

George told The Ambler: "It was a lovely day, there were two hours of good entertainment. My son, grandson, and daughter-in-law were there. The French ambassador was there. They played the French national anthem. It was lovely."

Next day, for Remembrance Day, George and his grandson, Sgt Luke Skipper of the Royal Mechanical Engineers, placed a poppy wreath at Amble's War Memorial.

Luke described how proud he and the family were at George's honour: "It was an honour seeing our grandad and father receiving it after all he went through. Well deserved; it takes a lot of courage to do what he did that day. We're just glad he made it home as otherwise we all wouldn't be here."

Sgt Skipper added: "It means that little bit more to me, being in the army and after serving in Afghanistan twice, knowing the things he could have gone through."

Anna Williams



Neighbourhood Policing Team: keeping the community safe

Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council continue to work together as part of the Safer Northumberland Partnership, to keep the community as safe as possible.



CSO Fawcett and PC Donaldson outside Fourways2

We'd like to remind residents that the local Neighbourhood Policing team have left the old building at Leslie Drive and taken up a new office at Fourways2.

The opening times of the office remain the same as before; 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday

Working directly from Fourways2 is PC 3527 Donaldson, CSO 4089 Fawcett and more recently CSO 5793 Mouat.

They all can be contacted by ringing 101.

As your NCC community safety officer, I can be contacted on 01670 623829 should you wish to report any issues in the area

that affect safety and community wellbeing, or wish advice on related matters.

Judith Davis,
Community Safety Officer Northumberland
County Council

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WHAT YOU SAY...

Would you host a student over Christmas?

MAY WE APPEAL to your readers to consider giving the gift of Christmas? Our volunteer local organiser is urgently looking for more invitations to offer to international students at university here, who would much rather experience Christmas in the homes of local people, than on a deserted campus.

Adult students from across the world would love a warm welcome, and to discover what this festival means for us. Invitations for just three nights over Christmas are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter their age, or how far they live from a university, and we will carefully match hosts with a student they would enjoy meeting.

Please see www.hostuk.org for more information or call 020 7739 6292 to be put in touch with a local organiser.

*Kimberley Brough,
Deputy Chief Executive, HOST*



Amble lifeboat has new role



AMBLE'S FORMER RNLI Lifeboat, the "Margaret Graham" was spotted recently in her new role.

The "Margaret Graham" served at Amble between 1986 and 1999 after which she was sold out of RNLI service. She is now the pilot boat, "St. Hilda" based at Whitby, North Yorkshire, where she was photographed by Tim Kirton on October 16 2015.

The "Margaret Graham" operational number 44-005, was one of the first batch of six Waveney class lifeboats built for the RNLI by Brooke Marine of Lowestoft between 1966 and 1968. The Waveney class was based on a United States Coastguard design and was the first type of "Fast Afloat Boat" (FAB) built for the RNLI, capable of a speed of 14 knots as opposed to approximately 8 knots of conventional RNLI lifeboats of the day.

The "Margaret Graham" was built in 1967 for the Harwich lifeboat station, one of the busiest in the country, where she served until 1980. After six years in the RNLI's Reserve fleet she was re located to Amble where she became the station's first "FAB" with almost twice the speed of her predecessor, the 8 knot "Harold Salvesen". By contrast, Amble's new Shannon class lifeboat, which is currently being built and will be delivered next year, will be capable of 25 knots.

Tim Kirton spotted the "Margaret Graham" in Whitby Marina and commented, "She appears to have been unaltered from her RNLI service days and, I am pleased to say, she looked in excellent condition. The "Margaret Graham" had a long and proud service record and it is great to see that she is still going strong in her new role today".

If you haven't heard and are interested, Amble's new Shannon, op. no. 13-16, will be named, "Elizabeth and Leonard".

Tim Kirton via email



Thank you from Kate

A HUGE THANK YOU to friendly patients and colleagues for all the cards, gifts and good wishes following my recent retirement from District Nurse.

Also to those who supported me and gave so generously to leukaemia research following the Great North Run.

Thank you,
*Kate Appleby
The Croft, Longhoughton*



Marie Curie fundraiser

THE WARKWORTH FB page has news of my ongoing Marie Curie fundraiser - see the latest project promoting the book & the village. Fund just reached £1939!

Marvellous!
<https://www.facebook.com/warkworthbook/photos>
*Beryl Holmes
via email*

Christmas poem

I think for your folks at Christmas time
they may struggle to get by,
but they want their children to smile not cry.
How they manage to make my
Christmas great.

I will never know even now I feel guilty and cry.

*Norman Clay
Dolphin Court, Amble*

Business Feature:

Local girl returns home

SAM ALLAN, A LOCAL GIRL who went to school in Amble, and also worked at the yachting marina, has returned to celebrate the anniversary of her Estate Agents and Lettings business which opened in November 2014.

Sam also used to work for Your Move Estate agents in Amble many years ago and has helped other estate agents set up their businesses in Morpeth.

She decided to start her own lettings business in 2009 in the Sanderson Shopping Arcade, Morpeth. The business grew quickly due to the prime location of the office and the large window display with over 55,000 footfall on a weekly basis with all properties being promoted on Right move and Zoopla.

The personal service offered to all customers who in return recommended Sam Allan Estates to other customers, making the business expand quicker than anticipated.

Sam opened the Amble office when she was instructed to sell the exclusive apartments at Coble Quays, introducing over 100 interested parties for the 17 water front apartments.

Sam says that Amble is such a desirable location to live and has much to offer with the attractive Harbour Village, yachting marina and a good range of local shops.



sam allan
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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.

Saving our wildlife

Welcome to Northumberland, the land of hidden charm and mysteries, best known for its castles and ruins. Several small islands along the Northumberland coast, such as the Farne Islands and Coquet Island, are famous for their birdlife, outstanding flora and fauna, distinctive by a great variety of ecosystems and animals species.

The remarkable diversity of habitats has allowed many birds and mammals to find shelter. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, (RSPB) manages Coquet Island as a bird reserve, with its significant seabird colonies. The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity with more than one million members - young and old, urban and rural, from every corner of the UK. Most of them are volunteers who spend thousands of hours working directly for birds and wildlife. The charity is constantly aiming to grow in reputation in a number of ways, campaigning for nature, protecting habitats, saving special places, conservation projects (habitats, species) as well as public education. Currently, 200 nature reserves (covering almost 130,000 hectares) home approximately 80 per cent of the rarest and most threatened bird species.

Paul Morrison, RSPB's warden, is carrying out conservation activities on Coquet Island situated 1.2 kilometres from Amble. It accommodates a lot of uncommon species which need to be protected. The most numerous is the Puffin, although the island is most important for the largest colony of the endangered roseate tern in Britain. Indeed, Coquet Island is the only UK nesting colony of roseate terns. Therefore it is a critical site for this species.

Other nesting birds include Eider ducks, Sandwich terns, Arctic terns, Common terns, Black-headed gulls, kittiwake and Fulmar. The Roseate tern is a red-listed bird, along with Puffins and Mediterranean gulls. It is



Photos by Paul Morrison. clockwise from top left: Sandwich terns, Black-headed gull, kittiwake, Roseate terns, Puffins, Common tern, young Fulmar, male Eider

the rarest British nesting seabird. Species are mainly threatened by the destruction of their habitats, marine pollution and overfishing.

In addition, global warming is currently the greatest danger for wildlife. Human activity is partly responsible for the disappearance of many species. We all must become aware of the consequence of our actions and start to minimise the impacts of our activities on nature.

Together we can protect threatened birds

and wildlife so that our towns, coasts and countryside will hopefully teem with life once again. A lot of rare natural resources may disappear. The past has often been preserved, but what about the future? These days it is essential to act in the interests of wildlife preservation.

Célia Fery

Célia is a Marine Biology student from La Rochelle, France. She is spending a year in Amble.



Above: Kiss and Sid Vicious stare out over the Little Shore

Renowned photographer Steve Emberton has opened a photographic gallery at Amble harbour. Steve made his name photographing rock and pop stars, TV personalities, actors and models. He worked for Melody Maker, Record Mirror, NME and Sounds. His images have appeared in newspapers, magazines, books and on album covers.

Steve's love is for the outdoors.

He told the Ambler: "I grew up in North West America, with vast open spaces. My whole youth revolved around the outdoors. Due to work commitments, I've worked in the south, but I'd heard about how beautiful this part of the world is. I'd come up for holidays, and each time I found it harder to

find reasons to leave. Two years ago we moved to Amble. I love it here, I love walking, love the hills and coast. And Amble is such a friendly place to live."

You can see Steve's photos in the Harbour Gallery, in the Harbour Master's building, which is open on Saturdays and Sundays 10 - 4pm. Admission is free. The images are available to buy. Steve also offers gift vouchers (great for Christmas presents.)

He holds photography workshops for all abilities. "I teach photography in a friendly non technical way. There will be some classroom instruction followed by shooting real life situations."

Guest photographer Roger

Coan is exhibiting some of his landscape and wildlife work. Steve can be contacted on: mail@steveemberton.com or phone: 07870 215459

Punk and rock legends in the Harbour Gallery

Possibly Steve's most famous image is one of Sid Vicious and Nancy Spungen, which was selected by Rolling Stone magazine as one of its Fifty Greatest Rock Portraits.

Despite this rock and roll background,

Puffin Cruises



Sailing again March 2016

Connecting with the community

Pupils from James Calvert Spence College invited local residents into school to talk to them about living in Amble.

The project will run over 18 months and culminate in writing a play that will be performed by professional actors at the school and at Alnwick Playhouse. The pupils will write the script and be responsible for creating the scenery and costumes.

This project has evolved from a previous writing experience funded by the Avron Foundation, which allowed a group of children to go on a residential course in Shropshire. They worked together as a community and produced an anthology which they are using as a fundraiser. The project started out with 12 pupils and has now expanded to 25.

A further grant from the Arts Council has been secured to fund this extended project, involving the community and allowing help from writer in residence Karina Rodney a professional play and script writer.

English teacher Jane Stewart said "Pupils will be going along to the Friendly Café at the Methodist Church, and talking to the Warkworth WI, Andy Sim of the local history group and Bart Rippon who knows about the railways."

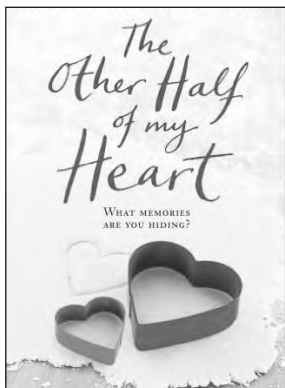
Karina hopes the project will evolve over its lifetime. "Many of the pupils are already writing stories in their own time," she said and she hopes this project will help them to express themselves in their writing.

One aspect of the project will be to form bonds between the school and the community and possibly set up a community writing group open to both adults and children.



Above: Nathan Pounder and Lucy Ball, both aged 13, who conducted interviews.

Amble author publishes fourth book



Amble author Stephanie Butland has just published her fourth book, which has been met with excellent reviews.

The Other Half of My Heart was published at the end of October and is described as: "Stephanie Butland at her best: tender, wise and intimate. A heart-warming (and sometimes heart-stopping) novel suffused with the irresistible fragrance of baking bread. Wonderful" (Shelley Harris, author of *Vigilante*)

Stephanie's first two books described her 'dance with cancer' and provided thinking strategies for others to follow. Her first novel, *Letters to my Husband* was published in 2014, and was described as "an immensely uplifting and powerful debut novel" (Katie Fforde).

Published by Black Swan, you can buy *The Other Half of My Heart*, and indeed all Stephanie's books from Amazon where it is priced at £6.99, or any good bookstore.

You can read more on Stephanie's blog: stephaniebutland.com

Council workers benefit from living wage

Council workers across the county are benefiting after the living wage was introduced for staff.

The council was true to its commitment set out during budget announcements earlier in the year – and the living wage was brought in months before the government rolls out the scheme nationally.

Now no employee of Northumberland County Council will be paid less than £7.85 per hour.

A living wage is defined as the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs including housing, clothing and nutrition, and is more than the statutory minimum wage.

The north east reflects the national average with more than one in five people receiving less than the living wage, a figure that is slightly higher in Northumberland.

Leader of the County Council, Cllr Grant Davey, said: "Our decision to implement a Northumberland living wage

is in recognition of the excellent work our employees do - not just for the council, but more importantly for the benefit of the residents of Northumberland.

"We are living and working in tough economic times and it is no secret we have to make substantial savings as a council. However ethically and morally the council feels strongly that this is something we should do.

"Through showing our commitment to ethical employment, we are aiming to boost morale as well as the local economy through higher incomes for local people.

"This also means we are ahead of the government who are introducing the living wage nationally from next year." The Northumberland living wage will result in pay increases for approximately 1,400 county council and school staff, and will be reviewed on an annual basis by the council. Affected staff will now receive an additional amount of between 41p and 79p an hour.

Age of insecurity

by Harry McQuillen

Are we really living in an age of distraction?

Throughout history, people have claimed that young people can't concentrate as well as they did when they were young, that they can't remember as much as people used to and that they can't write as well. Spelling, handwriting and coherence of argument have all deteriorated.

I've been thinking about these issues and recalling thoughts from the past. Apparently Socrates complained that writing things down would reduce the need to memorise and recall the precise argument.

At every stage of human history there have been stark warnings of impending doom in connection with educational standards. My parents told me how much rote learning they had to do. Perhaps the teachers had found a way to save paper.

In my day (formal schooling from 1938 to 1952) we were expected to memorise quite a lot – some of it useful, some not. The odd thing is that I can still make myself understood in French, having had no lessons since 1952.

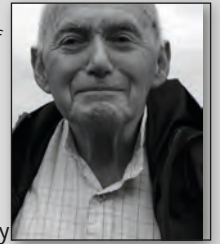
There's a place for recall of facts, of bits of poetry, of logical arguments, of many of the things we were taught. But I'm convinced that most real learning concerns the things that interest us – the things we want to know.

I'd hate to be a university tutor, especially in subjects that involve lots of words and ideas. How do you spot plagiarism? Hang on a minute! These clever, talented young people I see using laptops and touch screens seem to me to be very good at concentrating, at searching, at producing written work of high quality.

Surely what matters is output. If you can produce high quality work, does it matter where it comes from? A brief discussion of a piece of work will show you clearly whether the writer really knows what it is about.

Apparently productivity in the UK lags behind that of some other countries. I don't know what the answer is, but I'm pretty sure it doesn't involve shutting down every factory in sight and reducing our workforce to minimum level; answers on a postcard please.

A lovely man called Kev put a very useful grab rail outside my front door this morning. He came from Poppy Calls, an offshoot of the Royal British Legion. Poppy Calls does all sorts of jobs around the house for anyone who did military service. Two smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide alarm are now installed in my home. If you are interested you can call free on 0800 032 0306 for advice and help.



New owners return to spruce up popular local pub

When Amble businessman Nigel Wilson heard that the Mason's Arms was up for sale last year, he decided to buy it. After all, he'd had experience of running a pub 15 years ago. And that pub was the Mason's Arms.

"When it came back on the market and I said I was interested, everyone said I was mad. Pubs are not as good business as they were 15 years ago" said Nigel.

But he and his partner Amanda have worked non-stop, redecorating, restyling and adding new interest, for the regulars and to attract new customers.

"We've been steadily building it back up; we've redecorated throughout, refurbished the toilets and everywhere is now light and fresh. We're converting the upstairs to four en-suite bedrooms for Bed and Breakfasts," they will be ready before Christmas said Nigel.

"Amble's definitely on the up" said Amanda. "That's one of the reasons we decided to offer Bed and Breakfast. We're also offering food as well. There are some really good places to eat in Amble now, and we didn't

want to compete with the others, we wanted to fit in with them. We decided to do 'proper pub grub'."

Food is available Wed, Thurs, Fri 12-2.30 and 4.30 -7pm and Saturdays 12-7pm, when they offer Soup of the Day and a crusty roll plus a selection of Amble Butcher's pies, served with mash, peas and lashings of gravy. On the first Sunday of each month Amanda makes traditional Sunday lunch priced at £6.95.

Real Ale is now available, including Credence Pale from the new brewery in Amble, and the pair have plans to extend the bar after Christmas, which will make room for more real ales.

"We have five local staff, four have been with us since we opened nearly a year ago the other member of our Team we have recently employed 30 hours a week coinciding with our new opening hours. During the refurbishment trades people have been local," said Amanda. "We've gone out of our way to use local trade's people, and source local food and Real Ale."

Next are plans to convert an unused room into a family room,



Amanda Peacock and Nigel Wilson

so parents and children can enjoy games and bar facilities in a more relaxed, family-friendly environment.

The whole week is pretty busy now in the Mason's. Monday is dominoes night; Tuesday has Happy Hour from 5-8pm and then ladies darts, while Wednesday is the popular pool night which now has two teams. Thursday at 9pm is Quiz night; this has become so popular the last one had nine teams competing. Friday is men's darts night, there's a free jukebox

on Saturday nights, and free pool on Sundays. The function room is available for bookings free of charge.

And of course the pub is home to the famous Amble Leek Club; photos of past winners (mostly Peter Griffiths) adorn the walls in the bar.

This year Amanda is offering Christmas lunch, £38.50 for adults, £25 for children. Please ring 01665 799279 to book.

You can also find them on Facebook.

Anna Williams



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Broomhill (Togston Cres)	18:12	17:53	11:39
Hadston (Precinct)	18:14	17:55	11:41
Red Row (Mkt Place)	18:16	17:57	11:43
Widdrington Stn (Mile Rd)	18:19	18:00	11:46
Ellington Colliery	18:24	18:05	11:51
Lynemouth (Resource Cent)	18:27	18:08	11:54
Mecca Blyth	18:44	18:25	12:20



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Puffin disaster looming

Bad news for Europe's Atlantic Puffin population was announced recently, with this iconic seabird being added to the Red List of endangered species, following a series of dramatic falls in their numbers returning to main traditional nest sites across Europe.

Europe is home to 80% of the world population of Atlantic puffins, but breeding failures in their strongholds of Iceland, Faroe Islands and Norway in recent years have seen numbers dramatically fall.

Figures published by Birdlife International predict a decline in puffin numbers during 2000-2065 of up to 79%. In Norway, puffins have been returning to their nesting grounds but failing to produce young which means the population is now made up of aging adult birds which will lead to a dramatic collapse in the population over the next few years.

In France numbers have fallen to below 200 pairs. In the Channel Islands, once popular for puffins, the numbers have fallen to less than 100 pairs, leaving the local economy of Alderney dented with puffin souvenirs and puffin memorabilia left on the shelves.

Numbers in the UK were increasing up to 1999 but now evidence suggests that puffin numbers here are falling. In Scotland the numbers have plummeted while on the Northumberland coast numbers are holding up, but vulnerable.

There are several causes for the declines, but the lack of their staple diet, the sand eel, is the main direct factor. Sand eels don't like warm seas and in

Scottish waters the warming effect of the Gulf Stream has resulted in sand eel reductions or migration to cooler waters. The waters off Northumberland are still cooler so sand eels are still present in reasonable numbers.

Local factors are also affecting our "Northumberland" puffins. No commercial sand eel fishery in our waters means the sand eel stock is still available to our puffins, terns and kittiwakes as well as the larger fish that depend on them too.

The changing weather patterns play a part: on the Farnes, puffin burrows have been flooded in summer storms, while seals hauling out to moult collapse hundreds of wet burrows in late winter.

We have had warnings on Coquet Island too: five years ago the sand eel population collapsed on the north east coast and were replaced by pipefish. These small long leathery fish are relatives of the seahorse but have a tough inflexible skin and have very little nutrient value as food and choke chicks being fed with them. As a result, hundreds of chicks starved and many of the bird assemblage abandoned the island early that season.

The wetter summers have affected the vegetation cover on Coquet – the native maritime turf being replaced by heavy vegetation growth such as Yorkshire fog.



Coquet Island puffins. Photo by Paul Morrison

This plant has invaded the island habitat and swamped puffin burrow entrances, making it difficult for puffins to get back to their burrows to feed their pufflings before the black-headed gulls rob them of their sand eels. If you are on a Puffin Cruise in spring, you will see the RSPB wardens battling this vegetation with brushcutters and grass cutters, tackling this growing menace.

Puffins on the Northumberland coast are stable in terms of returning numbers of birds. However, given the growing disasters elsewhere in Europe and scientific predictions, the RSPB is planning to monitor the productivity of the Coquet puffins. They will track how well the birds are doing at producing pufflings and will expand efforts to give "our" iconic Puffins the best chances on their Coquet Home.

Paul Morrison

Credence Brewery: Why Michael and Matt believe in the beer

You know that thing when you and your best mate are discussing the future, usually over a few beers, and you come to the conclusion that setting up your own brewery would be the best idea ever? And what if, the next morning, you decided to make that actually happen?

Michael Graham and Matt Taylor can explain what happens next.

The two friends grew up together in Harrogate before Michael's family moved to Alnwick. Michael had been working in the brewing industry and home brewing for 13 years and decided the time was right to branch out on his own.

"It was always an aim of mine to have my own brewery," explained Michael. "But I knew it was too much for one person, so I asked Matt to come up."

"We looked all around for suitable premises and found them in Amble. We also looked



Michael Graham and Matt Taylor with Mason's Arms landlord Nigel Wilson behind the bar

at the Amble2020 strategy and saw that food and drink industry was being pushed here, so it sounded like a good match."

Matt has a background in finance and a degree in economics, so the pair's skills complement one another. "We both have a passion for beer and good food. They have been a good part of our social life!" said Matt.

But they take this enterprise very seriously, investing all their

savings and convincing shareholders to join the venture.

"It's not hard to convince someone to take a share in a brewery" laughed Michael, "but we've left nothing to chance; we've invested £100,000, we've

installed the kit ourselves and it took two months to get the premises right and everything working properly."

So Credence Brewery was born. The name reflects their belief and confidence in the integrity of their products.

"We like clean, flavoursome and very drinkable beer" said Michael. Credence is a memorable name; it means a belief that something is true."

Credence produce four core beers, Blonde, Pale, Porter and IPA, and are already selling in 30 outlets throughout Northumberland, Newcastle and Yorkshire. Amble fans of real ale can sample Credence Pale at the Mason's Arms, where it is proving very popular. "Everybody likes it" said Mason's Arms landlord Nigel Wilson, "We sold three kegs in one week."

At the moment the beers are only available in casks, but Michael and Matt have plans to bottle their products, double their capacity and extend their customer base further afield. Expansion would also mean increasing their workforce.

"We'd like to thank everyone who has helped us so far," said Michael. "Local business people, everyone has been so supportive, and it's been great to share our passion."

Anna Williams

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COQUET YACHT CLUB

News update



As Coquet Yacht Club moves towards the end of 2015 we reflect on a very busy year. As well as a very busy and successful sailing season the club has continued its development.

We've still got work to complete but the balcony has had great use by members and visitors. No better place when the sun rises or sun sets or any other time come to that! Seeing the sun set over Warkworth Castle with a glass of vino has to be one of the best experiences in Northumberland. Certainly with the functions that we have had, such as weddings, christenings and various birthday parties, the balcony has gained many friends.

Our beer festival was a great success with profits going to Amble Lifeboat and some towards the club's development. Our Guardian Angels evening, which is when we invite all those that look after us at sea, was another great success with money raised and a few sore heads for Amble Lifeboat and The MCA.

We have gained full recognition from the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) to be a training establishment and a full list of courses etc will be available in the future.

The club has doubled its membership (now 200 families) and what is pleasing is how many members we have gained from Amble and Warkworth. Sunday lunches have gone down well both for visitors and members and our social calendar has been very active.

I hand over the reins of running the club to Richard Hope at the end of the year. I set out to build the club and Richard will concentrate on developing the sailing both off shore and dinghy activities. Jackie and I wish Richard and Aimee all the best and they have our full support.

If you'd like to know more about the club please visit www.coquetyachtclub.org.uk or phone 01665 712990.

Phil Derry Commodore

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is for children in developing countries, who used to never get anything for Christmas. Now they get one shoebox full of fun toys or other things per child. Millions of people send presents to these children, but lately the teenagers haven't had enough boxes for every child, so some don't get a box.

Unfortunately children in countries like Syria can't have a Christmas box because they are in war against themselves. Most people haven't even heard about the poor unfortunate children who don't get a Christmas. If you want to find out how to send a Christmas box go to this website <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>.

You will need a shoe box and fill it with suitable toys or stationery for your chosen age group. You can put your address if you want them to send a letter back to thank you for the gift. Samaritan's Purse is the charity that makes a child's Christmas possible.

By Daisy

THE AMAZING TOUR IS NOT ON FIRE



Dan Howell and Phil Lester are British vloggers they are about 28 years old. They live in a flat together in London they have been to places like Japan and New York. On the 9th of October I went to see Dan and Phil at Newcastle City Hall. It was amazing because there was lots of people and they were all screaming. The oldest people were about 20-25 and the young people were with their parents.

They have written a book called the amazing book is not on fire. It is about things they have done in their lives. Dan and Phil also have a radio show on BBC Radio 1. Pretty much all the time on the show they do a Dan vs Phil. One time they had Zoella (Zoë Sugg) come on the show and they did a 'who can pop the most balloons in about 5 minutes'.

They also have their very own website called: DanandPhilshop.com. They sell a lot of stuff like shirts, posters, mugs, pencil cases and much more.

by Emma-Jane Gregory

BINKY GOES XMAS SHOPPING

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

Binky was sometimes lazy, especially when it came to Christmas Shopping! He always left it until Christmas Eve to buy everyone a Christmas present.

This particular Christmas it was only at lunch (bamboo pasta and mushroom cake) he realized he hadn't bought a present for his Mum, Dad, sister, Bazzle or Blossom!

Quick as a flash, Binky grabbed his sledge and ran over the Ralanan Bridge and to the top of the hill leading to the village. He started with a run up, before diving on to his sledge and whizzing into the town centre at full speed.

Most shops were closing but Binky

found a pound store that was still open- perfect for the £5 in his pocket!

For his mum and dad he bought a bamboo wreath shaped as a heart for on the wall. His sister got a fairy panda doll, Bazzle got a new sledge and Binky got Blossom a pearl necklace.

As Christmas came around, Binky's parents loved the wreath and Ivy hugged her doll. Bazzle slid around on his sledge all day and Blossom gave Binky a big kiss for her necklace -which made him blush! Even though it'd been last minute it had come out as a great Christmas! Make sure you get your presents on time though! By Lily T

WHEN IS THE WINTER SOLSTICE?

This year the winter solstice will take place on Tuesday 22nd of December, three days before Christmas day.

The date varies from December 20 to December 23 depending on the year in the Gregorian calendar.

The tilt of the Earth - not our distance from the sun - is what causes winter and summer. At the

December solstice, the Northern Hemisphere is leaning most away from the sun for the year. At the December solstice, Earth is positioned in its orbit so that the sun stays below the North Pole horizon.

It is thought that the Pagans were the first to celebrate the Winter Solstice, calling it Yule, or Midwinter. Yule is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world; not Christmas!

By George-Anne Carnegie



GIFT IDEA TO MAKE FOR PARENTS

Lollypop stick photo frame & fridge magnet

You will need:

- Regular or jumbo size lolly sticks
- Paints or glitter
- Sellotape
- Glue
- Magnets

• Items to decorate the frames

What to do:

- Paint or decorate your lolly sticks
- Roll out a strip of sellotape - sticky side up
- Lay your lolly stick on top and wrap the sellotape around the edges
- Wrap as many sticks as you want depending on how big you want your frame
- Take 2 plain sticks and put a line of glue down them
- Lay your decorated sticks across them in the opposite direction
- Glue a magnet on the top centre of the back of your frame
- Once dry, add the photos. You can glue, tape or use a drawing pin to attach your pictures

by Katy



SHOULD WE GIVE PETS TREATS AT CHRISTMAS?

I wanted to know about looking after pets at Xmas so I asked Fiona Carrighar at Aln Vets if we should give our pets treats like we do our families, and what happens if they get ill.

"Firstly, vets have to provide 24 hour emergency care so a vet and nurse are on duty at all times to see emergencies over the holiday period. If someone needs the pet to be examined urgently they just need to call their normal surgery number and will get through to the emergency service.

"Many owners like to give their pets a Christmas gift so they can join in the fun. Ideally this should be a safe toy or perhaps a new collar or lead. Food treats are not ideal as many will cause tummy upsets especially if it is something your dog or cat is not used to. Perhaps a special walk would go down well with many dogs.

"Many foods and plants are also poisonous to animal e.g. Even small amounts of chocolate are toxic to dogs and that includes chocolate biscuits and cakes. Grapes and raisins (Christmas cake and puddings) can cause severe kidney damage and plants such as Lily's are very toxic to cats. Poinsettia are also mildly toxic if ingested causing tummy upsets."

By Hope

EXCLUSIVE: INTERVIEW WITH SANTA!

While he was in Warkworth and Amble for the Christmas Lights switch-on, Bethany and Lily W were able to ask Santa a few questions

Bethany and Lily: "First we want to say congratulations on delivering all the presents to all the children for all these years! Here are our questions..."

How long does it take to deliver all the presents?

Because of all the different times in the world it takes me over 24 hrs to deliver the presents.

What do you think about the children in Amble?

Amble is a lovely place to visit especially arriving from the sky and having Coquet lighthouse to guide me in.

Do you think many of them have been bad this year?

I do not think the children of Amble have been bad this year anymore than anywhere else. Children sometimes just get a little excited and become a little bit mischievous.

How do you get gifts in the house if they don't have a chimney?

Many houses are without chimneys these days so I have

a magic key that allows me to enter and deliver the presents if all the children are asleep.

Does Santa ever get sad and why?

No I do not get sad, because if that was to happen I would just need to remember all the smiling and excited children opening their presents Christmas morning the joyful event of Christmas is truly a wonderful time to keep with you all year round.

Why do people not believe in you?

Because we live in a place where we have freedom of speech, people can believe in whatever they wish. People grow older and new inventions occur and this can alter our beliefs remember that long ago people thought the world was flat and if you ventured to far from shore you would fall off the world.

It has been lovely to have been given the chance to answer your well thought out questions and I wish you both and all the children a very Happy Christmas.

ho ho ho

Santa

by Bethany S and Lily W

Right: Santa holding our list of questions!



AVA'S VERY SPECIAL XMAS

This year is very special, because I turned on the Christmas lights! I was so excited yet also nervous. When we got to the big Christmas

tree opposite the Co-op, the Mayor told me what to do. I clicked the button and all the lights went on - then I had to leap into the Coastguard truck and lead the parade! When we got out the truck we went to the town square then headed home. It was fun.

I'm always so excited on Christmas Eve so I can hardly get to sleep. When I wake up I immediately check my stocking; usually it's full of presents! Then all excited I go into my mum's room and wake them up by jumping on them. Then when Lily comes in we tear open our presents: Santa usually gets us an annual and some chocolate; then once we've done that we go downstairs to open our presents from our family.

After we've opened all of our presents we sometimes go for a walk somewhere. When we get back everyone sets to work on making a special yummy Christmas dinner. When dinner is ready everyone sits at the table and starts eating. When we've finished eating everyone starts playing with their presents.

By Ava



Above l-r: My Mum, my sister Lily, Me, my Dad and the Mayor

TWO FAMILIES A WEEK USE AMBLE FOODBANK

I asked the people who run Amble Foodbank about how it works and why we need it.

I asked: **Who runs the Amble food bank and how does it work?**

Bill Cruickshank from the Food Bank replied: It is run by Amble Vineyard church. Four people take it in turns to sort out the food parcels and I keep the records and administration up to date. The donated food is made up into parcels ready to be given out. If children are involved then we make up enhanced parcels with fresh fruit and vegetables and baby food and nappies which are bought on the day of the parcel delivery.

How long has Amble food bank been around?

It was started in June 2013.

How can people get the food?

Those people in need who go to the relevant agency are given an interview to assess their needs and a referral form filled in to collect food parcels.

Can anyone get some food?

No you have to be in need, the food parcels are just a stop gap until other agencies can help.

Do you get enough donations?

Usually we do, however we do get donations of money as well as food so we can top up the shortages.

How many donations do you get?

It varies from day to day, usually 2 to 4 tins a day

How many people use the Amble food bank?

On average about 2 families a week

Who started the Amble food bank and how many are in the UK?

Alan Rapley set up the food bank and asked me to take over before his passing. I have no idea how many there are, but we believe they are a vital to our communities in the current financial cut backs.

By Daisy

Cromie Pharmacy

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Geordie Pellets power into Amble

A company which makes wood pellets for heating has opened in Amble, with the creation of eight to ten jobs and hopefully more in the future.

Geordie Pellet Power will be sited on Amble Industrial Estate, and will be one of the biggest wood pellet manufacturers in the UK.

Owner Ian Lewis has a background in forestry and windfarm construction, while General Manager Richard Telfer's background is in farming and forestry.

Richard told *The Ambler* "We had been looking for somewhere with enough space, buildings and land and Amble was the right site."

"Ian and I have worked in

forestry for between 20 and 30 years and this is a progression from that. There are only five plants in the whole of the UK and they're mainly in Scotland, Wales and Cornwall. We're the third of any notable size in the UK as far as I'm aware."

The company handles the whole production cycle: softwood logs are brought in from local forests, chipped, then dried and turned into pellets. Once bagged, they are then ready for sale.

"We're hoping to be up and running very soon," said Richard. "We hope to increase the number of jobs to between 20 and 30 in the future."

Richard and Ian were keen to thank local businesses for the



Above: Richard Telfer and Ian Lewis of GP Pellet Power, with MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan

friendly welcome so far.

"We've had an awful lot of help from Northern Structures and GV Engineering

"We wouldn't have been able to build the plant successfully without them," said Richard.

The biomass pellets will

be distributed locally within the North East. They are even suitable for horse bedding and cat litter, as well as their main function: heating for domestic and commercial wood burners.

More info: www.gppower.co.uk
Anna Williams

Shannon appeal now over halfway to target

Amble RNLI's Shannon class lifeboat appeal has reached over £132,500 – well over halfway towards its final target.

The Appeal was launched in July 2014 to raise £200,000 towards the cost of the new lifeboat. Fundraising has included many functions and donations received from Northumberland Gazette's Jam Jar Army Appeal. Support has also come from Marks and Spencer at Morpeth which has selected Amble RNLI as their charity of the year.

The current appeal total was also boosted by Amble RNLI's recent Harbour Day.

Katrina Cassidy, Chairperson of the

public and our supporters. Thanks must also go to the members of our volunteer fundraising committee, who have worked tirelessly to support the appeal."

Katrina added, "Obviously we still have a considerable way to go before we reach our £200,000 target. It would be great to see as many people as possible at our upcoming events and we'd also encourage people to support us by holding fun events of their own in aid of the appeal."

Upcoming events include a coffee morning on Sunday 15 November at Amble RNLI lifeboat station between 10am and



Amble Lifeboat Fundraising Committee, said: "I would like to say a massive "thank you" for the support that we have received for the appeal to date, not just from the local community and businesses, but from supporters far and wide."

In just 15 months we managed to raise over £125,000 – which is well over halfway towards our target. We couldn't have done it without the generosity of the general

public and our supporters. Thanks must also go to the members of our volunteer fundraising committee, who have worked tirelessly to support the appeal."

Upcoming events include a coffee morning on Sunday 15 November at Amble RNLI lifeboat station between 10am and 1pm and a Grande Christmas coffee morning with a raffle and tombola (and hopefully an appearance from RNLI mascot, Stormy Stan) on Sunday 20 December between 10am and 1pm, in conjunction with Amble Harbour Village.

There will also be a street collection in Newcastle on Saturday 19 December by the RNLI Durham branch and all of the proceeds will go towards the appeal.

TSB cake bake supports lifeboat appeal

To celebrate its partnership with the RNLI Amble Lifeboat Shannon Appeal, TSB's partners and customers raised £210 by holding a Cake Bake in October.

Jane Stilling, manager at the TSB in Amble said: "Our team in Amble thoroughly enjoy getting stuck into fundraising activities and it's really rewarding to see the impact it is having."

So far over £650 has been raised by the team for the Shannon Appeal.

Trident Soccer awards for budding footballers



Reece and Ben, Trident Soccer's Players of the Month for September

Trident Soccer presented "Player of the Month" Awards for September and October to students at Amble First School.

Trident Soccer Director Ryan Jobson praised everyone's efforts, "This is Trident Soccer's 15th year coaching at Amble First School and the children are doing very well. We are delighted to reward pupil's efforts in football as well as encourage good behaviour and consideration towards each other. Well done!"



Jacob and Kiera were awarded Players of the Month for October

Children lay tributes at neglected war graves

During the ceremonies to mark ANZAC day in April this year, Eric Turnbull noted that the WW1 commonwealth war graves in Chevington Cemetery had not been maintained in the same way as the WW2 graves.

Eric wanted to put this right so together with his daughter, Sonia Curry and Nicola Lillico they tidied up the plots and planted some shrubs.

"The graves had been missed in previous memorial services" said Eric, Welfare Officer for the Royal Tank Regiment Veterans.

"But now they have been rediscovered and so we are having a service for them."

At the service at 11am on the 11th, Revd Sue Reilly officiated and school children from Broomhill, Red Row and

Acklington first schools were invited to lay a small tribute, made by Nicola, on the graves.

The bugler was Tony Griffiths of the Newbiggin Brass Band played who the last post and reveille.

Cadets from Red Row and Cowpen together with personnel from the Royal Artillery 101 battery provided a military presence.

County Councillor Scott Dickinson and Councillor Helen Lewis and a good assembly of local people attended.

A reception was held afterwards at the Brick Club, Red Row.

The community greatly appreciated the effort that Eric had put in.

Vivienne Dalgleish



Children from Broomhill, Red Row and Acklington First Schools placed tributes on the graves

War graves Northumberland Fusiliers

Lance Corporal RA Bell, died April 1916

Private J Brown died March 1917

Private H. Hebron died July 1916

Private John George Stewart died Dec 1916 NF aged 21

Driver Henry Whitfield April 1917 Royal Field Artillery

Able Seaman G. Trueman died Nov 1816 Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve aged 19 was laid to rest in a family grave.

Gemma's passion to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's

The Save the Memories campaign was created in 2014 by Gemma Little as a result of her passion to turn her negative experience of Alzheimer's into something positive and help others have a better experience.

Gemma lost her mother to Alzheimer's at a young age and felt there was very little support and understanding of dementia, especially of early onset.

Gemma wanted to fundraise for the Alzheimer's Society and had proposed holding a coastal walk. A friend told her, 'stop talking about it and start organising it'. That was the push she needed and Save the Memories was born.

A Save the Memories Facebook page was set up and



l - r fundraiser Dominic Harris, Gemma, the Duchess of Northumberland and Alzheimers Society representative Amy Syron-Mallenby

the page has now attracted over 400 members worldwide. The walk in 2014 attracted 42 participants, some with their dogs, and they walked the 14 miles from Craster along the beautiful coastal path to Amble where a buffet was waiting at Angie's Tavern.

Among the other fundraising events was a charity night held at the Bede Street Club when The Britpop Union played to a packed crowd.

Gemma told The Ambler, "I am always honoured when people donate prizes or give up their time for free like The Britpop Union did."

Alnwick Fire Station held a car wash, donating half of the funds raised to the Alzheimer's Society. Gemma told us, "I got very wet attending this as I ended up doing the ice bucket challenge. It was very cold and very unplanned! If people would like a good laugh, there is a

video on the Save the Memories Facebook page."

Save the Memories encourages people to post their memories to Facebook and get their friends to do the same to help raise awareness and let people reminisce, something dementia takes away.

The 2015 walk attracted 85 walkers and 11 dogs, raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society and a local project called The Blooming Well Project. Over the two years £13,368 has been raised for the cause.

Gemma said, "I never imagined what Save the Memories could achieve when I embarked on this journey, but it has been amazing and is continuing to be amazing every day."

Save the Memories also aims to encourage as many people as possible to become Dementia Friends. For more information and the date of next year's walk, see www.facebook.com/xsavethememoriesx



Northside SURE

Surf / SUP lessons

Wetsuits

Bodyboards

Gift Voucher Sales

www.northside-surf-school.co.uk

01665 713146 or 07944 398115

Puffin Lounge offers dementia awareness sessions

In our bid to make Amble a Dementia-Friendly Community there will be awareness sessions scheduled for February next year.

In the meantime why not drop in to the puffin lounge where we hold two hour long drop-in sessions every other Thursday, from 2-4pm. at St. Mark's URC Hall.

Although it is primarily for people living with dementia, their family, carers and friends, anyone can come along. Refreshments are provided; we play table-top games, chat, look at scenes of old Amble, we may even try some singing. Come along and have some fun. Next date is Dec. 17.

Further details from Sue Swanston 01665 711177

Welcome to Trust Life from one of the top Coastal Communities in the country! At the time of writing we are still in the running for the coastal community category of the Great British High Street competition, and ultimate overall accolade.

Whatever the outcome, we thank you all for the fantastic support you have shown by voting; you are obviously as proud of our high street as we are. I wouldn't say we have been competitive (oh yes we have) but when told we were in second place, everyone went into overdrive ensuring friends and family pressed that button every day!

The judges who arrived to meet local business people and volunteers, while giving little away, appeared to be impressed by the range of independent businesses, quality of shops and lack of charity shops.

They met volunteers from the Christmas Lights, RNLI, skiff, Northumbrian Pipers and Brambles, seeing how all age ranges interacted within the community.

Amble History Group provided photos of Queen Street, harbour and quayside

so we were able to show the difference regeneration has made over the years.

It was amazing to say 'if you stood here 30 years ago you would have been under a bridge and a little earlier where the pods are would have been the brick kilns'; some change. For the grand finale – we fed them with fantastic fish and chips!

So we are waiting in anticipation, with everything crossed for decision day. Two representatives have been invited to London to the awards ceremony, where they will find out who has been successful in their category, plus the overall competition winner.

Welfare

The repair works have been carried out at the welfare with the small swings left to be installed. Lets hope the older 'children' leave the swings alone this time and enjoy their own activities, rather than spoil the area for other users!

The groundwork quote is now prepared for drainage, so once we receive quotes for housing above the Pride shop in Queen St we will see how we can work the two projects together.



l-r Jeff Watson (NCC/ Amble TC); David Hall (Northumberland Tourism); Ann Burke (Amble Business Club); GB High St judges Jake Werth and Mark Holder and Julia Aston (Amble Development Trust)

Harbour Village

It hardly seems possible that it is a year since I was encouraging everyone to wait and see what gifts the pods at the Harbour Village would have in store – a prophesy well meant but ill timed, given the length of time the area has taken to complete.

Well here we are, and we're looking forward to late night shopping with entertainment and surprises in store for everyone. Harbour Village co-ordinator Sarah Dunne has leaflets available so you don't miss out on anything.

The Seafood Centre is now operating and open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings for the sale of fresh fish whenever there is any caught.

At this time of year quota and weather are against the fishermen. However there will be another opportunity to meet local chef Jonny Bird of Sea and Soil Bistro to learn how to make fabulous Christmas canapés. So you can add that little bit of extra vavavoom to your Christmas day menu!

julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk



Festive Fun continues!

Late Night Shopping at the Pods
with music, extra stalls and Christmas fayre.

Every Thursday from 26th Nov- 17th Dec 4-8pm

10% of profits will go to our selected local organisation, each evening.

Amble Harbour Advent Calendar - Tuesday 1st - Thursday 24th Dec

Each day, a door at harbour location opens to reveal... *well you'll have to come and see!*

December Festive Weekends - 5th/6th - Crafty fun for the kids.

12th/13th - Mini Christmas craft fair. 19th & 20th - Mini Christmas food market



For more information visit www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk



@AmbleTV



AmbleTV



Hauxley Parish Council

Hauxley PC needs you - There are currently two member vacancies on the Council. It meets bi-monthly, on the 2nd Monday of the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. If you are interested in joining please contact the Parish Clerk for more details. The vacancies are also advertised in the village noticeboards.

Hauxley online - the Parish Council is now online via a webpage on The Ambler. Please visit: <http://www.theambler.co.uk/category/news/politics/hauxley-parish-council> - for all information on the Parish Council and to view agendas and minutes of meetings.

Address problems in Hauxley - Following confusion with addresses and postcodes in Low Hauxley, Royal Mail and NCC have informed that the correct addresses are as follows:

Hauxley Church, Hauxley Nature Reserve, Silver Carrs Caravan Park and 2 - 29 (consecutive) Hauxley Links - Low Hauxley MORPETH - NE65 0JR
Beachside, Beachwood, Carrstone Villa, Mermaid Cottage, North Beach, Rocket House, Sandy Knowles, The Boathouse, 3 - 6 (consecutive) and 8 - 11 (consecutive) Low Hauxley - MORPETH - NE65 0JS

Planning applications - At the November meeting members agreed that the consultation of all future planning applications would be shared via the Hauxley Village Facebook page for information in an attempt to raise awareness of planning matters in the village and encourage public participation.

Litter picks & bins - Litter picks were held in the village on 17th and 24th October and over 12 bags of litter removed. The Council wish to thank NCC for providing the equipment and the volunteers for helping keep Hauxley tidy. The next litter pick will be held in the spring. The Council is currently looking into installing a litter bin next to the seat on the bend of Hauxley Lane.

Budget 2016/17 - Members will be considering the 2016/17 budget at its January meeting.

Next Meeting - is 6.30pm on Monday 11th January 2016 in the Village Hall, Low Hauxley.

Contact details: Parish Clerk:
Miss Elaine Brown

Address: 4 Simonside Crescent
Hadston, Morpeth NE65 9YB
Telephone: 07588659600 **Email:**
hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk

Prepare your home for winter

With the onset of winter just around the corner and a drop in temperatures expected, Warm Up North, the North East's landmark energy efficiency scheme is urging Northumberland residents to make sure their homes are winter-ready.

Graeme Stephenson, lead partnership development manager, said: "Anyone concerned about the temperature of their home should act now to help ensure they are fully prepared for the colder months. Whether residents are struggling with a broken or inefficient gas boiler or are in need of some improved insulation, Warm Up North is on hand to help.

"The benefit of a more energy efficient home is not only lower monthly bills, but a warmer and more comfortable living environment which can also significantly help to improve the quality of life for residents.

"Boilers typically account for half of the cost

of a property's energy bills, so even replacing an old gas boiler with a new A-rated gas boiler and heating controls could save residents around £340 every year."

Warm Up North's energy efficiency measures, include new low cost gas boilers for £250** including VAT, subject to survey and criteria, as well as cavity, loft and solid wall insulation.

Launched in 2013, the scheme is backed by nine North East local authorities and is helping residents across Northumberland, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham, Hartlepool, Darlington and Redcar & Cleveland.

For more information on Warm Up North contact the team.

**For the gas boiler offer, please call free on 0800 316 4320 or for all other energy efficiency measures, call free on 0800 294 8073 or visit www.warmupnorth.com.

Council thanks community for support in toilets review

Northumberland County Council has welcomed the support of communities across the county following its review of public toilets.

The council currently spends approximately £600,000 a year on public toilets, with a third of the cost relating to the opening, closing, cleaning and re-stocking. The review is looking to make savings in the region of £150,000 over the next financial year.

Of the 62 public lavatories across the county, agreements have now been reached for 53 of them while discussions are ongoing with town and parish councils on a further four.

It hasn't been possible to reach agreement with the town and parish councils over the opening arrangements for toilets at Allendale, Allenheads, Haydon Bridge, Alnmouth and Bellingham and these are now in the process of being closed for the winter and will re-open at Easter.

Good progress has been made to secure improved public access to private toilets via the council's 'You're welcome to use the loos!' scheme, with 12 organisations having signed up to the scheme with a further six expected to join.

This is a voluntary scheme where local businesses allow the council to advertise their toilets for public use without the need for visitors to buy anything. Those businesses participating display a 'You're Welcome' sticker which identifies them within the scheme.

A small financial incentive has been offered to some local businesses in areas where full or partial closures of public toilets have been proposed.

Other businesses are still able to join the scheme voluntarily and display the 'You're Welcome to Use Our Loos' stickers, to help their local area promote a welcoming, friendly, accessible image.

Councillor Ian Swithenbank, the County's Cabinet member for Local Services, said: "We're very aware of the important role public toilets play in supporting the local economy, that's why we provide a large network of public conveniences across Northumberland.



Amble's harbour toilets (on Broomhill St) are closed until the Spring. The Harbour Inn on Leazes St will allow members of the public to use their facilities. The public toilets next to Amble Tourist Information Centre in the Town Square will remain open every day 9 - 5pm.

"However, we do need to move towards a new model of delivering public toilets which offer a better standard of service at less cost and which also help support the local economy."

"This review has been a challenging process but what has really stood out is the positive response and willingness to help we have received from the majority the town, parish councils and local businesses.

"They have understood the reasons we have had to do this review and it's led us to develop more collaborative arrangements which help ensure we can focus our limited financial resources on where they deliver the most benefit to our communities during these challenging times."

The businesses which have signed up to the 'You're welcome - Use our loo' scheme are:

Alnwick - George Inn, Amble - Harbour Inn and 81-83 Queens Street, Ashington and Blyth - Wetherspoons, Bellingham - Cheviot Hotel, Berwick - Magdalene Fields/ Magdalene Golf Club, Dunstanburgh - Embleton Golf Club, East Chevington - Sports & Social Club, Holy Island - Pilgrims Coffee Shop, Prudhoe - Waterworld, Warkworth - Hermitage pub.

For more information the public can go to www.northumberland.gov.uk/loo

Show racism the red card



Amble Links Schoolchildren Year 3 and 4 children have been taking part in a workshop with 'Show Racism the Red Card'. As part of the day the children have been taking part in fitness fun sessions with ex Newcastle United player Olivier Bernard.



REPORTS FROM OUR

Play and progress

The new play area on the Radcliffe estate has generated some negative comment. I have spoken to our neighbourhood police team and am willing to work with them and local residents to deal with genuine concerns. For years Amble has had little in the way of play provision for a community of this size and that is changing. The refurbishment of the welfare is now matched by the works to the Paddlers Park area which I recently visited. Even on a dreary day the area looks much better and I am looking forward to seeing it in full use in the spring.

Planning ahead

Please take the time to get involved in the consultation for the one way system as the experimental system is under review.

I have been talking to county highways officers and the town council about future plans for highways maintenance in Amble. Tight funding for many years has left a legacy of problems in many areas with estate roads and footpaths. I am also hoping that a plan to refurbish Queen Street will be part of the local transport plan. After 20 years it would be sensible to look again at how improvements can be made which will deal with some of the familiar problems with maintenance (for instance with the cobbled areas). I think we need to take a realistic approach to using scarce resources well.

A memorable year

This has been quite a year for Amble; the completion of the Harbour Village and the new Shorebase facility, the new Paddlers Park development, substantial new build council and affordable housing and recognition at a national level in media and TV. For me the best thing about Amble is its community spirit shown again on Remembrance Day recently and demonstrated week by week by volunteers who work hard to make our communities as good as they can be.

Every good wish for the Christmas season and for the year ahead.

Robert Arkless

robert.arkless99@northumberland.gov.uk Tel:- 01665 711938

Walks for ambling Amblers

A walk around Hulne Park

Take the bus to Alnwick bus station.

Turn right past Morrison's car park, then past Pottergate Tower (it's hard to miss!) then down the hill to St. Michael's Church.

Turn left at Bailiffgate and walk along the lane, under the arch and into Hulne Park.

About ten minutes in on the road you'll see a rather nice estate house on your left.

A bit further on, walk down a farm track on your right. A few hundred yards down the track you'll find a left fork, take it and carry on through some great trees, with the River Aln below you on the right. In summer you can smell wild garlic. (even I can smell wild garlic and I'm anosmic!). Keep on the road until you cross the bridge. There's a left turn with a public footpath sign. I usually head up to the right past more lovely trees. Keep going until you meet a road. At this point do a sharp right and then left. After a few hundred yards you'll see an old building, which is Hulne Priory, a real gem.

Walk around it first on the outside. Go in by a gate in the wall. No picnicking inside the priory, but there is a very convenient bench near the gate. There's plenty to see inside and a lovely atmosphere.

Back out of the gate and down the grassy hill on to the road. Walk along to the bridge on your left. Cross it, walk through a field and follow a stony track until you meet the road to Home Farm. Turn right along the main farm road, then right along the 'main' park road. Look for the steep stony track to your left. Follow the track up...and up... and up until you reach Brizlee Tower, a wonderful folly built by one of the early Dukes of Northumberland, renovated by our present Duke a few years ago.

Back down the hill, right along the road and back into Alnwick for refreshments and the bus home.



Harry McQuillen

County Councillors

Well its Christmas time again and maybe its time to reflect on the years activities. Some things don't seem to change, we still have the usual problems such as dog mess and parking issues, job prospects for our young and not so young and cuts in Council services. These things sometimes appear to be almost unsolvable, however the Town Council and I are working together to try to find solutions that will be acceptable to the majority of residents. I have learned over the years that I have been a councillor that it is not always easy to satisfy everyone but we continue to try our best.

Some things have changed this year, the Harbour Village is perhaps the biggest thing to have happened in Amble for years and although it is still early days the prospects for bringing business and much needed extra employment to the town are looking promising.

The experimental one way system which had a shaky start with drivers either mistakenly or knowingly ignoring the signs has settled down and the final results of the consultation are not far from being announced. If nothing else it has to be said that it has definitely relieved the grid locks that used to occur in some of our narrow streets.

The opening of several cafes/restaurants, the paddlers rebuild, and the new housing developments will have an effect on us in the new year. We will all have a choice, do we embrace these things or do we ignore them, we simply cannot stop them!

Individuals always have the right to voice their opinions about the future of Amble and that is one of the reasons why I am available to you on:

jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk 07802385367

A Merry Christmas to you all, hohoho. *Jeff Watson*



Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6pm unless stated otherwise- please note new time

Town: 10th December; 14th January

Amenities Committee: 29th January

Office: Closed from 3pm Wed. 23rd Dec to 10am Mon 4th Jan

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL

GARDENS & ALLOTMENTS

There will be some changes to the Garden Awards in 2016. There will still be an overall Cup Winner for the best garden, however any garden with the same resident(s) winning the Cup in any 3 of the previous 5 years, they will get a lifetime award in recognition of their continued commitment and achievement but will no longer be entered for a further award. Individuals and councillors can submit garden award entries during the last 2 weeks of June with contact details, either electronically as a photo attachment to an email or a photo delivered to the Council Office. The 'Secret Garden' Award will continue for gardens not normally seen by passersby. Entrants must agree to publicity and to opening their 'Secret Garden' for public viewing for a minimum of 3 hours during the second weekend of August.

There will be a Business Award with Winner and Runner Up to encourage businesses to make their frontage attractive. All gardens/floral displays will be judged by an independent person in the first 2 weeks of July. Points considered will be, visual effect, general maintenance, use of plants and materials and physical input required to make and keep the area attractive. The Best Allotment Award for each of the two areas of allotments will stay as well as Most Improved Allotment overall, to be judged by Amble Allotment Holders Committee in the last 2 weeks of June. Those shortlisted in all these categories will be invited to the Awards night later in July when the certificates and prizes will be presented.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

It has been incredibly heartening for the town to be shortlisted for the Great British High Street Awards. I see this as testimony to how much the town has grown in recent years in terms of community involvement, team effort and pride in our town. The judges were escorted around the town to see what we have to offer and met some of the voluntary groups and businesses who work so hard to make Amble worthy of this recognition. I think we can all be very proud of this achievement.

This season it is really uplifting to see Amble's preparations for the Christmas festivities. You may have seen our Christmas Lights team scaling ladders around the town centre to create the usual blaze of lights and been a part of the spectacular torchlit procession. Much planning has gone into celebrating the very first Christmas for the Harbour Village which will be aglow with sparkling lights, festive Pods and a very unique Christmas tree. None of this could happen without the huge effort of volunteers and our usual community spirit.

Vice Chair: Councillor Jane Dargue



LOCAL TRANSPORT PRIORITIES

Councils were asked to submit 3 items for the Local Transport Priorities. There is money allocated each year by NCC for these; all the proposals are put forward and assessed as to which should be carried out in that financial year. Of course, every parish thinks their items should be done first but the money only goes so far and inevitably some are considered less urgent and can be waiting for years. Every year among the main topics are traffic and parking problems, and this year 2 of our priorities relate to these. We have said a major review of the traffic and tourism signs needs to be carried out as some signs direct you wrongly and others need to be added. For example, there are few signs pointing to parking places so it's no wonder people try to squeeze into small or inappropriate spaces. Despite being an old town with limited land available in the centre of the town, we desperately need a new car park. We have been working closely with NCC Officers regarding aspects of traffic problems in the town, but progress is very slow. We are urging county to give this some serious consideration to find a way forward in the near future. Although our side streets aren't as bad as some towns, Bisley Road is in dire need of repair so we have made this our third priority.

ONE WAY STREETS CONSULTATION

The experimental order will end in early spring and so a decision needs to be made on whether it should be made permanent. It is vital that as many people as possible comment on this idea as, quite simply, public response is how decisions are made! Your opinion- whether for, against, or indifferent - needs to be expressed to NCC. We all acknowledge there were initial teething problems - as there always are with something new; some of these have been rectified, others cannot be altered until, and only if, the order is made a permanent feature. Please read the detail of the idea being proposed. The trial at present is trying to ease congestion and help traffic flow in those areas- a long standing problem for many years, especially at weekends and Bank Holidays, which affects everyone not just the people who live on those streets. Watch for press releases and notices appearing in the streets involved which will tell you how to respond. Details of the proposals will also be available to view by appointment in the Council offices.

COMMUNITY AWARD

The Council have decided to introduce an award, open to individuals, groups and organisations, carrying out unpaid community work on a project or initiative. Nominations will be invited from the community during June, stating the name(s), what is being done, how long for, what benefit this brings to the community and why that individual/group/organisation deserves special recognition. Entries will be judged by a panel of councillors early in July with those individuals nominated, or 2 representatives if a group or organisation, invited to the Awards night later in July.

WEST CEMETERY

No kerbs or enclosures of any type are permitted in the newer sections so the cemetery can be maintained properly. Floral tributes and small plants must not extend beyond 39cm (15") from the rear of the memorial in any section, none are allowed in the Natural Burial area to allow easier cutting with our machinery. The immediate area around any headstone which does not have floral tributes or plants will be treated to avoid unsightly growth of weeds. This cemetery is open to the public and cannot be effectively secured, so before placing items on graves, families should consider their distress should they be damaged or stolen.

Please do not place any unauthorised items, especially breakable ones as these pose a safety risk to the operatives, (see pic). If in doubt, check the rules, as unauthorised items will be removed but can be claimed up to 28 days before disposal.

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

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, FOURWAYS 2, AMBLE. NE65 0DT Tel: 01665 714 695 www.amble.gov.uk

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

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



In October, 14 members of Northumberland Astronomical Society (NASTRO) visited CERN (aka the European Organization for Nuclear Research). CERN has headquarters at Meyrin, near Geneva in Switzerland but the facility is so extensive that some of the experiments are situated over the French border.

CERN is home to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) – the biggest particle accelerator in the world. The LHC consists of a near circular tunnel about 27 km (17 miles) long about 100 metres below ground. The LHC is sandwiched between Lake Geneva to the east and the Jura mountains to the west.

Two beams of protons, no thicker than a human hair, are circulated in opposite directions around the tunnels. The proton beams are guided by intense magnetic fields from thousands of giant magnets cooled by liquid helium to within a degree of absolute zero (-273C). The protons go around the LHC track 11,000 times per second. At various points around the LHC

NASTRO visits CERN

detectors sift through the data produced when the proton beams collide. New particles are created at these places and many exist for just tiny fractions of a second before decaying. The energies involved in the collisions and the particles which emerge from them haven't occurred in nature since the earliest moments after the universe was born. As one of our guides told us "We don't discover particles here; we manufacture them!"

CERN took NASTRO members to visit two experiments (see pic). The first was AMS-02 (the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer). A team of scientists at CERN monitors a detector on board the International Space Station. They're searching for signs of antimatter and dark matter among the billions of cosmic rays strikes being detected above the atmosphere. Later we were shuttled by minibus to the second experiment: the famous - among geeks and NASTRO members anyway – CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) experiment. CMS sits on the LHC ring and has vast detectors deep under the French countryside. CMS was partly responsible for the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012.

*Adrian Jannetta
Northumberland Astronomical Society nastro.org.uk.
To visit CERN (it's free!):
<http://home.cern/>*

Rotary Club news

President of the Rotary Club of Amble & Warkworth, Dave Shoemaker, gave a talk to the parents at Amble Links First School assembly on Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign. Dave also left two collecting tins and a Teddy Bear. The children have been challenged to enter a competition to name the Teddy from a list of 200 possible names. Entry to the competition costs 50p and the pupil choosing the correct name (as selected by the Head Teacher) will win the Teddy. The Teddy Bear is the symbol this year for Rotary's ongoing campaign to rid the world of polio.

When the polio vaccine was introduced in 1950 the disease was considered to be one of the most frightening public health problems in the world. In 1985, Rotary Clubs and their partners worldwide decided to try to eradicate the disease completely and teams

of Rotarians and volunteers were sent out to administer the vaccine. When a child in a village is vaccinated, a finger is marked with a purple dye. The number of cases has dropped dramatically and has been reduced by some 99% with fewer than 400 cases in the entire world in 2014.

However, the fight is far from over since the disease is still devastating Pakistan and Afghanistan and Rotary is still carrying on the fight. The World Health Organisation in July this year confirmed that Nigeria has reported no new cases and there have been no new cases in Somalia since August 2014. This is the longest period that Africa has gone without a case of polio.

Rotary's efforts have been described as one of the finest humanitarian projects the world has ever known and Rotary was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in the eradication task.



Some of the guests at Amble & Warkworth Rotary President's Night which was held at the Old Storehouse

Parents challenged with 53 bedtime stories

Parents and carers in Northumberland have been set the challenge of reading to their children every night until Christmas Eve to get more children reading and school-ready.

The '53 books at bedtime' campaign comes after a national literacy drive was launched by education secretary Nicky Morgan and children's author David Walliams.

Research shows that reading stories to children supports cognitive and brain development, communication and language, social and emotional development, but most of all an interest in learning and the basic skills for later achievement.

Northumberland County Council's early years team will work with children's centres,

schools, child minders and nursery settings to support families in getting children school-ready, and will be providing parents and carers with charts to keep a record of the books they have read to their children.

It is hoped that the charts will focus parents on developing their involvement in their child's learning. The data from the challenge will be used to help plan school-ready strategies in the future, as the new Ofsted framework highlights the need to include parents in the assessment and planning process.

Cllr Robert Arckless, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We want all children in Northumberland to benefit from the '53 books at bedtime' challenge.

"Reading stories to children has so many

benefits, and we know that there is already a lot of good practice across Northumberland. This extra push is aimed at those parents who may not naturally tell stories in the home.

"Although getting children school-ready is a complex process, we are focussing on an area that we know can make a difference. If we strive to read to children from birth, the impact will be even better."

Early years practitioners will be providing parents and carers with the '53 Books at Bedtime' booklet, along with advice and support on the process.

'53 Books at Bedtime' will start after the autumn half term on 2 November. One chart in each area will be picked at random to receive a £20 book token prize.

Wildlife Trust - every wild child

Over the years evidence has proved that there are health and social benefits for all ages resulting from contact with the natural world. Now, results from a new YouGov poll, commissioned by The Wildlife Trusts, highlight the discrepancy between what parents think is best for children and what they actually experience.

The new poll shows that 91% of parents of children aged 18 and under think that having access to nature and wildlife is important for children, yet 78% of parents are concerned that children don't spend enough time interacting with nature and wildlife.

The poll also reveals that 57% of parents said their children spend a little less or a lot less time outdoors than they did. More than half of children have never seen a flock of starlings and more than a third have never seen a hedgehog.

Steve Lowe, Head of Conservation at Northumberland Wildlife Trust said: "We will be physically, mentally and spiritually impoverished if our children are deprived of contact with the natural world. Contact with nature should not be the preserve of the privileged. It is critical to the personal development of our children."

In a bid to ensure every child in the UK has an opportunity to enjoy regular contact with nature, over the next year the Wildlife Trusts are inviting individuals, parents, teachers, schools and organisations to share their ideas on what needs to happen to put the wild back into childhood and make 'every child wild' as part of a new initiative aptly called Every Child Wild.

Further details on this wonderful project, log on at: www.wildlifetrusts.org/everychildwild.

In the frame for a fourth year

The North East Wildlife Photography Competition 2016 has just launched, with the three north east Wildlife Trusts, the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN), Great North Museum: Hancock and Alan Hewitt Photography joining forces for the fourth year in a row.

Nestlé Fawdon is the main sponsor and prizes being offered include £250, binoculars, photography workshops, wildlife watching trips and photography equipment.

There are six competition categories to enter: wildlife portraits, wildlife in action, wildlife in the landscape, nature up close, mobile nature and young person's, with prizes for each category winner and runners-up.

Entry is free and is open to everyone, but photographs must have been taken in the North East. Winning photos will be exhibited in the Great North Museum: Hancock and on tour around the region..

The competition closing date is midnight, Sunday 15 May 2016. Winners announced at the Great North Museum: Hancock Awards Ceremony on Thursday 14 July 2016.

To enter, and for more information, visit www.northeastwildlifephoto.co.uk You can also follow the competition via Facebook and twitter.

Lifesaver training

Would you like some free lifesaving/first aid/defibrillator training?

The Stephen Carey fund is holding a free lifesaving training session on Tuesday 8 December 5.30 pm at the Radcliffe Club. Session will last 1.5hrs /2hours.

Training is free and covers how to do CPR, the use of a defibrillator and will include practical demonstrations.

Call into the Lifestyle Clothing shop, 84 Queens St. and pop your name down on the list or just come along to the Radcliffe Club on the evening. All welcome!



Hauxley Nature Reserve open days

In Focus, Hauxley Nature Reserve, Sun 13 Dec. and Sun 10 Jan 10:00am - 4:00pm a free event.

Opportunities to try out a range of binoculars, telescopes and other optical equipment at our reserve. Please note, these events are running on the same days as our Hauxley Open Days so the reserve will be open to visitors. No booking just drop in on the day.

Hauxley Reserve Open Days, Sun 13/12/2015 - 10:30am - 3:30pm and Sun 10/01/2016 - 10:00am - 4:00pm

Join our special public open day to see the plans and progress on our innovative new visitor centre and new access works at Hauxley. Staff will be on hand to provide information on the works that are being carried out and answer any questions. This event is suitable for both adults and children. It is a free event but donations will be welcome. This is a Dynamic Druridge event.

Warkworth Golf club

The September equinox sees the end of the summer season at Warkworth Golf Club. Looking back over the season is always interesting.

The gents' trophies were shared out amongst members though the achievement of Gary Scott who won three times is worthy of note. A different story amongst the ladies though, with Betty Black being in the winners enclosure seven times. Little wonder she took the Ladies 'Player of the Year' award. Amongst the juniors the names of Kyle Brown, Freddie Bremner and Adam Wales all appeared more than once and Daniel Cook rounded off his junior career (he joins the ranks of the adults next season) by taking the final trophy of the year. With special mention of Freddie and Kyle, who have now got adult handicaps, and to Adam who managed to lop 13 strokes off his handicap to end the season on 15 (only two higher than his father). A list of all winners is available on our website.

The course has attracted high praise during the season, not least when it was mentioned by Ben Coley in his posting on the sky.com website and when it hosted the annual Northumberland Seniors v Juniors match. Thanks go to Alan Dalby, the greenkeeper and his assistant Ian Bruce. The clubhouse atmosphere and food has also attracted favourable comment due to the hard work of Gillian Gooding and her helpers.

The advent of winter does not mean the end of golf at Warkworth. Its renowned drainage means it is playable all year. It is for this reason that it attracts winter members from parkland courses such as Arcot Hall, Morpeth and Prudhoe who know they will be able to play throughout the winter months. Winter brings with it a comprehensive programme of Ladies and Gents fun (but still seriously contested) competitions, often using rarely used formats. Membership is open, be it all year or winter only. For details visit our website on www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk or contact secretary@warkworthgolfclub.co.uk or give us a ring on 01665 711596.

Coquet Churches Together - Messy Church

Coquet Churches Together has been hosting Messy Church family sessions during school holidays for the past two years.

From January, Messy Church will be happening on the third Sunday of every month at Trinity Methodist Church, Percy Street, Amble. Each session will start at 3.30pm in the hall, with craft, games, music and drama. This will be followed by a short period of family worship in the church and a tea will then be served at 5.00pm.

Activities will be particularly suitable for three to eight year olds, but younger family members are very welcome. While there is no charge to families, donations will be welcomed.

Messy Church will be held on Sunday 17th January, Sunday 21st February and Sunday 20th March.

Santa Claus is coming!

The Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth have announced the dates for the annual Christmas Collection in aid of local charities and good causes.

Santa Claus with his sleigh and team of helpers will be visiting your area during the early evening on the following dates:

Wed 9 : Red Row and Hadston North

Thu 10 : Hadston South

Fri 11 : Amble West

(starting at West Cres)

Mon 14 : Amble Central

Tue 15 : Amble East

Wed 16 : Amble South

(including 50 new houses)

Thu 17 : Warkworth South

Fri 18 : Amble (Gibson St, Cemetery Rd, Mariners' View, Warkworth North

Sat 19 : Queen Street (Morning only)

Mon 2 : Acklington and N. Broomhill



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

The traditional tale of a beautiful teenager whose life is threatened by an evil queen gets a Warkworth makeover in this year's panto, 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.

Glamorous killer Queen Caligula, so used to being called the fairest in the land by the spirit of the mirror Speak True, discovers a rival for the title in the shape of her step-daughter Snow White. Consumed with vindictive jealousy, the queen decides that the young upstart must be bumped off. Idiot assassins Bogwort and Stinkwort are commissioned to do the deadly deed.

Will they succeed or will she have to do the job herself? In their way are a handsome young prince, a warm-hearted royal housekeeper and seven dwarfs who take the young princess into their home for protection. The action is packed with music, romance and slapstick, and audiences will be invited to get involved with encouraging cheers at the sight of the goodies, loud boos when the baddies appear and wild applause throughout.

At the Memorial Hall in Warkworth on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 10, 11 and 12 at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets are available now at Warkworth Village shop and N&F Young or from www.warkworthdrama.org.uk £7 for adults and £5 children. Discounts are available for groups of ten or more.

Harbour Village events

A very Merry Christmas from Amble Harbour Village! We are enjoying some festive fun at the Harbour Village in the run up to Christmas and hope you will join us for some Christmas shopping at the pods and come and see what we are up to with our Advent Calendar (from 1 December up until Christmas Eve). There is someone new to meet and something new going on each day!

Come and help us decorate our Christmas Wishes Tree in the Seafood Centre and be in with a chance of winning a hamper of goodies from the Harbour Village Pods (minimum opening times 11am-3pm every day in December until Christmas eve).

Join us and our local partner groups on the last two Thursday evenings for late night shopping. Get into the Christmas spirit with our pods giving that Christmas Market feel, sample the festive fayre, enjoy the music, and browse the extra stands from local businesses in the Seafood Centre (4-8pm on Dec 10 and 17). 10% of pods profits each night will go to the selected local group/organisation to help with their fundraising.

We will also have extra activity going on each weekend in December:- 5 & 6 Kids Crafty Elf fun, 12 & 13 Mini Craft fair, and 19 & 20 Mini Food & Drink Market. So stay local and shop local for inspired, unique gifts and get into the Christmas spirit at the Amble Harbour Village this Christmas!

Royal British Legion

The branch committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy Xmas & New Year!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Royal British Legion during the recent Poppy Appeal. Through your generosity we can help support our forces and veterans.

Next Branch Meeting 7pm, Wednesday, 27 January 2016

Legion Room, Warkworth Memorial Hall

Speaker: Military Historian Stephen Moore M.A. to give a talk on Black Thursday - The Luftwaffe's Hardest Day

15 August 1940 saw the widest spread of Luftwaffe operations across the UK for the entire Battle of Britain, from Northumberland in the north east to Portland in the south west. The losses sustained on this day were the highest for the Luftwaffe on any day of the Battle of Britain, and it was remembered as 'Schwarzer Donnerstag' - by the survivors.

Dolphin view Christmas Party

We wish the Amble community a Happy Christmas, from the residents and staff of Dolphin View Care Home.

Christmas Party on Sunday 20 December, 1.30-4 pm. Entertainment and Buffet. Everyone is welcome.



Christmas coffee morning

4 December 10.00 to 12.00
Come and have a tea or coffee
Browse through our non-fiction book sale
Meet Pam, our digital champion, who will be happy to discuss any IT issues you may have.



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Arkless

will be holding surgeries on

Friday 29 January

at 6pm - 6.45pm in Hauxley Village Hall
and

Saturday 30 January

from 10am-11am in Amble Library

All Constituents Welcome

THE HARBOUR FISH BAR
TRADITIONAL FISH & CHIPS

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

Former Toon coach visits Tiny Woods

Tiny Woods Academy hosted the popular Striker School at Stobswold Welfare during the October half term holiday.

The camp was hailed a huge success. More than 40 children turned out to participate in fun, technical coaching sessions, learning different techniques on striking the ball, playing the role of a striker, finishing under pressure, attacking combination play and counter attacking.

Former Newcastle United Head Coach John Carver was a special guest and came along to present the medals, trophies, footballs and signed photos of professional footballers.

He was impressed with the set up stating 'The set up at Tiny Woods Academy is fantastic, I had a look around and the quality of the football from the children was excellent, but what struck me was every child had a smile on their face and that's what football is all about!'

Tiny Woods Academy is delighted to announce that Gateshead FC defender Nathan Buddle has joined the coaching staff.

Coaches, children and parents had a fantastic time in the annual Amble Christmas Lights Parade to kick off the festive season.

They will be having a Christmas Party for the children on Saturday 19 December with a raffle and tombola. If anyone would like to donate prizes they are more than welcome.

I would like to wish all Ambler readers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tiny Woods Academy would like to thank all the children and parents for their fantastic support during what has been a year to remember!

See you in 2016!

Josh Rutherford



Above: Jamie Dixon, John Carver, Josh Rutherford and Jamie Lauder

Torchlight procession images

(l - r) Eight year old Lilly Oliver meets Santa Youngsters riding in The Tavern's golden carriage One of the huge fish lanterns made in the community workshops run by Elaine Porter



Anna Williams



Vivienne Dalglish



Steve Emberton



Steve Emberton



Anna Williams

Above: Hundreds of fish hats were decorated by Amble Links First School, Edwin St First School and Brambles. Right: the procession filled Queen Street. Left: Transformers performed for the crowds.

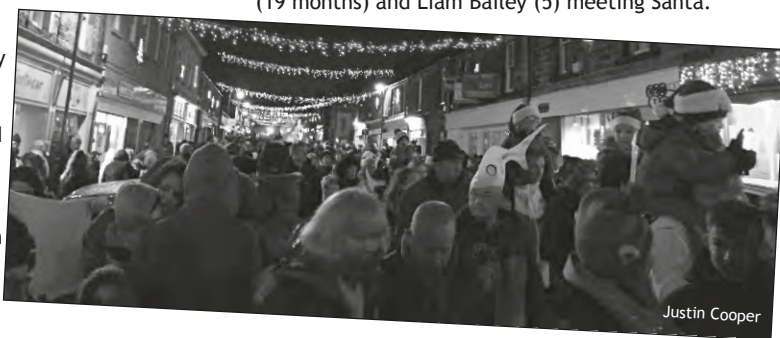
The event was organised by Amble Town Council, Amble Christmas Lights Committee, Amble Development Trust and Amble Business Club.

More images and video on our website, including the Transformers dance routine in the Town Square.

www.theambler.co.uk



Anna Williams



Justin Cooper

Above: Brothers Nathan Bailey (6) Paul Patterson (19 months) and Liam Bailey (5) meeting Santa.