



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 97 March/April 2016

Margaret goes for the chop

Long-haired Margaret Hedley from Amble is finally going for the chop, after having had long hair for most of her life. Margaret turns 70 in March and decided to shed her long locks whilst raising money for a cancer charity.

"My hair's getting too long and it's just hanging there, so if it's going to help someone, that's good. I've nearly always had long hair and it grows so quick, but it's finally time for a change," she said.

Margaret's chosen charity is Bright Red, based at Ward 33 at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, that cares for people in the north east suffering from blood cancer.

She had her hair cut into a short bob by stylist Kerry Allan at Phoenix Barbers on Queen Street on Jan 30 (see pic).

Kerry's mother Susan Wintrip was diagnosed with leukaemia and underwent treatment in Ward 33 in 2014. She is now 'doing fine' says Margaret.



Amble Pin Cushion supported the event with a tombola, and by selling golf hats with 20% going to the Freeman for leukaemia research. Phoenix Barbers, Circa and MKM in Alnwick also helped with the fundraising.

In total Margaret raised £1025. She said "I'm thrilled to bits. People have been so generous. It's absolutely great. Hopefully someone benefits from it."

Walkway opens along harbour



Coble Quay walkway is now open. Here are the "Harbour Gadgies" with Julia Aston of Amble Development Trust cutting the ribbon. I-r Julia Aston, Michael Mather, Les Thompson, James Pringle, Dave Doleman, Sid Tasker and Brian Wallace

Walkers can wander along the waterfront from the Little Shore to Coquet Street, now that the final part of the Harbour Village project is finished.

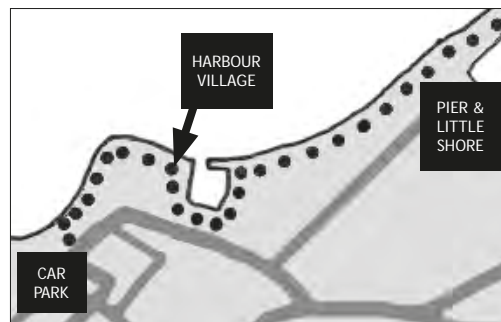
The Coble Quay walkway was opened by a group of locals who watched the development with interest as it progressed.

Julia Aston of Amble Development Trust said "This officially completes the final stage of the Harbour Village. The walkway means that there is pedestrian access from the Harbour Village round the Harbour to the Coquet Street car park".

Interim fencing has been installed at the Coquet Street entrance to the walkway by Northumberland County Council. This is a temporary barrier until the land which previously housed Coquet Shorebase Trust is sold.

The National Cycle Network route runs through the Coquet Street car park and around the edge of the Marina to the Braid. Pedestrians and cyclists are asked to take care if crossing the car park, which is privately owned.

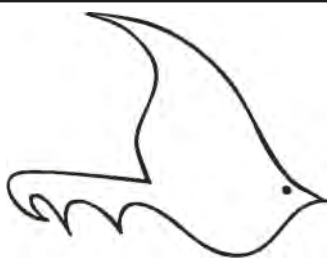
"This will be a lovely walk in the summer," said Julia. "Tourists and locals alike will now be able to enjoy a longer walk along our wonderful harbourside."



Above: The walkway provides pedestrian access all along the waterfront.

Below: Access from Coquet Street takes walkers across land which was previously the Coquet Shorebase Trust.





The Ambler

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Water thoughts and prize money

There's a definite nautical theme to this edition of *The Ambler*. We have stories on the floods at the beginning of the year which caused Low Hauxley and High Hauxley to consider a ferry service, (not really, but see page 18) and advice on fishermen's safety (page 15). There's local concerns on our beaches (page 5 and page 6) and relief over new marine conservation zones (page 4). There's even a look at the effects of global warming on our coasts (p10). All examples of how our coastline and livelihoods are interconnected. Even our young Artograffi journalists got their feet wet (metaphorically speaking) researching a story about the yacht "James Cook" which takes young people out on North Sea voyages and is in Amble for repairs.

Of course, we're still basking in the glory of winning a national competition. Amble was

voted (by you and by the Great British High Street judges) Best Coastal High Street, at the end of last year. The judges noted how our community groups work together, they loved our independent shops, and praised the way that Queen Street and the harbour area is now much better connected, now that the Harbour Village is open.

Our prize money is on its way - Amble gets £5,000 and the public are being asked what they would like to see the money spent on, see page 17. Let Julia Aston at Amble Development Trust know your thoughts (01665 712929, julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk). Also part of the prize, is free web/internet training by Google's own team. This will be held on Tuesday March 15. It's aimed at local businesses, so again, contact Julia if you are interested.

New Heads take up post at JCSC



l-r David Nisbet, Scott Dickinson and Neil Rodgers

At the start of spring term, children at James Calvert Spence College extended a warm Amble welcome to two Head teachers; Neil Rodgers is the new Executive Head and David Nisbet has just taken up the post as Head of School, Acklington Rd.

Both men were impressed by the friendly nature of the children and are looking forward to getting to better know the Amble community.

Neil Rodgers was Vice Principal of Red House Academy in Sunderland for many years, but knows Amble and Warkworth very well. "My mother-in law was born in Amble and we have come here as a family many times," he told *The Ambler*.

David Nisbet is just getting to know the area. Originally from Glasgow, he was Assistant Headteacher at Park View in Chester -Le-Street. "The children have been very welcoming" he said, "They're a really lovely bunch."

Co-incidentally Neil and David live in neighbouring streets in Whitley Bay.

In addition to academic achievement, both teachers promote the importance of community and family. Their aim at JCSC is to provide a strong supportive environment for all the children

all the way through their educational life.

"We aim for parents to be confident when they leave their children with us – either in Year 5, or for those starting even earlier at Acklington First School, – we will transform their children into well-rounded young citizens, ready to contribute to society, with opportunities maximised and with excellent exam results" said Neil.

"Getting them at Year 5 is very important. This is a relatively small school, where we can give them attention on a personal level, to ensure the best possible outcomes.

"The reason I applied here was because the school gets children from Year 5 all the way through to Year 13. We can really get to know them, their families and the community," said David.

"David and Neil have joined JCSC at a very positive time," said Chair of Governors Scott Dickinson. "Over the last three years, we've seen sustained improvements in our exams, and results are on par with our neighbouring schools. Our Ofsted results have improved, we are rated a good school."

Anna Williams

Volunteers step up after vandals and cutbacks hit public toilets

The public toilets in Amble's town centre were in danger of closure on Saturdays and Sundays, due to a combination of vandalism and cutbacks. But thanks to volunteers, a market trader, and Amble Town Council, they will continue to be open at weekends, until March.

The toilets at Amble Tourist Information had escaped closure over the winter, after county council cutbacks meant the opening times of many of Northumberland's public conveniences had to be reviewed.

However they were vandalised at the end of November, with approximately £1,500 of damage caused to the men's facility. This included smashed tiles, a porcelain sink kicked off the wall and a broken toilet seat. Vandals struck again in December; this time both Ladies and Gents were strewn with wetted toilet paper.

Northumberland County Council withdrew the operative who opened, cleaned and closed the toilets during the weekend from Amble. They also stopped overtime payments until the end of the financial year.

In December, Amble Town Council agreed to fund a four hour shift by a county council worker

so that the toilets at the Tourist Information Centre could be open for a time at weekends over Christmas. Since January a team of volunteers are opening and closing the facility on a Saturday.

Public toilets at the Harbour were set to close in November, but due to an agreement between a market trader and the county council, they are now open on market days.

Northumberland County Council spends approximately £600,000 a year on public toilets, with a third of the cost relating to opening, closing and re-stocking. The council is looking to make savings of around £150,000 over the next financial year.

The county council recently introduced a "You're Welcome to Use Our loos" scheme, where local businesses allow members of the public to use their toilets. Currently in Amble, the Harbour Inn on Leazes Street and The Tavern on Queen Street offer this voluntary facility.

Amble Town Council are asking for volunteers to join a rota of others who are opening and closing the TIC toilets on Saturdays during the spring. The conveniences at the Harbour are open on a Sunday.

Anna Williams



Above: Toilets at Amble Tourist Information were vandalised at the end of last year. Volunteers are opening and closing the facility on Saturdays

Below: Harbour public toilets at Broomhill Street are now only open on market days



Invitation to join in the fun: Puffin Festival

Once again plans are in progress for Amble Puffin Festival, which this year includes a craft fair and a food festival. And organisers are inviting everyone to get involved. The event runs from 28 May to 4 June 2016.

As usual, the week-long quirky festival celebrates all things puffin and will include guided nature walks, bird watching, local history/nature talks, exhibitions, arts and crafts, watersports and live music. There will be events to interest all age groups.

Of course to see the colony of over 20,000 Puffins, you need to take a Puffin Cruise. These family-run boat trips take visitors around historic Coquet Island. Weather permitting you will be able to see the Puffins and all the other wildlife who make this RSPB managed nature reserve their home. Please book well ahead as these trips fill up fast. (01665 711975)

Events run throughout the week, and are held in various locations in Amble. New



for 2016; a four day craft fair, Sat 28 – Tues 31 May, and a Food Festival on Sat 4 June, which will be held in the Town Square. The Colony music festival will also take place on Saturday 4 June, at the Little Shore.

Organisers are keen to encourage businesses, organisations and community groups to get involved in any possible way.

- Do you wish to be involved in any events listed above?
- Do you wish to sponsor an event?
- Do you have an event planned during the festival that you would like included in the programme?
- Can you create a puffin festival window display?
- Can you stock our programmes?
- Can you offer a small area of window space for school puffin pictures?
- Do you have any other ideas?

Please contact: ask@amble.gov.uk or 01665 714695

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmblePuffinFestival/

Twitter: @amblepuffinfest

Amble Puffin Festival is brought to you from a collaboration of Amble Town Council, Amble Development Trust and Amble Business Club

Contact: Julia Aston (Julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk) for a craft or food stall application form, or Elaine Brown (ask@amble.gov.uk) for more details. Website: www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk

There's a new mood on Queen Street

There will be a bit of a change around and a new name for one shop on Queen Street, as a menswear retailer becomes a ladies and gents accessories store.

Gillian Stewart is owner of The Man at 28-30 Queen Street, but decided it was time for a change after she could no longer get the menswear she used to sell. "The main supplier I had to get the end-of-line branded names has retired, and no-one else is doing it," she told The Ambler.

"We have always done accessories on a small scale. We'll be aiming for a Monsoon/Accessories-style, with bags, bright cheerful and flowery accessories, lovely jewellery and scarves. We're also going to be selling a small selection of quirky British-made skincare. We want to bring something fresh and new to the area."

The new shop will be called Moods and will sell men's accessories such as belts, wallets, slippers etc. in addition to underwear and nightwear. Ladies underwear, nightwear and bras will also be on sale. The shop also has a selection of bright colourful towels.

Moods will open for business on Saturday 19 March, and customers are encouraged to pop in for a glass of wine between 12 and 3pm on opening day.

Anna Williams

Coquet marine conservation zone welcomed by wildlife trust

A new conservation zone has been declared which affects the sea from Amble to Whitley Bay. The conservation status has been welcomed by Northumberland Wildlife Trust who see it as an important step forward in protecting marine life.

The area is one of 23 new Marine Conservation Zones announced by the government at the beginning of the year. MCZs are special places which include cold water coral reefs, forests of sea fans, canyons and sandbanks, and a varied range of submerged landscapes, all of which support the stunning diversity of marine life found around the UK.

In the North East, three new sites have been designated. Coquet to St. Mary's, Farnes East and Fulmar, the furthest offshore site in the North Sea.

Steve Lowe, Head of Conservation at Northumberland Wildlife Trust said: "What great news for the wildlife living in the North Sea and elsewhere throughout the UK.

"UK seas have the potential to be full of incredible life and colour but continued destruction has reduced them to a shadow of their former selves. Without these astonishing submerged landscapes there simply wouldn't be any fish, let alone fantastic jewel anemones, seahorses, dolphins, brittlestars amongst all the other wild and extraordinary creatures which are part of a healthy marine ecosystem."



The government says small fishing vessels may have to adapt to the new Marine Conservation Zone status

Marine Conservation Zones are protected areas at sea designated for habitats and species of national importance, including fragile seahorses, rare native oysters and even cold water coral reefs which give vulnerable species, including vital fish stocks, the time and space to recover.

Steve added: "We are pleased by this Government's commitment to addressing the decimation of our seabed over the past century, and

to delivering an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas - which is great news for the Farnes East and Coquet to St Mary's Island. This second step towards the completion of a 'blue belt' in UK seas is crucial in turning the tide on the state of our seas but there's still work to be done.

The list of Marine Conservation Zones was drawn-up by scientists, conservationists and sea-users, including local fishermen and others who use

the sea for work or leisure. MCZs will be announced in three stages.

"We look forward to working with Government and stakeholders to ensure these 50 MCZs are properly managed and to achieve the much-needed ambitious and comprehensive third and final tranche," said Steve. "This will be the start of turning our over-exploited and currently under-protected waters back into a healthy and sustainable environment."

Officials from the Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs acknowledge that MCZ classification could have an impact on ports and fishing livelihoods, but claim it will not necessarily restrict activity.

In their 'Consultation on proposals for the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones' report, they say:

"We appreciate that smaller vessels may have less capacity to adapt to the introduction of an MCZ in their area and we have taken this into account when considering designations."

"In terms of the effect on existing activities, when an MCZ is designated it does not automatically mean that economic or recreational activities in that site will be restricted.

"Restrictions on an activity will depend on the sensitivity of species and habitats for which a site is designated to the activities taking place in that area."

The 23 Marine Conservation Zones

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Coquet to St Mary's | 13. The Needles |
| 2. Farnes East | 14. Western Channel |
| 3. Fulmar | 15. Mounts Bay |
| 4. Runswick Bay | 16. Lands End |
| 5. Holderness Inshore | 17. North-West of Jones Bank |
| 6. Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds | 18. Greater Haig Fras |
| 7. The Swale Estuary | 19. Newquay and The Gannel |
| 8. Dover to Deal | 20. Hartland Point to Tintagel |
| 9. Dover to Folkestone | 21. Bideford to Foreland Point |
| 10. Offshore Brighton | 22. West of Walney |
| 11. Offshore Overfalls | 23. Allonby Bay |
| 12. Utopia | |

Students present cheque to Amble lifeboat appeal

Students from JCSC have been fundraising for Amble RNLI over the last year, and have collected over £2,000.

Pictured here is Drew Tailford handing over a cheque for £2,153 to Eleanor Cassidy, vice chair of Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers.

JCSC teacher Lynne Potts was full of praise for the young people. "We'd like to thank all who took part and the parents who have supported our fundraising actions," she said.

Eleanor Cassidy said "We'd like to thank the children, the parents, and everyone who has raised this amount. It's amazing really."

Anna Williams



Foreground: Drew Tailford Background I - r Linda Taylor (ALF), Lynne Potts (JCSC) and students Emily Fairbairn, Joel Tailford and Mollydee Mitchell.

Dog walker warns of discarded fishing weights

A dog walker has warned others to beware of discarded fishing weights, which could potentially hurt anyone on the beach.

Lesley Burton who recently moved to Amble was walking her dog on the beach at Hauxley when she spotted the lead fishing weight which had sharp metal spikes sticking out of it.

"It's lucky I spotted it," she told The Ambler. "Because of the red wire, I saw it before my dog could stand on it and get hurt."

When she got back to her car, Lesley noticed a second weight had been placed on a fence, presumably found by someone else and placed out of harm's way.

"These are potentially dangerous to anyone with bare feet, and to dogs," said Lesley. "I don't know how they come to be washed up. Is it an accident?"

Les Weller, secretary of Amble Angling Club told The Ambler that there were several scenarios which might lead to the weights being found on the beach.

"There's no one simple answer," he said. "Some get caught in the heavy kelp and the angler loses his weight, and after a big sea and big tides, the kelp is washed in with the offending article. It is common for some old boys to walk the beaches after a blow looking for the lead.

"Another possibility is the angler's line has snapped when casting, or he has lost/ misplaced them whilst fishing at night. Weights are not cheap, so no one would just discard them on purpose. In fact many anglers will go back the next day at low water to retrieve lost tackle, a lead weight costs about £2"

He was keen to point out that fishing tackle is not the only potential hazard on our beaches.

"My dog has cut his paw on glass twice now in the dunes at the southside of Alnmouth, due to broken beer bottles. Needless to say I do not go there anymore.

"And what can you say about the dog muck that plagues all the beaches and often the pier around here? And some anglers - like many other people - do not take care with litter."

He has advice for anyone who finds discarded lead weights on the beach:

"The best way to dispose of them is give them to an angler or drop them in the local tackle shop; they can be re used or melted down to make more. I would be happy to take them."

Anna Williams



Above: Lesley Burton and her dog Teddy, with one of the barbed fishing weights found on the beach near Hauxley

Pensioner left in the dark

Parts of Amble lost their electricity in the last week of January. Most people managed to cope, but Connie Keen of Eastgarth Avenue found life difficult, particularly as she is disabled and was not expecting to lose her electricity.

Connie told us, "We had four days of cuts, with no warnings. I got an apology each time I rang and was told it was a big fault that kept happening."

The first time it happened was at about 7pm. Connie phoned Northern Powergrid, who told her that it might be about four hours before it would be reconnected.

Connie has a stair lift, but thought that she wouldn't be able to use it. So she sat in

the chair downstairs with only a torch for company until 1am when the lights came on again. She has since found out that a battery in her stair lift will enable it to make two or three journeys.

A couple of days later, she got up just before 6.30am to get ready for a hospital visit, knowing that the ambulance was due at 8.30am. Almost immediately, the lights went off. She had her torch ready, but struggled to dress by its light. "I couldn't get a cup of tea, couldn't phone. Then I saw Hazel across the road open her curtains, so I flashed my torch to get her attention". When they saw the problem, Hazel's husband then brought Connie a cup of tea. "I really appreciated that!" she said.

Somebody did call to hear her complaints, at an inconvenient time. He promised to phone later, but did not.

In a letter to residents, Northern Powergrid apologised for the fault and explained what had happened:

"The reason is that the underground cable... has developed an intermittent fault, somewhere along its length, caused by damage to the cable which allows moisture to get in. After some time, possibly months, this leads to a short circuit, which for safety reasons, switches off your supply. The short circuit then creates heat, which dries out the damaged area and restores the cable to an apparently healthy condition."

Connie's main complaint is that she is described as being a "priority case". However, when she looked out of her window, other houses were lit up while she was in darkness. "So what advantage is there in being a priority?" she wants to know.

Norma Hinson

Sullivan Associates

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WHAT YOU SAY...

Should we save the rocket post?



I walked past the old rocket post at Hauxley Point last week, which as you can see from the attached photo I took, is perilously close to be washed away by the sea.

Is there any plan to save it or relocate it further inland? It would be a shame for such a long lasting historic landmark to simply disappear, and the cost to reposition it a bit further inland would not be excessive.

Maybe a fund raising campaign could start in the Ambler?

Tom Lloyd via email

Ed: What do you think of Tom's idea? Can any of our readers tell us about the history of the post?

Mariners View development fears

The last planning application for Mariner's View and Gloster Hill, Amble, was not supported by Northumberland County Council. There were major sewage and water run off problems and they concluded the development would have an adverse effect on local properties.

The new application slightly reduces the number and location of houses but reduces the 'affordable housing' element of the plan.

However in December there were two flooding and sewage pollution incidents at the bottom of Gloster Hill. Northumberland Water believe there was a once in 31 year chance of flooding happening here and furthermore any improvements to the system would not be 'cost effective'. So we face the problem of wading through or driving through toxic sewage, even before 48 new houses would add to the problem.

In addition the developers have told us that construction of a new site could take up to three years. This will mean heavy construction traffic would access the farm yard site up a narrow, dangerous road with a dangerous 90 degree bend. Construction traffic would also access the site through a small residential estate with narrow roads and poor visibility, causing serious safety and pollution issues for local residents.

We contend that this development has the most destructive implications of any development in the area and we will continue to oppose it.

John Bird Mariners View Amble

Recycling for Warkworth charity

Thank you very much as always to those who have donated items for recycling for charity

We can recycle the following - usable clothes, clean material, curtains, mobile phones, leather shoes, postage stamps, coins, watches, jewellery, spectacles, printer cartridges, CDs, vinyl records, DVDs, and working televisions or HiFi.

In addition we can accept bedding items such as blankets, sheets, pillows, cushions, sleeping bags, quilts, and duvets, (but not

mattresses) and usable kitchen utensils (but not electrical appliances) - all of which are needed for refugee services at present

If you wish to donate, please do so to Janice at Treetops, Station Road, Warkworth but please telephone 714 758 if collection is required or if donating bulky items. Details of charities for 2016 are on <https://sites.google.com/site/recyclingwarkworth/>
Janice Charlton, James Cox, Evelyn and Michelle Dodd via email

Christmas Lights needs you!

Looking back over the Christmas lights season for 2015/16, I consider it to have been another successful period and judging by the positive comments, so do many others around the town. Thanks to all who took the time to give the feedback. Once again the switch on and the accompanying parade proved to be a big draw, with many people supporting the event. It was nice to see so many children enjoying the night along with parents and grandparents, it was a real family affair. Well done to all that turned out, there was a lovely atmosphere in the town.

Of course, events like this don't just happen. There has to be a great deal of advance preparation, by too few people, from several organizations in the town. We are fortunate in Amble that most people in the town recognize and appreciate all that goes on.

The entire Christmas Lights team are busy throughout the year, not just in the run up to Christmas, everyone is really committed. The small, dedicated workshop team deserve special praise, working as they do most Wednesday mornings, sometimes on Sundays, always with good humour and often in cold, wet conditions. We also have several helpers, coming along when there is a greater amount of work to be tackled.

As with everything in life, the Christmas lights could not continue without financial support and every penny we raise is spent on maintaining, repairing and the making of new displays, also on essential overheads such as rent, insurance and electricity. We are all volunteers and I can assure everyone that no one expects or receives any recompense in any way, shape or form, nothing by way of expenses. That is the way it should be, and that is the way it is. Maintaining and improving the lighting displays can only be done with the support of local people, businesses, shops, pubs, clubs, churches, the Market Traders, the Town Council and so many individual people. On behalf of the Amble Christmas Lights committee, I wish to thank you all for your continued support.

Every year now, for several years in succession, I have made a plea for more volunteers, especially for the workforce in our workshop. Volunteers for the committee are also welcome. In the workshop we require people with a reasonable skill level when using their hands and tools, even better if you are happy working with wiring from basic level upwards, better still if you are a recently retired electrician.

In the past two years we have been using 12v DC circuitry, rope light and strip lighting so anyone interested in helping/ learning with any of these areas, we need you! Experience has shown that people recently retired fit in well, (especially those from the building trade,) because we usually meet at the workshop on Wednesday mornings. Alongside the work there is always plenty of banter and laughs so we usually have fun. When working on the street, confidence with ladders is very useful.

The current workforce has had no new blood for more than two years, in fact we have lost two members in that same period. Currently our ages range from 66 to 79 and new blood is definitely required. In the not too distant future the situation will become critical and if we cannot maintain an acceptable level of help, then at some stage in the future the Christmas lights may cease to exist. I do not consider Amble to be a large town, but come on, there must be some suitable volunteers out there, Where are you? I can be contacted on 01665 711453.

On behalf of the Amble Christmas Lights team, I wish all readers a happy, healthy 2016.

Trevor Colbourne, chairman, Amble Christmas Lights

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

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

WHAT YOU SAY...

Car Wars (The Phantom Menace)

It's Christmas time, the time of
good cheer,
The street should be bustling this
time of the year.
We have the street lights to
brighten our moods
The people are busy buying their
goods
We go to the shops with the best
of intentions
Young folk, middle age folk and
those on their pensions
So they park up their cars
wherever they can
Do all their errands and get home,
that's the plan
While we always endeavour to
support our high street
We have to contend with the
menace on two feet
They prowl about wearing the

black and the red
Filling the street user with a fear
and a dread
They lurk on a corner, in a
doorway, under an awning
Waiting to pounce on the cars
without warning
Yes we all of know the foe that I
mean
With a job that they relish, and
they are ever so keen
They stick on a ticket and move on
their way
I wonder how many they issue a
day
As I have said it's the season of
goodwill
We can all do without an extra
parking fine bill
(Written Christmas 2015)
By Drifter 55, via email



Fishing coble by Jill Brown

Sabotage at Low Hauxley

We currently have a piece of land, which is garden land for sale in Low Hauxley, which is being marketed by a local Estate Agent. We have had a lot of interest in the plot, however after every viewing, there is a follow up from someone, in the village, which deliberately sabotages interest by making false claims and advises not to purchase the land for reasons which appear to be either selfish ones or self-motivated!

We have the deeds to this piece of land and are aware of what can and can't be done with it!

I would rather this person, or persons came out of the shadows and dealt with me directly and started to mind their own business! If anyone knows anything about this, please contact me.

Peter Lowes, Peter.lowes856@btinternet.com

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Sea and Soil's home made treat

It was my 60th birthday on 11th January and I really wanted to have my birthday lunch in Sea and Soil (previously named Seasalt)

However they were closed for refurbishment and seeing my disappointment when I wanted to book in November for the big day, Jonny the chef said he would come to my home in Amble and cook for me there.

Well what a fantastic lunch I had with my 7 guests, having a superb party in the comfort of my own home with no cooking or washing up

We chose the menu between us, and Jonny and Julie served the delicious 3 courses, plus a wee treat from the chef before the desserts.

I can whole heartedly recommend Jonny and Julie to provide a stunning epicurean experience in your own home and to equal the quality and service of the food in Sea and Soil.

Thank you.

Claire Peiffer, via email

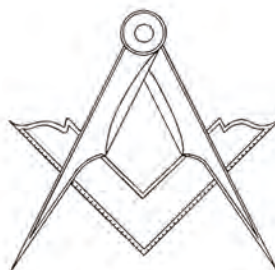
Xmas Lights Bottle raffle

The committee of Amble Christmas Lights would like to thank the following for their support for the bottle raffle, Derek and Susan at the Schooner Inn, Suzanne at the Harbour Inn, Wendy Baxter, window dresser, the Amble Angling Centre, Harbour Enterprise, Amble Bowling Club, N. Davison Windows, Northern Structures, Beck Ground Works, Northern Training Partnership, Lionheart Cleaning, Mossman and Gilliard, Amble Ind. Est. Car Wash, Aquarius Bathrooms, Amble (Bede St.) Club, VG Food Store, Amble Market, the Blue Bell, Bank House Stoves, Amble Scaffolding.

A total of £520 was raised by the venture.

Amble Christmas Lights Committee

LORD MARKWORTH LODGE 1879 GLOSTER TERRACE AMBLE



Meetings held on the second
Wednesday of every month

Masons visiting the area very
welcome

Enquiries for membership from
interested persons also welcome
subject to further enquiries
and interview.

TO BE ONE JUST ASK ONE

Interested?

Contact; Bob Catchpole: robert.r.j.catchpole@btinternet.com

The Lodge premises are also available for
Private Hire; Wedding Receptions, Christenings,
Birthdays or any other Special Occasion.

Function room suitable for up to 100 guests.

Separate Lounge/Bar suitable for smaller parties
(up to 25 guests)

Fully licensed bar and varied menus at competitive
prices. Quotations available on request at time of
booking.

Further information contact our Events Co-ordinator
Mr.G Gordon; Tel No: 07980412603

Or find us on Facebook at Amble Masonic Hall

New lifeboat to be named *Elizabeth and Leonard*

Amble RNLI's new all-weather lifeboat will be named 'Elizabeth and Leonard', in memory of a couple whose legacy will help partially to fund it.

The state-of-the-art new Shannon class lifeboat is currently being built at the RNLI's All-weather Lifeboat Centre in Poole, Dorset.



Amble RNLI's Shannon class lifeboat under construction at the RNLI's, Dorset.
Photo: RNLI, Alison Levett.

The total cost of the vessel is £2M and the charity still needs to raise the remaining £200,000 to enable it to complete its construction. A fundraising campaign continues, with the total amount raised standing at over £155,000.

Mrs. Elizabeth Foley Brumfield from Hull left a generous legacy to the RNLI following her death in 2013. She requested that it be used to purchase an all-weather lifeboat in memory of her and her late husband, Leonard.

Elizabeth was a lifelong supporter of the RNLI and her father was a marine engineer. She owned a holiday home in Filey and took a keen interest in the charity's lifeboat station there, often supporting its special event days.

Amble RNLI Coxswain, John Wingfield, said: 'We're extremely grateful that Mrs. Foley left such a generous legacy to our charity. Her overwhelming support means that construction of our new Shannon class lifeboat is well underway.'

'It's exciting to know that the hull of the lifeboat is complete and that our lifesaving vessel is taking shape. Though it's still early days, our volunteer crew is really looking forward to training on and trialling the new lifeboat when she arrives.'

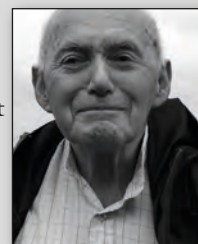
Gillian King, RNLI Community Fundraising Manager, added: 'It's fantastic that we've received such an amazing legacy. These vital gifts really do help to fund the future of lifesaving at sea. I'd also like to say a massive "thank you" to everyone who is supporting our ongoing appeal to raise £200,000 towards the cost of our new lifeboat.'

'We're well over the halfway mark, a point we couldn't have reached without the generosity of the general public, our supporters, Amble RNLI Lifeboat Fundraising (ALF) Committee and The Northumberland Gazette's Jam Jar Army appeal.'

To support the ongoing Shannon appeal or to get involved with fundraising, please contact: gill_king@rnli.org.uk or see ALF's Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmbleLifeboat/

Age of insecurity

The beginning of a new year is supposed to be the time to take stock. But what are we supposed to take stock of?



We could look at the big picture, and include international and local considerations. Conflicts, climate change, the devastation brought about by wind, wave, flood, drought, and earthquake are always in the news. Then there are the things in our own lives, like health, relationships, economic circumstances, and good or ill luck.

Whatever we're faced with, we need to find ways to cope.

The Climate Change Summit will try to get us to improve our environmental footprint. Should I give up my coal fire? Would central heating really be an improvement?

Can I do more to help people who are in very real need?

My Dad always said that words are cheap, and that actions were what mattered. I know that I talk too much, as I've often admitted. Like most folk, old and young, I have some rather rigid ideas.

You don't have to be an historian's bootlace to see that what's always brought about the greatest good for the greatest number is co-operation! At this time of 'Goodwill towards men' perhaps we could give it a go?

What am I going on about? How about starting with family, friends, workmates, people we meet, and people we know who have trouble?

A recent cataract operation made me realise how very special our NHS is. A wonderful young surgeon from overseas just smiled when I told her that she had better co-ordinations than many an athlete, she claimed that it was "just practice"

Harry McQuillen

Brian's music goes on TV

Good news for Amble singer songwriter Brian English, as his music video is being shown on the Made In Tyne and Wear TV channel.

"I wrote the song 'Newcastle' in 2008, it was recorded in January 2009 and we filmed the video in December last year," said Brian.

He emailed the video to the Made In Tyne and Wear TV channel early in the new year, and received a positive reply almost straight away.

"Andrew Bryson Photography did the video, he's my lifetime friend," said Brian. "He's from Amble originally but lives in Morpeth now. The recording engineer was Ally Lee – he's been recording my songs for over 20 years."

The song 'Newcastle' will be used as a filler in between programmes. The video is also doing well on Facebook and YouTube. Search for 'Brian English Newcastle'.

"I was proper buzzing!" said Brian. "I've been sending tapes away for years, but when someone wants to use your music it's a really good feeling. Some people have said the lyric hit them – scenes of Newcastle and the people I used to see every day. And the nightlife and students, it's what I take in. It's my little anthem for a great city."



Please help local children

Northumberland County Council is seeking more than 35 new foster carers to help local children and young people.

Northumberland Foster Carers can look after single children and sibling groups aged from 0 to 18 years old. More foster families are particularly needed to provide:

- long term homes for children aged 7 upwards
- short term stays to help teenagers prepare for independence
- a home to keep brothers and sisters together.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services Councillor Robert Arkless said "We urge you to call or visit our website to see if fostering could be for you and how you can make a positive difference to the life of a child, whatever type of care you offer."

See more online: <http://fostering.northumberland.gov.uk> or ring 01670 62 62 62.

Climb aboard at Coquet Yacht Club

Watersports in the North East Region had a significant boost when the Coquet Yacht Club became the tenth club in the region to achieve RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Training Centre status.

RYA Training Centre status is only awarded to accredited establishments that meet their rigorous safety and teaching standards..

"Coquet Yacht Club is, and will continue to be a well established centre for offshore sailing in the region. Taking the club on towards RYA Training Centre status seemed a natural progression," explained Richard Hope, Commodore of Coquet Yacht Club.

"It has taken a lot of hard work by a dedicated team. Led chiefly by Mark Phillips, our Training Centre Principal, and driven by our past Commodore, Phil Derry, the club has been transformed in the past two years."

"We have acquired more land, providing storage for more boats during the winter and more dinghies all year round; a redundant council toilet block will be converted into family friendly changing facilities and showers and we now have a new balcony with magnificent views of the coast. With grant aid from Sport England we purchased two, state of the art, Laser Bahia sailing dinghies which, in conjunction with the club's Toppers, we will be using for training courses. Full members can hire these dinghies for their own use. Whether you've never sailed before or you've got a lifetime's worth of ocean bashing experience, there will be something here for you."

"The coming years at the club will focus on family sailing and family friendly events; we already have a youth section but would like more. It is easily possible to purchase



a decent, second hand dinghy for less than the price of video and gaming consoles. At Coquet Yacht Club we are all volunteers, which is how we can provide such good value: we've all swept the floor and cleaned the toilets. Full training for volunteers is given, including going on courses if necessary, and we can always use more help."

For more information visit www.coquetyachtclub.org.uk or email sailinfo@coquetyachtclub.org.uk See also page22.

Has no-one any work to do? Bartle Rippon looks back on 2015

What a year 2015 turned out to be. The opening of the Harbour Village; an achievement of foresight and hard work to turn a run-down area of the harbour into an attractive area to visit, buy crafts and food.

Next came our 'quirky', successful Puffin Festival. The entertainment for the Bank Holiday weekend was fabulous. The Town Square was full with stalls, entertainers and people. The evening talks were well represented especially Dr. Ben Burville's talk on under-water filming of the wildlife in our coastal waters.

Not long after was Harbour Day for Amble's

RNLI team. They were given what seemed a mammoth task of raising a huge sum of money towards the new Shannon Class lifeboat.

By this time I had slipped back to Perth in Western Australia feeling a little lost not being in Amble. I had already begun a group on social media called 'Amble in Old Photographs'. The word began to spread and so too did the wealth of photographs. They were phenomenal. The membership grew from 83 to a staggering 3000 just after Christmas. Comments have shown the pleasure Amble folk all over the world have had. The biggest laugh I had was the comment from Rodney Burge

who said, "Has no-one any work to do? I'm holding Bartle Rippon responsible for all the cooking and cleaning that ISN'T BEING DONE!"

The town was entered into the National Coastal High Street Awards and I'm proud to say the 'Group' did their bit by helping Amble to WIN: a fabulous effort from all who voted.

The year ended with the Christmas Lights procession. I watched the video clips and photos of the occasion from Perth. However, I did make it back for Christmas in time to enjoy all the lights and festive activities.

Looking forward to 2016 and the next Puffin Festival at the end of May. See you there.

In Sync: Your health is your wealth

IN SYNC would like to thank the local community for their wonderful support over the past three years. To bring in the new year, the clinic welcomes on board, the addition of four new therapists.

I'd like to introduce you to them (from port to starboard in the photo)... Hazel Small (founder of In Sync), Angela Nowland, Veronica Assadi, Amanda Barrell and Ruth Iglesias Cuevas.

Many of you already know me, HAZEL SMALL, as a local lass but, I'll refresh your memories (our sea air can sometimes blow away more than a few cobwebs!) I provide Sports and Remedial Therapy; Colonic Hydrotherapy and various Holistic Therapies.

ANGELA NOWLAND (currently a partner in a flourishing dental practice in Cramlington) is available for nutritional and natural skin care advice, including dermal fillers, lip enhancements, botox, and teeth whitening.



VERONICA ASSADI is offering a counselling service. She has a background in mental health nursing and education and a wealth of understanding of the challenges individuals face on a daily basis.

AMANDA BARRELL some of you may already know her from her Tai Chi classes in Warkworth OR Creswell beach in the summer! Amanda is offering 1:1 Tai Chi classes, shiatsu massage, meridian balancing and relaxation.

Finally, hiding her baby bump, is our Medical Herbalist, RUTH IGLESIAS CUEVAS. Ruth has many years experience helping clients with a wide range of health problems (myself being one of them!). After consultation, she will advise you on the most appropriate way to treat the problem and prepare for you herbal remedies to either ingest or apply topically.

To contact therapists directly please use the following numbers:
Hazel 07943827439
Angela 07834985596
Veronica 07545810510
Amanda 07885682078
Ruth 07942048739

Over the coming months, In Sync will be providing more therapies/services, to promote the health of local people. Further advertisements will be made in the Ambler. In the meantime, remember - 'Your Health Is Your Wealth'.

Hazel Small, founder In Sync

How climate change is affecting the wildlife on our doorstep

by Célia Fery

Is this the greatest threat to wildlife?

Climate change is leading to what many believe to be an extinction episode of our planet's ecosystems, and is driven almost entirely by human activities. Through these actions, man has become the main actor on the global warming stage. For several years, the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere is gradually and significantly increasing, particularly because of greenhouse gas emission.

How can we contribute to save our environment?

The famous RSPB reserve of Coquet Island is home to a large diversity of seabirds. Unfortunately, many of the species which nest there are seriously threatened with extinction. The numbers of Puffins, Sandwich terns and Eider ducks are declining, whilst Coquet is supporting the last sustainable colony of Roseate terns in the UK.

Climate change is the major root cause of declines but the activities of man are contributing to the dramatic decline of some of these species, particularly with the development of tourism, the introduction of invasive species and overfishing. For wildlife, this has serious consequences.

Habitats are disturbed, destroyed or fragmented. In addition, food availability is becoming increasingly scarce. In these ways, competition and predation between different species, as well as between individuals from the same species, is becoming critical. Habitat loss and the decrease of food resources are the driving forces in the extinction of endangered or threatened species. These events are happening all over the world.

Roseate terns are the UK's rarest breeding seabird and a globally declining species. Nearly all Roseate tern adults present on Coquet Island are ringed, and each year all new chicks are ringed at their nests.

Beach huts plan at Little Shore



WARKWORTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS have submitted plans to Northumberland County Council, for eight beach huts at the Little Shore, constructed in traditional timber framework, and painted in colourful pastel shades. It is not proposed for them to be inhabited overnight.

Traffic, industry and agriculture produce gases which amplify the natural greenhouse effect. Alarming, this temperature increase is becoming a planetary-scale problem. Seabirds across the world are affected, but also, marine mammals, fish and many land animals.

Global warming has numerous consequences: Firstly, increasing air pollution and the acidification of oceans; secondly, melting of the ice caps, and rising sea levels. This is becoming a serious problem for species such as seals and polar bears which

need the ice floe for reproduction and moving around their territory.

Human populations living by the seaside are also at risk, especially by flooding in coastal areas.

Gulf Stream cooling is another consequence. Of all the ocean currents, the Gulf Stream is one of the strongest; it brings warmth to Europe and North America.

This cooling is a serious problem for fish adaptation, and thus, for their survival. It is probably the cause of the marine food chain collapsing.



Coquet Island is a designated nature sanctuary, but it too is under threat from climate change

Thus, it is possible to monitor and identify where each bird has come from and how old it is, as well as the discovery and identification of new individuals joining the colony. Each ring has a unique code so this registration procedure offers a means of absolute identification.

In the UK, Roseate terns, historically, were found nesting in Scotland (on islands in the Firth of Forth) and in Wales and some on the south coast of England. In fact in the 1980's the highest population of Roseates was in Anglesey.

Unfortunately, these populations have totally disappeared, and the only remaining Roseate tern colony has found a safe haven on Coquet Island. For this reason, the island is designated as sanctuary and protected under the European Law and the public is not allowed to land. It is very important to protect and carry out conservation activities to support this species, as well as to safeguard the habitat on Coquet Island.

Obviously, one sole territory is not ideal. If this habitat degraded or disappeared, the species would become extinct in the UK.

In England, nature reserves host lots of threatened seabird species. Despite their critically endangered status, a high number of remarkable species is able to live on our coast.

Nature reserves have a significant role that we should not ignore. However, the creation of these protected areas is no longer sufficient since the world is in constant change. If we want to protect wildlife we have to help it to cope with climate change.

In addition to restoring and re-creating natural habitats, we need to provide new and better ones; namely, those that are resistant to global warming.

At the same time we should try to protect the sea where feeding is vital, and to limit environmental pollution. Currently, the RSPB is protecting Roseate terns' nesting sites by the creation of artificial shelters. Their behavior is amazing because after every migration, each bird goes back to its own shelter.

Of course we can work with past data and census results, but to be even more effective and make a difference, we should be interested in developing a global database. This way, we would be able to protect the species not only on the scale of a city or country but rather worldwide.

Let's not forget that the protection of our environment should be our common goal, and that can only be achieved through active collaboration.

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

Saving money ...and selling stamps



Amble Post Office staff: l-r Helen Dryden, Beryl Hewson, Maureen Seaton, Susan Modral and Bryan Hewson

It's celebration time at Amble's Post Office on Queen Street. They are not only marking their third year as a Main Post Office, but also the number and range of services they offer. Bryan has been Sub Postmaster in Amble for 15 years, and is well known for his friendly and entrepreneurial spirit; his mantra is "we don't just sell stamps!"

He's also keen to remind people that they can get cash at each counter position – why stand on the street in the cold?

With a huge range of products and services on offer, the Queen Street Post Office can help save you money.

Maureen Seaton, Customer Relationship Manager explained what's on offer:

Amble Post Office offers:

- Life Insurance
- Home Insurance
- Car/Van/Motorcycle Insurance
- Business Insurance
- Pre-Paid Funeral plans
- Savings accounts (including ISAs, Instant and Reward Savers as well as 1,2 & 3 year Growth Bonds and Children's Savings)
- Credit cards
- Mortgages
- Home phones and Broadband
- Travel Insurance, all major currencies in stock and pre-loaded Travel Money Card
- Passport Check and Send application service
- ...and they even sell stamps!

****STOP PRESS****
Amble Post Office has been awarded the 'Best Branch' across the entire network of 11,500 offices in Q3, which puts them in the running for the 2016 National Annual Awards in London

returning to replace other policies or recommend friends and family.

Mrs H saved £403 on her car insurance, while Mr D saved £1300 on his home insurance, which is a UK record.

"One lady came in and she said she doubted I could save her money, because her existing home insurance only cost £56. I had a look and found her a policy with an exact match, which was only £6! She couldn't believe it. She was thrilled," said Maureen.



Maureen Seaton

"We have a range of services; we can find cheaper insurance, a range of savings accounts, credit cards, mortgages and home phones and broadband. We even offer pre-paid funeral plans.

"We are not selling products, our aim is to help them save money," she said.

"If someone comes in for car or home insurance and they leave with matched cover, saving them £50, it's fantastic. In our last nine months, we've helped 300 people save money. All together we've saved people in Amble thousands of pounds."

Maureen's genuine enthusiasm to help her customers is echoed in the star rating of the Amble Queen Street branch.

Of 200 other Post Offices in the UK who signed up to provide this level of service, Amble is rated number 4 in financial services and 12 for telephony.

Customers are so pleased with the savings they have made, they are often

"I love my job.

Customers are now ringing up to make appointments. If I can save them at least £50 then it's a good job done!" she said.

The Queen Street Post Office is open 9 – 6pm Monday – Saturday. Pop in to chat with Susan, Helen, Beryl or Bryan to arrange a private appointment with Maureen.



Infinite Air

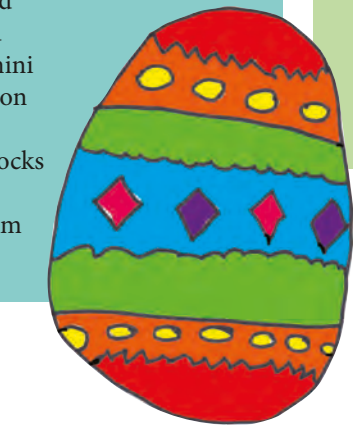
At Durham I went to Infinite Air, it was so cool. Infinite Air is a trampoline place, but they're adding a free running section too. It was very cold there and it took an hour to get there. You watch a video of what you're not allowed to do there.

There is a dodgeball section where you play dodgeball on the trampolines. There is a basketball section with 3 posts in rows and you shoot the ball in while bouncing on the trampoline.

There are 4 white trampolines which are really bouncy and you can jump really high and do tons of tricks. The next section is where there are trampolines on the wall, a ramp trampoline and tons of cool trampolines to jump on.

There are 2 trampolines that you jump then leap onto a massive air bag, but you are not allowed to land on your feet or head (or if you do it 3 times you are forced to leave the place). The second part of the air bag is a high place where you flip (just don't land on your head) and land in the airbag. It doesn't hurt at all, and next to it there's a square, which is a mini trampoline where you jump and land on your bum, back or front.

You have to wear greeny yellowy socks which have grips on the bottom, but you can take them home and have them forever. By Hope.



daily bumps

Daily Bumps are a Californian family on YouTube. Missy and Bryan are the parents to extremely cute boys named Oliver and Finlay Lanning (pictured). They have had some very tough times and have lost two babies. They have a YouTube channel which has a total of 1,104,678 subscribers. Bryan has his own album and became number 1 on iTunes with his album 'Like a lion.' by Bethany



What is a Leap Year?

A leap year occurs once every four years. It takes 1461 days for the earth to orbit the sun every four years. In order to divide that into a year, we have an extra day every four years, which is added onto the shortest month, February.

Proposals during the Leap Year

In Greece, getting married in a leap year is considered unpromising, and the relationship is thought likely to end in divorce.

A well-known leap-year marriage superstition belongs to Ireland. Women are advised to propose only on leap days for good luck. Legend says that St. Brigid asked St. Patrick to grant permission for women to propose marriage, after hearing complaints from single women whose significant other were too shy to propose. He allowed women to propose every leap day. The legend suggests that Brigid then dropped to a knee and proposed to Patrick, but he refused, kissing her on the cheek and offering a silk gown to soften the blow. The Irish tradition therefore demands any man refusing a woman's leap-day proposal must give her a silk gown.

By George-Anne Carnegie

Young people's boat ready to set sail again



A boat which takes young people all over the North Sea is about to go back into the water after being repaired in the Amble boatyard. The James Cook is a 21 metres, 54 tonnes ketch boat. Every year it takes up to 500 young people (aged 11-25 yrs) on voyages. Captain Grace Metcalfe has been the skipper of the James Cook for 7 years and was the youngest skipper in the UK Tall Ships fleet. The James Cook is owned by the Ocean Youth Trust North, the charity set up the James Cook to take young people on a journey of self-discovery.

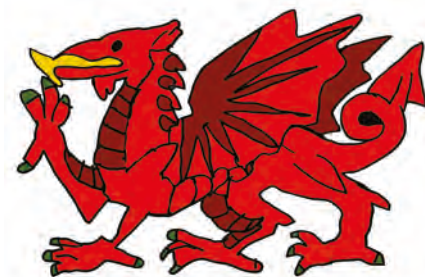
Using a crane, the boat will be lifted into the water before being fitted with two masts.

On each voyage there is a crew of twelve and it has sailed as far as Iceland.

A team of young reporters from the Ambler is going to the boatyard to interview the crew and captain and film the James Cook for our website.

By George-Anne and Lily

DEN OF DRAGONS: ST DAVID, ST PATRICK AND ST GEORGE



Ava drew a Welsh dragon for Saint David's day which is on 1st March



Lily created an Irish dragon for Saint Patrick's day which is on 17th March



And Hope drew a "Toothless" dragon for Saint George's day which is on 23rd April

St Cuthbert's Day is on 20th March.

St Cuthbert is the patron saint of Northern England and he was the first person officially who cared about protecting birds.

The Eider ducks you see in the harbour are also known as "cuddy ducks" There is a stained glass window of St Cuthbert with his cuddy ducks in St Cuthberts church in Amble.

By Emma-Jane
Eider duck by Lily



Binky and the Valentine dance

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

It was coming up to the middle of February, and the annual Valentine dance in Bibblemouth, Binky's hometown.

Binky knew exactly who he wanted to ask, but just couldn't work up the courage to ask her.

'Besides,' he thought glumly, 'she's probably going

with Cedric. He's popular and clever, unlike me.'

But when Bazzle said that he was going with Lotus (a pretty girl that lived in the village), Binky realized he was the only boy not going with someone! He knew he had to work up the courage and ask his Valentine if she would go with him.

Binky knocked on Blossom's door and waited for her to answer. When she did it took him three tries

to tell her he wanted to go to the dance with her and hand her a flower- he was so nervous! But when he finally managed, Blossom gave him a hug.

"Finally!" she sighed with a smile, "I've been waiting for you to ask me!"

For the whole night, Binky and Blossom danced happily. It was the best night of Binky's life; he was very glad he'd asked Blossom! By Lily



Mother's day!

On Sunday 6th of March it is Mother's day where children celebrate their mothers. It all started about 150 years ago and became official in 1914. Anna Jarvis started this to honour our mums.

Here are some things you could do for your mum on Mother's Day...
Make her breakfast in bed or get her some chocolate, bake her a cake, give her tea or wine and let her relax, or even make her something - and you can't forget cards or flowers!

By Bethany



(Is it real, or is it a doll?)

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- Acklington
- Chevington
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- Alnmouth

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EASTER



Leazes St, Amble, NE65 0FD

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Browse the wonderful arts, crafts, gifts and accessories. Sample the delicious, locally sourced and freshly made food and drinks. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and friendly welcome of the Harbour Village

Open all over the Easter holidays

Don't miss the extra Easter weekend activity in the Seafood Centre

Good Friday (25th March)

Seafood Sales 12 noon - 4pm

Saturday 26th March

Seafood sales and cooking demonstrations

Easter Day & Bank Holiday Monday (27th & 28th March)

Farmers Market

For more information visit www.ambleharbourvillage.co.uk

Freemasonry in Amble: what is it about?

There has been a Masonic Lodge in Amble for 136 years. Lord Warkworth Lodge 1879 was warranted on August 16 1880 following application to United Grand Lodge of England (U.G.L.E) by 21 members of Alnwick Lodge 1167 on March 31 1880. The ritual of Masonic consecration was held on January 14 1881 at the Assembly Rooms in Alnwick.

The first meeting of the Lodge was held on February 9 1881 at 51 High St. (known as Green's Buildings) which had been adapted for the purpose.

In its early years the Lodge made steady progress and in 1897 the Congregational Church at Gloster Terrace was purchased at a cost of £205.

The membership increased to 200 and three cottages to the east of the building were purchased at a cost of £600 in 1924.

Further progress was made in May 1930 when Greenfield House was purchased at a cost of £1,000 which also included four cottages at the rear of the Lodge

and a large plot of land which is now the car park and the undeveloped land leading down to Matt Fuels coal yard.

The Lodge premises were suitably extended and modified in time for its 50th Jubilee in 1931

Many of the readers of this article may ask what is Freemasonry about? There are many official websites explaining in more detail what we are about, and I would recommend anyone interested to visit www.ugle.org.uk and/or www.northumberlandmasons.org which provide much more official information than I can in this short article.

Much of the work of Freemasons concentrates on charitable giving in the fields of health, welfare of the elderly and education and relief of poverty and hardship.

Many grants are awarded to non-masonic causes and lately towards disaster relief.

Lord Warkworth Lodge tries wherever possible to assist in local good causes and in recent

years has supported Amble lifeboat, Xmas lights, Food bank, GNAAS and the Age UK day centre at the Methodist Church.

It is intended to hold an open week at the Lodge to coincide with the Puffin Festival week May 28 - June 4 2016. The week will open on Sat May 28 with a concert by the Village Voices choir from Seahouses.

Further details will appear in



Lord Warkworth Lodge, home to Amble Freemasons

The Ambler nearer the time. We hope to see you there.

Bob Catchpole, Past Master 1879

Loss of limbs, life and loved ones: The tragic impact of deck machinery



Fishermen in the North of England are being urged to stay safe by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), with figures showing 88 people were injured or killed in deck machinery incidents on fishing vessels in UK waters over the past five years.

Furthermore, RNLI lifeboats in the North of England were required to launch 66 times to commercial fishing-related incidents last year, rescuing 113 people and saving four lives.

As well as encouraging skippers and vessel owners to apply for funding through the European Maritime and Fisheries

Fund (EMFF) to help replace older, more dangerous deck machinery on their boats, the RNLI is encouraging fishermen to take extra care on deck – with a new safety video being released in partnership with Seafish.

Jamie Griffin, former fisherman from the Isle of Man, was the victim of a serious deck machinery incident in 2013 when he lost his arm after becoming tangled in a winch while operating the drum end. Jamie's hard-hitting story is featured in the new safety video.

Data released by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) shows that four

fishermen tragically lost their lives in deck machinery incidents from 1 January 2011 to 10 November 2015, with a further 84 injuries being suffered by commercial fishing crew.

Worryingly, deck machinery incidents are believed to be significantly underreported, meaning it is highly likely that many more injuries have been suffered over the past five years.

Frankie Horne, RNLI Fishing Safety Manager, said: "Commercial fishing can be demanding and dangerous, especially in rough conditions throughout the winter months. "All fishing crew should be fully trained on the equipment they are using and regular risk assessments should be carried out to spot hazards and dangers on deck".

Steve Clinch, Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents at the MAIB, says: "Year after year, the MAIB receives numerous reports of fishermen suffering crush injuries, amputations and even death as the result of accidents involving deck machinery on fishing boats.

"Sadly, in almost all cases,

accidents which occur when operating deck machinery are avoidable if fishermen undertake some basic training and adopt safe working practices. I would therefore recommend this awareness video to all fishermen, but especially skippers".

You can see the video and how to apply for an EMFF grant at www.RNLI.org/DeckMachinery

Safety training in Amble

Anglo Scottish Seafish Training is based in Amble Marina and has been an Approved Seafish Training Provider for the last twenty five years. They provide courses in fisherman's training.

Many of the courses are held at the Amble Development Trust offices and are aimed at the safety of fisherman.

Dennis Osborne who runs Anglo Scottish Seafish said "We are here to reduce the accident rate within the industry, by running courses locally, many of which are free".

You can contact Dennis by popping into the Marina or ringing him on 07702042551.

Coquet Shorebase news

We are starting to look forward to the summer, and hope it will be warmer and less windy than 2015!

The Coquet Canoe Club will be starting its regular Sunday sessions at the Shorebase on April 17 anyone can turn up and join in. From 10am – 1pm the emphasis is on juniors (8+) and the coaches will be looking to give them a good time, while other club members do their own thing – maybe a paddle up the river or out to sea, surfing or just skills training. There are usually some paddlers out in the afternoon as well. And adult beginners will always find someone to coach them through the basics.

Wednesday evenings (6pm – 9pm) start on the April 20, and are aimed at those with some basic proficiency (not complete beginners), so that paddlers can be more adventurous. A trip out to see the seals round the island is always popular when the sea conditions are favourable.

It doesn't cost much to come along, and all equipment is available for hire – you just need old shoes, bathing costume and a fleece jumper (or similar – our wetsuits don't have sleeves so you need to wear something under them).

If you don't know how to find us: we are the new building on the Braid, upstream of the Amble Boat Club.

Our Windsurfing and Sailing Clubs have regular sessions on the Lake at Druridge Bay Country Park – all equipment provided for a small hire fee. They cater for juniors and adults. See www.coquetshorebase.org.uk for details

See you on the water this summer?



Vic Brown

Vic Brown, Coquet Shorebase Trust

Break in at Brambles nursery

Our Multiple Magic group is held on the last Friday of the month. It is a free drop in session to support multiple birth families and provide them with fun activities and social opportunities.

We also have our Bramble Berries on Friday 1.30pm -3pm another free drop in session for parents/carers to meet and for their children to access fun activities (up to 18 months of age).

We would sadly like to mention that on January 13 we opened our nursery to find that we had been broken into, causing over a £1,000 worth of damage. We are a community based not for profit organisation, providing the care and learning needs for local families for nearly twelve years, and this has never happened before, we hope that it will never happen again. (We never keep money in the building over night).

To finish on a happier note our preschool children have been learning about space and have created their own space ships, we tweeted Tim Peake the astronaut and sent him some pictures.

Pauline Donoghue, Centre Manager

Invitation for community groups to join in and have a say

Northumberland VCS Assembly provides a collective, independent and influential voice for the voluntary and community sector in the county and we want to ensure it is fully representative of the myriad of organisations in the county. The more representative the Assembly membership is, the louder its voice can be!

Voluntary and community sectors work across a whole spectrum of need – from tackling heart disease, helping the homeless, giving sanctuary to animals, to looking after

our ancient monuments, running community centres and village halls or offering days out to elderly people who'd otherwise be trapped at home.

We invite you to join Northumberland VCS Assembly if you represent a voluntary or community group so you can have a say on any issues. The Assembly exists to represent, inform and support you. Membership is free so please join online or email assembly@northumberlandcva.org.uk

The Assembly has a democratically

elected Executive committee that meets on a regular basis. The committee holds seats on the NCC VCS Cabinet Advisory Group, which meets quarterly.

Membership means that you can attend Assembly meetings and regular network events across the county. You can vote in Assembly elections and can get in touch at any time with issues you want to raise with the Executive or with public sector partners.

Ann Atkinson, Assembly Development Officer

Get the stories on the bus

'No Fires In Tring', a book about life on a local weekly newspaper has been published as a paperback.

Written by former Northumberland County Council PRO Colin Heathcote, the book harks back to the 1960s when stories for the Berkhamsted Gazette were hammered out on an old Underwood typewriter and sent by bus to nearby Hemel Hempstead where the copy was converted into lead type at the local printing works.

Paul Barnes is a 21-year-old aspiring journalist who, after leaving school with a couple of O levels five years earlier, finally lands a job as a reporter with Hertfordshire Newspapers Ltd.

Paul is on cloud nine and fantasises about getting great scoops and winning journalistic prizes for his reporting and writing skills.

He soon comes down to earth as life as a junior reporter on a weekly newspaper in a small town does not provide the type of exciting 'hold the front page' stories he had fondly imagined.

But Paul buckles down to the tasks at hand, be they re-writes of WI reports, attending council meetings, writing up weddings and obituaries - taking care not to misspell names, doing endless filler paragraphs of minor road accidents, chimney fires and petty crimes, and typing out results of numerous gymkhanas, school fetes and flower shows.

Every now and then the monotony is broken by major stories such as local witness accounts of a plane hijacking by the Popular Front for The Liberation of Palestine and the invasion by Soviet forces of the then Czechoslovakia; a heroic rescue

Said Colin: "Whilst the obtaining of the newspaper stories has been embellished for comic effect, the articles in the book are as appeared in the Berkhamsted Gazette. The characters are based on people working for the company, although names have been changed."

"The book helps reflect life on a rural local weekly newspaper in the mid to late 1960s; a world which has long since disappeared. Since those days many dozens of small weekly and regional daily papers in the UK have disappeared to be replaced by free papers, news web sites and information churning social media networks.

"A career in weekly or regional newspaper journalism or photography is now, sadly, open to comparatively few young people as papers increasingly source their 'news' and pictures from the public and PR practitioners."

Colin is married with three children and a young granddaughter, he lives in Warkworth.

Originally released as a Kindle download, 'No Fires In Tring' is now also available as a paperback through Amazon.



Welcome to Trust Life and let us begin with a huge pat on the back for everyone of you who voted for Amble in the Great British High Street Awards and made winning possible – you and the fantastic shops and businesses we have of course. Ann Burke, chair of Amble Business Club and I attended the awards ceremony at Admiralty House in London, (quite an auspicious location,) along with representatives from all the other nominated communities. While there was a lovely buffet provided by Boots and M&S neither of us could eat anything; it could have been anticipation or it could have been nerves!

During lunch we were joined by Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP before being invited into an anteroom for the announcements. Anne-Marie was every bit as excited as we were and if you have the opportunity of watching the video you can hear Ann and Anne-Marie's joyous yells of 'YES' when Amble was announced. My own celebration was far more muted of course (not)!

I have to say in my experience of working with the Trust, this is one of the projects that has most inspired participation from the community. You haven't just sat back and hoped something would happen, you took part and made it happen – thank you. An additional bonus was that one of the judges was so impressed with the town, he came back with another colleague a few weeks after the judging.



l-r: Ann Burke, Anne-Marie Trevelyan and Julia Aston with GB High St judge

Next we would like to invite you, as the community who supported the Great British High campaign to suggest ideas for what to spend the money on. It isn't a great amount - £5k, which we would like to go as far as possible to make / provide something that will make our street even better than it currently is. We need to apply again next year and hopefully win the overall prize. So put your thinking caps on, anything reasonable will be considered within any process we have to comply with. For example, the funders may stipulate certain things, or we may require some form of legal agreement or planning approval. I know this may sound boring but everything has to be considered before we can proceed.

We have now received quotes back for works on the affordable housing above our Queen Street property. The successful contractors have been informed, and while we need to trim the costs down further we expect work will have begun by the time you read this.

Re the Harbour Village: we expect the village to be quiet now the Christmas activities have passed, but there will be lots to look forward to in the next few months.

Sarah, our Harbour Village Co-ordinator is now working part time, and has been joined by Helen (who is also a Seafood Broker). They have a range of events in the pipeline and we also hope to have an official opening ceremony in the spring.

The Seafood Centre has also been pretty quiet for trading given the weather conditions, but with a fair wind this should change soon. At this point we would like to thank the fishermen who have supported the Seafood Centre so far, and hope we can provide you with greater sales in the coming months.

In the last Trust Life, I encouraged everyone to comment on the one-way system which was to begin in December. Latest information looks as though this has been delayed. We are trying to find out why, given we are all involved in the process more information should be forthcoming. Process can be very frustrating!

Julia Aston, Director, Amble Development Trust

Residents to benefit from free central heating

Some residents in Northumberland are set to benefit from a new scheme which will see free central heating fitted to a number of homes without, or with only partial, central heating.

Thanks to a £6.5m Government grant, the project led by Northumberland County Council, is part of a nationwide Central Heating Fund scheme to tackle fuel poverty.

The £6.5m funding was awarded to

a scheme involving nine north east local authorities including Northumberland County Council. Northumberland residents who may be eligible for the fund will receive a letter with full information.

Councillor Allan Hepple, Cabinet member for Economic Growth with NCC said: "We're delighted to be able to begin installing free central heating into the homes of those who need it most.

"Fuel poverty is a serious problem, particularly in rural areas like Northumberland but by offering this support to residents we are able to improve the energy efficiency of homes as well as resident's general health and wellbeing."

Residents can find out more information by visiting Northumberland County Council's website: www.northumberland.gov.uk/freeheating.

Connie Mossman

The Ambler team were saddened to hear that at the amazing age of 108, Connie Mossman has died.

Connie was born in Amble in 1907 and lived in the area her whole life. Even in her centenary years, she continued to lead an active life in Amble, enjoying time with her family and in her garden.

Connie died on Christmas Eve, leaving behind a daughter, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

She was a wonderfully interesting lady and will be sorely missed by many for her lively interest in Amble and its people.



Connie Mossman

Through the lens photography competition 2016

The competition is jointly organised by St Cuthbert's Parish Church and The Amble Photographic Group. The two categories for 2016 are Movement and Water. Classes in each: Up to 10 years, 11 to 18 years, Adult

Entry will be £1 for adults, but juniors free. Up to 10 entries per person, but each must be accompanied by a separate entry form. These are available from Development Trust at Fourways2, St Cuthbert's Parish Church, N & F Young Queen Street and The Amble Photographic Group on Friday mornings at Trinity Methodist Hall.

Closing date for entries will be 31 March 2016. Mounts to be no more than 20" x 16".

Each entry should have on the back, name of photographer, title of picture, category in which entered and contact telephone number or e-mail address.

The exhibition of entries and prize giving will be on 30 April, 1 May and 2 May in the Parish Hall.



Hauxley Parish Council

New Councillor – At a meeting held 11th January, members agreed unanimously to co-opt John Lightfoot onto the Council. John has lived in Radcliffe since 1989. Due to his imminent retirement from working in the oil industry he would like to contribute to the environment and quality of life in the local area.

Hauxley PC needs you – There is still 1 vacancy on the Parish Council. The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Monday of March, May, July, September, November and January. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

Budget 2016/17 – The Parish Council has agreed to increase the precept by £400 to £4000 in order to cover financial commitments in the year ahead. After careful consideration councillors reached unanimous agreement that an increase was justifiable. The parish continues to have one of the lowest precepts in the county based on the number of households.

Resignation of Clerk – We are in the process of recruiting a new parish clerk after Miss Brown submitted her resignation after 5 years as clerk.

We hope to have a new clerk in position from March, although Miss Brown has agreed to remain employed until the end of April for completion of the year end accounts and for an efficient hand over to the new clerk.

Flooding in Village – Due to the recent flooding in the village, the Council asked the NCC Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Team to carry out a site visit. The team looked at two separate areas of flooding: the road connecting Hauxley to Low Hauxley and the area at the allotments.

The team were also informed that flooding occurred, but quickly subsided, at Kirkwell Cottages. It is believed this quick subsidence was due to the recent works carried out to the outfall of the nature reserve. The nature reserve and the drainage of it are unrelated to the other two areas which continue to be an issue.

The road flooding is happening because it is the lowest point in the surrounding area. The officer noticed that there are a number of highway gullies along this stretch of road, so investigation will be carried out to check that they are clear and running freely. NCC Highways Department are aware of the issue and will be investigating.

The flooding at the allotments is also another low point in the landscape. After the level of rainfall we have experienced, ground water is at such a level that we are experiencing an inundation of water at low spots. The officer was made aware of a culvert inlet within the farmer's field just to the north of allotments, the outfall of this culvert is located on the beach, this has recently been cleared out and water is now flowing. The inlet is however still underwater. Once the water has subsided, inspection of the inlet will be carried out to determine whether there are any maintenance issues.

Next Meeting – 6.30pm on Monday 14th March 2016 in the Village Hall, Low Hauxley

Contact details: Parish Clerk:
Miss Elaine Brown

4 Simonside Cres. Hadston Morpeth NE65 9YB
Telephone: 07588659600 Email:
hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk

Floodwater reluctant to recede at Hauxley

Flooding at Hauxley on Boxing Day caused road closures around the village, with some parts cut off for weeks as the floodwaters refused to recede. Parts of Hauxley Lane between High and Low Hauxley, and the access road to Silver Carrs caravan site and Nature Reserve remained underwater for weeks. Residents commented on Facebook that flooding on Hauxley Lane at School House had not happened for decades, and some stated that the drains are not maintained and so would likely be blocked.

Despite repeated visits and investigations by Northumberland County Council, the floodwater and road closure remained until the end of January. NCC told The Ambler: "The piped drainage network connects all these areas together and eventually flows out onto Hauxley Links. Northumberland County Council is working closely with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust and the Caravan site to ensure the system is able to drain freely."

Low Hauxley allotments were so badly affected, one man even took to his canoe! By the middle of February, water levels at the allotments remained two feet deep. For more on the floods, see Hauxley PC column (left).



The flood on Hauxley Lane at School House resulted in the road being closed for several weeks. The road flooded again after heavy rain in mid February.



At Christmas, Low Hauxley resident Geoff Hay had to use a canoe to check on his allotment. By mid February the floodwater was still six inches deep.

Everlong paint - now on TV

A shabby chic paint brand developed in Northumberland is now setting the standard across Europe, creating new jobs and securing its own spot on the Sky TV and freeview Hochanda crafts and hobby channel.

Everlong Superior Finish Paint was launched in Amble in February 2015 and the business is on course for a £400,000 turnover in its first 12 months. The company has gone from zero to 160-plus stockists in just eight months, with customers across the UK and Ireland, Holland, Malta and Greece, with main distributors in the Netherlands and Northern Ireland.

Created by shabby chic upcycling specialist Sarah Ashurst, Everlong is chalk paint with a unique finish that means it does not need to be sealed with wax. It is child-safe, non-toxic and complies with the EN71 safety standard. Available in more than 20 colours, many with local names such as Amble Sea and Castle Keep – named after Warkworth Castle – the paint and its packaging are all produced locally.

Sarah said: "I originally developed the paint from a user's perspective, because I found flaws in all the brands that were on the market when I was carrying out commissioned upcycling projects for clients."

"It's unbelievable that Everlong has experienced such phenomenal growth in just a few months. But it is a tried and thoroughly tested product, and I'm delighted users are enjoying the same success with it as I did. "Now we're taking Everlong Paint to an even wider audience after being asked to showcase the product on the Sky Hochanda channel."

Former newspaper advertising executive Sarah quit her job in August 2013 to run her upcycling and gift shop business Everlong in Amble, which also supplies upcycling accessories such as fireplace moulds and ornate door knobs, and offers free workshops for crafters.



Sarah Ashurst

Everlong has expanded from a one-woman band to an SME with eight members of staff. The business has taken on two apprentices and more warehousing space to meet demand from customers.

Sarah said "I'm proud to have developed a product that is made and distributed in the North East and is creating jobs in rural north Northumberland. It's fantastic to see the positive support we've had from people in the region who know about renovating furniture and how Everlong paint can make such a difference to their work."

What we see of Amble now is just the latest version of our town. It may help to have a human guide, but one can still find landmarks and pointers to the past.

- Our Tourist Information office is a good starting point. The War Memorial (and its smaller neighbour from Radcliffe) together with our Town Square, show developments from different eras. Look to the west to see a big car park, once our showground, and the masts of boats berthed in the Marina. Walk past Spurelli, our award-winning ice cream parlour, to find our Harbour Village, with its pods and seafood centre.

- Walk through the pods to the riverside. Look up the river to see Warkworth, then down to the harbour mouth. There was no harbour mouth at Amble until 1764, when the River Coquet broke through in a flood. Look around to see the coastguard station, the lifeboat station, the big blue shed used by Amble Boat Company for boat maintenance, and our new tall riverside flats.

- Turn right past the Old Boathouse restaurant and around the dock on your left. Look inland to the high grassy bit with the stone wall on top, which marks the course of the railway lines, used to carry coal to wooden coal staithes, following the opening of Warkworth Harbour

in 1844. It's "Warkworth Harbour" because Amble didn't achieve parish status until we got our own C of E church in 1870. Walk toward the pier and you will see the chute of our fishermen's ice maker. That's the area where the other coal staithes were situated.

- Walk along the pier and look across to the North Pier, on the Warkworth side of the river. For many years our South Pier was rickety, until replaced in 2000 providing what must be Amble's favourite walk! The North Pier was said to cost £7m to reinforce with large whinstone blocks, about 30 years ago.

- Walk along the concrete Breakwater, looking at our wonderful rock pools, and the Little Shore on the right. Walk up the steps and past Cliff House, the large white building that was once the home and offices of the Quarry manager. Down below Cliff House is our newly-renovated play area. That's where the water filled quarry was for so many years. Many of Amble's houses were built with stone from the quarry.

- Walk back down the steps, turn left and walk round the rest of the little shore area. The lovely stone building is the Harbour Office, now occupied by some very nice artistic people. The Dolphin View Retirement Home was built on the site of the Amble Engineering Company, where many sea-going and

A long walk around Amble

land based engineers were trained.

- Walk back to our riverside viewpoint next to the Lifeboat Station. Find the walkway on the left which takes us past the new flats and into the car park we saw from the Town Square. Look towards the Marina and its boats, and find the fenced path on the left which leads to a big green area known as the Braid.

- Keep to the right past the entrance to the Marina to see three lots of boats in a sort of social hierarchy. We find the Marina, Coquet Yacht Club and Amble Boat Clubs. The concrete wall below Amble Boat Club is the last remnant of a shipyard, built in the 1920s. Next we see our new Shorebase Trust used for canoeing and sailing.

- Walk across to the Warkworth Road and turn left toward Amble. On the other side of the road is an obvious flood plain. We can imagine what it was like on the day in 1764 when the River Coquet broke through at Amble; continue into Amble to reach the bottom of the Wynd.

Near the bottom of the Wynd on the left there's a sign for Victoria Villas. Walk past the houses and up a footpath to the Catholic Church, on the right at the top of the path. Beside the church are the

remains of a building, a stone window, in an area that once belonged to

the monks of Tynemouth Priory. Walk round to the wooden church hall for the best viewpoint in Amble - look and enjoy.

- Walk out on to High Street and look across at the oldest building in Amble, the Wellwood Arms, which was once a farmhouse. Turn left and walk down towards Queen Street Amble's award winning main street. Queen Street has just been voted the best coastal town main street in the country. Our shops are varied in architecture, age and variety. We have lots of eating places, so take your choice. Back to the Town Square and our circuit is complete.

- Of course Amble has much more to see. How about trying to find out where the railway lines went? Our railway station lasted until the 1960s and it would have been visible from Fourways 2, our Development Trust building in Dilston Terrace. How about looking for our churches, schools, playing fields and anything else that catches your eye?

Harry McQuillen



Harry McQuillen

REPORTS FROM OUR

I now chair the Tenants Voice housing forum. Housing management should be returning directly to the council, following feedback from tenants saying they would prefer this to Homes for Northumberland.

I serve on the Housing Working Group which reports to the Council Cabinet. The new group, Tenants Voice, was promised as part of the consultation process. The majority of members will be tenants, with cross party representation from County Councillors, including me.

As the Conservative Government's housing strategy develops, it is clear that there are some radical proposals for change which have an impact on tenants:

- Benefits changes
- "Pay to Stay" the amendment to the Housing Bill suggesting social housing households with a combined income of £30,000 should pay "market rents"
- The extension of the Right to Buy to Housing Associations
- Year on year rent reductions over the next four years of 1%

Many of these proposals undermine the council's aspiration to continue to build new council housing and make the continuation of housing maintenance programmes almost impossible. As a package they have been described as a concerted and deliberate attack on social housing.

I have represented an area with elements of council housing for over 30 years and I know it is a key issue. The challenges are unprecedented and it is important that at a local level tenants' views are considered.

In respect of the council's own housing strategy the current Homefinder system is under review.

Budget issues

The budget for the next financial year was set on February 24. Savings targets of £28.8 million were identified in the current year's budget, £15.5 million in the next financial year, and as announced by Government in December a further £96 million for the period up to 2019. There is no protection for Fire and Rescue services. The Leader has lobbied Government over funding for flood damage and outlined the scale of problems faced in Northumberland.

It is welcome that Government has announced more flexibility for the setting of Council tax to support Adult Care services.

Robert Arkless

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

County Councillors

There has been a lot of discussion recently about the planning of new housing developments in Amble and its immediate surrounds.

Two applications in particular have provoked strong responses from local residents. They are both technically in the Warkworth Parish but are inextricably linked to Amble. These applications relate to the Gloster Hill/Mariners View area. One application is for 6 homes and the second one is for approximately 50 homes. The applications are from different people.

After site visits by County Councillors of the Planning Committee, NCC Planning Officers asked for further information and subsequently both applications have been delayed until that information is forthcoming.

Without going into great detail as to why, I can inform you that I strongly object to the proposed development of the 6 homes and have registered my objection to the council as have both Amble and Warkworth Parish Councils

The second application is not yet final and I await the finished application but I do have concerns about this application as well. The pressure that will be exerted on already strained local facilities by these new developments (if passed), combined with the recent extensive developments in Amble, will be difficult to cope with by residents

I have become aware of the deterioration of the parts of Acklington Road, particularly near the Welfare Ground and I have asked for repair work to be carried out as soon as possible as it is a well used road and is in very poor condition.

As ever I am available to you on

Jeff Watson

Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk Telephone 07802385367



Amble Town COUNCIL

Meetings 6pm unless stated otherwise- please note new time

Town: 10th March ; 14th April 6pm

Amenities Committee: 31st March 6pm

TOWN HISTORY TRAIL

LAST YEAR a small group of councillors began work on a revamp of the town history trail. The Green trail has been reversed and some changes made to the route itself. This means new maps for the notice boards and a new leaflet, with some revised wording. Not everyone is able to get a leaflet, so we are adding some numbered waymarkers along the routes so that anyone just out walking can more easily follow the trails.

We will need to get agreement from some other organisations and individuals for these places. If Warkworth Parish Council agrees, there will be a new notice board and a seat placed on the Braid as you enter from the pedestrian gate on the A1068; hopefully new notice boards in Links Road and at Paddlers Park too. The 'lookout' on the grass overlooking the dock will also have a notice board and a distance marker for added interest. We hope it will all be ready by this summer but definitely by Spring 2017.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

"WHAT a dreadful new year" heard so many times already. Yes there's been a tremendous amount of rain and very cold dark days but let's view things from a different angle. Look at all our small town achieved last year- rated seventh of the 'Coolest Seaside Towns' by a national newspaper; 5th in Coast magazine's 'Best Up and Coming Seaside Towns' and winning the Coastal Communities section of The Great British High Street Awards. A wonderful display of Christmas Lights and a fantastic parade. Wow- enough to brighten anyone's day!

Thankfully our town has not been blighted by the terrible floods which have devastated so many homes on what should have been a time of wonderful family gatherings.

Primroses are showing their cheerful faces, spring bulbs are poking through the soil - all telling us of good days to come. Let's look forward with a smile and a word of encouragement and good cheer for all.

Councillor Helen Lewis

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS AND YOUTH ACTIVITY PROVIDERS

A NEW YEAR sees changes for our local middle and high schools with a possible amalgamation but also a new head teacher in place. The council is keen to work closely with all the schools as our young people are this town's future. We already hold meetings with those who provide activities and interesting things for those who are 18 and under. We hope to produce a handout outlining all these so young people can be better informed of what the town can offer them.

By the time you read this, the chairman hopes to have met with the new head to discuss ways in which young people can be involved in helping their community. We hope to help them understand that when they leave school and become a greater part of 'the outside world' there is a two way process involved; communities may give you opportunities to expand your horizons in many different ways but they also provide a means of helping you to grow in ways you may not yet have thought about. Helping others can develop more self confidence, thoughtfulness, a greater sense of well being and the wonderful sense of satisfaction in helping others achieve their goals. We have already worked with pupils to highlight better control of dog fouling at the Welfare; the Army Cadets help at community events and there has been help during the Puffin Festival. No doubt, other organisations have young people helping them. We are sure there are many more ways for greater involvement and this is a goal for 2016.

COMMUNITY WORKING WITH H. M. P. NORTHUMBERLAND

FOR A FEW YEARS we have had regular meetings with Sodexo representatives keen to see the prisoners at H. M. P. Northumberland involved in projects to help local communities. This gives them work with a focus but also a feeling of doing something worthwhile for society. It also means that our community is helped in numerous ways.

The first examples were the Coal Truck floral displays around the town but since then we have had seats refurbished and lately the wonderful picnic tables and benches for Paddlers Park. Christmas saw some beautiful banners which were displayed in the Harbour Village and the Council Offices. We will shortly take delivery of two metal seats, which they have produced, relating to World War 1 and the Coal Mining Industry. We are in discussions about signs and banners for the Puffin Festival, having plants grown for our floral displays and then work on the History Trail way markers mentioned on this page. We hope this partnership will flourish as working together benefits us all.

PUBLIC TOILETS

UNDER N.C.C.'s autumn review, it was decided to close Broomhill Street toilets at weekends in winter and leave the Tourist Information Centre ones open; but following consultation with a market trader, Broomhill Street toilets are now open for the Sunday Market.

Unfortunately, there have been two cases of considerable vandalism to the T.I.C. toilets, resulting in closure for a time. Weekend opening of these toilets was changed again in December when N.C.C. neighbourhood services were informed that there would be no overtime payments up until the end of the financial year. At that time there was one operative contracted to work on Saturdays. After repairs, in the run up to the New Year, a time when many people were using our shops and local facilities, council took the decision to pay for NCC staff to cover weekend working. Over the bank holiday period, councillors and the clerk volunteered to carry out the opening and closing in collaboration with the NCC worker.

It was hoped this spring, working alongside the NCC person, a rota of volunteers from various organisations and the community could be formed to ensure opening of these toilets on a Saturday, with use of the Broomhill Street facilities on a Sunday. While this was being arranged, NCC informed us they could no longer assist with Saturday opening. However the council has still decided to open and close the T.I.C. toilets using the volunteer rota until mid March; further discussions will be needed about Easter opening.

EAST WARD:
Robert Arckless,
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

Amble Photo Group

We are a friendly group and if you are interested in improving your photographic skills you are welcome to join us at Trinity Church on Fridays from 9.30am until 12 noon.

March 4 we have John Thompson judging a group competition. John is most interesting and has lots helpful hints

March 11 Geoffrey Bradford with a lecture called "The next stage" A thought provoking and interesting lecturer.

March 18 An in house group activity "You are the judge"

You will find full details and information on our web site: amblephotogroup.com

WWI Centenary exhibition

Warkworth and Acklington Heroes featuring The Battle of the Somme, WW1

Saturday 2 July 2016 Exhibition 10am - 5pm Warkworth War Memorial Hall

Free Admission - Donations welcome

WW1 militaria, uniforms and postcards

Warkworth Village Choir.

Poetry readings, WW1 music,

Northumbrian Piper, Last Post

Refreshments available all day Commemoration Service at War Memorial 1 July 12am. Proceeds to Royal British Legion

Northumbrian Ceilidh

Every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. (Doors open 7.00pm).

Dances, songs, recitations with live music from "REEL NORTHUMBRIA CEILIDH BAND".

Tickets £5 on door.

For further details contact Pete/Kate on 01665 711388.

No bar. Please bring your own refreshments and glasses.

N.B. Our first birthday is on Tuesday 8 March.

Activities with the Wildlife Trust

Dusting the Dunes, Druridge Bay, Fri 4 Mar 10am - 3pm

A beach clean blitz for Dynamic Druridge to celebrate the Clean for the Queen initiative. Please wear weather appropriate clothing and be prepared for beach habitat. Litter pickers, gloves and bags will be provided, however resources are limited so attendees are asked to bring their own equipment where possible. Please meet at Cresswell car park. This is a Dynamic Druridge event.

In Focus, Hauxley Nature Reserve, Sun 13 Mar 10am - 4pm

Drop in to try out a range of binoculars, telescopes and other optical equipment. These events are running on the same days as our Open Days so the reserve will be open to visitors. Free event, no booking just drop in on the day.

Pond Dipping, East Chevington, Sun 13 Mar 11am - 2pm

Drop in to find out what is hiding in some of our reserves ponds and celebrate upcoming World Water Day with our Living Wetlands Officers. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult. Meet at the locked education hide. This is a Dynamic Druridge event.

Hauxley Reserve Open Day, Sun 13 Mar 10am - 4pm

Public open day to access the site, see the plans and progress on our new visitor centre. This event is suitable for both adults and children. This is a Dynamic Druridge event. Free event but donations welcome. No booking just drop in on the day.

Volunteer to help fellow citizens

Volunteering for Citizens Advice has been described as 'the most rewarding experience of my life' by one of our volunteers. Citizens Advice is a registered charity and we rely on volunteers to provide the service which helps so many people within your local community.

The Citizens Advice Offices in Alnwick and Amble have helped over 2,500 people on a wide range of subjects. The problems we are most often asked about concern employment, debt, housing or benefits, but we help people who come to us with any enquiry, consumer rights, legal matters, and immigration.

Northumbrian Citizens Advice is looking for more volunteer advice workers for our Alnwick and Amble offices. Training is available to help develop the skills and knowledge you need and we are able to cover expenses such as travel costs.

People volunteer with us for lots of reasons and find that volunteering with their local Citizens Advice is enjoyable, rewarding, and challenging. For many volunteers, the best thing is getting to meet new people, whilst for others it's learning new skills and gaining confidence.

There's a real team spirit and we make sure that you get the most from your time with us.

Whatever your reason for volunteering, this is your chance to make a difference to the lives of other people.

For more information, contact *Elizabeth Garrett* by on 01665 604136 or e mail: trainingalnwick@northumbriancab.orgcabnet.org.uk

Shannon Appeal update

To date the Shannon Appeal is sitting at just over £155,000 - with just another £45,000 to go until the £200,000 needed to bring a new Shannon Class Lifeboat to Amble, a fantastic effort in only 18 months. That total is due wholly to the continuing support of the public through the numerous events organised as well as including the Jam Jar Army Appeal, the sterling work of the Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers and the local community. We have already started planning for this year's Harbour Day on August Bank Holiday Sunday, and are hoping to attract a variety of attractions, and stalls to keep everyone busy on the day.

Events coming up soon:

Sunday 27 March - Easter Coffee Morning

Saturday 16 April - Ceilidh at the Radcliffe Club. Tickets £3 available on door.

Coffee Mornings are held on every 3rd Sunday in the month.

Our **AGM will be on Wednesday 2 March** at RNLI Amble Lifeboat Station from 7pm - and we are hoping to encourage new committee members to join the fundraisers.

Further details at www.facebook.com/groups/635856733176602/events/

Rotary Club news

Recent speakers at the Rotary Club meetings have included: Sarah Sanders from the RSPB, Rotarian Bill Wake, The Reverend Christine Shield and Rotarian Charles Lamb. Members also enjoyed the annual Burns Night Supper at The Old Storehouse.



PLEA FOR NEW MEMBERS

At the January Rotary Council meeting it was announced that three potential members have been invited to attend future meetings. However it was felt that more should be done to attract new members to join, particularly people who wished to become involved in helping the communities of Amble and Warkworth. Rotary is not a male-only organisation and anyone who is interested in finding out more about what we do visit our website "ambleandwarkworthrotary.org" and click on "Contact Us".

At the recent meeting, Rotarian Derek Conway, Chairman of the International Committee, reported that the club had sent £1,000 to District Governor Terry Long of Alnwick. This is for the Kandy Centre for the Handicapped in Kandy, Sri Lanka. For further information see www.projectsri Lanka.org.uk.

As well as overseas support we are also donating this year to local good causes and charities including the Tiny Woods Football Academy, Daft as a Brush patient transport, Amble RNLI and the Alzheimers Society.

Justice & Peace coffee mornings

First and Third Wednesdays at 10.30am
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Centre
Charities for 2016
NERS - North East Refugee Service, Newcastle
Reaching the Unreached of Village India
Newcastle Refugee Project, Denton
All are most welcome whatever denomination

Variety show

Friday May 13 at 7.30pm in St. Mark's URC Amble.
Light refreshments at half time
Donations for Christian Aid on the night.

Sunflower project

St. Mark's United Reform Church Sunflower project.
We are supporting two projects – one in Bangladesh and one in Kenya.
A Pie and Pea Supper with a raffle and a slideshow about the projects will be held on Friday March 18 at 7.30pm.
Tickets are £5.00 from any member of St. Mark's. All welcome.

A concert to welcome Spring

Alnwick & District Choral Society presents
Mainly Mozart - A Concert To Welcome Spring
Conductor Peter Brown Organist - Alan Gidney
Claire Boulter - Soprano, Jeanie Larkin - Alto,
Paul Rendall - Tenor, Paul Gibson - Bass.
Sunday 6 March, at 7.30pm St Paul's Church, Alnwick
Admission £10 at the door. Students free

Marie Curie fundraising soirée

BOOK LAUNCH
'The Hermit of Warkworth'
The tragic tale of Sir Bertram of Bothal at Bertram's, Bridge Street,
Warkworth Friday 4 March 7.00 - 9.00pm
Glass of Prosecco & Nibbles, Raffle and Music from NE Journeyman
Philip Stuckey
Tickets £5 from Beryl Holmes: book.holmes@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/warkworthbook
or Bertram's Tel: 01665 798070
£2,257 has already been raised by Beryl for Marie Curie, with sales of the book 'Warkworth' by Ian Smith and her colour-in trail of Warkworth featuring her cat Zoey!

Amble & District Local History

Now in its seventh year the Amble administered local history website continues to assemble and publish online the history of the area bounded by the old ecclesiastical parishes of Shilbottle, Warkworth and Chevington. Particular emphasis is placed on the relationship between the port of Amble and the surrounding mining villages. The website is managed by Mike and Paula Young, lifelong Amble residents. Contributions of any local history research projects or material suitable for publication online are most welcome.

Two ongoing areas of research are the history of the WW2 Amble port coastal defence artillery battery that was located near to Signal Cottage. Mike has collected copies of the battery logbook and plans from the National Archives in London, but apart from RAF aerial photographs lack any images of the battery during World War2. One of the gun buildings was later to be reused as the Seaview Café. Any recollections or photographs of the site during WW2 would be most welcome.

The second area of research is the pre-1837 local mining history. A number of coal pits are mentioned in various 18th and 19th century documents, even revealing mining activity and shafts now located within the modern town of Amble itself. There was no legal requirement to produce abandonment plans of mine workings during this period, so precise information is difficult to obtain. Any information on the early mining history of Amble and district is also most welcome. The website and discussion forum can be found at www.fusilier.co.uk

What's on offer at Coquet Yacht club?

What does 2016 have in store for Coquet Yacht Club?:

- yacht and dinghy sailing activity
 - regular yacht and dinghy racing
 - cruising in company; locally and international trips
 - RYA instructor training
 - RYA sailing and powerboat courses
 - a great social calendar
 - inter-club events
 - our famous Castles and Islands Challenge (24hr yacht and cross country race)
 - bigger and better changing facilities, a modern well resourced classroom, a large range of boats for training and a warm welcome for all visitors in our clubhouse restaurant, lounge and bar
- For more information visit www.coquetyachtclub.org.uk or email sailinfo@coquetyachtclub.org.uk See also article on page 9.

Hauxley Chapel services

Sun	Mar	6	Rev. Stephen Lindridge, Chair of the Newcastle Methodist District.
Sun	Mar	13	Rev. Lynda Coulthard.
Sun	Mar	20	Rev David Collinson. Palm Sunday.
Sun	Mar	27	Rev. Dr. Diane Westmoreland. Easter Day. Holy Communion
Sun	April	3	Local Arrangement.
Sun	April	10	Rev. Lynda Coulthard.
Sun	April	17	Rev. Dorothy Hewitson.
Sun	April	24	Rev. Dr. Diane Westmoreland. Holy Communion.

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

If you would like to get in touch with one of us, please contact:
Rev. Lynda Coulthard, Trinity Methodist Church, Amble, on 01665 713251,
Rev. Dr. Diane Westmoreland, St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Amble on 01665 714560 (9am - 8pm), or Tim and Rachel Jones on 01665 712467.

Warkworth Baby and Toddler group

URC Church Hall (The Butts Warkworth)
Fridays 9.30 – 11.00 a.m.
Everyone welcome.
Call Megan (07711125570) for more information

Dementia Friendly Amble & Puffin Lounge

We are still working towards making Amble a Dementia Friendly community. One of the criteria is to get as many residents and people who work in the town to become Dementia Friends.

This is a fairly painless process! All you need to do is attend a Dementia Awareness Session, which lasts about 45 minutes and become, as the name suggests, more aware.

In addition, all are welcome to the Puffin Lounge which continues to run fortnightly on Thursdays. (March 3, 17, 31 etc.) from 2 -4pm at St. Mark's Church Hall.

It is primarily for people living with dementia and their carers (but please note no nursing care is provided;) however anyone can come along for a chat, a cup of tea/coffee and a game of dominoes.

Further details from Sue on 0665 711177

If your business or organisation would like a dementia awareness session brought to you, please let me know.

Sue Swanston

The Professor of Adventure

Following the great success of "Beryl" last autumn, St. Cuthbert's Parish Church and Highlights Rural Touring Scheme will be bringing another piece of top quality professional theatre to the Parish Hall with "The Professor of Adventure", a play presented by The Theatre by the Lake, Keswick.

Peter Macqueen stars in his own one-man play based on the extraordinary life of Millican Dalton, an eccentric who sought freedom in the Lake District and lived in a cave on Castle Crag in Borrowdale.

He smelt like a mountain goat, chain-smoked Woodbines and lived in a cave. Millican Dalton was a mountain guide, philosopher and self-proclaimed inventor of shorts. Leaving his stifling city job, Millican dropped out before it became fashionable and set out to seek romance and freedom living amongst nature in cabins, tents and caves for the next fifty years of his life.

It's 1941 and Millican is in 'the safest spot to escape the kind attentions of Mr Hitler' - his cave in Borrowdale. But the Keswick ARP warden has just ordered him to "put that candle out" and the Borrowdale Hermit is far from happy...

Meet this true English eccentric - the self-styled Professor of Adventure who was known locally as The Caveman of Borrowdale, in this one man show celebrating his unique outlook on life, his philosophy and his continuing quest for freedom.

The play will be performed on **Saturday April 23 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street. Tickets are £8 for adults, £7 for concessions and £5 for children (under 15), and will be available from N & F Young, Amble. You will also be able to book online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights/

There will be a licensed bar at the event.

Mike Dixon

Highlights Local Promoter for Amble Parish Hall

Amble Community Cinema

Sat 20 Feb 5pm

Sat 19 March 5pm & 7.30pm

Sat 16 April 7.30pm

Sat 21 May 7.30pm

Entry - suggested donation £3

Sat 28 May 2.30pm RSPB Coquet Island puffin footage + March of the Penguins

Refreshments. Entry - a charitable donation.

Further details contact Eric Davidson 01665 711784 or Hugh Williams 01665 710907

Royal British Legion

The branch has a full list of interesting meetings in 2016 to tempt those who like military history to come and join us. Guests are made very welcome and you do not have to have a military background. We have our own meeting room upstairs in Warkworth War Memorial Hall which is very comfortable. The formal part of our meeting is short with our guest speaker the main highlight of the evening. We round off with a glass of wine and snacks with time to catch up with other members. Our branch standard is the symbol of service and fellowship for which The Royal British Legion stands. Our fund raising for the Poppy Appeal plays a vital part in providing help for those in need from the serving and ex-serving community. Membership is £16 per year. To visit us or join please telephone the Secretary (07785 753100).

Next meeting: Weds, 9 March 2016 at 7pm

Speaker: Glen MacDonald Lt Cdr RN (Retd)

Reserve Forces Liaison Officer- North

Topic: Combat Stress

Coach Trip Sunday, 13 March 2016 12-5pm

Coach trip from Amble to the Victoria Tunnel, Ouseburn, Newcastle on Tyne. Former wagon way and air raid shelter WW2 under the city.

2 hr guided tour 1-3pm £14 pp. Special conditions apply.

Tel 07785 753100 to book.

Want to try to 'grow your own'?

Amble Allotments Association would like to remind tenants that by now all allotments rents should have been paid. The cost, in general £35 per annum is a fair and reasonable amount which covers ground rent, a water supply, public liability insurance and membership of the National Allotment Association. It also gives tenants access to the excellent service provided in the association hut, run by a team of volunteers every weekend from 10.30am until 11.30am.

At the request of Amble Town Council, who are ultimately responsible for the sites, the committee are encouraging plot holders on both allotment sites to have a good spring clean this year, to get rid of any redundant structures and general rubbish. The tenancy agreements allow for only one shed and one greenhouse on each plot, so please adhere to that rule.

As many people know it's now very popular to 'go green' and grow your own fruit and veg and even collect your own eggs. You don't have to be Alan Titchmarsh to produce your own potatoes and turnips, so if you feel up to the challenge, why not call into the association hut on Percy Drive and put your name down for a plot. Plots will be allocated by the committee as they become available; there can be full or half plots or you might like to share a plot with a friend.

Happy gardening!



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Arkless

will be holding surgeries on

Friday 18 March

**at 6pm - 6.45pm in Hauxley Village Hall
and**

**Saturdays 27 February & 19 March
from 10am-11am in Amble Library**

All Constituents Welcome



TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME
01665 710 442
MONDAY TO SATURDAY: 11.30AM-9.00PM SUNDAYS: 11.30AM-2.30PM
***** NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
1 BROOMHILL STREET AMBLE NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 0AN

Easter camps with Tiny Woods

Tiny Woods Academy Easter Camp 2016 will be holding a Camp for both boys and girls of all abilities, aged 4-13 years on Monday April 4 to Friday April 8 at Stobswood Welfare from 10am to 1pm. Cost of the Camp will be £25.

The North East Football Show will be on hand to film a short documentary on Tiny Woods Academy.

Our Camps are fun, enjoyable and will teach your children new skills, techniques through small-sided games, technical practices and game related scenarios.

At the end of the Camp, there will be a presentation where several awards and trophies as well as signed gifts from professional footballers will be given out to the children.

The children will also be given an Easter Egg so book your child's place now!

Finally, we are delighted to confirm a partnership with James Calvert Spence College, South Avenue to deliver Futsal every Wednesday night 5.30-6.30pm.

Call Josh Rutherford 07714862292
Jamie Dixon 07522950962



Warkworth Golf Club's 'busiest winter season'

The winter season is usually a quiet time of the year, however, in addition to 'routine' jobs, Alan Dalby, our greenkeeper, has been able to call on his skills as a carpenter to prepare wood to be used in re-building the 'Killie Bridge'.

The volunteers have been busy digging out the bridge foundations so that when the weather improves we can pour the concrete. Then the bridge, destroyed in the tidal surge a couple of years ago, will be restored.

This year, as we all know has been the wettest for a long time. This has resulted in many courses being closed. Warkworth is almost unique in the area as having been playable throughout.

The keen golfer can't abide not being able to play so we have had our busiest

winter season for a long time – the visitor's book regularly records players coming from Arcot Hall, Morpeth, Prudhoe, Percy Wood, Burgham Park and other waterlogged courses. Quite a few have decided it's cheaper to join as a winter member than continue to pay green fees, with the result we have more winter members than ever before – including ten from Arcot Hall who all joined in one day!

Our winter championship (playing for our version of the famous 'claret jug' donated by Chairman John Gray) is played on March 13 and then it's off the winter tees with the first men's competition being the Whittle Trophy on March 19, with the ladies starting off with the Calcutta Cup the following Tuesday.

The season officially 'opens' on Easter Saturday, March 26 with the Warkworth House Trophy, with evening entertainment. You don't have to be a playing member to come to our evening events. You can find out more from our Social Secretary: socsoc@warkworthgolfclub.co.uk or ring the clubhouse.

Membership of the Club is open. For just £320 a member is guaranteed golf 365 days of the year. Membership forms are on www.warkworthgolfclub.co.uk or ring 01665710707 email secretary@warkworthgolfclub.co.uk

Under 18s can join for just £10, this includes eight coaching sessions from a PGA professional. There are staged increases for 18 and 28 yrs. Full details on our website.

Walk and run yourself proud for Sport Relief

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is back and coming to a number of scenic locations across Northumberland. Parks and leisure centres, including Druridge Bay Country Park will host one-mile events on Sunday 20 March and need local people to come together and make themselves proud.

The colourful, cheerful and eager 'Milers' will be doing their bit to make a difference to people living across the UK and the world's poorest communities.

Sport Relief takes place from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 March 2016 and there are more ways than ever to take part and change lives.

More info at: www.sportrelief.com

What's happening Sunday March 20

Druridge Bay Country Park Mile: 10.30am start for 1 mile runners and 11.30 start for 3 & 6 mile runners (to be completed around the Ladyburn Lake). Participants are encouraged to arrive at the Visitor Centre before 10am to take part in the warm up. Family entertainment including a DJ, face painting etc. will be on offer throughout the event.



Paddlers Park to open in spring

The newly re-vamped Paddlers Park will open on 20 April. The disused paddling pools have been transformed into a welcoming activity area, with things to interest all ages.

Outdoor adult exercise equipment has been installed, along with a ping pong table. The paddling pools have been replaced with a water feature, and a bright play surface features colourful images of puffins, dolphins and hopscotch.

The £210,000 revamp was organised by Amble Town Council, with money from Cllrs Jeff Watson and Robert Arckless, Northumberland County Council and Amble Town Council. A Funday will be held on 30 April to celebrate the new facilities.