

The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 109 Feb/March 2018

Who are the litterbugs?



Why there's no messing around with this new group. See page 10.

Cut out plastic packaging



How David Attenborough has inspired the call to end plastic pollution, and what we in Amble can do to make a difference. See page 9.

Broadband woes at new estate



But Openreach and Persimmon are not prepared to help. See page 19.

Theatre company moves to town

A professional touring theatre company has moved its base to Amble, and hopes to stage plays, show films and provide a new base for community arts in the town.

Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) left Alnwick Playhouse, its home for almost forty years, after negotiations with Northumberland County Council who wanted a new home for their library and other facilities.

"We were looking for somewhere else to go," said chair Bryan Ellis, "I fancied Amble. This town has pulled itself up by its bootstraps in recent years. We'd heard the Dovecote Centre was up for sale, and though there's lots to do, it gives us lots of opportunity. It will take us some time to develop the building, probably two to three years to do it all properly, but we hope to create a hub for community arts and activity.

"The office is up and running and we have an outline of our programme for the rest of the year."

Bryan announced that the venue will open in March and will be formally opened by a celebrity actor. Very enigmatically he would not be drawn on the name, until nearer the time!

The company will launch their season with a production of 'The Disasters of Johnny Armstrong and Other Daft Tales' in the Dovecote Centre on 15 March, before it then goes on tour.

They have also acquired some cinema equipment and two large screens, and hope to be able to show films in the autumn.

"We'd also like to encourage other touring theatre companies to come, perhaps as a stopping off point from Edinburgh" said Bryan.

NTC themselves have four tours lined up this year. They perform nationally, from as far north as Aberdeen to London.

"We're one of Northumberland's better kept secrets," said Bryan, "There are not many national touring companies left."

A tour will generally last seven to eight weeks, involving arriving mid afternoon, setting up, performing in the evening, then dismantling and packing up, before sleep. Next morning it will be off to the next venue, sometimes up to 150 miles away and then starting all over again. "You have to be a dedicated actor to cope with that kind of schedule."

Encouraging new talent is particularly important for the company. NTC audition for every show, and they try to take on a trainee actor and assistant stage manager for every tour.

The company works with local young people, and is delighted that already a new youth theatre group is being formed in Amble.

The Puffin Theatre Club is aimed at 5-12 year



l-r Bryan Ellis (Chair) Louis Roberts (Associate Director and Actor), Gillian Hambleton (Artistic Director) of NTC outside their new home in the Dovecote Centre

olds. It has been set up by Rosie Bush and Sarah Price, two drama teachers who live in Amble.

"The classes are obviously designed to be fun, but will help children work on their vocal and physical performance skills too," said Rosie.

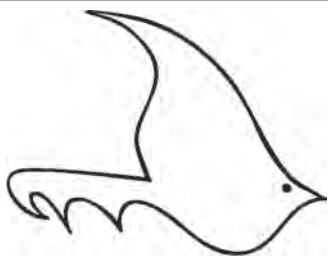
There has already been a lot of interest in the club online, Sarah told us. "It just goes to show that Amble and the surrounding area is full of talented young people with a natural love of noise and movement. Capturing this energy will help their social skills and confidence."

"We hope to do a professional pantomime this year too," said Bryan. "We want to work with the Puffin Theatre Club and local dance schools for that, and we'd like to invite local schools to see our performances, especially our special Christmas show."

With a huge amount of work to do on renovating the interior of the building it's full speed ahead for NTC to get things ready for the 15 March performance.

Said Bryan, "I think it's quite exciting, there's lots of new people coming to live in Amble now, so the town will have even more energy."

Contact NTC for tickets and info on 01665 713655 or find them on Facebook. The Puffin Theatre Club can be contacted at puffintheatreclub@gmail.com. They are also on Facebook.



The Ambler

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



Follow us on Facebook
Follow us on Pinterest

Editorial Team:

Vivienne Dalgliesh - Cath Findlay
Chris Herzberg - Norma Hinson
Andrew Mounsey - Bartle Rippon

Editor: Anna Williams

Thanks to:

Mark Beswick & The Artograffi Crew
Judith Hardisty

Distribution:

Dawn, Taylor, Martin and Rachel

Printing:

Azure Printers, Pegswood

Would you like to join
The Ambler team? We are a friendly
group who welcome contributions
and help from anyone who would
like to volunteer.

*Thanks to all our contributors,
sponsors and advertisers:*

Co-op Local Community Fund

Inner Wheel Club of
Amble and Warkworth

Rotary Club of
Amble and Warkworth



*The Ambler is a project of
Amble Development Trust*

The views expressed in *The Ambler*
and *The Ambler Online* are not
necessarily those of
the Editorial Team

Printed on paper from sustainable
forestry in the UK

Hope springs eternal

It's been a bit of a whirlwind
start to the year. Amble is
not used to so many businesses
closing all at once, especially
after years of our high street
being full.

Life throws things at you
fast, they say, and we are
used to change here in the
Friendliest Port. But it is sad to
see the demise of independent
businesses, and sad too that we
have to remember the old adage:
'use them or lose them'.

But the town is still full of
energy; a new theatre company
wants to enhance our cultural
offer (p1), a sword dancing group
wants to revive a traditional
pastime (p6), and we've
obviously got the environmental

bug, with a new litter picking
group established (p10), calls for
plastic recycling initiatives (p9)
and deeds not words, to coin a
well known saying (p4 and p8).

Our What's On pages are
full of events and activities
over the coming months, and as
mentioned on our front page, a
new theatre group for children
has been established.

Take note too of the series
of free digital media workshops
on offer (p23), with help and
advice to get you more creative
in smartphone photography and
video, making music, Wordpress
websites, and buying and selling
safely on the internet. There are
also sessions to help people of all
ages learn to code (you are never

too old or too young it seems).
So come along on the evening,
or book a place beforehand;
everyone is welcome and it
should also be a lot of fun.

We learned recently that
Maria Conti had died. She and
her husband ran Gino's fish
and chip cafe on Albert Street
for many moons. We asked for
some of your memories and
have printed some of them
here. Thank you to all who
contributed. But there were
so many comments, we simply
didn't have room for them all,
so if you want to read more, look
on Amble In Old Photographs'
Facebook page.

So spring is on its way, and
let's look for those green shoots.

Shock as spate of restaurants and shops close



The Fat Mermaid closed its doors six weeks after Italian restaurant Zecca shut for good

Two restaurants and several
businesses have recently
closed in the town centre, with
another two still trading but up
for sale.

A spate of closures this
winter has resulted in boarded
and shuttered businesses on the
street and comments of sadness
and shock on social media.

Barclays bank had
announced as far back as last
summer that it would shut
its doors at the beginning of
November, but it was still
disconcerting to see such a large
empty property in the usually
busy Queen Street. Then just
before Christmas the town was
shocked by the sudden closure
of popular Italian restaurant
Zecca.

Clothes shop Lifestyle
clothing followed suit, and
then after Christmas, Toys and
Trinkets closed its doors, as did
the shoe shop Top to Toe.

Two other clothes stores,
Foresters and Moods are still
trading, but are up for sale.

In early February came
the announcement that the
restaurant Fat Mermaid had
also decided to close. Co-owner
Julie Lunn-Bird told *The
Ambler*:

"The decision to close
Fat Mermaid has come with
a lot of trepidation. We had
a fabulous team working for
us who we consider friends.
We did not make this decision
lightly but with a few factors
being involved, we decided it
was the right thing for us, not
only business but also personal.
We have our young daughter to
think of now.



The Lifestyle Clothing property has
already been sold

"The winters aren't hugely
busy, especially during the day,
and this was Fat Mermaid main
business time. However four
months of a slower pace does
not make a bad year.

"Sea&Soil has had the
busiest winter so far since
opening in 2014. We are very
lucky to have great guests who
support us all year round, so
much, so that we have been
able to offer two of our front of
house staff from Fat Mermaid,
employment at Sea&Soil."

"We want to thank our
guests for supporting us over
the past 18 months and hope
they will continue to visit
Sea&Soil. Also thank them
for their kind messages on
Facebook and personally."

And the Ambler understands
that several interested parties
have shown an interest in some
of the businesses. So hopefully
it won't be long before the town
is full to bursting again.

Anna Williams

Amble in top ten affordable UK winter destinations



Above: Amble and Coquet Island, January 2018. Photo by Carle Robinson

Amble has been listed in a leading travel company's top ten best places to stay in the UK.

HolidayLettings.co.uk which is owned by TripAdvisor, compiled the list of 20 of the most affordable UK winter holiday destinations.

The Friendliest Port found itself at number seven, in a list which ranked towns by their affordability for a week's holiday cottage booking between December 2017 and February 2018.

Laurel Greatrix, a spokesperson for Holiday Lettings, says the data reveals great destinations for an affordable winter getaway:

"As a gateway to the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Amble is a great base for holidaymakers to explore this region's beauty and wildlife," she said.

A screenshot of a website showing a list of holiday destinations. The top section is titled '#7 AMBLE | £397 AVG WEEKLY RATE' and features a photograph of a boat in the water. Below the photo, there is a short paragraph describing Amble as a popular holiday destination with a fascinating history. The bottom section is titled '#8 BRIDLINGTON | £404 AVG WEEKLY RATE'.

Amble beats Bridlington for affordability

The list describes Amble as: "Sitting pretty on the coast of Northumberland, Amble is a popular holiday destination with a fascinating history—and makes for an intriguing, and affordable, winter break."

"The town and surrounding area have been inhabited since ancient times, and there is evidence of Roman occupation here."

"Being almost completely surrounded by water, some of Amble's major attractions include sailing and fishing."

"However, if the British winter weather isn't too great, Amble still has plenty of indoor activities to offer for a relaxing break. The nearby towns of Warkworth, Morpeth and Alnwick are all worth a visit, too."

Holiday Lettings' data revealed that rates for a two-bedroom rental in Amble average £397 weekly for a winter stay.

Anna Williams

Choose The Ambler as your local good cause

The Ambler Community Newspaper has been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding will run until 27 October 2018.

How it works:

Every time a member shops at the Co-op, 1% of what they spend on selected own-brand products and services goes to the Co-op Local Community Fund.

The Ambler and other causes in our community will also receive an equal share of the money raised from sales of carrier bags. Members will be able to choose The Ambler and give their 1% to support the local community newspaper.

So the more you shop at the Co-op, the more The Ambler benefits.

Previous beneficiaries have been: Amble Code Club, Amble Youth Project, Amble Cadets, St Mark's Church and Community

Sports Development (Boys' Club).

This year funding will be divided between the two local beneficiaries; The Ambler and Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre.

Help for your group

If you know of a group who you think would also benefit, you can nominate them for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund.

To help direct funding to The Ambler, go to: www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund to select your cause. You need to enter your membership number to make your wishes known.

If you are not already a member of the Co-op, you can join here: www.coop.co.uk/membership.

We thank the Co-op and the people of Amble for this opportunity.
Vivienne Dalgliesh

A poster for The Ambler Community Newspaper. The top section says 'Choose us as your Co-op local cause'. Below this, there is a list of four bullet points: 'Helping the volunteers to produce the paper six times per year', 'Keeping local people in touch with local events', 'Helping volunteers gain new skills', and 'Encouraging community spirit'. At the bottom, there is a small illustration of a group of people and a Co-op logo.



Dairy farmer delivers to your doorstep

Alan Conway of Hauxley dairy farm is now delivering milk from his dairy herd

A Hauxley dairy farmer has launched a new milk delivery service, bringing fresh milk from local cows to local doorsteps.

Alan Conway of Hauxley Farm began the new venture just before Christmas. At first, he concentrated on delivering only to Hauxley village, but he has now increased his round to include parts of Amble and has over 100 customers within his first month.

As with many dairy farmers, the increasingly low cost of milk dictated by the supermarkets, put a huge strain on the Conway's business.

"We sell through a co-operative, and by the time they've taken their costs out, we were only getting 14p per litre. Break-even is about 28p per litre. It was at that point I thought we're going to have to do something."

"We've converted some old pens into a full dairy with pasteurisation and bottling facilities. The whole project has taken about 14 months from idea to completion. And our timing couldn't have been more perfect with us using glass bottles rather than plastic, as there's been

so much talk about plastics right now. Hauxley Nature Reserve was delighted, because we deliver our milk in glass bottles."

The feedback has been very positive, with many customers ordering on a regular basis. "One lady in Radcliffe said I had made her Christmas! She now orders 12 pints per week," said Alan. The farm delivers full cream, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk, all priced at 50p per pint, and there are plans to branch out into producing double cream and butter in the future. Alan is even looking into the viability of installing a milk vending machine at the entrance to the farm.

Dairy farming has been in Alan's family since the 1930s. "My Granddad started with about 20 cows at Woodhorn," said Alan. "We moved to Hauxley in 1983 and we've now got 130 British Friesians on the farm."

Hauxley Farm can be contacted via email: hauxleyfarm@yahoo.co.uk or by ringing 07584 692001

Anna Williams

Puffin festival dates



This year's Puffin Festival will take place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend. Saturday 26, Sunday 27 and Bank Holiday Monday 28 May will see stalls, walks, talks, entertainment and activities to interest all ages.

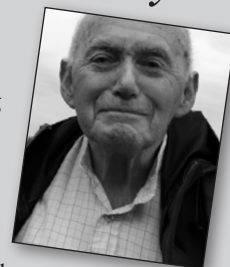
And of course the brilliant Puffin Cruises will be running out of Amble harbour (weather and tide dependant) so you can see the wonderful Coquet Island puffins as they prepare for the arrival of their pufflings! Keep a look out for updates on the Puffin Festival website: www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk. If you



would like to be involved, contact Julia Aston: julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk or ring 01665 712929.

Age of insecurity:

We live in interesting times, with an amazing number of events to attract our attention.



In no particular order: Russia's potential to cut undersea communication cables, the chess Program Supreme which allowed its controllers to beat the best in under 4 hours, the rise and fall of Bitcoin, the advent of the Brewing (that's Brexit in name only), the World Bank decision to refuse funding for fossil fuel, along with the fact that cricketers in Delhi now need anti-pollution face masks.

As if that wasn't enough to make us all think, we're told that almost all of our computer chips contain a vital flaw, and that they are a gift for hackers.

Across the pond they're having unprecedented weather events. I wonder how that has come about.

During the last couple of days the supposedly definitive book on the doings of Delusional Donald has reinforced the stereotype of the President of the USA as an immature person who just happens to have a nuclear button on his desk.

Perhaps time, the great healer, will resolve many of our problems. Mature reflection is what we all need in the face of our difficulties. There has never been a time when we had a greater need for wise heads.

There's something about our home town that brings us all back to earth. I'll admit to some concerns about the disappearance (or rather the closure) of some local businesses. We all know that we have a pretty lazy off-season in these parts. Our hope is that many more people will discover our area. They've been doing so for years, and with any luck the trend will continue. Weather is always a factor. Let's hope that climate change will favour our area.

I can't be the only one who hopes for more visitors, more jobs, more prosperity, more neighbourliness, more links between people, more tolerance of difference and greater care for others.

The year 2018 presents us all with lots to do and lots to think about. Things will happen because of us or despite us! It could just be that my recent encounter with a winter bug has added my elderly brain, causing it to stray into the Great Blue Yonder even more than usual. Even so, I like my life, and I hope that you like yours.

Here's to 2018 and beyond.

Harry McQuillen

Car parking saga continues

Amble's lack of an all day car park in the town centre continues to vex residents and business owners, and a permanent solution seems to be as far away as ever.

As things stand, two of the existing town centre car parks are owned by private individuals, with one being leased to the County Council.

Amble Business Club chair Ann Burke said, "We have been meeting with Northumberland County Council (NCC) for five years and we still have no permanent solution.

"If either of the two car parks should be altered by their owners, there is nothing we can do about it. It's their land, they have every right. Amble needs a long term car park, for business workers and for locals and visitors who need to stay longer than four hours."

Recent alterations to the car park on Coquet Street, owned by Amble Marina brought the issue into focus, prompting fears the facility could be closed for some time.

The Ambler understands that work on the land will continue intermittently as the Marina reconfigures the layout, but that the intention is not to close during school holidays.

The car park behind Tesco is privately owned land which has been leased to Northumberland County Council. The Ambler understands the lease is for an undetermined period with a months notice to quit.

In contrast to Amble's protracted discussions, NCC recently commissioned parking studies for Morpeth, Alnwick, Hexham and Berwick, in order to develop strategies for their future parking needs. "We've been telling the county council for years that these were temporary car parks, but they still don't seem to believe we need a long term car park. There's been so much money spent by the council on tourism projects, but a visitor can't come and stay for the day, so we're driving people away," said Ann.

"On the first weekend in February, all the car parks were full, the Marina, the four hour car park behind Tesco, the one next to Sea and Soil, were all full. Even the harbour car park was full. It was a nice day, people were out and about. What's it going to be like at Easter? And it's not just visitors, how far can they expect elderly people to carry heavy shopping?"



Recent work at the Coquet Street car park has brought the lack of a permanent long term car park into focus.

Julia Aston, Director of Amble Development Trust said "During the five years we've been meeting to discuss this, and to try to find a resolution, we have looked at every piece of land, trying to overcome any land ownership and restrictions. If there was an easy solution, we would have found it by now!

"There are various options, the Braid was one of them, but obviously that was met with public opposition. There is a will by all involved, and we will continue investigating all options that present themselves to us. At a recent meeting I had with our MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan, I broached the matter, and she has agreed to look further into it. We do need a solution soon to ensure the vibrancy of our high street."

Northumberland County Council were asked for a comment, but at time of going to press, had not replied.

Anna Williams

Volunteers needed to help connect families



Northumberland Archives is looking for volunteers to digitally log records as part of a new initiative, Reading Room.

The project, in partnership with FamilySearch.org, aims to make browsing parish registers easier and more accessible for the public. Currently 60% of indexes have been processed for the County and now Northumberland Archives are looking for volunteers, to complete the remaining 40%.

Volunteers are being asked to select information from marriage, death and baptism registers online and input them into the digital system to enable the archives to be indexed.

People can choose to undertake this work from the comfort of their own home. The role is extremely flexible meaning people can volunteer as little or as often as they want.

Councillor Cath Homer, Cabinet Member for culture, arts, leisure and tourism at NCC said: "Reading Room is a valuable and fascinating resource for people to explore their family history."

To apply visit www.familysearch.org to register. For more on Northumberland Archives visit www.experiencewoodhorn.com/collections/ or contact archives@northumberland.gov.uk

Business Matters

A new column from Amble-based Small Business PR specialist Claire Shiels

Determination and Motivation are what we need to keep Amble thriving I hope 2018 has got off to a flying start for those of you with your own business or budding entrepreneurs.

My two key words for this year are determination and motivation, both of which are equally as important when setting up or growing a firm.

Ten years ago, I was stuck in a job I didn't enjoy, trying to balance a full-time workload with part-time hours and a daughter who was just starting school and needed me to be there for her, too. I was failing miserably on all counts and my self-confidence was at an all-time low. I figured what I needed was to be my own boss so I could have the best of both worlds.

Being completely honest, it was tough and you'll find it the same unless you have a few thousand pounds stashed away in the bank. There were many days in the past when I was advised to pack it all in and get a "proper" job. It was determination, motivation and a healthy dose of self-belief which pulled me through. A decade later, I now have my own established PR agency supported by eight account managers, servicing clients right across the globe.

And you can do the same.

Over the last couple of months, we've seen a few For Sale signs going up on Queen Street as businesses falter. Inevitably, there have been complaints about the town being taken over by tourism and inundated with eating places, yet all I see is opportunity. And I'm not alone.

Let me assure you, the entrepreneurial spirit in and around Amble is thriving. I see it in local networking meetings, in emails asking for advice, in chance discussions with new and existing residents and in the businesses which pop up almost as suddenly as another is closed.

Amble's reputation as an up and coming, beautiful tourist destination is now being spread far and wide, demonstrated by the sheer numbers of out-of-season tourists we've welcomed over the winter. It offers huge potential for new businesses. Will you be one of them in 2018?

Claire Shiels



The return of the Amble Sword and Rapper Dancers

Readers may remember we published an article on the Amble rappers in Issue 52 September/October 2008 of the Ambler.

Amble had a Rapper Sword Dance tradition dancing out around the streets of the town over Christmas and New Year, but this died out in the 1930s; though there was an attempt to revive the dance locally in the 1960s.

The actual swords last used in Amble were apparently made from machine saw blades with handles made from clothes pegs and were probably made in the maintenance shops at Broomhill pit or at The Drift where one of them worked.

A local family, the Flanighans, provided the backbone of the side, Frank Flanighan who died aged 89 attributed his longevity to “good beer and plenty of dancing”.

“So it is against this background that we have decided to reform the Amble Sword Dancers. Initially we will be dancing a Longsword style; similar to but slightly less energetic than Rapper, but a good basis on which to teach new dancers”.

This was from Tony Urwin, who invited all those interested to meet on 6 February in the Masons Arms. At least 15 people turned up, both male and female, Most were from Amble, but others hailed from Felton, Newcastle and Hexham. Some were old-timers who had danced with other groups, and others were first-timers, but all enthusiastic. Tony, himself had danced with a group in Kent.

He started by inviting eight volunteers to form a line, dished out “swords” and walked them through the first dance. Within half an hour they performed the whole dance, accompanied by three musicians. They will be meeting once a fortnight to practise. A booking has been made for the Puffin festival, so they have a target to aim for.

They have already decided on the name, Amble Sword, and a uniform of white shirts and black trousers.

Tony said: “A remarkable turnout and a massive success. Recreating a tradition, something to be proud of.”

Top right: The new Amble sword dancers had their first meeting in February. *Photo by Bart Rippon*

Right: The Flanighan dancers performed prior to the 1930s



Buy one, set one free at the lobster hatchery



The Northumberland Hatchery releases the baby lobsters when they have grown to a safe size. Mother lobsters are also returned to the sea.

The hatchery down at the harbour is soon to be entering its second year of operation and we are keen to get more people involved. Running the hatchery is a real team effort – we rely on local fishermen to bring in the egg bearing lobsters and to return the young lobsters to the sea. We have the help of NIFCA (Northumberland

for them to return to the wild.

In order to make the population enhancement programme viable over the long term, we are looking to engage with everyone involved in the journey of a lobster from the sea to the plate. So, to add to the team this year, we are actively encouraging

Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority) and The Fifth Point Diving Centre.

The Northumberland Seafood Centre and Hatchery often takes in local berried hens (a female lobster carrying eggs) until they hatch, as in the first few weeks they are more vulnerable and likely to be eaten by other sea life. The hatchery keeps them in specialist tanks, until it becomes safe

restaurants, pubs and cafés (basically anyone who serves lobster) to be part of the picture. We have established a ‘buy one, set one free’ programme where customers will be invited to add a donation to their bill in order to support the enhancement of our local lobster stocks.

Restaurants will be able to demonstrate their sustainability credentials and link to the hatchery website (we’re always being asked where’s best to eat). One of the first to sign up is Colmans Fish Temple down in South Shields and we hope they will be the first of many throughout the region.

Richard Ord, owner of Colmans Seafood Temple, said: “The commitment we have to sustainability is very important to us. This includes turning our waste oil in to biofuel, using solar panels, and only using fish that comes from well-managed, sustainable fishing grounds”

So – next time you tuck into a lobster, make sure to ask if the restaurant is part of our scheme and support us whenever you can.

Andrew Gooding
Northumberland Seafood Hatchery Manager

WHAT YOU SAY...

Sad sight on beach

I was walking on the beach near the Amble links caravan park and came across these poor seals. I am new to the area and I'm wondering is this a usual occurrence or is something wrong here?

Angela Turnbull via email



If you find a dead seal on the beach you should notify Northumberland County Council: 0345 600 6400. Young seal pups should be left alone as their mothers are often nearby. If you are concerned about the wellbeing of a seal, contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999. Always keep your dog away from seals as they may carry disease. -Ed



Future may mean no Christmas lights

19 November 2017 saw another successful evening when the parade combined with the switch on took place. The parade was a great show and a credit to the volunteers who spend so much time and effort in the organization. Our thanks should also be extended to all the groups and individuals participating in the parade, well done! I should also like to mention the spectators, what a crowd, seeming larger than ever and everyone in good spirits. All these things combined to give a fantastic atmosphere.

You may well remember on the night there was a street collection with people from the events committee, Rotary club and the Christmas lights committee manning the buckets. Your collective generosity generated the total sum of £530.54. Thank you to all who contributed. The proceeds were split three ways between the events group, Rotary and lights group.

The entire Christmas lights committee deserve recognition from the town for the many hours of voluntary work they put in. The workshop team have worked hard throughout the year and have produced a superb lighting display for the town. There are many others that contribute directly or indirectly to the Christmas lights, especially where funding is concerned.

Our thanks go to the following: The Town Council, shops and businesses on the main streets, our own secretary, who raises a lot of money throughout the year, the Development Trust, several organizations and clubs and numerous other individuals. I would like to thank you all, without your generosity we would not be in a position to continue. This is best summed up by saying that the folk of Amble are helpful, supportive, and friendly; a great community.

I've said my positive piece; unfortunately this bit is somewhat on the negative side. For several years I have made pleas for more volunteers to join our workshop team, and indeed a small number have joined us, almost equally matched by the number that have left our ranks. The real problem is that we are all getting older, some with medical problems, our ages ranging from 70 to 80. None of us are immune to ageing and new blood is required, it takes time to learn the ropes, and that must be while we still have people on board that have learnt the skills. We particularly require electricians, at this time we have just one electrician!

In January the team continued the work, but the town has been put on alert and informed what the future may hold - no lights!.

Anyone interested in joining the team please contact Trevor Colbourne on 01665 711453 or John Harker on 01665 710112.

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year

Trevor Colbourne Chairman, Amble Christmas Lights

Appalled at assumption

I was appalled at the sloppy journalism given front page space on the Ambler Issue 108.

The Editor had spoken to one person (who didn't wish to be named) who talked about the people they had met whilst out walking. They didn't say how many people they had spoken to but apparently 'all of them' had said that 'quality of life, busy roads and immigration made them move.'

I moved here a year ago from South Yorkshire, selling my house for less than £200,000, not the £500,000 that your anonymous interviewee said that everyone had sold their house for. I had a friend who lived up here and so I had visited the area on many occasions and had fallen in love with the area, especially Amble.

I was struck by how friendly the people are, very similar to the people of South Yorkshire, the beauty of the area and the fact that Amble is a proper working town, not just a holiday town full of holiday homes I made the right decision to move. I love it here and I have made lots of friends by joining in various community groups.

Sometimes I miss Sheffield and I miss it because the city is buzzing with people of all ethnic backgrounds. There is a lack of diversity up here. Immigration certainly did not make me move. I find the article distasteful on two counts.

1. The interviewee assumes that everybody who moves up here feels the same, with a total lack of evidence and
2. The interviewee assumes that everyone who moves up here is against immigration.

Isn't everyone who moves up here an immigrant in some way? I was reminded on the X18 once 'You might live in Amble but you're not from Amble'. Of course, the man on the bus was right and sometimes I struggle to understand the language up here! I may not look different, but I sound different.

Aren't all of us 'blow-ins' immigrants? Aren't we all guilty of double-standards when it suits us? The new people who have come to live in Amble and the surrounding area have chosen to live here for different reasons but we all have one thing in common. We chose to live here because we love it and we want to contribute to the continuing prosperity and growth of the area.

Let's celebrate that.

*Chris Herzberg
via email*

Equally appalled

What a thoroughly unpleasant and biased view from the unnamed resident(!) who spoke to Anna Williams. I wish that he had spoken to me. Yes, I moved here from Derby three years ago after selling my modest semi for £130,000. As for coming here to escape migration... well words fail me!

Living here is my reward for surviving a lifelong career with the N H S. I love the coast and the hills and I love living among friendly uncomplicated folk and I willingly contribute to the local economy and local life. I hardly ever visit the GP and am aware of the need for affordable housing for local families. Thank goodness the majority of the locals have a more inclusive outlook than this.

*Jill Barlow
King Edward Street*

Conservation team protects fisheries and the marine environment

Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA) is one of 10 IFCA's around the coast of England with the national vision to "lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry".

NIFCA's team of Officers (Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers or "IFCOs") work in many ways to fulfil that vision, including supporting the work of the lobster hatchery at the Northumberland Seafood Centre in Amble and also having a seat on the board of the North of Tyne Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG).

Another key area of NIFCA's work is taking enforcement action where required regarding breaches of NIFCA byelaws and other marine legislation.

The NIFCA Chief Executive Officer Mike Hardy commented that "In general, people who fish in Northumberland and other marine users are law abiding and responsible, but on occasion there is illegal activity which our IFCOs will respond to appropriately and with the backing of our members.

"NIFCA members include Northumberland County Councillors and members of the local community with knowledge and experience of fisheries and the marine environment".



Above: NIFCA officers patrolling the coast

A good example of enforcement by NIFCA took place at North Tyneside Magistrates Court on 15th December 2017 when a diver was ordered to pay a total of £3,750 comprising a fine and costs for taking 10 lobsters at Beadnell, all of which were below the minimum permitted legal size of 87mm carapace (the hard upper shell of a crustacean) length, and also for the offence of taking more than 1 lobster per day in the NIFCA district without a commercial shellfish permit.

NIFCA Chief Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer Al Browne said "This

case and the sentence passed sends out a clear message and NIFCA, its officers and members remain determined that illegal activity will be prevented. The lobster stocks in Northumberland are of vital importance to our marine environment and this Authority appreciates the recognition by the court of the need to protect this vitally important stock. It is vital that everyone who wishes to fish for and take shellfish realises the legal limits."

Further details about the Authority may be found on our website at www.nifca.gov.uk including a copy of the Authority byelaws.

Wildlife Trust are keeping it local

As part of its commitment to supporting local businesses and remaining as eco-friendly as possible, Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre on Druridge Bay is calling on its next door neighbour, Hauxley Farm Dairy, to supply the milk to its Lookout Café. With virtually no transport miles, fresh milk straight from the 130 British Friesians which have grazed in the adjoining Hauxley fields, and with returnable glass bottles (no plastic waste), you cannot get more local than that.

The Lookout Café serves ice cream from Morwick Farm and cakes from The Pottergate Centre in Alnwick. The actual building is constructed from locally grown and traditional building materials, including more than 600 straw bales from local farmers Rosie and George Barber, turf for the green roof from Ellington, stones for 150 gabion baskets from Howick Quarry and structural timber from the Trust's Briarwood Banks reserve in South Northumberland.

The wildlife charity is honouring its promise to ensure the building is Northumbrian as possible.



Milk from Hauxley farm is delivered in glass bottles. See also page 4

Plan your Northumberland Day events

Northumberland Day 2017 was a huge success, say promoters, and they are keen to encourage more participants this year.

Northumberland Day in 2018 will take place on Sunday May 27, although activities can be planned in the week before and the week after. An event leaflet is planned this year, so anyone who would like their event included is invited to send details to Paul Kleian: paul@tapirco.com.

Last year's events were judged in various categories, and a hand made fused glass award made by glass artist Helen Grierson was presented to Newsham Primary (Blyth), Haydon Bridge Village, Beadnell Village and Hexham Abbey. More categories are planned for this year.

To be in with a chance of winning an award, you need to do something bespoke for Northumberland Day, but that something can be of your choosing.

There are 2018 Northumberland Day logos (banner and round pin-badge) with date, or without date (for those planning an activity on a day other than May 27) on offer - visit the website to find out more.

More details can be found on www.northumberlandday.net

www.facebook.com/northumberlandday and www.twitter.com/NLandDay

Thank you, Sir David, now what can we do?

David Attenborough's brilliant television series Blue Planet 2 showed some wonderful wildlife in our oceans. It also illustrated the appalling damage caused by the plastics we all find so convenient.

Even in the remotest places on Earth, creatures are being killed by the plastic waste washed into the sea from our rivers and drains.

We now know that this plastic survives for many years, with some of it also breaking up into tiny particles which will end up in our food supply as well as in wild animals.

Environmentalists have tried hard to campaign on this issue, but it was Sir David Attenborough's amazing programmes that really raised the alarm.

At long last, this huge problem has attracted attention. That gives hope for a solution. Government ministers promise future action, and the opposition demand action now.

Journalists interview supermarket bosses and shoppers to find out what can be done about excessive packaging.

We may feel helpless as individuals, but we really can help, and we can start today. If we each do a little, that adds up to a lot because there are a lot of us! Simply looking at what is available in our local shops, we can choose to take home less plastic. We can take our own shopping bags, not just to the



supermarkets which charge for new plastic bags, but to small shops which don't yet have to charge. That saves them money too - very important if the shops are to stay in business.

Where there is a choice, we can choose loose items instead of over-packaged goods.

Amble has lots of small independent shops, which are keen to have our custom and have the freedom to respond to what we want.

Take a look in the greengrocers in Queen Street. Most of the fruit and vegetables are sold loose, and most of them can go straight into your bag at the till. Five carrots and a couple of onions don't need a plastic bag first!

Amble also has independent butchers and fishmongers, who use less packaging than supermarkets use on meat and fish. You can even take along your own re-usable plastic containers if you are determined to cut down on plastic bags. If we feel brave enough, we can tell the retailer why we're making the choice, or ask them to offer more unwrapped products.

Positive, practical ideas could be shared, perhaps through the Ambler. Retailers: what are you going to try? Shoppers: what do you suggest? Let's not wait for politicians to talk endlessly about what they might do to help - let's just get on with it.

Sheila Pearson



Funeralcare

Our caring staff are here
to listen and advise you,
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Coquetdale Cottage, Queen Street, Amble
Tel: 01665 710437

Sullivan Associates

CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYORS

Offering professional property advice throughout Northumberland

Building Surveys, Defects Inspections
Plans drawn for extension and new build
Planning Applications, Building Regulations Approval
Disabled Access Advice, Party Wall and Boundary Matters
Design and Project Management

Tel: 01665 513010

Email: info@sullivan-associates.co.uk

Fourways 2 6 Dilston Terrace Amble Northumberland NE65 0DT

LA FAMIGLIA

BY THE OLD BOAT HOUSE

Check our Facebook page for our
latest special menus and offers

Sunday: 12noon - 4pm

Monday: Closed

Tuesday to Thursday: 10am - 8pm

Friday and Saturday: 12noon - 9pm

 www.facebook.com/lafamigliaamble

80 QUEEN STREET, AMBLE 01665 711862



coquet cosmetics

Pod 2
Amble Harbour
Village

Cosmetics, Skincare, Bath &
Body and Accessories

Book a Nail Appointment now
by popping in the pod, sending
us a Facebook message or
texting 07464269245

Facebook | Twitter | Instagram
www.coquetcosmetics-uk.com

THE MAD JAM WOMAN



Award-winning

- Preserves & Relishes
- Dips
- Ghost Chilli Sauces

Fourways One
Bridge St, Amble NE65 0DR
07766 857680

Also available at the Seafood Centre

www.madjamwoman.co.uk

'Discover your full potential in 2018'

Thought Org
Coaching & Hypnotherapy

Therapies for: IBS – Generalised
Anxiety Order – Insomnia
Phobias – Un-Resourceful States

Coaching for: Interview Skills
Presentation Skills – Stress
Management – Healthy Team Dynamics

Contact: Alison Arrowsmith
0794 902 6374
alison@thoughtorg.co.uk
www.thoughtorg.co.uk

Update on Oscar the famous Pod cat

Oscar the famous Pod cat is back in the news again after a quiet winter, probably keeping his head down, and looking for warmth.

The homeless mog has been looked after by Pod owners at Amble Harbour Village ever since he moseyed up after the development opened.

Oscar prefers to be 'of no fixed abode', but when he needed medical treatment last year, generous donors from near and far stepped up to help. And local vets were also happy to help.

P Pod co-owner Ashley Simms, who helps to take care of Oscar, gave us an update on the fabulous feline.

Oscar has been receiving free care thanks to Alnorthumbria vets in Amble. This was greatly appreciated when he damaged one of his front legs last year. Afterwards he convalesced for three weeks indoors, courtesy of Lynn and Guy in George Street.

"His Healthy Pet Plan is due to be renewed in March", said Ashley. "We are able to pay for it due to the generosity of the general public."

Ashley told us that many people have made donations, down at the Harbour Village. Oscar has a savings account with T.S.B on Queen Street and some have also donated to his care through the Go Fund Me fundraising on his 'Oscar the Pod Cat' Facebook page.

For anybody who wants to donate, here is the link: www.gofundme.com/oscar-vet-bill

Podgy puss

"It looks like he's put a little bit of weight on over the last few weeks with it being winter and not many of the Pods open during the week," said Ashley.



Oscar the cat with P Pod co-owner Ashley Sims. Photo by Lynne Morelli

"We think members of the public are feeding him extra to compensate, unaware that some of the Pod owners have been feeding him daily!

"But he has got his thick winter coat on and is also looking extra fluffy."

Where does Oscar go?

Places he's been spotted by members of the public recently:

- the Coquet Club on a Saturday night (apparently there is a photo of him somewhere on social media, laid out on a chair having his tummy rubbed!)
- on top of a large pile of pet beds on one of the Amble Sunday market stalls!
- the Coast Guard's Office (just inside the garage doorway sheltering from wind and rain if the pods are not open)
- around and about the square. He will often spend the night at local residents' houses (two that we definitely know of; one where he curls up on the sofa with a black Labrador).

Oscar's future

Ashley gave us an insight to Oscar's future: "There are plans to get him a pet collar camera, so we can see where he goes exploring and what he gets up to. Laura at Coquet Cosmetics has offered to set up the techno surveillance we would require to do this! It won't cost very much we estimate less than £20."

There have been several kind donations of cat treats and biscuits. These are delivered by hand from his various admirers to various pods.

His primary carers Ashley "Daddy" Sims at The P Pod, and Laura "Mummy" Stubbs at Coquet Cosmetics would like to say a huge thank you to all who have donated and contributed to his welfare.

Ashley said: "Oscar is attracting lots of visitors who come from afar to see him while visiting the Harbour Village and browsing the shops on Queen Street. He's quite laid back about his fame."



Litterbugs are bugged by litter

LitterBugs is a newly formed litter picking group set up by local parents and children but open to everyone. We want to raise awareness of litter and our use of plastics and try to do something about it. On Saturday 27th January we did our first litter pick and collected 11 large bags of rubbish, with a well earned ice-cream afterwards.

The next litter pick is Sunday 25 February. Meet at 10am at the beach car park opposite the Storehouse. Details will be added to our Facebook page.

Everyone is welcome and we hope to see more people join us. It's a great way of getting outdoors, making new friends and cleaning our beautiful countryside.

Lynne Russell



Seriously good coffee.

*Roasted in
Northumberland,
enjoyed everywhere!*



Visit us...

at the Retail Pod!
15, Amble Harbour Village NE65 0FD

Takeaway coffee. Roasted Coffee
Packs. Ground Coffee Packs. Orders.
Gifts. Handmade bean to bar
chocolate.

Order from us...

at www.mochamondo.co.uk

Or Unit 6D Coquet Enterprise Park,
Amble, NE65 0PE

Roasted Coffee beans. Ground Coffee.
Handmade bean to bar chocolate.
Subscriptions. Gifts. Workshops.



More from us...

Discounts and offers for your
business.

E: roastedandposted@gmail.com
T: 01665 714767

Wholesale & B2B rates. Coffee
Roasting Workshops. Local Coffee
Delivery. Barista Training.
Coffee Shop Consultancy.



The 'P' Pod

Perfect for presents



Pod 6, Amble Harbour Village

Tuesdays - Fridays: 11am - 3pm
Saturdays & Sundays: 10am - 4pm
Closed Mondays

www.theppod.co.uk

The Boat Shed Gallery



POD 4, AMBLE HARBOUR VILLAGE

Original paintings and prints from
the coastline of Northumberland.
Delightful cards and gifts.

A lovely Coastal Jewellery Studio
at Amble Harbour Shopping Village,

Nautical and
Sea-themed
designs
available in

- Earrings,
- Necklaces,
- Charm Bracelets and
- Rings



A stunning range
of Sea Glass
pieces,
all set in
Sterling Silver

Opening times:
Wednesdays - Sundays
11 - 3pm

Beautiful natural semi-precious gemstones



Pod 3, Amble Harbour Village

www.seawavesstudio.co.uk



THE PAINT POT

'Painting more for less'

For smaller painting jobs
avoiding the big prices

Ring Bren: 07947 433144

brendanfarrowsmith57@gmail.com

Right: This amazing image
of Coquet Island was taken
by Ewan Suttie using a
360 degree camera. RSPB
Warden Paul Morrison told
us "Ewan is the chap that
recorded and produced the
spectacular Coquet Island
virtual reality experience
that has been shown in the
Scottish Parliament and
big RSPB exhibitions. He
magically captured stills
from the 360 degree video
and created these little
planets."

cottages in NORTHUMBERLAND



Looking to earn extra income from your holiday cottage?

Due to an increase in demand, we are looking for properties in your
area that we can market on your behalf.

We can offer you:

- * Competitive commission rates
- * Full management service
- * Professional photography
- * 24/7 booking service

For a friendly chat call us on: 0191 231 3020

or email: enquiries@cottagesinnorthumberland.co.uk

www.cottagesinnorthumberland.co.uk





Ask Ava

I got so many books for Christmas where do I start?

I have the same problem. The easiest way to get round to it is just read as much as possible and if you have a series, read that first. If you only have the first of a series, read that last so you can remember it better when you get round to reading the others.

As long as you read it's okay! Some books on my book list are; Cell 7, Geek Girl, Lost Files, Ugles, 13 Minutes, Monster and many more.

by Ava



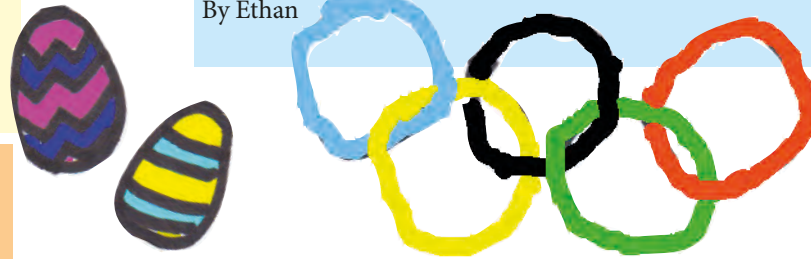
Winter Olympics 2018

The winter Olympics last from 9 February until 25 February. There are different sports like curling, figure skating and many more.

Through the past couple of decades, Britain has competed in snowboarding and short track speed skating, but they have not had many gold medals.

This year's winter olympics are being held in South Korea. They should be good at figure skating and skeleton.

By Ethan



Does social media do enough to protect us?

Social media is a huge part of our lives and has a large influence on things we do.

Some of our influencers are very inspirational, others are completely out of control and let the fame get to their head which has concluded in some inappropriate content being uploaded to various sites.

Some things aren't dealt with in the correct way for example video's/comments discussing important things that others try to avoid are then blocked from sites or removed. But videos that are extremely inappropriate are only given a slight warning.

For example Logan Paul posted a very inappropriate video and was very insensitive about it but he still wasn't punished the video was eventually taken down.

Do you think social media is doing enough to protect us?

By Bethany



Is the news getting out of control?

Though the news can be great it could also be dangerous. As soon as one person knows something it goes viral and something that wasn't anyone's business is now splashed over the internet.

Also now so many young children have access to the internet they see a lot of scary/inappropriate things.

Because of all the bad things happening in the world, I don't think younger children should be allowed to view the news.

By Ava

ZECCA CLOSED FOR GOOD?

Zecca, the popular Italian restaurant in Amble, closed for good suddenly before Christmas.

Opened in 2009, Zecca was a hugely popular restaurant that sold pizza, pasta and other Italian style food.

In 2016 it changed hands from its original owners- the chef, Richard Sim, and the business man Mark Jones- and people were really shocked as it was shut so quickly. People with bookings were informed and those with vouchers should post them back to Zecca with their details on so they can be reimbursed.

It was a great restaurant to have in our town with a wide variety of delicious wood fired pizzas and other foods at really cheap prices. We always used to go there for Christmas Eve and other celebrations so, for me and a lot of other locals, it has a lot of great memories associated with it.

Co-owner Dean Marshall said: "Unfortunately, Zecca has shut. All of the bookings we had have now been informed with apologies and a saddened heart." It's still to be confirmed the truth about what happened, but it seems like Zecca won't be opening back up again anytime soon.

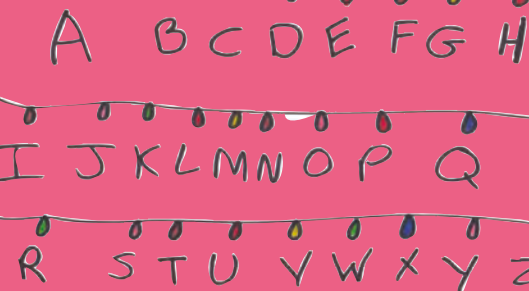
By Lily

FRIENDS DON'T LIE

Stranger Things is one of my favourite shows, it provides emotion in the characters, so you get really attached, and when something bad happens to them you feel somewhat upset.

The show follows four boys (Mike, Lucas, Dustin and Will) and a girl named Eleven.

It is set in the early 1980s. They unravel mysteries involving secret government experiments, unnerving supernatural forces, and a very



unusual little girl. Will goes missing while riding on his bike, the whole town is desperately searching for him.

My favourite thing about the show is

probably the characters and their stories, the show lives in the past but isn't stuck there; it reminds us what it's like to live now.

The show is based on a real place in Montauk, New York called Camp

Hero, where there were rumours of secret government spies doing human experiments, which is showed in the series with Hawkins lab.

By Beth

Why robots are the future

There are two robots I like, one is Alexa and the other one is called Dash.

Alexa has to be set up on an Amazon account, but then you can ask it questions like 'what time is it?' or 'give me a quiz about Minecraft' for example. Alexa plays songs when you ask. When you talk to it you have

to say its name first, so for example "Alexa find out the weather for next Saturday".

Dash and Dot are robots you can programme. If I want Dash to move, I need to use an app to code it. This app is called Blockly. On the iPad there is another app for Dash and Dot robots, this is called Go.

This is where I can make Dash move and make some animal sounds. I can record sounds too.

I love robots because one day they might do my homework when I get stuck, and I like dash because you code.

By Louise



International Days to Look out For

International days are days lots of people celebrate. For example **World Book Day** (1 March) is celebrated all over the world, lots of schools encouraging students to dress up as their favourite book character.

Mothering Sunday (11 March) - also known as Mother's Day- is a day where we celebrate our mams and give them gifts and generally spoil them, as though it was their birthday.

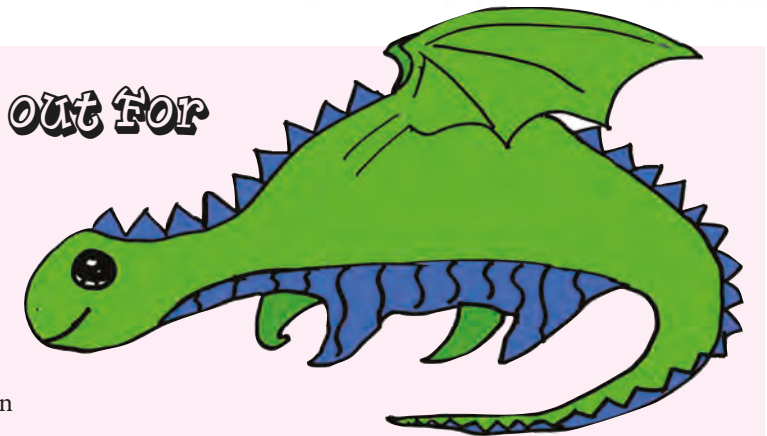
Easter Sunday (1 April) is rejoiced mostly by children when the Easter bunny comes and chocolate is eaten A LOT.

The day the **London marathon** takes place (22 April) may not be international but certainly is ceremonious. Nearly 50,000 people run a marathon (26.2 miles) so it deserves a spot on the list.

St Georges day (23 April) is the last of all, celebrating when St George (England's patron saint) supposedly slayed a dragon.

Remember to look out for all these days in the coming months!

By Ava



Unenthusiastic about plastic!

The government has said that they will try to make sure there are no avoidable plastics. Some types of avoidable plastics are: drinking straws, cups, drinking bottles and cutlery.

The problem with disposable plastics is that they can end up in the ocean, so fish and dolphins get trapped/poisoned. They also take a long time to get rid of. In fact, a single plastic bag can take HUNDREDS of years to disintegrate!

It's so much of a problem that in the UK alone, the amount of single-use plastic wasted every year would fill 1,000 Royal Albert hall. That's a LOT of plastic!

"So," you may be asking, "how can I help?". People are encouraged to use less plastic, reuse and recycle! Although it's difficult, you should try to buy fewer things in plastic containers. If you buy food from a farmer's market and bring your own bag, you aren't just helping the environment, you're helping the farmers too!

An example of things already being done is that in Devon and Cornwall, plastic found in the sea is being melted down to pellets and used to make kayaks! The kayaks will be given to community groups and used for river and beach clean-ups this spring.

By Amy

New sponsor for football youngsters



Above: Drone manufacturers and mapping specialists QuestUAV are the new sponsors for Ambleside East End Football Juniors. See page 21 for the full story.

★ DIAL DAVE HANDYMAN LOCAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ★

FLAT PACK FURNITURE BUILT, PICTURES, MIRRORS, TV WALL MOUNTS HUNG, CURTAIN POLES & BLINDS FITTED, **PLUMBING** REPAIRS, **WASHING MACHINES & DISHWASHERS** INSTALLED, DOOR LOCKS & HINGES REPAIRED, **KITCHENS**, LAMINATE **FLOORING**, LOG SHEDS, TREE HOUSES, **FENCING**, GATES & **GARDEN** FURNITURE.

THINK OF THE TROUBLE YOU'LL SAVE IF YOU **DIAL DAVE!**

M: 07706 418 479 E: dave@dialdave.co.uk

www.dialdave.co.uk

Cromie Pharmacy


Are you flu safe? Get the jab!



**Flu can be a serious illness
... are you at risk?**

Getting a flu jab can protect you all winter. It's free if you are over 65, pregnant, or have a long-term health condition such as severe asthma, diabetes, a chest, heart liver or kidney complaint or lowered immunity.

You need to get the flu jab every year. The flu jab is quick, safe and free* and we have vaccines in stock. To book your jab, visit Cromie Pharmacy.

This is an NHS funded service 

* Those not considered 'at risk' may incur a charge. Ask our pharmacist for details.



158 Percy St, Amble 01665 710 896



Join us at...

**Hope Café - Trinity Methodist,
Percy Street, Amble.**

**Wednesday 11th April
Time: 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

**Wednesday 19th September
Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm**



Discussion, information and sharing about one topic most folk avoid thinking about.

Ever wanted to talk openly about death, funerals, wills, legacies and...???

Answers, suggestions and conversation about the issues that many don't want to contemplate.

Trinity Methodist will host a hope-filled event where these areas can be explored in the company of informed people willing to share these areas of concern for many of us.

Here's an opportunity to help ourselves, family and friends face up to the only inevitable issue of our lives - our deaths!

Experts will be on hand to talk about ...

- Wills
- Hospice Care
- Counselling

There will be an open forum and a manned presentation, so feel free to drop in anytime.

More flooding at Hauxley



Low Hauxley allotments have seen extensive flooding again, and the new pond at the entrance to Hauxley Nature Reserve has also seen a rise in levels. The area flooded for many months last year until a drain outfall was unblocked.

Low Hauxley resident and allotment holder Dave Cook told *The Ambler*: "The flooding has slowly crept up this January, this last week it's grown big time. One allotment holder has hens on his land and he can't get down there with his wheelbarrow to feed them. Last year they said the problem was sorted, so where this has come from, I don't know."

Water from gullies on Hauxley Lane is directed via a culvert towards the new pond at the entrance to the Nature Reserve, and then onwards to a drain outfall on the beach. High water table levels in recent years have coincided with the appearance of the new pond, and extensive flooding along Hauxley Lane and in the allotments.

A spokesperson for Hauxley Parish Council said "We have met with Northumberland County Council on site last week. There is very little water coming from the culvert so they think the pipe must be blocked. They are hoping to have contractors on site very soon to clear it in the hope this will alleviate the flooding."

Water levels fell after pumping operation

Mine water levels in Hauxley dropped slightly during a three month pumping test last autumn. The Coal Authority (CA) carried out the operation to assess water levels and quality, after concerns were raised about flooding and high levels of manganese in water samples taken from the beach.

A series of floods around Hauxley and sink holes on the beach prompted questions from Hauxley Parish Council, *The Ambler* and local residents to local authorities about where the water was coming from, whether it was dangerous, and what could be done to alleviate some of the problems. Some flooding was judged to be due to blocked drains, (see above) but ground water levels were also known to be very high.

Figures from the CA showed that ground water levels were at the highest they have been since the Hauxley pumping station was shut down in 1985. The levels had grown on average 3 metres per year, taking them from 86.3 metres below sea level in 1988, to above sea level in October 2014.

In August last year, a short term permit was issued by the Environment Agency

(EA) to the CA to pump water from the old Hauxley mineshaft, to assess water levels and quality. For three months the water was pumped out of a borehole and onto the beach at Hauxley.

A CA spokesperson told *The Ambler*: "The pumping test showed mine water levels fell between approximately 0.5m and 6.5m across our mine water monitoring boreholes during the pumping test. The levels of groundwaters outside the old mine workings were not monitored."

They added: "Currently we have no plans to resume pumping at Hauxley. We are hoping to compile analysis of the pumping test and start further studies later this year."

Levels of manganese in the water taken from the mine shaft at the end of August reached 0.81mg per litre, which greatly exceeds environmental quality standards.

However the authorities said it was not a health concern, as the pumping was not a permanent operation.

The CA said at the time: "The quality of the water being pumped is very similar to that which was discharged at the outfall



Water was pumped from the old Hauxley mine from August to October 2017.

during the opencast operations. As the water is only moderately mineralised, treatment was not considered necessary during that mining period.

"A technical report concluded that the pumping test will not adversely affect the environmentally protected sites in the local area."

Anna Williams

Hauxley Parish Council



Councillor Vacancies

Hauxley Parish Council are looking for two new candidates to serve as Parish Councillors.

- Are you interested in local current affairs?
- Do you wish to serve your Community?
- Could you provide a voice for residents?

We would like to hear from you. For further information on qualifying criteria or an informal

chat please contact the Parish Clerk Jade Reynolds (details below).

Parking plea

Residents and members of Hauxley Parish Council have requested again that all residents and members of the public adhere to the parking restrictions to help alleviate the persistent issues with car parking and access in the parish. Parking within the parish will continue to be monitored.

Raising issues with the Parish Council

Residents are invited to write to the Clerk if they would like to raise any issues at the bi-monthly parish meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 12th March at 6:30pm in the Village Hall, Low Hauxley.

Contact details: Parish Clerk: Mrs J Reynolds

Address: 14 Oswald St, Amble, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 0EG Tel: 07786 255 649

Email: hauxleyipc@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.theambler.co.uk/category/news/politics/hauxley-parish-council

REPORTS FROM OUR *County Councillors*

Over the last few months I have had reports of people slipping and tripping on our town's footpaths, there are a number of really dangerous conditions.

NCC policy for repairing defects within the adopted highway is 20mm for footpaths and 40 mm for a road, some areas have tarmaced paths and others still paving, it is not surprising that the paving is causing accidents.

If you have any concerns please email and let me know the scale of the problem in your area, people should not step outside their front door fearing an accident or injury? Help make our footpaths safe. Thank you.

Dates for my next surgeries: Saturday 24 February,

Saturday 19 May, Saturday 11 August 11, Saturday 17 November

at Amble library 10am - 11am Broomhill Christ church 11.30am -12.30pm and

Hauxley parish hall 1.30pm -2.30pm

Cllr Terry Clark.

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk

Wraith's fruit shop reunion



A reunion was recently held at the Wellwood for ex employees of Wraith's fruit and veg shop. The shop opened on Queen Street in 1961 and closed in 2007.

Front: l-r: Brenda Wannop, Kath Robinson, Isobel Barclay, Louvain Wraith, Claire Cullen, Brenda Barclay, Joanne Handyside, Jill Wraith, Nicola Mowbray, Clare Lewis, Catherine Mortimer, Wendy Robinson, April Coulson.

Back: Sheila Mavin, Kath Prouse, Gillian Stewart, Denise Barclay, Julie Robson, Kathryn Baxter, Eleanor Green.

I write this report as the snow is falling outside and I am trapped inside recovering from a hip replacement, so it's a good time to contemplate on what is happening or has happened recently in Amble.

I think the Town did well last year, visitor numbers are increasing and the lobster hatchery is open. The one-way system, after some teething issues, is easing some of the traffic problems. The hotel is under construction and plans are being made to create a new road that will help cope with the housing developments in and around Amble.

What about this year? I think we will see the Hotel opening, the new housing developments started, the industrial estate offering job opportunities and visitors to the town increasing, bringing further job security and prosperity. I would not be surprised if a new Supermarket decided to open as the number of residents in the area increased.

I know that several schemes are being looked at by N.C.C. to assist the infrastructure of the town and I am working closely with them and the Town Council to solve some of the outstanding problems that persist.

Amble has changed a lot over the last few years and I think it will continue to change over the next few years, these changes need to be mindful of the needs of the existing community as well as creating opportunities for our young people to grow and prosper in our special Town.

Big opportunities and big challenges lie ahead; I will continue to try to ensure that we get the best solutions for all of us and that Amble becomes an even better place to live.

Available (although mobility temporarily restricted) on

Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.co.uk
07802385367

Council proposes prudent budget to balance the books

Northumberland County Council has pledged a prudent and considered budget as it looks to balance the books and save £65m over the next four years.

Councillors will consider proposed efficiencies of £8.2m for the coming year, £21.1m in 2019-20, and rising to £65.1m over the term of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018-2022.

Council Leader Peter Jackson said: "We have bold and ambitious plans for the future, but we need balance our books.

"By doing this, we'll be much better placed to help support a thriving local economy and deliver value for money for the communities we serve.

"This year has very much been about putting things right, protecting essential services, and plugging historic cost pressures through increased demand in services.

"Since this administration took over last May, we've been working hard to bring forward achievable budget proposals that deliver savings and have tangible benefits.

"Service demand is set to continue, whether it's repairing our roads or looking after the most vulnerable in our society, so the next three years will be more challenging and have a significant impact on the way we deliver services over that period.

"We are determined to stabilise core services by diverting resources where they are most needed.

"However we are still very much forward looking and ambitious for our future. Our capital programme is the biggest ever delivered in the County, and will invest £580m in physical infrastructure like new schools, transport and highway improvements, as well as new homes across Northumberland."

To protect vital services and balance the budget, it is proposed to raise Council Tax by 2.99%. While this rise is in line with inflation, it equates to 85 pence per household per week for a Band D property.

Like many local authorities across the UK, this decision has been taken in line with the

Government's assumptions around spending power and resulting Revenue Support Grant contribution.

Cllr Jackson added: "Our approach needs to be transformational in terms of integrating services and developing new ways of working, as well as exploring more opportunities to generate income. However, we need to address a number of legacy issues and areas where our basic infrastructure has been neglected for many years.

Over the coming years we pledge to continue investing in Northumberland's future and making sure we get a fair deal for the whole county - one that works for everyone."

These budget proposals have been debated at Local Area Councils throughout January 2018. These will be discussed further by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and put forward for approval to Full Council on 21 February 2018.

Visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/budget for further information.

Here we are again, looking forward to another year of change and progress. I hope you all enjoyed Christmas and didn't overindulge. Okay, forget that. I hope you just enjoyed whatever you participated in.

With a new year will come changes. Some we are already seeing in the changing nature of businesses on Queen Street. Whether the changes are good or bad remains to be seen but no doubt they will be in response to changing shopping trends.

Parking: One thing is for sure: if we want to retain a vibrant high street, in any form, we need to resolve the parking issues. I have

previously outlined some of the difficulties encountered with the limited number of options but something has got to be sorted.

The town simply cannot go on encouraging visitors without addressing the most basic of requirements.

So despite making little headway to date, we offer a reassurance that we will continue to look at all viable options in conjunction with the county council, business club and town council. Somehow we have to find a solution - unless we become a car and bus free town!

Developments: Hopefully once the weather clears up work will commence in earnest on

the hotel as it is due to open in October.

Welfare: We are waiting for delivery of trees to plant on site and some work will be carried out to tidy up the paintwork on the MUGAS. We also hope to have CCTV cameras sited there as well, soon.

Seafood Centre: There will be a new promotion through the lobster hatchery in the coming weeks. Restaurants who promote the use of sustainably caught fish are working with us and joining in the 'buy one, set one free' promotion. For each lobster purchased in their restaurant 50p is donated to set a baby lobster free. Two

restaurants already signed up are Colmans Seafood Temple and Taylors.

We also hope to be smoking produce in the near future to add value to local catch.

Future project: And finally we are considering developing a project to be submitted to the coastal community fund. I don't want to say too much at the minute but should it come off it will be rather exciting.

Next time we go to print it will be spring and flowers will be coming through, so happy time to look forward to.

Julia and all trust staff
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Construction firm building on success

A local construction firm is in the running for three business awards, something of a testament to their growing success. Smailes Construction started in 2012, with David Smailes on his own at first.

"He always wanted to set up his own company," said business partner and wife Alison. "Our business ethos is all about changing the perception of how construction projects are delivered. People have a poor conception of construction. David wanted to prove projects can go on time and be a good experience. Initially we were going to



Above: Smailes' Construction apprentices. l-r Jacob Coulter, Stephen Jones, Ryan Hudson and Jack Sams

keep to small domestic projects and extensions, but our model proved such a success, and we just kept growing. We were approached by architects and private customers who enjoy working with one person and one company."

In 2016 the company established Huxmar, which specialises in kitchens and all season summer houses and David now employs 20 people, including six apprentices.

They are shortlisted for three business awards; the North East Business Awards in the Apprenticeship category, and in the Northumberland Business Awards, in their Large Business and Apprentice of the Year awards. We wish them good luck.

Anna Williams

Expertise Wills and Wealth

DO YOU WANT TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S ASSETS?
Protect from 3rd Party Challenges & Divorce and Business Failure, Sideways Disinheritance

Free Advice on Tax Planning on Care Costs
Lasting Powers of Attorney (changed 2007)
Make sure you have them in place whilst you're fit and healthy

NEED HELP WITH PROBATE? Fixed Fee from £1000
Write A Will from £99 or Free Will Reviews

Ring Enid: 07772 182 130 • 01670 855 768
for a FREE CONSULTATION in your home

Email: enid.eww@sky.com
Barrister Intermediary and
Member of the Legal Services Guild

Commercial & Domestic Cleaning Services

Your One Stop Cleaning Service Provider

Our ever expanding teams of fully trained and insured operatives are insured and able to carry out all of the following aspects of Domestic and Commercial cleaning for you, or your business.

Carpets and upholstery	Conservatory Roofs	Pressure washing
Windows	Commercial Kitchens	End of Tenancy
Gutters/Fascias		Post Build General

01665 713448 www.lionheartcleaning.co.uk



Amble Town

COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm unless stated otherwise
Town: 15 Feb; 8 Mar; 12 April
Amenities: 29 March

BURIAL RIGHTS

WE HAVE BEEN asked on occasions if there are any grave spaces available in the older parts of the cemetery. We are aware of some but there are others where many years ago families reserved a space for their future use. These reservations have rarely been renewed however legally this must be done if you wish to retain the space. We plan to carry out a full audit soon to ascertain where there are vacant plots available which can then be used.

Many people are unaware of changes in the burial law due to concerns around lack of interment space in many city areas. The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 gave local authorities' power to grant

members of the public the exclusive rights of burial for a grave in a public cemetery only for a set period of time rather than 'in perpetuity'. In general this has become for a period of 25- 50 years; Amble West Cemetery is 50 years. [Note that the grave itself is 'never' owned by someone who has purchased the burial rights; the land owner still retains ownership of the land.]

Having the "burial rights" legally prevents the land owner removing a memorial stone or reopening the grave and burying another body in that grave without the owner's permission. A 'burial right' is a legal document which ceases with a death but it can be transferred in a will; if it is not then another family member can complete the necessary documentation and pay the fee

to have this done.

This change in the previous law of grants 'in perpetuity' are important to those who held them. For any such space purchased before 1st April 1974 those 'perpetuity' rights have ended. Legally, if family wish to retain the right to that space, they must renew it for a further term beyond the 99 years from the date of purchase. If the right is not renewed then all the entitlements attached cease to apply. Unlike cities, Amble West Cemetery has spare ground available, so grave spaces would not be reused in the foreseeable future. However if there is only a single burial in your family's double plot and you wish to use it in the future then you must remember to check when the plot was first acquired and update if necessary.

CYCLE CONTRAFLOW

NCC North Area Committee members have accepted and agreed with the petition to amend the part of the National Cycle Route which is within our one way system. Officers will now look at the best way to achieve this so that motorists and cyclists are travelling in the same direction. This may involve highway enhancements so it could be some time before this is changed. Meanwhile, please continue to be careful whether a pedestrian, a cyclist or a motorist, when you are going round the Town Square and in Leazes Street.

WALL AT THE WYND

THE WALL at the Wynd entrance to the West Allotments was hit by someone and part of it fell down. Nobody came forward to claim responsibility and we failed to find the culprit, but it was reported to the police. A delay to the repairs was due to the costs having to be taken up with our insurers, who then needed to approve the work. After this negotiation, a tender was accepted the fallen stone was cleared and the wall repaired.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

WHAT A FANTASTIC community event, Amble Christmas Light parade, on November 18th. I do believe the highest number of people yet attended making it one of the best yet. How lovely to hear people say how well Amble does this event with the whole community getting involved. I love to see all the children and young people getting involved in their community and hopefully these young people will be the future committee organisers of Amble events.

I am very privileged to work as a volunteer with Amble Food Bank and have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Amble making sure that those who are struggling within our community were able to access a substantial food parcel to help over the Christmas period. People of Amble you have done yourselves proud!

Wishing you all the very best for 2018

Cllr Tracey Hinton

WAR MEMORIAL FUNDING

THE GENEROSITY of our small community is amazing. We are so very grateful for the money continuing to come in from a variety of sources to help repair our Memorial and the Clock. How many of us still look up to see the time before we recollect it is stopped at present? Weather permitting work will commence in March/April and hopefully will be complete within six weeks. Whilst we have been fortunate to receive some grant funding from the War Memorials Trust, this undertaking, although still expensive, will be very worthwhile. We hope that once completed, all will treat it with the respect it deserves.

BUDGET

THE BUDGET is drawn up for the next financial year as NCC require the figure now to add to the Council Tax calculations. Amble has added just over 60 houses to the stock which is used to work out the individual contribution. Partly due to this addition we have been able to keep the precept rise to only 3% per band D property.

The new budget enables us to have more manpower throughout the year to enhance the standards in the town as well as maintaining the new CCTV system. It will continue to fund everything we have put in place in the past as well as carrying on with our litter bin replacement project and our contribution to keep the car park behind Tesco open - whilst we continue to lobby for a long term solution to the problem. We have allocated further funds to complete the work needed to the War Memorial Clock Tower and are discussing the possibility of adding a new memorial for all conflicts rather than only the World Wars currently commemorated. We will continue to repoint more of the East Cemetery walls and will look at replacing the information boards there. There is also money available to help other organisations in the town with their work for and in our community.

EAST WARD:

Ian Parks,
33 Warkworth Avenue,
Warkworth. NE65 0TP

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

Craig Weir
76 Priory Park,
Amble NE65 0HY
Tel: 01665 712342

WEST WARD:

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

Jeff Watson
Friarsgate
14 Magdalene Fields
Warkworth NE65 0UF
Tel 07802 385367

Tracey Hinton,
13 George Street,
Amble NE65 0RZ

CENTRAL WARD:

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

Jane Dargue (Chair/
Mayor)
10 Sylvia's Close,
Amble NE65 0GB
Tel: 07795360513

Martin Horn
22 Mariners View
Amble NE65 0JH
Tel: 01665 712836

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: 10.30am-12noon & 1.30-3p.m. Monday to Friday Vicki Smith, Town Clerk Minutes available to view in Office or online

Memories of Marie and Gino, and the best fish and chips in Amble

How many of us remember, as teenagers, going to Gino's for our bags of chips and scramptions? Gino's was the fish shop on Albert Street. Living nearby, for me the smell of fish and chips or as we called them, 'fish and six', was just too tempting.

As well as Gino himself, cooking the fish and chips, you will probably remember his wife Marie, who greeted everyone with a smile and friendly words. She was kind and gentle. Marie died in January, aged 93.

A customer once commented on her lovely perfume and she replied that it was to counteract the smells of the cooking.

Ann Dawson

“ They always had a smile for their customers. We used to go along there after an evening playing to buy 6-pennorth of chips and some scranchnums, which were eaten up by the time we got back along home to Central Ave. Also remember their two boys Tony and Peter. ”

Lynda Crackett

“ Gino was my dad's best friend...fab memories...used take me in there on a Saturday for a bottle of coke, bloody lovely people. You couldn't get a nicer family. ”

Sarah Hartles

“ Friday night, fish and chips, bread and butter and pot of tea with the boyfriend who became the husband. ”

Aline Wood

“ I worked in the top (Co-op) store. Kit Rollo was there then and was mad about cars etc, he spent his spare time doing odd jobs at Harry Breeze's garage. One day he saw Gino working on his Ford over the road from the shop. When Gino came in to buy a few hundred cigs for resale in the shop Kit asked Gino if he had been adjusting the points and tappits, and did he know what he was doing. Gino's reply knocked the wind out of Kit's sails. He said "Oh yes, I work for Ferrari before coming to England"... I can still see the look on Kit's face even now.”

Keith Armstrong



Gino's fish and chip shop was on Albert St, where Pizza Bella is now. It was run by Gino and Maria (Marie) Conti in the 50s, 60s and early 70s. Thank you for all your comments, sorry we couldn't use them all. For more, see Amble In Old Photographs Facebook page. Photo courtesy David O'hara

“ They always got my Dad to paint the shop. It always had to be done when they were closed so they didn't have to shut especially. Maria was always very welcoming. Gino never seemed to say a lot, he just worked. ”

Bartle Rippon

“ Many times he showed me his car, A BIGGA DAM A LER. We used to say, rather disingenuously, but as a humorous quip, when we were youngsters, that Gino was the only man that could slice a fish into four pieces and still have a backbone in every piece. ”

John Craiggs

Anyone else suffering from superslow broadband?

Amble homeowner Carle Robinson contacted us with a complaint about poor broadband connectivity at the new Persimmon housing development. Other people have also told us they too have poor broadband connectivity issues in Amble and Hauxley. What's your experience?



I've an interesting issue regarding Broadband at Coquet Grange. Basically Persimmon didn't purchase a fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) street cabinet back when the site started.

Openreach won't upgrade us as the development is still a commercial interest. Persimmon won't upgrade us to a modern fibre cabinet. Therefore all residents share the single ADSL cabinet and as the site grows then the service is deteriorating.

Nobody from Openreach or Persimmon is interested in

listening to the residents. At times you can't run iplayer on the TV.

I spoke with the Gazette who told me that a similar issue at Alnwick was resolved with Councillors pressuring developers and Openreach, but I'm not sure where is the best place to start with that. We were told there was broadband when we purchased, but like many others there we expected that to be FTTC Superfast, which it isn't.

Carle Robinson

The Ambler contacted Nathan Fuller, Support Officer for Northumberland County Council's iNorthumberland service, who gave us this reply:

Unfortunately Persimmon is not prepared to fund the upgrade to fibre. In the Alnwick example Taylor Wimpey agreed with Openreach to fund the costs of upgrading. We have similar examples in Morpeth with Taylor Wimpey and Bellway doing the same.

At present there is nothing we can do with public funds to address the issue, if Persimmon is unwilling to pay the only other option I can think of is for residents to look at paying. I don't know the costs of this cabinet, but we have others in a similar situation which have been quoted under £10,000 for an upgrade. I know this isn't ideal but you will see from www.inorthumberland.org.uk/move that this is an issue across the country.

I did raise this issue with an alternative supplier (Alncom, based in Alnwick) who may be interested in offering a superfast wireless service to the estate if there is sufficient demand from residents.

We did put up signs last year next to the site encouraging people to check fibre availability before buying in the hope that enough queries or loss of sales would encourage the developer to agree to offer the service, but there is nothing we can do formally.

I appreciate this isn't the answer you were probably hoping for, but we are happy to try and help where possible.

Nathan Fuller
Project Support Officer
Information Services
Northumberland County Council
01670 620185
nathan.fuller@northumberland.gov.uk

Northumbrian Ceilidh

Saturday 24 March at 7.30pm at Warkworth War Memorial Hall
Our Easter Ceilidh with dances, songs and recitations. Don't worry if you've never been to a Ceilidh before, our caller will guide you through the dances. Music provided by the "Reel Northumbria Ceilidh Band". No bar: please bring your own drinks, glasses and refreshments.

£5 on the door. Further details: new website at www.wwmh.uk or contact Pete/Kate on 01665 711388.

Highlights - 'Brave folk'

Welcome to an evening of story and song from the lands of the far, far north. Brave Folk (a Farnham Maltings production) is a mystical Nordic tale fizzing with humour and suspense about love and courage and knowing when to act.

Welcome to the marshlands. A place where you can tell a person by the sound of their squelch. Yorgjin Oxo is a carefree young man and an unlikely hero who has been taught the sounds of storms and how to sing into the rain, until one day the next village disappears and everything changes.

Performed by a company of 5 actors, Brave Folk tells of a place unlike our own, of soggy nights, brave mice, larger than life characters, and the joys of being alive. The show is written by Thomas Crowe and directed by Gavin Stride who says "We want this to feel less like a play and more like an event. Like you have spent the evening in the company of friends".

Farnham Maltings and Highlights Rural Touring Scheme have previously brought 'It's A Wonderful Life', 'The Iranian Feast' and many other great shows to Northumberland.

Saturday 3 March at 7.30 (doors open 7pm)

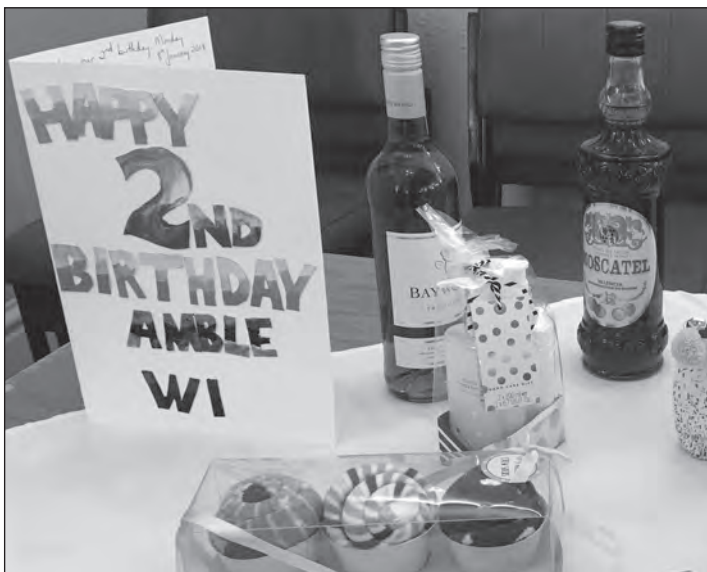
Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, Amble, NE65 0DX

Adults £8, concessions £7, children £5 Tickets from N&F Young, or online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/highlights>, or on the door. There will be a licensed bar, and a raffle.

Subsequent Highlights show on Saturday 9 June will be a musical duo, Dan Walsh & Alistair Anderson.

Mike Dixon, Local co-ordinator, Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Amble WI's second anniversary



Amble WI has just celebrated its second anniversary at the beginning of the year. In February they presented cheques to representatives of the Clock Fund and the Hospice, giving them £100 each from the proceeds of their Christmas Fayre.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Events at Hauxley Nature Reserve with full details and booking are available online at www.nwt.org.uk/whats-on

Please note that all children under 18 attending our events must be accompanied by an adult.



In Focus, Sunday 11 March 10:00am – 4:00pm

Try and buy a range of binoculars, telescopes and other optical equipment. Free but donations welcome. Drop-in during the day.

Hauxley Wildlife Group: Osprey - the life and story of one of Britain's best loved birds of prey, Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, Wednesday 14 March - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Jenna Berry introduces us to the osprey, gives us an insight into a year in the life of one of these magnificent birds of prey and answers some frequently asked questions. £3 suggested donation for light refreshments. This is a Hauxley Wildlife Group event, exclusive to members of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Members may register for the group free of charge, simply visit us or call 01665 568 324 for more information.

Secrets of the Wild- Wildlife Photography, Wildlife Discovery Centre, Saturday 17 March - 9:30am - 1:30pm

Join professional wildlife photographer Neil Atkinson for a combination of indoor and outdoor practical tuition. Suitable for absolute beginners and those with an intermediate level of photography experience. Please bring your own photography equipment and lunch. Warm clothing and waterproof jacket and trousers are advised. To book visit www.neilatkinson.com/secrets-of-the-wild.html. This is an adult only workshop.

Introduction to spring bird identification, Saturday 24 March 10:00am - 12:00pm

Improve your identification of spring birds using sight and sound.. This is an outdoor event; please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Bring binoculars, a notebook and pen if you have one. Telescopes and guidebooks provided. This is an adult only workshop and is suitable for ages 16+. All persons under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. £5 per person, please book online.

An Easter egg hunt with a difference, Saturday 31 March 10:00am - 11:00am Take to the beach in search of eggs of a different kind. Search the strandline for shark egg cases and other fascinating items. Learn all about the sharks, rays and skates that call our coastal waters their home.

All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No dogs please. This is an outdoor event, please dress sensibly for the weather and bring suitable footwear. £3 per person, please book places online.

Easter Treasure Hunt, Northumberlandia, Easter weekend Fri, Sat 30/31 March Sun, Mon 1/2 April

Drop-in to the centre to collect the first clue which will lead you on a trail around the site, exploring the woodland and its inhabitants on your way. Collect answers to questions along the trail and a prize at the end. £3 per child.

Dig at Cresswell pele tower

An archaeological dig started on 6 February at Cresswell's 15th Century pele tower. The dig is to help rescue the tower which is on Heritage England's At Risk register and turn it into a free visitor attraction run by a newly-formed Friends group.

The scheme has been backed by Heritage Lottery funding and Northumberland County Council.

The tower has the potential to be a major draw for the increasing numbers of visitors to the county.

'Flowers and Fizz' charity event

Join local florist Moira Angus for this sparkling spring charity event at the Sun Hotel, Warkworth.

Enjoy a 2-course lunch with a glass of prosecco or tea/coffee and then a floristry demo afterwards.

The theme is Spring tea party and Moira will be demonstrating a number of designs that are easy to do for yourself at home.

The flowers will be raffled at the end of the demo, with proceeds going to Amble Youth Project's new youth club.

The cost will be £22.95 per person and anyone interested should contact Moira for details on 07464 932 249 or email moira.jweddingflorist@gmail.com

Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers' news

Amble RNLI Station Shop to re-open at Easter. The shop volunteers would like to thank everyone for their fantastic support in 2017. We look forward to seeing you in 2018 when our shop re-opens as usual at Easter.

Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers are delighted to announce a whopping £35,854 raised in 2017. A very big thank you to all our amazing supporters. If you would like to help us in our fundraising for 2018 please come along to our next committee meeting on Wednesday 7 February at 6pm at Amble RNLI Station or email Jill at jill.faulconbridge@gmail.com

Please come and join us for coffee and home baking on the following dates between 10.00am and 1.00pm
Sundays 18 February, 18 March, 15 April.

Tiny Woods

It's been a hectic start to the year for our newly formed Junior Club and Walking Football Club. Amble East End Juniors were given a new training kit sponsored by Quest UAV Ltd. (See pic on p14).

Head Coach Josh Rutherford revealed 'I ran a 1-50 Domino Card for £10 to raise money for the kit, thanks to the shops and pods in the local community who supported the club and the lucky winners of the Domino Card happened to be Quest UAV Ltd'.

Nigel and Simon from Quest UAV Ltd said 'Huge thank you to Josh and the team for inviting us down to their training session, it was great to see the team in training! The new strips are awesome! Looking forward to seeing some more from the team!'

Akzo Nobel have sponsored Amble East End Juniors a set of tracksuits and rain jackets. Head Coach Josh Rutherford said 'Akzo Nobel have been very generous in their sponsorship towards our club and we can't thank them enough'.

Amble East End Juniors have been awarded £100 by Amble Town Council. Town Mayor Jane Dargue presented the cheque at a session after the New Year!

Just before Christmas Amble East End Walking Football Club featured in three friendlies, winning against Tees Valley W.F.C and losing to both Peterlee Helford W.F.C and Grangetown W.F.C

Josh Rutherford stepped down as manager handing the reigns to Andrew Ryder-Somerville. Josh said 'Andrew is well respected within the club and I'm sure he will be successful in the role'.

Amble East End Juniors train on Mondays and Wednesdays at James Calvert Spence College Sports Hall 5-6pm both nights. Anyone wanting to join Amble East End Juniors contact Head Coach and UEFA B Candidate Josh Rutherford on 07714862292.

Amble East End Walking Football Club train Tuesday night at James Calvert Spence College Sports Hall 6-7pm. Anyone wanting to join the club should contact Andrew Ryder-Somerville on 07522706185.

Rotary club news

Members of the Rotary Club of Amble & Warkworth would like to express our sincere thanks to the people of Amble and Warkworth and surrounding villages for their most generous contributions during December's Christmas Collection. We managed to raise in excess of £5,000 which, in due course, will be distributed to local charities and good causes.

Rotary Club President, John Geggie, said: 'We are most grateful to everyone who contributed and I am sure that the members of the Rotary Club will ensure that the money raised will be distributed where it is most needed.'

I should also mention and thank the Rotarians and Members of our Inner Wheel and Interact Clubs who gave up their time to tour the streets and rattle their collecting buckets.'

Fred Calvert

Easter greetings from the churches

You are warmly invited to join us at any of these events and services. Lent Lunches will be held on Wednesdays in the Parish Hall, Dovecote Street starting at 12.30pm. Soup and roll, biscuits and hot drinks for a minimum donation of £2.00.

Speaker or short reflection following meal. Money raised for local good causes. On 21, 28 Feb and 7, 14 and 21 March.

Maundy Thursday Services on Thursday 28 March

St Cuthbert's Parish - Holy Communion at 7.00pm

Sacred Heart RC - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm

Trinity Methodist - Morning Worship at 10.00am

Good Friday Services on Friday 29 March

St Cuthbert's Parish - Penitential Service at 10.15am and At the Foot of the Cross at 2.00pm

Sacred Heart RC - Stations of the Cross at 11.00am and

Celebration of the Passion at 3.00pm

Good Friday Ecumenical Act of Witness in Amble Town Square at 11.00am. Short service, followed by hot drinks and hot cross buns at Trinity Methodist Church.

Easter Saturday Services on Saturday 30 March

St Cuthbert's Parish - Service of New light at 8.00pm

Sacred Heart RC- Easter Vigil at 7.00pm

Easter Sunday Services on Sunday 1 April

St Cuthbert's Parish - Easter Communion at 9.30am

Sacred Heart RC - Easter Mass at 9.30pm

Hauxley Chapel - Easter Worship at 4.00pm

St Mark's URC - Easter Worship at 10.00am

Trinity Methodist - Easter Communion at 10.30am

Royal British Legion

The branch continues to grow. Our bi-monthly military lectures are proving to be a huge success. Our membership fee is £18 per year and includes a quarterly magazine and many Royal British Legion benefits. If you would like to come along, our meetings are a great way to make new friends and socialize. Non-members are welcome to join us and for a £2.50 donation and can enjoy the talk and share our buffet supper. No pre-booking is necessary – just come along to the Legion Room upstairs in Warkworth War Memorial Hall, Castle Street, on a Wednesday evening on the following dates.

Meetings Dates: 28 March, 23 May,

Next Meeting - Wednesday, 28 March at 7pm

Speaker: Ian McArdle

Presentation: Nurse Edith Cavell. WW1 1865-1915. Her life in Belgium as a nurse.

Amble Variety Show 2

Saturday 12 May 7.30pm in St Mark's URC.
This promises to be a whole evening of fun for all ages.
Songs, music, poetry, stories, puppets, and more.
Raffle and light refreshments.

This is Amble's major effort for Christian Aid. Come along and support a worthy cause whilst having a great time. Free entry donations taken on the night

Telling Tales

Alnwick Civic Society is running a FREE course at Bailiffgate Museum as part of their Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes' on 5 March 10am-12pm. Coffee available from 9.40am.

Booking is essential. Please go to www.bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk/events or phone 01665 605847. You can also email on ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk

Course details-

Telling Tales: inspiring ideas and practical tools for sharing your heritage stories successfully.

Join heritage interpretation specialist Jo Scott for a half-day workshop full of ideas and practical tools for sharing your heritage stories successfully. This session is designed for anyone involved with researching and presenting their heritage, from community archivists and museum volunteers to those caring for historic buildings or countryside sites, and who is looking for creative and practical solutions for engaging local people and visitors of all ages and interests.

Through the lens 2018

The subjects of this year's pictures are UK Landscapes and Portraits (They can be of people or animals including pets)
Age groups in each category: up to 10 years; 11 to 18 years; adults.

Entry closes 31 March 2018. Each entry to be mounted, and not exceeding 20" x 16". One entry form per photograph. Please attach the entry form to the back of the photograph. Cost per entry is £1 for adults, and under 18s free.

Entry forms available from the St Cuthbert's Church, N & F Young, the Development Trust and Amble Photographic Group.

Exhibition will be in the church hall, Dovecote Street.

Opening times:

Saturday 5 May 2pm to 4pm,

Sunday 6 May 1pm to 4pm

Monday 7 May 11am to 3pm. Prizegiving on Monday 2.30pm

Entry is free but donations towards running costs would be appreciated. There will be raffles and refreshments.

Peter Cordingley (on behalf of the organising committee).

Coquetmouth NWT

March 19 Martin Kitching: White-beaked Dolphins and the North East Cetacean Project

April 16 - Richard Muggeridge: An indoor Badger Watch

All meetings held at St Marks United Reform Church Hall
7.30pm admission £2 incl tea and biscuits

Puffin lounge

Every other Thursday 2.00-4.00pm in St. Mark's URC Hall, Wellwood Street. Everyone is welcome.

It is primarily for those people living with dementia, their families and carers, but if you just want to drop in for a chat, a cup of tea/coffee, a piece of cake, please do.

22 ~ The Ambler

Radcliffe Club

Friday 2 March: Family Night. Free entry

Friday 16 March: Smash Hits the 80s tour. £5 ticket

Saturday 31 March: Football Q and A with ex Newcastle United player John Beresford. £10 ticket including a pie and pea supper and raffle ticket.

Monday 2 April: Family Funday. Wristbands for Castle and slide £4

Friday 20 April: Race Night

Bailiffgate Celebrates

Felton Art Group kick off in February, with a 21 birthday celebration A Sense of Place.

Mid March will be a truly big occasion when our amazing Batteries Not Included exhibition explodes on the scene. A celebration of childhood, and the toys, games and past times which we all treasured. Each month will see a new focus. We start in March with the Teddy Bears Picnic and Build It- a hands on journey through Lego, Meccano and the rest. We anticipate families wanting to return again and again and they are advised to invest in a Friends membership, only £25, so the whole family can visit free for the rest of the year. There will also be promotional offers during this exhibition. A leaflet detailing the changing programme will be released and our website, as always, gives up to date info.

For the first time Eta Ingham Lawrie is running an advanced freeform weaving class for experienced weavers on 3 March.

For further information contact ask@bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk or call 01665 605908

Amble Pin Cushion - Courses

All courses take place in the craft room. Day courses include lunch and other courses have refreshments.

The drop-in sewing club, on the fourth Wednesday afternoon of the month, has a new name: Stitch and Bitch. Entrance fee is £4.50 which includes many extras.

Knit and Natter on the third Friday morning of the month

Beginner's Treats this spring include Get to know your Sewing Machine. Beginner's Crochet with Lorraine

Fun rag rugging session with Margaret Kenny, The session is suitable for all ages and skills levels. Accompanied children welcome.

For Beginners and Improvers we have two courses in mind.

Mad Hattie's Fascinators - make a fascinator in a day. A course can be arranged to suit interested groups. And one to one millinery courses, can be arranged.

Needle Felting with Laurie Further details from the shop or on the website. <https://www.amblepincushion.co.uk>

Amble Pin Cushion - Charity event

Amble Pin Cushion's chosen charity is the Nambikkai Illam Orphanage in Chennai (Madras), India. We are holding a fundraising James Bond theme night at Acklington Village Hall, 7.30pm Saturday 3 March with a spoof Bond musical murder mystery. Tickets £5 are on sale at the shop. Price includes canapes, fun casino, quiz and entertainment. There will also be great photo opportunities in your choice of costume (Bond, Bond Girl or Bond Villain), with prizes for best costume, a cocktail, mocktail and cigar bar, and a raffle. Donations of prizes and offers of help gratefully received.

Please have any charity blankets, knee blankets, hats, mitts and socks that you are knitting for the next collection for the Bright Charity to the shop by 31 March. Remember, fish and chip jumpers are no longer required. Our charity knitter's scheme is open to anyone knitting locally for charity, and gives you a 10% off voucher for Pricewise yarn, each calendar month.

There's more to digital life than Facebook or Instagram

A series of fun, free, digital media taster sessions and creative workshops will be held in Amble over the course of 2018, to help people improve their digital skills and encourage the use of familiar technology in more creative ways.

Project manager Anna Williams said "We hope these workshops will help people be more confident and creative with their smartphones or tablets.

"There's more to digital life than Facebook or Instagram! Sometimes we get so used to seeing what other people have created, it's refreshing to have the



opportunity to be creative ourselves."

The workshops will generally last around an hour, and will be held on Wednesdays (some evenings, some half-term afternoons) in Fourways2, Amble.

Some sessions are perfect for the whole family, so everyone can learn and have fun together. Beginners are most welcome.

To book your place email anna@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk or ring 01665 712929. You can also get a ticket directly from www.eventbrite.com. Search 'Amble digital media workshops' or 'Amble Development Trust' in Eventbrite's search box.

Digital media workshop dates and information (all Wednesdays)



07 Mar	7-8pm	Smartphonography 01: composition tricks and creative techniques for your phone camera. With photography trainer and Northumberland Camera Club leader Ivor Rackham.
14 Mar	7-8pm	Smartphonography 02: see above
21 Mar	6-7pm	Amble Code Club: Suitable for young people aged 9-13. Join our Code Club and learn the basics of coding using Scratch and Python. Beginners welcome. All equipment provided.
28 Mar	6-7pm	Amble Code Club: see above
04 Apr	2-3pm	Children's coding and digital making 01: Using Scratch, Lego, robots & Raspberry Pi's. Suitable for age 9+ including parents. Afternoon workshop with Mike Dowman. All equipment provided.
11 Apr	2-3pm	Children's coding and digital making 02: see above
18 Apr	7-8pm	Music making using Garageband 01: For all ages and abilities. Bring an iphone or ipad if you have one. With musician Graham Raine.
25 Apr	7-8pm	Music making using Garageband 02: see above
02 May	6-7pm	Amble Code Club: see above
09 May	6-7pm	Amble Code Club: see above
16 May	7-8pm	Stay Safe Online!: How do you know if a website is safe? How can you buy on the Internet without getting ripped off? Surf the Web risk free and find out the answers to these questions and more with eCommerce expert Laura Mathieson.
23 May	7-8pm	Sell Your Stuff Online: Where is the best place to sell your unwanted items? How can you get the best price - and make sure you are paid? Find out useful hints and tips on selling online and how to showcase them to make the most money. With Laura Mathieson.
30 May	6-7pm	Amble Code Club: see above
06 Jun	6-7pm	Amble Code Club: see above
13 Jun	6-7pm	What Apps?: suggestions for cool, useful and must-have apps for adults and children.
20 Jun	6-7pm	Video making 01: tips from local documentary filmmaker Alan Fentiman on using your smartphone to make better videos.
27 Jun	6-7pm	Video making 02: see above
04 Jul	6-7pm	Adults' coding and digital making: get to grips with basic programming concepts using Scratch and programmable Lego. Perfect intro for Mums, Dads, teachers or any interested adult. No experience necessary. All equipment provided.
11 Jul	7-8pm	Advice on WordPress/blogging/social media: Plus tips on raising your profile using social media. Perfect for small businesses or individuals. With Adrian Mahoney.

To book your place email anna@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk or ring 01665 712929. Or book via Eventbrite (see article above)



Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

Councillor Terry Clark

will be holding surgeries on

Saturday 24 February

10am-11am in Amble Library

11.30am-12.30pm at Christ Church Hall Broomhill

1.30pm-2.30pm at Hauxley Village Hall

All Constituents Welcome

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



Amble Kick-boxer ends year on a high

Local kick boxer Adam White finished 2017 in style, travelling to Kent for the Martial Arts All Style International Federation (MAASIF) open competition.

Adam returned with three championship trophies, winning the <80kg Quinda (Chinese kickboxing), Sport Boxing and the K1 categories, and also gaining a silver in the Light Continuous (all kicks above the waist).

Adam has this year also claimed the British title in Sanda for the British Council for Chinese Martial Arts (BCCMA) and is a member of the team GB squad. He has also won the World Kickboxing Association

(WKA) English titles in Sport Boxing and K1, with a bronze in the point fighting categories.

Adam has been selected for the WKA England team to travel to the World Amateur Championships in 2018.

And on top of Adam's success, the Amble Hybrid Kickboxing club have four British title holders in Chinese Kickboxing with the BCCMA.

Adam would like to thank club sponsors TDL Auto's Hadston, Kelly Construction Amble, R. Greenley Joiner Alnwick, Sandee (Thailand) and new sponsors Park Leisure at Amble Links for new competition wear.

Winners of under-8's Glendale Premiership Vase

FC Amble 5-3 Spittal

On Saturday 13 January FC Amble, under 8s were triumphant and brought home the Glendale Premiership Vase after an extremely close and well fought game with Spittal. Much of the game was pretty nail biting as both teams created chances, passed the ball well and scored some cracking goals.

The result was particularly special as the team was only formed this season and have come such a long way in terms of improving their game and their attitude. Manager, Bruce Hardy, formed the team and has been assisted by Jon Tweddell of Jon Tweddell Planning, who are the team sponsor.

The team is also assisted by other parents including Neil Bailey and Stephen Hogg who helps referee. It really is a team effort with the kids and parents all pulling together to ensure that our matches are an enjoyable experience.

The full squad are Noah Bowie, Daniel Birt, William Tweddell, Alex Hardy, Liam Bailey, Ryley Hogg, Zach Hall, Taylor Owen, Jack Redhead and James Bailey.



41st Open Shore competition winners

On a frosty and fresh morning with a slight north westerly breeze and a bit of sea running 400 anglers registered and 103 weighed in at the Radcliffe Club, Amble for a total weight of 309 lb 10½ oz.

The overall winner was John Blaney from Rickleton who fished at the northern end of the boundaries and caught one cod for 12 lb 7½ oz.

Junior winner was local lad Liam French (ASAC) with six flounders for 4

lb 7.5oz who fished in the Warkworth area.

Female winner was Gail Oliver from Gateshead with 10 flounders for 7 lb 11¾ oz.

ASAC would like to thank local tackle shops for supporting the event: Game Fair at Berwick, Amble Angling Centre, Sports and Leisure, McDermotts, Frasers, Sonik.

Next year's Open Shore competition will be on 13 January 2019.



Above: John Blaney with a cod weighing over 12lb. Photo by Alan Charlton. Shore fisherman, photo by Chris Herzberg