



The Ambler

Amble's Community Newspaper

Issue 115 Feb/March 2019

Changes at Coquet Medical Group

Healthcare planners have acknowledged that Amble will need more doctors, due to all the new housing projects currently in development. But Amble GPs say they are already under considerable pressure.

At the same time, two doctors are leaving the Amble and Broomhill practice.

A spokesperson for Coquet Medical Group told The Ambler: "The work load pressures in Amble are huge. Getting GPs is very difficult and there is a national shortage. We are currently recruiting and will be employing new staff."

Dr Gareth Watkins is retiring early, and Dr Zheen Ramzi is moving away for family reasons.

But Amble welcomes a new GP, Dr Kathy McConnachie, who will be taking up her post soon.

Funding does not go to GPs

A 200-page Infrastructure Delivery Plan compiled by Northumberland County Council (NCC), cites Amble/Broomhill as one of six areas in the county which 'will require increased capacity in primary-care infrastructure', due to the amount of large-scale planning applications.

However, funding allocated to local GP services from housing developments cannot be spent on salaries. It goes to the Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group, who can spend it on capital projects such as building or extending GP surgeries.

A spokesperson for NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) told The Ambler: "The CCG is working closely with NCC to ensure that the primary care infrastructure matches the development of any new homes in the county."

"To support the primary care infrastructure, financial contributions are available from housing developers, allocated for GP practices to spend on capital projects such as surgery buildings."

>> continued on p5

Amble Inn opens its doors



Early bird guests at the new Amble Inn included a couple of friendly gulls

A £4m purpose-built pub with rooms has now opened its doors, to much praise and goodwill from the Amble community.

And in a much-needed boost to the local economy, the new venture has created the equivalent of 35 full time jobs.

Some members of the public, local businesses and organisations were invited to pre-launch events at the Amble Inn, where the feedback was very positive. Many messages of support were posted on social media.

Louise Coulthard commented: "The decor is eclectic but works, the food and staff are brilliant, the open fire is a brilliant feature and the bedrooms are huge. We are very impressed. They do pet friendly rooms and also (important if you travel with teenagers) connecting rooms."

Lynne Morelli said: "Have heard nothing but positive feedback. Just what Amble needs. Good luck with your new venture."

The Amble Inn was built by Northumberland County Council's development company

Advance Northumberland, and is operated by award-winning pub company, The Inn Collection Group (ICG).

The ICG operations manager Paul Brown said: "This is a very proud day for us as a group and for the community here in Amble where people have been crying out for a hotel for many years."

"The Amble Inn fills a long-standing gap for year-round, affordable accommodation of this type as well as providing people with a fantastic new environment to eat and drink in. It is so rewarding seeing the project brought to life and being enjoyed by so many. We are looking forward to giving people a great experience whether they are staying, eating or enjoying a drink in the bar with us."

Located off the A1068 leading into Amble from the south, the inn has been designed with 30 bedrooms, including a mix of family and twin rooms, with a 150-seat restaurant and bar. There is also a children's play area, plus car and cycle parking.

Richard Wearmouth Chair of Advance Northumberland said: "I was delighted to help officially open The Amble Inn which is a fantastic asset both for visitors and the local community."

"Amble is an excellent example of a town which is undergoing a great economic transformation and I'm confident this new hotel will be a successful venture for many years to come."

See also p14 and centre pages

WIN A MEAL
FOR 4
AT
THE AMBLE INN
See back page



The children's play area proved very popular

Amble in top ten places to live by the sea

Amble was described in glowing terms in a recent Sunday Times article. In a list of their top ten places to live by the sea, the Friendliest Port was praised for its regeneration in recent years.

"An enthusiastic regeneration scheme has transformed the harbour - now home to smart apartments, cafes, restaurants and the Northumberland Seafood Centre, a lobster hatchery and fish market - and with it the fortunes of the village (sic)."

The article continues: "Unlike (more expensive)

second-home spots on Northumberland's rugged coast, Amble stays lively all year. The friendly marina is used mostly by locals, there are weekend markets and the tasty selection of places to eat includes Spurrelli, an ice-cream parlour where folk will queue happily for gelato even in the chilliest weather, as well as Sea&Soil and the Old Boat House, which both offer great seafood."

First on the Sunday Times' (alphabetical) list was Aberdyfi in Gwynedd, with towns like Hove, North Berwick and St Ives also in the top ten.



Terry steps down from Development Trust



Terry Broughton

Chairman of Amble Development Trust, Terry Broughton has announced his retirement after 25 years at the helm.

Terry said, "When the Development Trust was set up 25 years ago, Alnwick District Council spent 60% of its budget in Alnwick alone. The remaining 40% was shared among the other communities. The Amble community felt it was time for change, which is why the Development Trust was set up.

"I'm very proud of what we

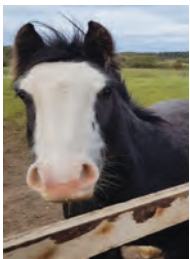
have achieved in those intervening years. The pier was one of the first projects the Development Trust and its partners carried out, and I still get great pleasure from visiting it - even though now I'm on my scooter!"

Director of Amble Development Trust Julia Aston said: "We all wish Terry a very happy retirement and thank him and Val for all their support, guidance and friendship."

Andy Sim will now take over as the new chair. Andy said "When I joined the board as a trustee, in

I think it was 2003, there was a real buzz around, so many projects were ongoing. During this I often worked with Terry and found his wealth of knowledge of great help. I was sorry when Terry stood down, but I understood why, and can only wish him well in the future.

"I have a grave concern about the amount of housing development and the lack of infrastructure; I think we should, with our partners be looking to improve this. We will see what happens."



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Bede Club looks to the future

The Bede Street club is undergoing redecoration and modernisation, after being rescued from the brink of administration.

And now with new leadership, an injection of cash, and a good deal of hard work, the club is looking to turn the venue around towards a bright new future.

In August 2018, a vote was held to decide the club's fate after dwindling patronage and falling receipts. But complaints were voiced from many members that they had not had ballot papers, and there was concern that unused votes had been cast in favour of closure.

After the vote, many

members voiced their discontent with the result, and a solicitor was hired, who successfully challenged the decision.

New committee member George Nelson told *The Ambler*: "We hired a solicitor who said he didn't think the process had been legal and we decided to challenge it. The liquidators then admitted the process for voting had been illegal."

In December, another ballot was held. This time the overwhelming decision was to keep the club open.

"But by then the liquidators had removed everything they could, furniture, TVs, the bar, anything they thought they could sell. We had to hire vans to



go and fetch all the stuff back," said George.

"They changed the insurance, the VAT, even disconnected the alarms. It's a right mess-up, but we're nearly at the end, and we've made an offer to the liquidators to get all our legal papers and documents back.

"We re-opened for trading on 14 December and it's gone very well. We've been doing up the concert room and we'll

be starting downstairs next week. We've done the first stage, of getting the club back for members. Next we'll be promoting it to get as many people through the doors as possible.

"The club's been here through two world wars and the depression. It would be such a shame if it got knocked down."

Anna Williams

Claire Shiels'

Business Matters



Business startups in Amble seem to come in waves. We've heard about interest in an empty property from someone hoping to open up a coffee shop, amidst complaints about the number of similar outlets in the town.

Meanwhile, the long-awaited opening of the Amble Inn, which also initially attracted the same complaints, appears to have done very well in its first week of trading. Obviously, many of us are heading there just to try it out but in my view, it's providing dishes and facilities

which are a welcome addition to the town. It may even help to divert some of the parking issues away from the harbour!

Elsewhere, we have the fantastic Lumiere pod which has also recently opened. Specialising in gift candles, the prices vary, with something to suit everyone's budget. Another new pod is set to open soon, selling all sorts of delicious goodies – perfect for those with a sweet tooth (like me).

The tattoo parlour has moved to larger premises and we're getting a new animal feed

outlet on the industrial estate. Boogie Bounce in the form of LBB Fitness Studio is moving to its own premises, at the Boys' Club.

It's a relatively quiet time of year, but the business community doesn't rest. My forecast for 2019 is that we'll see more businesses come and go and we may well experience the loss of some of our more established shops. That's just the nature of retail and business. Success depends on the size of the potential market, consumer demand and buying behaviour,

as well as economics.

Carrying out market research, having a stringent business plan and an understanding bank manager doesn't guarantee a business will succeed. Sometimes, you just have to make the leap and try.

With this in mind, it's up to Amble residents to welcome anyone who is trying to make a go of a business. Amble needs a healthy economy and businesses bring in money.

Claire is an Amble-based small business PR specialist

Councillor retires after 42 years

Ian Hinson has recently retired from local politics after being involved with district, town and county councils at various times, and accruing 42 years of service.

In honour of this, he was awarded 'Freeman of the town of Amble' at the Town Mayor's Christmas party which came as a complete surprise.

He said he was quite emotional on the occasion and felt honoured to be given this status by the people of Amble. However he told me 'there are no perks to the honour.'

His career in politics started when he was canvassing door to door for Liberal candidate Alan Beith in 1969. People were telling him of the things that they would like to see fixed and



Ian Hinson

eventually he thought 'I can do something about this' so in 1974 he stood for and was elected to Alnwick District Council.

Ian felt the district council was a good balance between the town council, who didn't always

have the power or the money to effect change, and the county council that had the power and funding but were more remote from local problems.

He still thinks it was a shame that the district council was abolished. Commenting on his work Ian said, "As a councillor it was always difficult not to raise people's expectations beyond what was available or possible. There was a fine line I had to tread."

Anyone who talks to Ian will be aware of his vast knowledge of all things to do with local government, he said 'there was no training, some was absorbed by osmosis over the years, but on other occasions specific research was needed to complete the task.'

Ian has always had a passion for the local road structure, he said, "Roads are important for access, bringing people into the town, for work and tourism."

He was particularly proud of the part he had played in the extension of Percy Drive beyond the houses and the industrial estate, to join up with the A1068.

He said 'many local people had expressed their appreciation for the improvement to access and journey times.'

He has now passed the baton on to others, though he maintains an interest in what is happening and what needs to be done.

Vivienne Dalglish



Human beings have become very clever at developing all sorts of ideas and things; I was reminded of this while listened to a 15 minute reading from a work by Stephen Hawking, read by Anton Lesser. The thoughts were wide ranging and stimulating.

For someone whose first acquaintance with radio was in 1945, at the age of 12, the developments of today are well beyond the imaginings of the young me, or of most of my contemporaries.

Could anybody have conceived of manufacturing processes run by robots, or surgical techniques controlled by AI (that's Artificial Intelligence, not Artificial Insemination.) of the Internet and its many manifestations and technologies?

A reminder that we've been told that

if the motor industry had developed at the same rate as IT, we could buy a Rolls Royce for a penny and it would do 1 million miles to the gallon.

Hawking refers to Brain-Computer Interfaces, genome editing techniques and the miracles of sub-atomic physics. There are fears that AI could take over the world and that some people could use AI to give them control over the rest of us.

That reminds me of the chip implanted in a character in a black and white TV series. We may be in a race between future developments and our ability to control them. Who will choose the Gatekeeper of the OFF switch?

The ramblings and groanings of BREXIT are pointing to trouble ahead. Of course, people have different ideas. That's

what democracy is. My view is that we have a stable, representative democracy and we should have been able to accept the will of parliament on this issue, as we do with everything else. There's a lot that I don't like about the EU, but appealing to populism is never a good basis for considered judgement.

Now we hear about Ultima Thule (located in the Kuiper Belt, beyond the orbit of Neptune) and photos taken four billion miles away. Then there's the Chinese probe landed on the far side of the moon.

Who is prepared to bet on what will happen during the year? Harold McMillan's 'Events dear boy' in reply to a young journalist's question on the problems of the day, reminds us of the way things are.

Harry

Ofsted report: JCSC acknowledges needs to improve

Amble's combined middle and high school still requires improvement, but it is heading in the right direction, according to government inspectors.

Following an Ofsted inspection in October, James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) has maintained its previous rating of requires improvement.

All schools are given an overall ranking of outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate, as well as being scored on the same scale in four key areas.

JCSC was rated as requires improvement for effectiveness of leadership and management; quality of teaching, learning and assessment; and outcomes for pupils, but was declared good for personal development, behaviour and welfare.

The report states: "The executive headteacher is leading the school in the right direction. He is building a strong team of senior leaders who share his vision to improve the school."

Executive headteacher, Neil Rodgers, said: "While we are disappointed by many of the summary judgements made in the report, it celebrates many positive achievements throughout the school. "We are pleased that much of the progress we've made in recent years has been rightfully recognised by the Ofsted team, which agrees that the school is moving in the right direction.



Many JCSC students celebrated excellent GCSE results this year

"After a rise in attainment in 2017, GCSE results went up again in 2018, and were the best the school has ever seen. A positive Progress 8 score indicates that students made better-than-average progress between key stages 2 and 4, with our most able students performing to an extremely high level yet again.

"Attendance is improving and in line with national average, including for disadvantaged students (whose academic performance has also improved markedly

over the past couple of years), and the behaviour of our students is good – the way our students behave in lessons and around the school is commended, as is the way they are cared for and supported by staff. We have much to be proud of.

"Having said that, we realise that there are still several areas in which we need to continue to demonstrate improvement – all of which had already been identified by the school leaders and are a work in progress."

Norma Hinson

Model boat exhibition needs boats

It is planned to hold a model boat exhibition in St Cuthbert's Church on the 4, 5 and 6 May. We know that there are many fine models on display in Amble homes and builders with well - developed skills.

We would like to showcase their models and skills in this event. If you know of anyone who has a model boat and would be

prepared to take part in our exhibition, please would you (or they) contact Hugh Williams on 01665 710907 or Bartle Rippon on 07964 171457.

There will also be an opportunity for other local marine organisations to promote their activities too but the models will have pride of place.

We envisage that the exhibition will open from 10am to 4pm and will be stewarded at all times and additional security will be considered to cover out of hours.

Entry to the exhibition will be free and we hope that we can serve tea and coffees etc to raise funds for our building plans.

Hugh Williams & Bartle Rippon

Amble RNLI lifeboat assists yacht

On 16 December while on a routine training exercise in Alnmouth bay a call came from Humber Coastguard to Amble all weather lifeboat Elizabeth and Leonard alerting them to a yacht experiencing difficulties outside of Amble harbour and resulted in the boat diverting to assist. The yacht had one person aboard.

The casualty was towed into Amble marina and handed over to HM Coastguard ashore.

Amble GPs 'under considerable pressure'

<< continued from p1

The CCG highlighted a series of initiatives they are running, to take the workload off GPs. These include recruiting nurse practitioners who can prescribe, prescribing pharmacists, community paramedics, physiotherapists, mental-health workers and drug and alcohol support workers. The CCG is also working to attract young doctors to Northumberland, and they aim to increase the use of technology to help with efficiencies

Put bluntly, funding to recruit more GPs will only happen when more people register with a practice. In other words the new houses have to be built and lived in, before the GPs can ask for money for additional staff.

The CCG spokesperson said, "As GP lists grow with new registrations, practices will receive an increase in their payments for each new patient registration, as well as a re-registration premium for 12 months. The increased income can also be allocated to fund additional staff as required."

The Coquet Medical Group spokesperson said "The demand from increased patients is huge and we are under considerable pressure. We will continue to do our very best for the local patients of Amble/Warkworth/Hadston and Broomhill catchment area."

They added: "Patients need to use the GP service wisely and seek help from alternative sources as appropriate (eg pharmacist) to reduce unnecessary GP appointments."

Coquet Medical Group serves Amble, Warkworth, Hadston and Broomhill, and has over 11,800 patients, and 7.25 full-time equivalent GPs. This works out at approximately 1,600 patients per GP.

Anna Williams

Help raise funds for Oliver



Oliver Shanks was born with severe disabilities

Kind hearted Hauxley resident Julie Baxter is organising a coffee morning for local boy Oliver Shanks. Oliver, who lives in North Broomhill, was born prematurely and is severely disabled.

He is now four years old, and as he grows, his needs are changing. His family need specialised equipment to help him, as he is prone to seizures which can cause him to stop breathing.

Julie is organising a coffee morning to raise funds for the brave tot, and she has set up a GoFundMe page: <https://bit.ly/2KXe6zl> which will take place on 23 March, from 11am – 3pm at Hauxley Village Hall.

Julie said "We are overwhelmed by how much local businesses and local people have donated prizes and bought raffle tickets."

Oliver's family have set up a facebook page called Oliver's Army: <https://www.facebook.com/oliverstevenpaul/>



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and help from anyone who would
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The Ambler team would like to thank all
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has quite honestly taken our breath away.

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good cause.

The Ambler was chosen as one of the
good causes for 2018, and in December we
received a cheque for £5483.95!

We are already putting this to good
use, with some journalism and magazine
layout training, and now having colour on
the front and back pages, which we hope
you like.

Thank you so much, lovely people of
Amble.



l-r Mark Robertson, Co-op Queen St Team Manager; Doug Potts,
Co-op Funeralcare; Vivienne Dalgliesh, Anna Williams and Cath
Findlay from the Ambler; Lynne Dixon, Asst Manager Harbour
Co-op; Deborah Lee, Manager Co-op Queen St

WHAT YOU SAY...

Pedestrian crossings

I feel there is a lack of pedestrian crossings in Amble.
We have one on Church Street, one at the bottom
of Middle School and one beside the Masons Arms.
There is nothing at the bottom of Queen Street or to
cross over into the town square.

The Highways have been informed of this problem
and are going to carry out a survey sometime after
Christmas. A good place to have one or two Zebra
Crossings would be to use the speed humps beside the
CO-OP Funeral Parlour and the one beside the Town
Square as they are the ideal height for wheel chair
users and other walking aids and also for parents with
young children, prams and buggies.

If these were designated places to cross the busy
road it would make it a much safer place to cross for
everyone.

Name and email supplied

Trapped birds



I read with interest in the Ambler the letter about
birds becoming trapped in crab pots.

I regularly walk around Amble harbour and
often find and release birds trapped in the pots. To
date, they have always been House Sparrows but last
Saturday I found three trapped Starlings and, with the
help of one of the fishermen, managed to release all
three successfully.

I once discovered a Weasel emerging from one of
the pots (see photo) and now know why it was there!

Tim Mason
Gloster Park, Amble

Plans for Signal Cottage

I would like to inform your readers of the
Comments and objections I have submitted to
the NCC planning committee concerning
the Signal Cottage site

The demolition of Signal Cottage was
undertaken without planning permission.
It appears to have been an attempt to press
ahead with a money making venture, not
in response to the dwelling being unsafe or
vandalised.

Since the demolition the local authority
has allowed the site to be left as a dangerous
derelict eyesore which has spoilt a beautiful
area.

I have examined the title deeds and plan
held at the Land Registry and believe the
proprietor has encroached on dune land not
within her ownership. Building rubble has
been piled along the side of the access road,
an area not on the deeds.

Has the local authority issued fines with
regard to this illegal act of tipping?

The latest plans detail a two-storey
structure with a cylindrical tower (resembling
a grain silo) which will have a visual and
physical impact on the area. We don't
need a 'nod' to the lighthouses and castles
of Northumberland; we already have the
genuine article! I believe -

- Major excavation and building works
should not be allowed on this fragile site.
- A modest detached dwelling should not be
replace by a commercial enterprise.
- We should not set a precedent for similar
developments on coastal dunes.
- A detached single-storey property in
keeping with those at Low Hauxley and
other coastal locations would be more
appropriate.
- Development of this kind is not needed,
common sense should prevail.
- No one wants stagnation, but that doesn't
justify intrusive planning without merit, to
clear a derelict site created by the owner.

Amble resident
Name and email supplied

Cowboys, Silicon Valley and Amble

Not normally three words you would expect to find in one sentence! However they are all part of the story of Amble's new church – Harbour Lights Church.

In alliance with a California mega church based in the heart of San Jose, the Amble church is pastored by Neil and Joan Sayers who have spent years serving churches in both the UK and the USA, including a Cowboy Church in Texas.

"We recognised that the rapidly growing community of Amble had a need for a contemporary, charismatic church and my wife Joan and I felt called to meet that need." said Pastor Neil.

Billed as a friendly church



Pastors Neil and Joan Sayers

with contemporary music and an inspiring message, Harbour Lights Church is named after the famous Amble harbour light.

Pastor Joan remarked: "We chose that name because it is not only a local landmark but because a harbour light draws weary travellers into

shelter, restoration, renewal and provision. In much the same way as a church! So our focus on the love, grace, goodness and provision of God means everyone is welcome, at whatever stage of life's journey they are on. All ages are a part of our church".

Pastor Neil added: "We believe God has a great plan and purpose for the people and town of Amble. We are privileged to serve the community along with our core team and be a part of that plan"

Harbour Lights Church meets every Sunday at 10:30am in The Radcliffe Club, Charles Road, Amble.

For more information, see www.harbourlightschurch.com

Keeping our town clean

Harbour Master, Alan Punton, is joining the outcry against owners not picking up their dogs' poo. He is concerned about the mess round the harbour and Little Shore area particularly.

He told us that he doesn't want to spoil it for the majority and is not against dogs or their owners, just the owners who do not remove their dogs mess. He is contemplating putting up signs saying that dogs must be on a lead.

"I don't want to have to do that", he said, "I prefer to see people picking up their dog's mess and putting it in the bin."

Along the pier is where his assistant, Eddie, and he find it most offensive.

"Yesterday, in the space of 40metres, we came across five different piles. And it's horrible when it's up against a seat."

"We're apparently in the top ten coastal places to live now. So we'll have possible residents turning up, we have many visitors all year, kids play on the beach especially in summer. Nobody wants to deal with dog poo."

In order to persuade owners to pick up, a ban will be enforced, from May to September, preventing owners

from taking dogs on the beach. He has also discussed the problem with the county council's dog warden, who says that they can prosecute, with fines from £80 up to £1,000 possibly imposed.

"I don't want to spoil the enjoyment of dogs and owners, (most of whom are conscientious) but I want to make sure that everybody can enjoy our environment and our children play safely".

Judging from comments from locals on social media, it seems that many people agree.

Norma Hinson

The Puffin Festival wants you!

A call has gone out to any local business, groups or individuals who would like to be involved in the Puffin Festival, to get in touch with organisers.

Whether you would like a stall, or provide some entertainment,

perhaps offer your help, or suggest an activity, now is the time to let us know.

The main festival takes place over the 25, 26 and 27 May bank holiday weekend. For more information, contact

Julia at Amble Development Trust: julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk 01665 712929, or visit www.amblepuffinfest.co.uk where you can download a stall booking form.



And the winner is...

The film awards season is already here with Golden Globes already having been decided, BAFTA winners to be announced early in February and Oscar winners at the end of February, but here at the NTC (Northumberland Theatre Company) community cinema in Amble we believe we are already winning with plenty of these award winners and nominated films showing throughout February and March.

The Favourite, First Man and Bohemian Rhapsody are all showing throughout February and March, all of which have already picked up prestigious Golden Globes. Nominees such as A Star Is Born, Mary Poppins Returns, Wreck It Ralph II and Mary Queen of Scots are showing in early February.

Since NTC moved into the Dovecote Centre less than a year ago, they along with a team of volunteers have been working hard to bring the latest cinema screenings to Amble. The cinema has a capacity of 80 and we have already had sell out and near sell out evenings. To this end we are teaming up with the Edinburgh based Indy Cinema Group, who are specialists in helping independent cinemas screen the latest films with the best equipment.

The team from Indy brought a state-of-the-art digital projector, Dolby sound and the biggest screen they could fit in. So even though we are only in the middle of the awards season the real winners are the cinema goers of Amble.

Jim Donnelly

See p18 and our website for film screening listings



NORTHUMBERLAND

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Dick the Devil's Bairns - Breaking the Border Mafia by Jon Tait

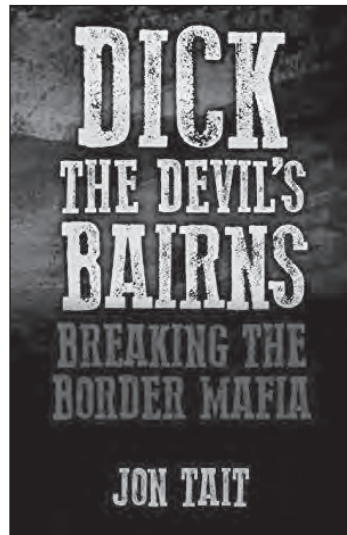
Amble today is a quiet and historic place that regularly features in the 'Best Place to Live' sections of glossy aspirational magazines, while its castle is world-famous as featuring as Hogwarts in the popular Harry Potter movies.

Though the perception and appearance of the rural market town can seem somewhat twee and up-market to visitors, this wasn't always the case and the blood flowed on the street cobbles in April 1587.

A number of both English and Scottish Border Reivers were jointly executed – most likely by beheading, the favoured form of dispatch at the time, by Sir John Forster following a Warden Court.

As Forster had a reputation for colluding with reivers from both sides of the divide if it suited his own ends, then the men could have considered themselves somewhat unlucky to have been charged under the full force of Border Law.

The business of reiving was about much more than just the theft of stock, however, and their organized criminal empire also included burglary, demanding protection money with menaces, hostage taking (30 people removed and sold back for



more than 100 pounds sterling) inflated 'insurance' claims and engaging in blood feuds.

Nationality was of little importance to the reiving families and the power, wealth and influence of the family itself was their major concern. This led to them organising themselves into criminal gangs on surname lines to both protect and enhance their land holdings and stock – making them one of the earliest examples of a Mafia in the World, pre-dating the more famous Sicilian mob by around two centuries.

Northumbrian sports journalist Jon Tait explores the rise and fall of the rural Border gangs in this new book, a heavily researched and readable story of historic true crime in the area. The book is priced at £12 (e-book £2.99) and is published by Tredition GmbH.

Syd's Secret War by Bill Marshall

A retired Amble man has written the intriguing story of how a miner from Radcliffe became embroiled in a secret intelligence mission during WW2.

For decades, the ex Northumbrian Fusilier rarely spoke of his war years. Towards the end of his life however, he began to tell close friends and family some of his remarkable experiences. Bill Marshall was one of those trusted friends, and listened to his stories in their local pub in Amble.

Bill told The Ambler: "Syd always felt bound by his military oath of secrecy and never divulged the story. He only started talking about his experience after watching a television program suggesting WW2 oaths of secrecy were spent, and it was now time to tell. I promised Syd on his deathbed that I'd write his story, but he did ask that I write it as a novel and keep his real identity undisclosed."

Bill has now written two novels based on Syd's real-life experiences. In them, he details the extraordinary story of how Syd was called up to fight with the British Expeditionary Force at the Battle of France, then, as a prisoner of war, he was detailed to assist in the Officers' camp. It was here it was noticed he bore a striking resemblance to one of the high ranking officers.

And then began Syd's 'secret war', which involved an identity swap and a complex intelligence operation to infiltrate a plan by the Third Reich to recruit Allied soldiers to fight against the Russians.

The operation yielded considerably more than those who conceived the plan could have ever hoped for, ultimately enabling a spy to infiltrate the highest levels of German command.



Bill Marshall

Bill said "I have recently retired from a career at sea, and it is only now that I have had the time to fully write and give the story the accolade it deserves."

Syd's Secret War Part One, and Part Two are available from Amazon and as Kindle downloads.

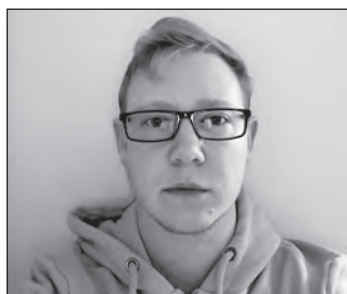
Not Just a Tomboy by Caspar Baldwin

There were 40 people sitting in Amble Library waiting for Caspar Baldwin to launch his book 'Not Just A Tomboy'.

I know Caspar already. We are both in the Amble Sword Dance side but the subject of his book took me by surprise when I first heard about it. For Caspar had been transitioning from female to male for a couple of years, and he has written about his experience.

It was a brave thing to write the book, and even braver to talk about it in Amble Library on a Saturday night in front of some friends, some strangers and his parents.

Caspar came across as confident and articulate reading small sections from his book,



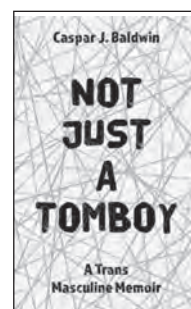
explaining the content and finally answering questions. I had decided to buy the book on the night so I had not read it.

There were questions I thought I wanted to ask before reading it but mainly I didn't because I thought they were intrusive. As it happened, the book answered all of my questions.

When a baby is born, its gender is determined by looking at its physical characteristics. That is all. When you read the book you realise that gender is much more complicated than that.

So Caspar, looking like a girl, was brought up as a girl, knowing inside himself that he should have been a boy, and suffering a great deal of what is known as 'gender dysphoria'.

Caspar has some happy childhood memories, being brought up in a loving family, but also many times when he felt very sad and very angry, as I did when I was reading his book.



You will feel his terror of going into public toilets, his dread of the physical changes of adolescence, and you will feel his pain. You will learn how branding and social conventions lead to boys and girls, and their parents, being manipulated into wanting certain gender stereotypical goods and roles.

I found the book educational, stimulating, and yet a page turner. It made me sad, angry, frustrated and finally euphoric. It is all you want in a good book. But it is more than that. It is a well-told, true story by an Amble resident. Everyone should buy it. Chris Herzberg



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Alec and Emily's Rescue Centre: The Adopted Kitten



There was no doubt about it: Binky the kitten was the best animal in the whole wide world. He was white and black and, if they were allowed to pet him, it was the best part of the visit. Alec and Emily couldn't wait to see him and help out at the rescue centre again.

As soon as they got there, the twins bounded up to Sue excitedly. "How's Binky?" Emily babbled.

Sue looked troubled. "I'm sorry, guys," she said. "You can see him today, but..."

Alec's eyes widened. "Is he ill?"

"No, no. It's actually really good news," Sue smiled. "Binky's being adopted."

There was a pause as they both stared at her. Emily spoke first. "Oh. Does that mean he's going to leave?"

"He can't leave!" Alec cut in, pulling on Sue's sleeve. "Right, Sue? You're not going to let them take him."

She sighed. "I'm sorry, I understand how hard this is, but the whole point of animals coming here is that they'll be adopted one day."

The twins didn't say anything as Sue led them

to Binky's enclosure, where he was playing with a rubber ball. They sat down and Binky ran up to them, curling up on Emily's lap.

"I guess it's really good that he has a home, even if that means we can't play with him anymore." She wiped at a tear falling down her cheek. "I just don't want to leave him."

Alec picked up the kitten and hugged him, beginning to cry. "Me neither."

Still sniffing, they helped Sue get him ready. Both of them were hoping and hoping that whoever was going to adopt Binky was going to be nice. But neither of them were expecting what

they saw when they stepped into the reception.

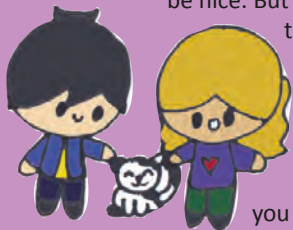
"Mum?" Alec gaped, "What are you doing here?"

"Well, somebody told me that there was a very special kitten here, and as you two are animal experts now..."

Emily gasped. "Are you saying we're the ones adopting Binky?"

Their mum smiled and nodded and the twins ran over, hugging her and thanking her. They wouldn't have to leave Binky after all.

By Lily



Lexie's Christmas Gift



Eight year old Lexie Straker from Amble First School decided to make a difference to people's lives this Christmas, all starting with a wish at the bottom of her Christmas list. She wrote that she wanted to visit and give something to someone who didn't have any family with them this Christmas and her mum, Carly Miller, helped this wish come true.

On Christmas day, Lexie (pictured right) gave an elderly man on her street a surprise visit, bringing a card and present and wishing him a merry Christmas. He gave her a hug, telling Lexie that she 'made his Christmas' - but she didn't finish there. She brought two dinners to a couple who couldn't make it out for lunch too. However, the best reaction was from the members of the Dolphin View care home, who chatted to her about her Christmas and what Santa had brought her.

"When I was putting her to bed at Christmas she told me she felt so good," says her mum, "I told her she should feel good and that I was so proud of her!" Lexie's already planning who to visit next year!

By Lily



WOMEN WHO INSPIRE US



The 8 March is International Women's Day. It's a day when we appreciate women and all they do for society. Women make up nearly 50% of the world and on average for every 102 males there are

100 females.

There are many reasons to celebrate women's day. Women contribute so much to society in many ways.

Here are some women who inspire us at Artograffi:

Ava - Jessie Paige, "She is very inspiring because she constantly promotes self-love and appreciation. She has helped so many

people around the world with her positive messages and is such an amazing person."

Jess - My inspirational woman is my great grandma Jean Miller. She inspires me for many reasons: she is 96 and lives alone but she also gardens by herself planting all types of flowers. She contributed in the Second World War; she made Jeeps in Hull and enjoyed doing what was then a typical man's job. Once the war ended she went back to being a housewife. She has seen the world through many changes and she inspires me.



16 year old Greta Thunberg photo by Jan Ainalli/commons.wikimedia.org

Bethany - I admire German architect Annabelle Selldorf, because she has a creative mind and she is a good architect. I like the Sunset Park Recycling building in Brooklyn NY.

Artograffi team - Someone we should all aspire to be like is 16 year old activist Greta Thunberg from Sweden. She is an environmental activist who gives hard-hitting talks to world leaders. There are a few videos of her speeches and we would recommend watching. Search her name!

By Jessica

LYNNE AND THE LITTERBUGS!



LitterBugs are a community group who pick litter in Amble and Warkworth.

They want to raise awareness of rubbish - on their first pick they collected 11 bags of rubbish! We talked to the founder, Lynne Russell, to find out more.

The LitterBugs (a fun name for the young children taking part) are a group of litter pickers that began when some parents watched Blue Planet and realised what horror is happening to our oceans and planet.

A few people got together to start the LitterBugs and now are the core of the group. The numbers fluctuate from 6 to 55 (this was when the BBC came so people were slightly influenced!) and they have people of all ages.

Lynne told us she was inspired to do this because she realised that plastic and litter is killing hundreds of animals a year and is also making its way into a humans' diet/body. By 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish - this is terrible and needs to stop now.

Lynne thinks we could easily educate people and that we should



Artograffi meeting Lynne Russell of LitterBugs

stop using lots of things like straws and plastic wrapped food.

Nowadays everything is made for convenience, highly wrapped in double layers of plastic and put in a plastic bag - however lots of shops are making an effort to reduce packaging but sometimes you should take it into your own hands.

We should also use much less bottled drinks - buy one reusable one and fill it up at a tap. It is so much cheaper and less wasteful. You could also take your own tubs and reusable bags to supermarkets; buy loose fruit and use bar toiletries as opposed to bottles and not chuck rubbish out of car windows.

Lynne said "A meal deal that takes us 5 minutes to eat could last 500 years in the environment"

Lynne told us that being part of a group like LitterBugs is really nice for

lots of reasons. You are doing a good thing and you get to meet tons of amazing people. She constantly makes new friends when out on her picks "People love talking about it, and talking about it raises awareness," she said.

When out on picks Lynne finds lots of different things on the beach: cotton buds, fishing gear, bottles, straws, sanitary products and lots of other things that do not belong on the floor.

By the side of the road she finds cans, bottles and lots of wrappers, mostly McDonalds, because people are too rushed to stop and bin it.

The most interesting thing they have ever found is a basking shark tag; they then tried to give it back to the university who owned it but they were uninterested so it now lives in Lynne's kitchen.

The next local pick is on 21 February at the east cemetery starting at 11am. If you want to go it would be greatly appreciated.
By Ava



VISITING THE AMBLE INN



The Amble Inn is a new place in Amble. It has a very

friendly atmosphere and best of all, when we went there, there were giant seagull mascots!

You can even take your

dog because there are dog friendly rooms!

On Sunday, there is a delicious carvery. Artograffi were invited to go, and there was a long counter with turkey, pork and beef, and lots of vegetables like broccoli and carrots with peas. There were delicious

and crispy Yorkshire Puddings!

I really like turkey, so that is what I chose.

I went with my sister, Hannah, my mum, stepdad and my brother

William.

The play area was mainly wooden. There were two slides, one with a tunnel. There was a net going up to the main part of it.

I would definitely say yes to going again! Not just because of the amazing rooms - I really like the delicious food there, and the seagull mascots!

On a score of one to 10 it is definitely a 10. It was amazing, the people who worked there were really nice and friendly, the seagulls were hilarious and the food deserves a 10/10.
By Grace



Who should you really love on Valentine's Day?



Valentine's Day is coming up and some people are alone - but not to worry. Here are some tips to stop feeling so alone on this day, and turn it into a self-care day for yourself:

- Buy yourself chocolate
- Go to a spa- this helps relaxation and de-stressing.
- Cook yourself a nice meal
- Go shopping with your friends

Remember Valentine's Day is not all about spoiling your significant other on one day of the year so if you don't celebrate its fine, you have 364 days (without leap years) to show your love. It doesn't have to be to a significant other - you can show love to your friends, treat them instead!

Friends can be just as important and valuable. It could be as simple as going round to their house and spending the day together, or you can go on a "date" that could simply be going to a café.

By Jessica

The original Artograffi gang



Artograffi has been going ever since June 2001. It's aim is for young people to have a voice in the community, and learn to write newspaper articles. 18 years on, Artograffi is still going strong! We've had a chat with two of the members from Artograffi years ago and found out what they remember.



Samantha Carruthers, (left, in the tiara) who now runs the online marketing campaigns for a designer menswear store in North Yorkshire, joined Artograffi when she was around 10.

She told us how she remembers doing various animations and many drawings for the page - and, of course, the biscuits! She thinks that Artograffi really helped her in life: "It gave me the confidence with my creativity," Samantha told us, "both in copywriting and illustration."

Becca Braithwaite (pictured on the left in the top photo) was another of Artograffi's original members. She is now a doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She thinks that Artograffi helped her to investigate, learn and see things from different perspectives and remembers writing articles and thinking of

subjects relevant to Amble. "I tended to write the more serious articles I think," she said.

"I remember the town council were thinking about shooting the pigeons in the town centre and we wrote an article on that. I also used to make the horoscopes up as well!"

By Lily



Thank you to



THE AMBLE INN

for sponsoring Artograffi

Beauty Queen hoping to be crowned



I-r: Beauty Queen owner Kay Harding and her assistant Kate Harding

Good luck to Beauty Queen Kay Harding, who has been nominated for Independent Beautician of the Year in the English Hair and Beauty Awards.

"It's amazing to be in the finals," said Kay, who owns the salon on Amble's Queen Street. "I'm quite excited, I've never been to anything like this before."

The beauty salon has been running for two years now and this is not the first time Kay has been nominated for this annual competition. The nominations are made via social media by customers, and Beauty Queen beat off competition from other salons in the North East, North West and Yorkshire. Kay now has to put together a portfolio of her work, which will be judged for the competition.

Beauty Queen provide all manner of treatments; nails, lashes, spray tanning, facials, manicures, pedicures and more. Judging will take place at a black tie event in a hotel in Manchester on 10 March.

"I want to thank all my customers for all their support," said Kay, "I wouldn't be where I am without it."

Anna Williams

Come and join Amble East End Juniors

Last year was quite the year for Amble East End Juniors but now it's 2019! A New Year to write another chapter in our short yet amazing journey so far!

Come along and join the progressive FA Charter Standard Club who have a clear pathway for children wanting to play grassroots football, from Mini Mariners to our Development Squad then onto the Under 7s and Under 8s. Training takes place at JCSC:

Monday Night, 5-6pm - Development Squad (Year 1)

Tuesday Night, 5-6pm - Mini Mariners (Nursery and Reception)

Wednesday Night, 5-6pm - Under 7s and Under 8s (Year 2 & 3)

Contact Josh Rutherford on 07714862292 for more information!

We need a coach

Amble East End Juniors are looking to recruit a volunteer football coach to manage an up and coming Under 7s team for the 2019-2020 season in the Youth Football Development League in association with Newcastle Elite Academy.



Training Monday night 5-6pm and games Sunday morning. The club are happy to offer financial support towards gaining coaching qualifications. If interested in coming on board with this progressive football club please contact Josh Rutherford on 07714862292.

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A new year always brings changes, and this year promises to be the same.

Our first meeting of the year was quite a sad occasion with Terry Broughton, the Trust chairman of 25 years deciding to retire from the role. Terry has held the position from the inception of the Development Trust, leading and guiding with his local knowledge and legal background.

He has supported three directors, each member of staff as well as each trustee who has served on the committee, steered the charity through some difficult times but has always been mindful of the need for change, a change that he has helped to make to a town he has so much feeling for.

We owe Terry a debt of gratitude and thank him for the time, support and dedication he has given to us all and we wish him, Val and their family all the

very best from everyone here at the Trust.

Who knows what is happening with Brexit, how our lives will change – or not. After all the arguing and infighting, will we notice any difference, or indeed will it happen?! All we do know for sure is that life goes on and being the stalwart Brits that we are, we will just get on with whatever scenario we are faced with.

Here at the Trust we will continue looking and hopefully securing funding to carry on with regeneration plans.

CCTV cameras at the Welfare seem to have stemmed the tide of recent vandalism.

The Amble Inn opened in January, hopefully some local residents will have secured employment there and are waiting to greet an additional

influx of visitors.

This is good timing, given Amble has been designated one of the top coastal towns in which to live, according to the Sunday Times. Of course, we always knew that!

Northumberland too has achieved a great deal as a tourist destination, beating the likes of Cornwall and the Lake District to win gold as the Best UK Holiday County/Destination. Northumberland has it all – beaches, countryside, villages, castles, local food and great restaurants and of course great shopping. We can do quirky, high end, comfortable but most of all we do friendly - what's not to love!

Early February will see the planning application for the proposed retail park on the industrial estate – will it be a boon or will it have a detrimental effect on Queen Street? Advance Northumberland (formerly

Arch) assure us that they are looking for retailers that will complement the offer on Queen Street, but the retailers there need a level playing field as highlighted in the Timpson Report, a government funded report on high streets.

Sufficient parking was one of the main issues the report stated as needing to be addressed. A point the business club, town council and ourselves have been making very loudly for years. We know NCC are currently in discussions, so have to wait a little longer to find out the outcome. Another waiting game but one we really hope bears fruit because parking is desperately needed.

Hopefully 2019 will be the year many plans come to fruition and Amble continues to be recognised for its achievements.

Julia Aston, Director
julia@ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk

I've been herring there's changes at the seafood centre

People in Amble – locals and visitors alike, certainly love their fish if sales at the seafood centre are anything to go by. We're selling more fish than ever, and people are really interested in discovering new fish and testing new recipes. In order to meet demand, we felt a few changes needed to be made.

Crab and lobster are two of our best sellers and people want them in all forms; our tanks keep them in prime condition for people purchasing them live, but we've not really had the facilities for cooking them. Our new boiler will enable us to meet the summer demand for plenty of boiled and dressed crabs and lobster. We are also going to be smoking our own fish too – smoked mackerel salad in the summer anyone?

The hatchery requires a significant amount of electricity to chill/warm the tanks, drive pumps and provide lighting. In order to be as environmentally responsible as possible and to keep overheads down, we have installed solar panels. This significantly offsets our power requirements and helps to ensure young lobsters are released along

the Northumberland Coast for many years to come. As well as divers releasing the babies for us, we are committed to having a shore release involving local children during each of the school holidays.

As a seaside town with loads of avid fishermen (and fisherladies) we all know what a key asset a fishing tackle shop is, and Norma closing her shop was somewhat the end of an era. In order to ensure people have access to tackle and bait we have been working with Norma to ensure Amble still has a local provider. The range has started out small but will expand as more space is freed up. If we are missing anything let us know – we're keen to provide what you need. As part of the changeover we have inherited the bait fridge that has stored bait in Amble for over 30 years.

Assistance with financing the solar panels, smoker and boiler has been gratefully provided by a variety of funders including: North of Tyne FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group), CORE Legacy, Naturesave Trust.
Andrew Gooding
Northumberland Seafood Centre



Norma with customer John Gardiner

Norma Urwin of Amble Angling Centre closed her doors at the end of December after 14 years. She told the Ambler: "I'd like to thank all my lovely customers over the years. I've loved what I've been doing and I've made a lot of friends."

The busy little angling shop has been going for 38 years, and Norma took over in 2004. She has now decided it's time to cut down on her workload.

She said "It's not a decision I've taken quickly. I've thought about it for several years. I'm sorry to say goodbye, but I want to do something different, something part time - and to get my house back."

Some of her fishing tackle and bait is now sold at the Seafood Centre, where Norma has been working with staff there to increase their knowledge and get them up to speed.

Count me in: review of The Amble Inn

Although we walked to the Amble Inn, we approached the entrance via the car park off Percy Drive. I was actually in a wheelchair and wanted to look at access for the disabled. The road in the car park flows seamlessly to the path with no kerbs so 10 out of 10, so far. The Ambler team had been invited and the staff were expecting us; we were greeted warmly in the bright and airy reception area.

Because of my disability, I was allocated a member of staff, Rebecca, to look after me. We were shown our table and asked for drinks orders. The bar and eating area has a big open fire and a lovely atmosphere despite, or because of, the lack of background music. Drinks came promptly and the house red wine that I had, Gio Rosso, was delicious. Other wines and keg beers were on offer. The waiter informed me that they were soon going to offer real ale, including Credence beer from the Amble brewery.

Rebecca took me round to the carvery. There was beef, turkey and pork on offer. There was a good array of vegetables, boiled and roast potatoes, red cabbage, mashed swede/turnip, peas, carrots and broccoli, all perfectly cooked, together with Yorkshire pudding and gravy. I chose the beef, which to my taste was overcooked. I like to see the



cow bleed for me, but others in my party enjoyed it. I asked for horseradish sauce and extra gravy and they were brought straight away. The service was excellent throughout.

I asked to see the toilet facilities and was pleased to see that they were wheelchair friendly, with grab bars.

I was asked if I wanted to see the bedrooms which were being finished off, also to be fully accessible. Of course I agreed and was shown a double bedroom, spacious and airy with white bedding and en-suite bathroom. There was a seat in the shower and anyone with impaired mobility would manage well in such a bathroom.

Altogether I was very impressed by the Amble Inn, particularly because of accessibility, but also by the standard of service which was impeccable.

I was told that they employed a pastry chef and were hoping to attract customers for scones and coffee in the mornings and afternoons too.

Count me in. Probably the Amble WI will make it a regular venue.

Thank you for your hospitality, and particular thanks to Rebecca.

Chris Herzberg

Disclosure: The Ambler team (above) and the Artograffi team were guests of the Amble Inn.

Sleep is a super-power!

With the dark nights and often dark days, during the winter months people find they are either sleeping too much or not sleeping enough. The question really is 'what is enough sleep?' This varies depending on age, so babies sleep much of the day and from then on it decreases to needing 10 hours around the age of 9 years of age to around 7-8 hours as an adult, reducing to 6-7 hours by the time we are retired.

There is a very distinctive sleep architecture which is essential for restorative sleep and this is the challenge in our very busy 21st century existence. Often with mobile phones, blue light devices and Virtual Reality Gaming, our sleep cycle suffers. If the brain is overly stimulated before bed time it becomes 'hypervigilant' as the blue light or excitement stimulates adrenalin and something called Orexins which are neuro-transmitters (messengers) which switch the

brain to 'on' instead of 'off'. This is challenging enough for adult brains, however for children it can have a serious impact on emotional development. Concentration, obesity, bad habits, inability to delay gratification (pre-cursor to gambling) and unstable/irrational emotional outbursts (including aggression) are just some examples of the impact of poor sleep.

We need something called 'Delta Wave' sleep to rest the brain, organs and systems so that we can emotionally self regulate, process thoughts and learnings, stabilize glycaemic control and appetite and re-charge the immune system whilst resting key organs such as the heart, lungs and kidneys.

By over-stimulating the brain before bed, the quality of the sleep of children is often compromised. There are 5 key tips (sleep hygiene markers) for helping your children get the best out of their sleep.

1. Make sure they charge their phone outside their bedroom so they are not checking and replying to texts etc during the night.
 2. Encourage them to avoid computer games and Virtual Reality or any blue device 2 hours before bedtime.
 3. Set an example yourself by demonstrating you are not addicted and set the boundary.
 4. Ensure they are relaxing a bit before bedtime, bath, read a book or use some relaxation techniques.
 5. Avoid fizzy sugary drinks or caffeine based drinks at all times for a month to note the change in mood.
- Poor sleep is a bad habit and just like any bad habit it can be broken with a few positive changes. For particularly disturbed sleep, Applied Relaxation or Hypnotherapy are great ways or restoring a normal cycle.

Alison Arrowsmith, Thought-Org

In brief...

New micropub given go-ahead

A bid to convert Amble's former tourist information centre into a micropub was unanimously approved at the January meeting of the North Northumberland Local Area Council.

The approval includes a condition limiting the hours of operation to Monday to Friday, 5pm to 11pm; Saturday, 12pm to 11pm; Sundays/bank holidays, 12pm to 10.30pm.

The public toilets are to remain in place and operational.

New businesses on industrial estate



Welcome to new business Evolution Flooring, which has opened up on Amble's Industrial Estate.

Owner Stephen Hogg previously ran his business in and around Alnwick. "I was selling from a van," he said "but now I've moved to Amble, and I decided to open a unit. It's better for people to come in and look at the ranges on offer." Evolution Flooring sells carpets, vinyls, wood flooring and safety flooring.

See their website for more details: www.evolution-flooring.co.uk



Also situated on the Industrial Estate, Apex Gym is offering a full range of strength and cardio equipment, changing rooms and two upstairs studios to run a full timetable of classes. They are encouraging people to book consultations to find out what they want to achieve and how Apex can help them best. See www.apexhealthandfitness.co.uk for opening times and more info.



Reports from our *County Councillors*



It was a privilege to attend the opening of the newly built Amble Inn, the building exterior looking clean and smart situated on the main coast road (A1068) into Amble. The restaurant itself is beautifully furnished, very comfortable and spacious and has a relaxing atmosphere.

My lunch was delicious, I was very impressed with the choices from the menu all reasonably priced. An absolutely fantastic addition to our town generating jobs within the Inn to boosting trade for surrounding businesses. This Inn will encourage and allow visitors to explore our great coastline our town and provide a stepping stone to exploring this great region.

Terry.Clark@northumberland.gov.uk

I was delighted to be able to attend the opening of the new Amble Inn and very pleased that the hotel is up and running. I am sure that the employment it generates will be most welcome.

The involvement of Advance Northumberland formally known as Arch is also welcomed. This new company is supported by Northumberland County Council and tasked to improve our County in ways that normal purely commercial developers might not do.

The retail development on the industrial estate is to be presented for planning approval shortly and if successful will be another

major contributor to employment levels in the Town.

You may have read that I am trying to get maximum benefit for the Amble area from the contributions made by the companies who are building houses here. NCC's new legislation ensures that they must make contributions to the needs of the area that they are developing and it is my aim to ensure that this money is used to the best advantage of the town, its schools, its medical facilities and its environment and I am involved in discussions to do so.

Finally, recent press coverage has shown Amble to

be a very desirable place to live and becoming the best Seaside Town to live in in the best Tourist County in the Country is no mean achievement, we should all be very proud and make the most of this very special area.

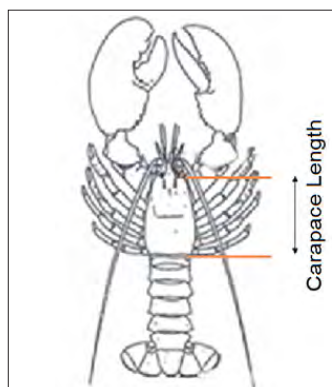
There is no doubt that Amble has changed, it had to, we needed jobs and a secure future for the young people who live here, I see my continuing task is to balance these needs with the needs of existing residents and hope we all can work together to achieve a safe, secure, prosperous and happy place in which to live.

Jeffrey.Watson@northumberland.gov.uk 0780 238 5367

Don't be "Shellfish" this Valentine's Day!

Northumberland has a long-standing and highly valued commercial lobster fishery, which is a vital part of the local economy and plays a key role in us having sustainable coastal communities. In addition, many people like to catch the occasional lobster themselves, with lobsters being widely considered as a dish for special occasions.

Being such an important part of the marine environment and with the aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the stocks, it is important that there is an understanding of the rules which apply to catching lobsters recreationally as well as



commercially, which is where Northumberland IFCA comes into the picture. So, if you are planning a romantic lobster dinner this Valentine's Day, make sure you know the dos and

don'ts for catching and landing lobsters in Northumberland as a hobby or recreation (apart from what applies to commercial fishers).

When fishing with pots, creels, traps or cages recreationally, you need a Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA) Recreational Shellfish Permit. The permit costs £10 per year and allows you to fish up to 5 pots and catch up to two lobsters per day. Each pot must be fitted with a valid NIFCA tag and an 80mm x 46mm escape gap.

You do not need a permit for collecting lobster while shore

gathering (including cleecking, angling and diving) but you are only allowed to take one lobster per day.

All Shellfish Permit holders and hand gatherers are prohibited from taking: berried (egg-bearing) lobster; lobster with a v-notched or mutilated tail; soft shelled lobster; detached parts of lobster and lobster with a carapace length under 87mm.

NIFCA hopes everyone enjoys being able to catch a lobster and as part of a lovely meal!

Please contact the NIFCA office or visit www.nifca.gov.uk for more information.

Hauxley Parish Council



Hauxley Parish Council was pleased to see over 70 residents attend the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Day on Saturday 19 January 2019 at Hauxley Village Hall.

Chris Anderson from the Neighbourhood Planning Team at NCC gave a very informative presentation covering the main aspects of a plan which was followed by an interactive

Q & A session.

Residents comments were collated and their valuable contributions will be used to inform the next discussions about a possible Plan for the Parish.

Hauxley Parish Council will be reviewing the results of the consultation day at their next meeting in February and residents will be kept informed of next steps.



Chris Anderson gave a presentation to over 70 residents

Contact details: Parish Clerk: Mrs J Reynolds

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

Email: hauxleypc@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.theambler.co.uk/category/local-councils/hauxley-parish-council/



Amble Town

COUNCIL

All meetings at 6pm unless stated otherwise
Town: 14 Feb, 14 March, 11 April
Amenities: 28 March

EAST WARD:	Helen Lewis,	Craig Weir	WEST WARD:	Jeff Watson	Tracey Hinton,	CEN. WARD:	Jane Dargue	VACANCY
Ian Parks,	5 Meadowburn,	(Chair/Mayor)	Christine Butler	14 Magdalene	13 George	Kate Morrison,	10 Sylvia's	
33 Warkworth	Amble	76 Priory Park,	11 King	Fields	Street,	3 Island View,	Close,	
Avenue,	NE65 0PH	Amble	Edward St	Warkworth	Amble	Amble	Amble	
Warkworth.	07751 229 739	NE65 0HY	Amble	NE65 0UF	NE65 0RZ	NE65 0SE	NE65 0GB	
NE65 0TP		01665 712342	NE650ES	07802 385367		01665 711191	07795360513	
			07834538973					

COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

At the January meeting, Councillors co-opted Christine Butler as a member to fill the West Ward vacancy left by the departure of Ian Hinson. Christine has lived in the town for a number of years and is keen to be an active member of the community. She is looking forward to learning the range of responsibilities of her new role and working to bring improvements to the town.

Regrettably at the same meeting Martin Horn resigned and so a vacancy is now being advertised for the Central Ward of the town. Throughout his time at the Council, Martin has been a great help with planning matters but has been particularly useful for his practical knowledge and expertise which helped out at the cemeteries and Paddlers Park. We thank him for his service and wish him well in the future.

LITTER

The 'Litterbug' group is now firmly established and their volunteers are regularly doing great work throughout the Amble, Hauxley and Warkworth areas. They are currently working with volunteers from Coastal Care- part of the AONB- and have joint 'clean-ups' planned.

The next in Amble takes place on Thursday 21st February meeting at the Car Park beside the East Cemetery on Links Road at 11am. Council are keen to promote these events and urge the community to support us all in not only having a cleaner environment but a safer one too, especially for marine animals.

Those who cannot come along on these community walks can all help by thinking carefully about the type of product packaging they purchase and more importantly about how it is disposed. Please also remember that when we shortly replace more bins throughout the town, that the litter bins are dual purpose- for litter and dog waste.

PLANNING MATTERS

When some of the recently approved larger developments begin, the town will benefit from contributions towards the community. The county is limited by law as to the type of things they can ask for so we don't always get what some might feel we need. However recently our pleas for help with health and education have been heeded and there will be monies towards increasing the health centre offer and primary and special needs education. There is also money towards mitigating the effect of greater numbers of people using our coastal areas which have protection, especially for the birdlife.

One of our County Councillors, Jeff Watson, is discussing with NCC officials whether some of that money could be used towards improving/establishing a network of walk/cycle ways throughout the area- which Amble Council hopes to achieve. This would not only help people to be more active but also mean less chance of everyone meandering just anywhere and so help protect our environment.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

I hope 2019 brings the people of Amble happiness and prosperity.

Now let's talk about plastics and how we can all help the environment and Amble. We can all help to make our town plastic free.

As a coastal town we should be very aware of the dangers plastic poses to our marine life and wildlife. We need to stop plastics from ending up in the sea.

I personally feel responsible and will make every effort this year to change my buying habits and check ingredient labels for such things as microbeads. Microbeads are present in many makes of shampoo, toothpaste and other cosmetics. I will make use of paper bags for vegetable items and cease using single use plastic.

Join the organised litter picks- clearing all kinds of discarded items as well as good exercise with a friendly group.

Well done to everyone who helped Amble be named in the top ten seaside places to live as reported in the Sunday Times.

Cllr Kate Morrison

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Despite the often dreary dull winter weather, the town is looking good. Shop windows are colourful with new wares to entice us in after a coffee, snack or meal at one of our many venues. The flower beds and planters are blooming and bright to cheer us up as we walk along. Many of the footpaths are now edged and don't they seem so much wider!

The boats bob about in the harbour and our coastline offers some magnificent views. We are fortunate to live in such a lovely friendly place and it is these thoughts that should cheer us even when it is cold, wet and windy.

However, every town can be improved and that can happen with the help and backing of everyone in the community. So make it your goal this year to do something for the town. Whether you do that as an individual or as part of a larger group does not matter- just put your mind and energy into doing something for the good of others.

THE AMBLE INN

Council members, invited to a preview here before the official opening, were delighted to see this wonderful new addition to Amble's businesses. The décor is very apt for a coastal town and gives a very welcoming feeling to all. Like many new ventures, there are still some small elements to be completed but the good food offer and the smart staff's welcoming smiles, cheerfulness and 'nothing a problem' attitude are the lasting impression you are left with. Another establishment to add to the community's vast choice- whether for a coffee, a lunch, a meal or just a drink.

As Amble's delights are increasingly praised nationwide and visitors increase, a hotel such as this, employing local people and using local food, will add another element to the current diverse range of places to stay and eat.

Amble has much to offer and is increasingly being seen as a place to stay and enjoy for a while rather than just to pass through on your way across the county and on to Scotland or the South of the country.

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

New craze in town: Boogie Bounce

Boogie Bounce is a fitness based class on mini trampolines, set up in Amble in 2017 and has since been a huge success.

We run two classes a night four times a week and two on a Saturday morning, now from our very own studio in Percy Street, Amble (which used to be the Rolling Pin) - now called the LBB Fitness Studio.

We have also set up in Widdrington and Alnwick, and many other venues. We have many success stories which I'm sure our customers would tell you all about. Not only has this been great for the body but we have also come together as a great community, and now have many social events where we get to Boogie on the dance floor too.

Leanne Sales

Amble Pin Cushion workshops

Forthcoming workshops at our Queen Street premises:

- 14 Feb: Quilting for Improvers Bag
- 15 Feb, 15 Mar, 12 April: Knit and Natter (Drop in knitting group)
- 18 Feb, 18 March, 15 April: Stitch and Bitch (Drop in sewing group)
- 23 Feb: Mosaic for Beginners
- 23 Feb: Mosaic for Improvers
- 6 March: Crochet for Beginners
- 13 March: Get to know your sewing machine
- 16 Mar: Millinery for beginners: Make a lily hair ornament/fascinator
- 11 April: Quilting for Improvers Project

Deposits can be paid in the shop or by BACs. See more details and information on our website www.amblepincushion.co.uk
Use the contact form to be added to our mailing list and receive our quarterly newsletter or contact us on 01665 714584

Amble Guides: a busy end to 2018

The girls have worked towards a lot of interesting badges, one of the favourites was the chocolate badge! They recreated an ancient Aztec recipe which went down an absolute treat. Two girls went on a challenge day at the Discovery Museum where they met other Guides and made robots which zoomed around in a battering robot war.

A handful of our Senior Section, Guides and Brownies laid a wreath of behalf of Guiding at the Amble Remembrance Parade to show support for those fallen in any conflict and their families.

We rounded off the year with two parties! The first was a pudding party to which all the community was invited. The girls were asked to make their own sweet treats and bring them to add to the delicious spread. It was an evening of great food, great chat and great fun. Finally, it was time for the Christmas party. There were lots of games and snacks and so much dancing I don't know how they managed to stay awake afterwards!

Three Guides made their promises and joined the Guiding movement which empowers young women to recognise that "Girls Can." Sadly, three of our oldest Guides left us for new adventures.

Lisa Hobden, Amble Guides

Shellfish week: 16 - 24 February

Shellfish week at Amble Harbour Village aims to help bring an awareness of different shellfish that can be found in our seas, and those that can be eaten as part of the Great British Cuisine. There will be a variety of fun activities from 'crab and lobster' tossing; mussel tasting; make a 'whelkom' poster; bake a crab-cake competition, and more during the week. We will also be hosting a baby lobster release on Thurs 21 February at 11.30am. Contact Bart at the Harbour Village for more information, or to book for the lobster release 01665 713580.

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Courses at Dry Water Arts Centre

February: Silver Wire Jewellery; Relief Print and Letterpress; Shibori Dyeing; Pop In And Print Workshops; Felted Jewellery;
March: Dry Point Printing; Gelli Printing; Felted Novelty slippers; Collograph Printing; Batik Lamp Making; Block printing On Fabric New for 2019 - Open Print Studio - Friday Mornings.
 See www.drywaterarts.uk for more details.

Heritage project Update

Our oral history training session in November was part of our Woman Made Project celebrating the cultural and creative role of women in Northumberland. Volunteers learnt how to prepare for and record oral histories, forming an archive of social, cultural and political stories of local people. Further training in preparing material for the archives and visits to the archives will take place in the spring.

Woman Made is a project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund

Writers Live at Amble Library

Writers Live is a new venture for Amble Library. It aims to be a regular meeting in which people in the Amble area, who enjoy writing in any form or style, can share their work with other writers.

The sessions, which are free of charge, will be led by Paul Mein, a published poet who has returned to the North-East after a thirty year absence. He is keen for writers of whatever background or experience in the Amble area to be involved.

"Sharing and showcasing your work in front of other people who have similar interests is really important. It can provide a wonderful stimulus for new ideas and approaches". The next meeting will take place on 13 February, 5 - 6.30pm in Amble Library.

Tea and coffee will be available. Bring some of your work to share, or just come along to listen and join in the conversation.

Laughter and Opera at the Parish Hall

Saturday 16 March 7.30pm - "Where There's Muck, There's Bras"

This is a playful, provocative, hilarious and inspiring stand-up show exploring the way women are represented (or under-represented) in ideas of Northernness. Stories of amazing northern women, including writers, scientists, sportswomen, politicians, protestors, musicians and other Northern heroines.

Tickets on sale at N & F Young, Queen Str.: Adults £10, Concessions £8, Children £5. Bookings: 01665 798271 or online www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Opera North Sunday 17 March 2.30pm - The Mini Magic Flute. This bitesize opera and interactive workshop is the perfect introduction to opera for all the family, packing fun, fantasy and enchanting music into a one hour show. A trio of opera singers and an accordionist, guide audiences through a family-friendly retelling of Mozart's magical fairy tale where nothing is quite as it first appears.

As part of the show, you will make your own paper bird which will feature in the story - and you can take it home afterwards! For ages 4-7 and their families. Tickets: £7 / £5 child. Bookings: 01665 798271 or online www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Both shows will be performed in Amble Parish Hall, Dovecote Street, Amble NE65 0DX. Doors open half an hour before the start.

Harmony date with Werca's Folk

Two leading choirs will perform and invite locals to join in. Northumberland's all-female Werca's folk, and Vermont's Northern Harmony, specialists in world music, will be in Warkworth on **Saturday, March 2.**

The USA musicians will hold a workshop in the afternoon, and join Werca's Folk for a concert in the evening.

Both events in the **U.R. Church hall, The Butts, Warkworth.** The 3 hour workshop starts at 3pm, tickets cost £5. Everybody is welcome. The concert starts at 7.30 and tickets are £10 (conc. £8), with free glass of wine or soft drink. Tickets available at Warkworth Village Shop, from Marion Giles (01665 711602) or at the door.

NTC Films at the Dovecote Centre

Mary Poppins Returns - 2 Feb 3pm
 Mary Queen of Scots - 2 Feb 6pm
 A Star is Born - 8 Feb 7.30pm
 Ralph Breaks The Internet (Wreck it Ralph II) - 16 Feb 3pm
 The Favourite - 16 Feb 6pm
 First Man - 22 Feb 7.30pm
 Bohemian Rhapsody - 8 Mar 7.30pm

Widows - 22 Mar 7.30pm
 Wildlife - 29 Mar 2pm
 Prices vary, please ring 01665 713655 to find out more. Under 12s must be accompanied by an adult.
 Dovecote Centre, Dovecote Street, Amble NE65 0DX.
 See also p7

RNLI Coffee Mornings

Please come and join us at the Lifeboat Station for coffee and home baking on the following dates between 10.00am and 1.00pm:
 Sunday 17 Feb, Sunday 17 March and Sunday 21 April.

Wildlife Trust events at Hauxley

All our events with full details and booking are available online here www.nwt.org.uk/whats-on. Please note that all children under 18 attending our events must be accompanied by an adult.

Sun 10 Feb 10.00am - 4.00pm

In Focus, Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, In Focus experts will be on-hand with a range of optical equipment such as telescopes and binoculars allowing you to try before you buy. Free event, drop in any time during the day.

Sat 16 Feb 10.00am - 4.00pm

Art Exhibition - Diane Patterson, Framed prints, gifts and original oil paintings on wood all finished in bespoke solid wood frames. Stags, hares, owls, foxes, squirrels and other wildlife available. Artist, Diane Patterson, will be available all day to answer any questions. Free event, drop in any time during the day.

Carers Northumberland group

Do you look after someone? We are starting a new Carer Support Group in Amble at the Dry Water Arts Centre. Come along for a cuppa and chat with other unpaid carers, share experiences and get information.

First Thursday of the month 10.30—12pm starting 7 February.
 Contact 01670 320025 or info@carersnorthumberland.org.uk
www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk

Photographic club beats rivals

Ambles Photographic Group (APG) won an inter club competition, narrowly beating a rival club in the region.

The competition is held annually and is judged by three Northern Counties Photographic Federation judges.

Six teams; Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Blyth, Cambois, and Morpeth took part. There were two prizes to be won, the trophy and the plate. After the first round the three teams with the lowest scores competed for the plate. The scores in this round were: Blyth, 147; Cambois, 164; and Morpeth, who won the plate with 166 score.

The three highest scoring teams competed for the trophy. The scores here were extremely tight: Alnwick scored 170, while Amble and Ashington both scored 172 points. The final decision was based on the number of images with the top score of 15 points. Both Amble and Ashington had one each, but Amble had two images with a score of 14 and Ashington had none. So Amble was awarded the trophy.

The competition was very well attended by members from all six clubs. Afterwards there was a raffle and a buffet provided by members of the APG, the quality of which was favourably commented on by the visiting members.

APG meets every Friday morning at 9.00 in the Trinity Methodist Church Hall in Percy Street. Anyone interested in photography is warmly invited to come along. For more details see www.amblephotographicgroup.com/

Helen Holmes, Amble Photographic Group

Northumberland Astronomical Society (NASTRO)

When and where do you meet?
Second and last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, at the Wildlife Discovery Centre, Hauxley Nature Reserve.

What do you do in your club?
We meet and talk about astronomy! If the sky is clear we bring telescopes and hold observing sessions. Talks are provided by both members and visitors from local universities and other astronomy clubs. The focal point of observing evenings is the Observatory; it houses our computerised 14 inch telescope. The telescope can be used for visual observing, for astrophotography and we can beam live images to the Discovery Centre classroom during presentations!

Is there an age range?
All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by adults but there are no age limits.



Members of Northumberland Astronomical Society

Is there a charge?
Membership rates are given on the club website. Attending meetings on an ad-hoc basis is £3 per person. Membership has benefits which include invitations to observing evenings and equipment loan.

How long has it been running?
The club has been running since 2000. It was founded because there were no astronomy clubs in Northumberland until that point! One of the main goals of

NASTRO is to promote science and astronomy in the local community. We hold a number of free, public outreach events throughout Northumberland every year. When the weather co-operates – we aim to show the public some incredible views of stars, planets and galaxies through our telescopes!

Who might be interested in joining your club?
Anyone is welcome to join NASTRO. You don't need

to own a telescope! If you're thinking of buying a telescope, this is a good place to come and see different types in action before you decide. Northumberland nights tend to be cold or freezing, so warm clothing is a necessity for observing sessions. Red light torches are useful at observing sessions.

What's the best thing about your club?

Our members come from all walks of life and all ages. We're a friendly bunch and united by a love of astronomy. Always keen to show everyone the night sky through our telescopes!

Who runs the club? How do I get in touch?

The club is run by a committee. The best way to contact us is via the Contact Form on our website: www.nastro.org.uk.

Do you have a club or group you'd like us to feature in The Ambler? email editor@theambler.co.uk and we'll send you a form

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Rotary notes: good causes, good cheer



Members who carried out restoration to Brambles' Wendy House prior to the Interact Club (Junior Rotary) decorating it.

The President of the Rotary Club of Amble & Warkworth, Tim Mason, would like to thank the residents of Amble, Warkworth, Acklington, Broomhill, Red Row and Hadston for their support for the club's annual Christmas Collection raising £5979.65.

The Rotary Club will meet later this month to decide which local charities and worthy causes will be supported as a result of the collection.

On 4 December the club hosted Rotarians from Seahouses for the annual inter-club quiz. It is pleasing to report that Amble and Warkworth won and we now wait to hear who we shall meet in the next round.

On 18 December Rotarians and guests enjoyed the annual "Christmas Message", given again this year by the Reverend John McDermott, Vicar of St Cuthbert's, Amble. Rotarians and guests enjoyed an excellent Christmas Dinner at The Hermitage.

In November Rotary celebrated its 70th birthday with the same menu as when the club first met, (Tomato soup, Chicken, Apple Tart and cream).

In December we welcomed two new members, Richard Booth and Phil Derry both from Warkworth.

For further information on what we get up to in Rotary see www.ambleandwarkworthrotary.org or follow us on facebook

Fred Calvert

Changes agreed at St Cuthberts

Great news as St Cuthbert's, Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been granted permission to make the necessary changes to the back of our church building so that we can have that long awaited servery, store cupboard and also to have a loo – YAY! It's a strange thing to get excited about in this day and age, but believe me you get excited when you have spent services with your legs crossed.

The cost for this work will be in the region of £60,000, and members of the church congregation have themselves already given/pledged £7,500, but we obviously need more help to raise the rest. This is why we are turning to you, the good people of Amble, and hope

you can help us get our Parish Church into the 21st Century.

We hope the work will be completed by the end of this year 2019, ready in time for our 150th birthday in 2020, so there is no time to loose.

Our PCC believe the church building should be at the very heart of its community. It is in a prime location just behind Queen Street and next to bus stops and is the venue for many funerals as well as christenings and weddings. In the course of any year a large proportion of the local community pass through the doors of the church for one reason or another. St Cuthbert's is your Parish Church so we hope you will join us and make it a place fit for the future.

All donations are welcome. Please visit our justgiving page: www.justgiving.com/pccofamble
Meg Dixon



Computer illustration of the new font, toilet and cupboard planned for St Cuthberts Church, with Rev John McDermott

Win a three course meal for four at The Amble Inn

To enter: read the three articles about The Amble Inn in this issue of The Ambler, to find the answers to the following questions. Send your completed entry in to us and we will put all correct replies into a hat. The winner will be notified by email or phone, so please make sure you have given us correct contact details.

Send your entries to: Amble Inn competition, The Ambler, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble NE65 0DT.

Closing date for entries: 27 February 2019

1: How many people can be seated at the restaurant?

2. What creatures were the Amble Inn mascots?

3. How many types of meat were on offer at the carvery?

Name:

Address:

Phone no:

Email:

Entrants must be aged 18 or over. Prize valid for six months and excludes public holidays. Subject to availability and choice. No cash alternative. Management decision is final.

Bowling Club celebrates 90 years

Roy Davison Director of The Co-op Funeralcare presented Anne Grace the new President of Amble Bowling Club with a set of mats on the occasion of the club's 90th anniversary.

Members of the club attended a celebration evening dressed in 1928 style costume.



The winners of the four major cups were; from left to right, George Nelson, Mens four wood singles champion; Emma Newton, Ladies four wood singles champion; Anne Grace, Ladies two wood singles champion; John Calder, Mens two wood singles champion.