



Amble

Development Trust

29th

ANNUALREPORT

Year Ending 31st March 2023



AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Registered Office : Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble, Northumberland, NE65 0DT

Registered in England No : 2990425 Registered Charity No : 1051657

Objects of the Company

The objects of the Company are :

- (a) to preserve, protect and enhance in any way for the benefit of the public the amenities including buildings or features of historic or architectural interest, in the area bounded to the north by the River Coquet, to the east by the coastline and west by Togston and Hauxley parish boundaries, to include the areas known as Mariners View, Gloster Hill, the Braid, the Marina and adjoining areas;
- (b) to benefit the public by improving and beautifying the area of benefit;
- (c) to provide or assist in the provision of public amenities for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit and neighbourhood thereof; and
- (d) to further any other charitable purpose or purposes for the benefit of the said inhabitants.

Grants and donations 2022/23

Arts Council England
Coastal Communities Fund
Northumberland County Council
Power To Change
Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth
Generous private donations to The Ambler

*Front cover: The Ambler projected on the big screen at the 2023 Newspaper Awards which took place at the Hilton on Park Lane in March.
The Ambler was Commended in the ICNN Independent Community Newspaper of the year category.
Judges described the paper as "a touching and very worthy community initiative." Photo by Mark McGinlay*

AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST GROUP

Management Committee and Staff 2022/23

Officers

Paul Rigby
Lynne Morelli

Chair
Vice Chair

Members

Elected Members

Cath Armstrong
William Armstrong
Mandy Bond
Jennifer Dunn
Rod Henderson
Mary Maclean
Lynne Morelli (co-opted)
Andy Sim
Paul Rigby (co-opted)

Representatives

John Carruthers
Derek Nickalls
Jack Hoskin
Cllr Terry Clark
Cllr Jeff Watson (resigned)
Cllr Craig Weir

Amble Businesses
Amble Businesses
Warkworth Harbour Commission
Northumberland County Council
Northumberland County Council
Amble Town Council

Staff

Julia Aston
Anna Williams
Julie Lilburn

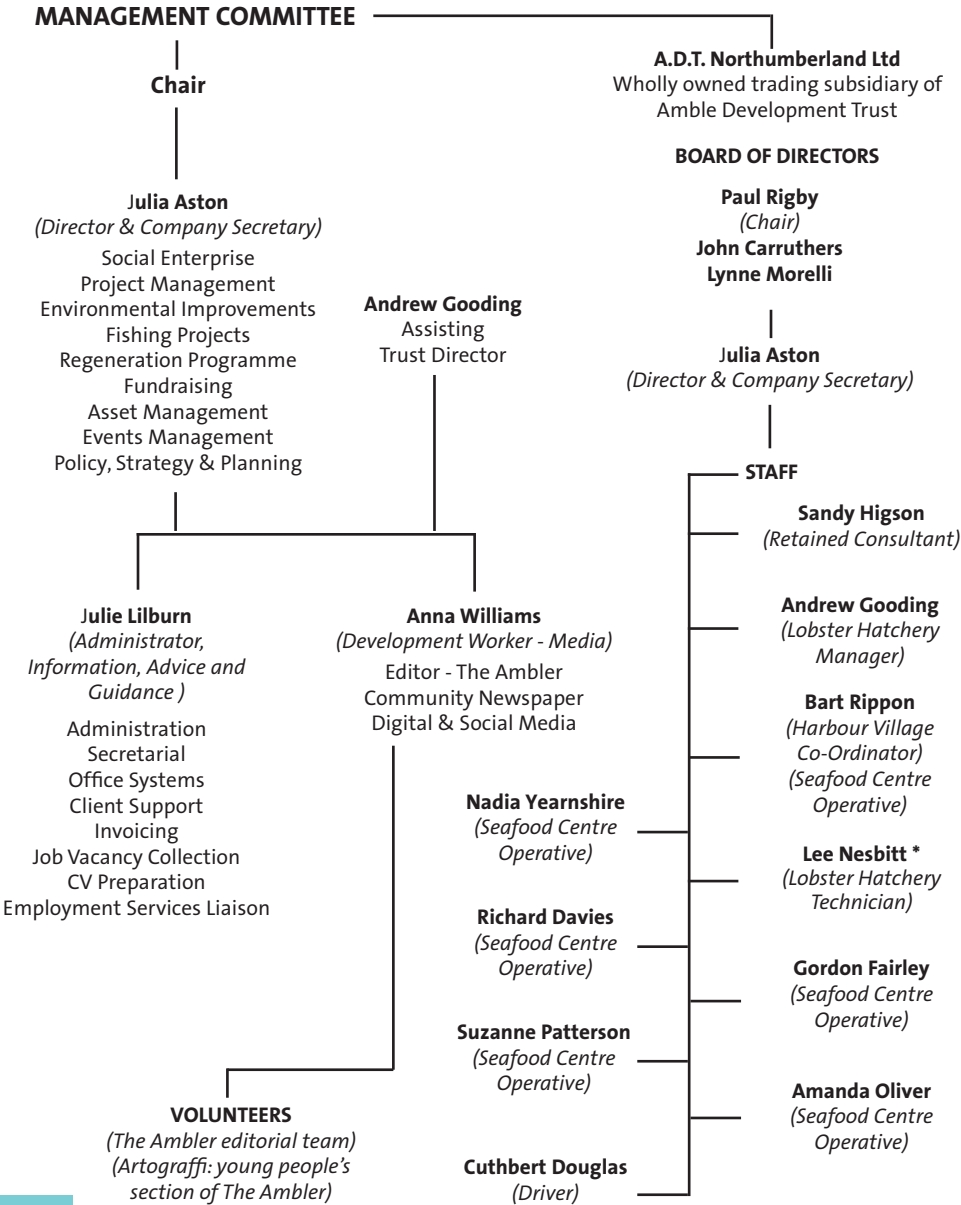
Sandy Higson
Andrew Gooding
Lee Nesbitt (resigned)
Bartle Rippon

Gordon Fairley
Nadia Yearnshire
Richard Davies
Suzanne Patterson
Amanda Oliver
Cuthbert Douglas

Director/ Company Secretary
Development Worker - Media
Administrator/ Employment
Counselling Support
Retained Consultant
Lobster Hatchery Manager
Lobster Hatchery Technician
Seafood Centre Operative
Harbour Village Co-ordinator
Seafood Centre Operative
Seafood Centre Operative
Seafood Centre Operative
Seafood Centre Operative
Seafood Centre Operative
Driver

AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST GROUP

Structure 2022/23



* resigned

Chairman's Report

Amble Development Trust Management Committee

Once again as chairman may I take this opportunity to welcome you to Amble Development Trust Annual Report, where myself and trust staff offer you information on the work carried out during the previous financial year. As the world reacclimatises to life accepting covid as an everyday possibility we are now living our new normal. So, we are back to planning 'what next' for the town.

Firstly, I would like to welcome two new trustees to the Management Committee who joined our well versed team after the AGM in July. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience and are already well integrated within the Board.

Regeneration & Physical Development:

While the Bird Sculpture Trail has been our main focus for some time, we are nearing the final hurdle and look forward to sharing the trail and app and printed leaflets with everyone at the Puffin Festival in May prior to the official opening in June where we hope to have a Royal guest officiating. However, at the time of writing plans are still being finalised.

We are currently going through a stage of writing an updated Investment Plan, to which members of the community were invited to participate in a workshop in January. The ideas that came out of the workshop will inform the direction of the next stage of regeneration. The funding for this plan is coming from Northumberland County Council (NCC) who have encouraged its production. This document will be used to attract funding for projects that have been identified by the community.

The report will be published at the end of April and be available to view on the Trust website.

Looking at the longer-term picture of the housing market and the issues that the increased number of holiday lets and second homes that are causing, we understand NCC are taking action by adopting new government guidelines that will allow them to charge any secondary homes double council tax if they are not registered as businesses. While it is hard to predict the actions of others, we do feel that this increased levy may bring about some property sales which we would look at seriously to see if the Trust could bring them into the affordable housing market.

All of that said, the only way any additional control can be exercised over second and holiday homes would be through an adopted neighbourhood plan, which the local town or parish council must initiate and requires support from the community. We will continue to work with the community to determine if this is a route they would like the council to take. We began this engagement through a poll in the Ambler where we had a reasonably good response from 60 community members, with 55 stating they thought Amble should have a Neighbourhood Plan and 17 would like to be involved on a steering group. This information has been forwarded to Amble Town Council who would be the decision makers if this is to proceed.

The Seafood Centre has, like many small businesses been hit by the cost-of-living crisis. While footfall remains high, the spend per visit has decreased. And we,



like other businesses are having to find additional money for utilities and the lobster hatchery uses a lot of electricity! But we remain fully supportive of the initiative which supports our fishing fleet and the wider business community through provision of a tourist attraction while also and more importantly having a long-term environmental impact that will benefit our community.

The Welfare park:

We are currently working with Northumberland County Council to secure funding for a new surface for the children's play park and refurbishment of the Mugas (or Playzones as they have been renamed). The funding for the play park has been confirmed and will come from what is known as Section 106 contributions from local development projects.

This fund will also be used by NCC to match the funding they are hoping to secure through the Football Foundation /Sport England.

A consultation drop-in session was held on Monday 13th March for people to complete forms to say what games/activities they would like to see marked on the footprint of the Playzone. This consultation has now closed and the findings will be included in the full application to be submitted by NCC. If successful work will commence late summer this year. We have two teams using the amenities at the Welfare. One doing very well in their league and the other doing extremely well in recruiting young people and helping to get them fit

and healthy.

We have begun the installation of a Community Orchard having planted 20 fruit trees. However, we have secured funding for many more but it won't be released until later this year, so plans are on hold for the time being. We would like to thank our volunteers for their patience.

We also await more information from NCC on the new High School development. As

the current plans include passage across the welfare from the old site which will still be used as a car park and drop off point to the new site, we welcome contact to discuss how this will work and to see if we can negotiate use of the car park for our football teams at weekends and evenings for matches and training. This will be beneficial to the teams and residents of nearby streets where parking is proving an issue.



The MUGA at the Welfare

The Ambler:

This continues to play a major role in keeping the community informed of local news and happenings. Once again, we are grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who are now gradually returning to working in the office having assisted the editor throughout the pandemic to ensure the bimonthly newspaper has continued to be delivered to your door. Not only are we proud of the production, but The Ambler has also been nominated for the Independent Community Newspaper of the Year Award. And hot off the press we have just been told The Ambler has been Commended. Well done to the whole Ambler team and a big thank

you to everyone for their continued hard work. continued hard work.

Financial support:

Financial year 2022 -2023 saw our core income mainly dependent upon our own income generation, with some additional funds gained through project management. Rental income from office, retail and housing accommodation are our main sources of income and allow the Trust to contribute in excess of £70k into the community annually through various projects and resources.

Other financial support has come in the form of grants from the Coastal Communities Fund, Arts Council, Northumberland County and also personal donations to The Ambler. We offer our thanks to all funders for their continued support.

Staff & profile:

Amble Development Trust profile remains largely the same with Andrew Gooding sharing his time between the Seafood Centre and Trust office, assisting with project and asset management.

Anna Williams has continued to produce The Ambler, and Julie Lilburn carries out Trust administration as well as being available via email to assist with CV's and job-related enquiries.

Sandy Higson AKA The Mad Jam Woman provides the preserve making expertise and continues to make Pride of Northumbria range of preserves.

Julia Aston and Andrew Gooding carry out day to day management duties, strategic/policy/budget/business

planning and asset management, as well as acting as the Trusts representatives on various committees.

ADT Northumberland Ltd the Trust's trading arm employs the Lobster Hatchery staff, alongside the Harbour Village staff.

In terms of profile, we continue as members of Locality, previously the Development Trust Association and participating within FONDT activities (Federation of Northumberland Development Trusts).

The Year Ahead:

As you will have read, we are in the throes of either writing or being involved in several reports and studies. While not the most interesting of activities to report back to members they are essential for ensuring we have an evidence base of community consultation that has identified projects to support funding applications. Once the reports are completed and submitted, we will roll our sleeves up and begin the delivery process.

We will continue to support our high street in whatever way we can. While the nature of high streets continues to change, with more businesses providing services that cannot be bought online, Amble has been fortunate in that we have very few vacant premises. This interest appears to be continuing and we hope Queen Street remains as vibrant as it currently is. We will take advantage of any opportunities we can identify to aid the town's sustainability, which we believe will be assisted by the new town centre car park.

We will also explore any opportunities to create more affordable housing. While there are housing developments in the pipeline



there would appear not to be sufficient to meet current needs.

The objectives of the Trust have always been to assist the town to achieve its potential and given the profile we have had in the last year it would appear we are having some success. However, we believe there is still work to do that can be achieved by working in partnership with local groups and organisations e.g., Amble businesses, Amble Town Council and Northumberland County Council as well as external organisations. This we will do wherever possible with the relevant group or organisations to ensure we get the best for our town.

We will also continue to exploit marketing

and publicity opportunities which present themselves to ensure we can carry on enhancing our town for the benefit of all.

Once again, I would like to register my thanks to the Trust operatives for their hard work, and to the Management Committee, trustees, colleagues, funders, supporters, and the community for continued support, with additional thanks to the many volunteers within the community who came forward to help those in need during the pandemic. Amble truly knows the meaning of support, care and community spirit.

*Paul Rigby,
Chair,
Amble Development Trust*

Commended

Enfield Dispatch Now in its fifth year, and extremely well written and printed, judges loved that the title, part of the Social Spider CIC social enterprise of five community newspapers, was owned by its members.

Hackney Citizen The Citizen is a slick publication with superb front cover illustrations. Great local issues explored by this constant high performer and judges noted it was 'great to see an independent title securing a contract for public notices – a brilliant achievement.'

Hailsham News A good-looking and well produced 'newsy' publication with its sister title the Bexhill News, the newspaper prints 10,000 copies a month on a bright stock that fly off the shelves in just 10 days.

The Ambler An A4 magazine-style title for the Amble area for 20 years – a touching and very worthy community initiative. "It's so good, it's collectable," enthused one judge.

Wells Voice Fantastic template-driven mini magazine style publication – a massive effort by a one man band working from a bedroom. A huge offering, dripping with content and plenty of supporting photography from its team of community contributors.

The Ambler was Commended in the Newspaper Awards 2023

A.D.T. Northumberland Ltd

As my third year as Chair of ADT Northumberland Ltd draws to a close I am able to reflect on the trading and activities of the business.

There is no doubting the current economic climate is affecting all businesses and members of the local community and ADT is no different. The pods provide a stable income which is ring-fenced and ensure the Harbour Village coordinator is able to market and promote events, and cover repairs as and when they are required.

The seafood centre has noticed a downturn in sales. While footfall remains high, the actual spend of each customer has dipped slightly. As these sales cover the cost of salaries and more importantly the overheads of the Lobster Hatchery, where the cost of electricity has soared, it is vital for the longevity of the fishing fleet that we continue to support the sector. To understand why we feel this is necessary is to look at the bigger picture of the towns economy and reliance upon tourism and what visitors come to the town for – which is heavily related to the harbour and sea.

To this end financial management is paramount to ensure we trade profitably and we continue to look for opportunities that will grow our business and enhance both our sustainability and offer to the community. It is worth remembering any surplus generated goes to support community projects. Therefore we are currently looking to create additional renting capacity within the seafood centre.

Sadly we have lost one of our employees at the seafood centre. Lee who has been

with us for five years decided it was time for change. Our thanks go to him for helping us build up the seafood sales and wish him well for the future.

Our plans for the Community Orchard are temporarily on hold due to the funding secured not being released until later in the year.

Our affordable housing is fully rented and yet another of our tenants has been able to step onto the home ownership ladder.

At the welfare, we are currently working with NCC to secure funding to refurbish the Mugas with funding from the Football Foundation as well as replacing the rubber crumb flooring in the childrens play area through S106 funding, which is raised by the council through development contributions for community benefit.



Sandy Higson



Flock Sphere by Rob Mulholland, part of the Bord Waalk sculpture trail.
Image by David Southern

The town has still generated interest from media companies with the Seafood Centre featuring in the Food Festival programme which aired recently. Vera returned to film again along with Spring Watch who visited Hauxley Nature Reserve and we understand there is more to come throughout this year.

Sandy Higson our retained consultant preserve maker has done it again with her continues to win national acclaim for her marmalades, this year achieving:

- Gold - Ruby Grapefruit with chai spice
- Bronze - Lime with honey and star anise
- Bronze- Lime with apple, pineapple and chilli
- Bronze – Orange and ginger
- Bronze – Orange with matcha green tea and vanilla
- Commendation - The Kings aperitif
- Commendation – The King's peach

Commendation – Lemon, honey with star anise
Take a bow Sandy – well done.
And at long last the Bird Sculpture Trail will be completed along with the app and leaflets in time for the official opening where we hope to have a royal visitor to officiate.

Our accounts reflect our current trading position and income is due mainly to rental income from the Harbour Village and seafood centre.

Our thanks once again goes to the staff, trustees and volunteers who continue to drive projects forward and look for new initiatives. Their loyalty is appreciated.

Paul Rigby
Chair -ADT Northumberland Ltd





Uplift by Jonny Mitchie, part of the Bord Waalk sculpture trail.
Image by David Southern

AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Amble Development Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Current financial year				
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>				
Donations and legacies	2,670	78,290	80,960	5,348
Other trading activities	112,120	-	112,120	112,095
Other income	5,767	-	5,767	15,181
Total income	120,557	78,290	198,847	132,624
<u>Expenditure on:</u>				
Charitable activities	129,666	129,375	259,041	200,530
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds	(9,109)	(51,085)	(60,194)	(67,906)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022	2,480,689	94,867	2,575,556	2,643,462
Fund balances at 31 March 2023	2,471,580	43,782	2,515,362	2,575,556

AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		2,226,601		2,233,951
Investments		2		2
		<u>2,226,603</u>		<u>2,233,953</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	24,423		8,953	
Cash at bank and in hand	290,075		348,389	
	<u>314,498</u>		<u>357,342</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(25,739)</u>		<u>(15,739)</u>	
Net current assets		<u>288,759</u>		<u>341,603</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>2,515,362</u>		<u>2,575,556</u>
Income funds				
Restricted funds		43,782		94,867
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>				
Designated funds	2,226,601		2,233,951	
General unrestricted funds	244,979		246,738	
		<u>2,471,580</u>		<u>2,480,689</u>
		<u>2,515,362</u>		<u>2,575,556</u>

A.D.T. Northumberland Limited

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	316,729	385,525
Cost of sales	(172,635)	(251,519)
Gross profit	144,094	134,006
Administrative expenses	(170,612)	(180,290)
Other operating income	5,200	25,252
Loss before taxation	(21,318)	(21,032)
Tax on loss	-	-
Loss for the financial year	(21,318)	(21,032)

The profit and loss account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.



Murmuration by Frances Anderson, part of the Bord Waalk sculpture trail. Image by David Southern

Legal and administrative information

Secretary	Julia Aston	Bank	Unity Trust Bank plc Four Brindleyplace Oozells Square Birmingham B1 2HB
Bank	Robson Laidler Fernwood House Fernwood Road Jesmond Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 1TJ	Solicitors	SJ Palin & Co 14-16 Bridge Street Amble NE65 ODR
Company No:	2990425	Charity Registration No:	1051657



www.ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk