



Amble  
Development Trust  
30<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUALREPORT  
Year Ending 31st March 2024



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# 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.

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## Grants and donations 2023/24

Arts Council England  
Coastal Communities Fund  
Community Foundation  
Co-op Community Fund  
Northumberland County County  
Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth  
Generous private donations to The Ambler



*Front cover: The Duke of Gloucester officially opened the Amble Bord Waalk sculpture trail in June. Photo: Ivor Rackham*

# AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST GROUP

## Management Committee and Staff 2023/24

### Officers

Paul Rigby  
Lynne Morelli

**Chair**  
**Vice Chair**

### Members

#### *Elected Members*

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

#### *Representatives*

John Carruthers  
Derek Nickalls  
Jack Hoskin  
Cllr Terry Clark  
Cllr Craig Weir

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

### Staff

Julia Aston  
Anna Williams  
Julie Lilburn  
  
Sandy Higson  
Matthew Connelly  
Andrew Gooding (resigned)  
John Lee  
Bartle Rippon  
  
Gordon Fairley (resigned)  
Nadia Yearnshire  
Richard Davies  
Suzanne Patterson  
Amanda Oliver (resigned)  
Cuthbert Douglas (resigned)

*Director/ Company Secretary*  
*Development Worker - Media*  
*Administrator/ Employment*  
*Counselling Support*  
*Retained Consultant*  
*Strategic Project Manager*  
*Lobster Hatchery Manager*  
*Seafood Centre Manager*  
*Lobster Hatchery and*  
*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 2023/24

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Chair**

**Julia Aston**

*(Director & Company Secretary)*

Social Enterprise  
Project Management  
Environmental Improvements  
Fishing Projects  
Regeneration Programme  
Fundraising  
Asset Management  
Events Management  
Policy, Strategy & Planning

**Matthew Connolly**

*(Strategic Project Manager)*

**Andrew Gooding\***

Assisting  
Trust Director

**Julie Lilburn**

*(Administrator,  
Information, Advice and  
Guidance)*

Administration  
Secretarial  
Office Systems  
Client Support  
Invoicing  
Job Vacancy Collection  
CV Preparation  
Employment Services Liaison

**Anna Williams**

*(Development Worker - Media)*

Editor - The Ambler  
Community Newspaper  
Digital & Social Media

**Nadia Yearnshire**

*(Seafood Centre  
Operative)*

**Richard Davies**

*(Seafood Centre  
Operative)*

**Suzanne Patterson**

*(Seafood Centre  
Operative)*

**Cuthbert Douglas\***

*(Driver)*

## VOLUNTEERS

*(The Ambler editorial team)  
(Artograffi: young people's  
section of The Ambler)*

**A.D.T. Northumberland Ltd**

Wholly owned trading subsidiary of  
Amble Development Trust

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Paul Rigby**

*(Chair)*

**John Carruthers**

**Lynne Morelli**

**Julia Aston**

*(Director & Company Secretary)*

## STAFF

**Sandy Higson**

*(Retained Consultant)*

**Andrew Gooding\***

*(Lobster Hatchery  
Manager)*

**John Lee**

*(Lobster Hatchery  
Manager)*

**Bart Rippon**

*(Lobster Hatchery and  
Harbour Village  
Co-ordinator)*

**Gordon Fairley\***

*(Seafood Centre  
Operative)*

**Amanda Oliver\***

*(Seafood Centre  
Operative)*

\* resigned

# Chairman's Report

## Amble Development Trust Management Committee

**Once again as chairman may I take this opportunity to welcome you to the Amble Development Trust Annual Report in the year that we celebrate 30 years of regeneration in the town.**

I thought this would be a good time to recap on the many projects that have been completed over the intervening years: From the early years (before my time as Chair) when the Trust was 'housed' in the Harbour office and the first project of armouring Harbour Road, then the new pier, through to the town square and Queen Street refurbishment. The old Fourways public house and Fourways 2 new office accommodation, former Co-op building that now houses three retail units and four affordable houses, Welfare refurbishment and childrens play area, the Harbour Village, Seafood Centre and lobster hatchery and Bord Waalk, not to mention the many community based projects including the much loved Ambler newspaper. Working with partners, these are just some of the changes and developments that the town has gone through, hopefully all having contributed to making a positive difference.

Last year I welcomed new trustees to our board, this year we welcome new staff members. Matthew Connolly, who some may know for the sterling work he does as a volunteer with Amble Youth Project, has joined Trust staff following in the footsteps of Andrew Gooding. Andrew left at Christmas to take up a new role in Hexham. And we have John Lee now working in the Seafood Centre. We welcome both to the Trust.

### Regeneration & Physical Development:

The physical aspect of the Bord Waalk sculpture trail is now complete. We

were honoured to have the official opening ceremony carried out by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester on a beautiful sunny day last June. There were security and time constraints that meant we couldn't advertise the opening as widely as we would have preferred to ensure the community were aware, but we had to follow the procedural rules of the Royal Household. That said, many of the artists, children and organisations who had taken part in various ways attended and enjoyed the sunshine, meeting the Duke and savouring the refreshments afterwards. So, it all turned out to be a glorious day enjoyed by many. And from our monitoring we know that many locals and visitors alike are enjoying walking the trail.



With our updated Investment Plan complete we would like to thank the many people, groups and businesses who took part and shared their ideas. This plan has already been used to provide evidence of need for funding applications and we will continue to develop applications based on its content wherever possible.

Amble Town Council have initiated the first steps of community engagement for a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Having hosted a meeting to determine interest they have now set a deadline date for anyone wishing to be involved to come forward. It is now down to the community to take this further – without that involvement the plan that has been asked for will simply not happen.

Housing development remains an issue which could perhaps have been avoided had a NDP happened sooner, however we have to work with what we have.

We have taken part in government funded workshops related to community housing, that are to report back on their findings. Our view is that affordable homes and Section 106 money should be kept in the area of development.

Affordable homes could be managed by organisations similar to the Trust who have existing policies to ensure members of the local community (living or working in the town or have a close family relationship) most in need are given first option on any available property.

We have four affordable units and all have been tenanted since they were complete – all by local people who work in the town.

Having this source of income aids the Trust to carry out more projects and regeneration works in the town, so everyone benefits.

The Seafood Centre is currently undergoing an internal layout change. Staffing hours were reduced over the winter months due to reduced footfall and the hatchery equipment dismantled in a bid to reduce energy bills. All will be replaced in the reshuffle to make the layout more user friendly. Given the value the hatchery has as a conservation project and visitor attraction we remain fully supportive of the initiative.

### The Welfare park:

The new rubber crumb floor base has been installed in the children's play park. The rubber crumb was paid for by a grant from S106 money from NCC (contributions from local development projects). However, we are still waiting for a start date for the Playzone.

We have also just completed an extension to the storage compound. The teams using

the pavilion required additional storage for their equipment plus we hope to have a small storage container there for orchard equipment. The hedging to protect the orchard was planted early March and the fruit trees towards the end of the month. There is a mix of apple, pear, plum and cherry trees.

The fruit will be available to anyone so we hope the area will be respected as a community asset.



*Fruit trees at the orchard.  
Photo: Anna Williams*

We are still waiting for 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.



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### **The Ambler:**

This continues to play a major role in keeping the community informed of local news and happenings. The publication highlights newsworthy issues as well as taking on challenges identified by the community and being a source of local information. We are grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who work alongside the editor and give so freely of their time in order to bring the bimonthly newspaper to your door.

### **Financial support:**

Financial year 2023 -2024 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 Council, Amble & Warkworth Rotary, Co-op Community Fund, Community Foundation 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 Matthew Connolly joining the Trust team.

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 Matthew Connolly 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 Trusts trading arm employs the Lobster Hatchery staff, alongside the Harbour Village staff.

In terms of profile, we continue as members of Locality and participate within FONDT activities (Federation of Northumberland Development Trusts).

### **The Year Ahead:**

The next few months will determine whether the town council progresses a Neighbourhood Development Plan – if this goes ahead we will offer as much assistance as requested.

In the Investment Plan, arts and the creative sector featured heavily. This is a growing industry and one that appears to be capturing the attention of many in the town through Drywater Arts community based workshops and the exhibitions and Crit sessions being run at the Dovecote Centre. There is a lot more to explore and we are already in conversation with the Cultural and Regeneration Officers at Northumberland County Council to see what opportunities could present themselves in funding terms.

Matthew's role as chair of Amble Youth Project and as a governor at James Calvert Spence College present opportunities to link up to support our young people that open up new opportunities in this sector.





*The Duke of Gloucester officially opened the Bord Waalk sculpture trail. Photo: Bart Rippon*

It's all about working with and joining up the different organisations to create scaled opportunities rather than disparate groups competing!

Taking our experience of high street properties where we have lost one tenant but have had several enquiries for the property it looks as though Amble is still attracting investment. It is obvious that the nature of high streets is changing with more businesses providing services that cannot be bought online, but we still have very few vacant premises.

We have recently taken part in a government backed consultation on housing and how organisations such as the Trust could fund their purchases as it becomes obvious that organisations that are based in the community and have policies that support tenancies to keep homes for the local workforce wherever possible (affordable is based on local

salaries) helps further investment in communities.

The objectives of the Trust remain to assist the town to achieve its potential to this end we will continue to explore opportunities and working partner arrangements to achieve this goal 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 officers 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 come forward and give so generously of their time. Amble truly knows the meaning of support, care and community spirit.

*Paul Rigby  
Chair,  
Amble Development Trust*





## A.D.T. Northumberland Ltd

**As another financial year comes to a close we once again reflect on the trading and activities of the business. This year we have seen a few changes in staffing at the Seafood Centre, with Andrew Gooding leaving our employment and John Lee taking up the role of Seafood Manager in January.**

Andrew's role was split between the Seafood Centre and the trust, so when he left to work In Hexham the managerial role in the Seafood Centre needed to be filled quickly to ensure trading continued .

In order to reduce utility costs it was decided to close down the Lobster Hatchery equipment over the winter while some remedial work and deep cleaning was carried out. Wheels will be added to the tanks for ease of moving while cleaning, prior to the hatchery opening again by Easter.

As we continue to support our fishing fleet It is fair to say that trading at the Seafood Centre has still been busy over the winter so our thanks go to the staff for their sterling efforts. It isn't he warmest or most welcoming of environments to work in when its cold and windy.

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, such as the Community Orchard, which has recently taken a giant step forward. Initially

protective hedging was planted followed closely by the fruit trees

themselves. Over the course of the planting sessions approx. 30 volunteers turned up to assist. More planting is planned as we look to recreate the rose garden and cherry memorial area where we will offer the opportunity to plant a cherry tree in memory of someone close alongside seating creating a contemplation garden.

Continuing at the Welfare, we have been able to replace the rubber crumb base in the childrens play area, thanks to NCC S106 funding and while the Playzone work has yet to begin, we are hopeful this will happen early April.

At this point I would like to offer our thanks to the football teams using the pavilion who are currently redecorating the building and generally smartening it up.

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



The playground surface has been replaced.  
Photo: Charlie Aston



*l-r: Lynne Morelli, Paul Rigby, Duke of Gloucester, Lucy Jenkins, Julia Aston. Photo: Bart Rippon*

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

Gold - Lime and Lemon marmalade with Gin and Chilli

Silver – Lemon, Gin and Pink Peppercorns

Bronze – Seville Orange with Vanilla and Cardamom

Plus 3 other commendations

And as if that wasn't enough Sandy will be taking part in a James Martin interview in the coming months.

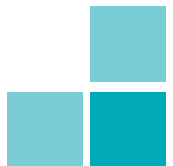
And finally Bord Waalk is complete and has been Royally officially opened! Our thanks to everyone who took part in delivering the project including but not limited to; Amble Youth Project and Drywater Arts as well

as local schools and groups. We hope you enjoyed taking part in this and look forward to future projects.

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*





Duke of Gloucester meeting Matthew Connelly. Photo: Ivor Rackham

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## 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 2024.

#### **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**

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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.

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## AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Current financial year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	1,737	133,489	135,226	80,960
Other trading activities	111,998	-	111,998	112,120
Other income	3,230	-	3,230	5,767
<b>Total income</b>	<u>116,965</u>	<u>133,489</u>	<u>250,454</u>	<u>198,847</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	85,171	177,271	262,442	259,041
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>85,171</u>	<u>177,271</u>	<u>262,442</u>	<u>259,041</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds</b>	31,794	(43,782)	(11,988)	(60,194)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Fund balances at 1 April 2023	2,471,580	43,782	2,515,362	2,575,556
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>	<u>2,503,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,503,374</u>	<u>2,515,362</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

## AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

### BALANCE SHEET

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		2,224,793		2,226,601
Investments		2		2
		<u>2,224,795</u>		<u>2,226,603</u>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	2,248		24,423	
Cash at bank and in hand	297,979		290,075	
	<u>300,227</u>		<u>314,498</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(21,648)		(25,739)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>278,579</u>		<u>288,759</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>2,503,374</u>		<u>2,515,362</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>				
Restricted income funds		-		43,782
Unrestricted funds		2,503,374		2,471,580
		<u>2,503,374</u>		<u>2,515,362</u>

# A.D.T. Northumberland Limited

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Turnover</b>	406,810	316,729
Cost of sales	(241,944)	(172,635)
<b>Gross profit</b>	164,866	144,094
Administrative expenses	(154,977)	(170,612)
Other operating income	17,335	5,200
<b>Profit/(loss) before taxation</b>	27,224	(21,318)
Tax on profit/(loss)	-	-
<b>Profit/(loss) for the financial year</b>	27,224	(21,318)

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



Planting the orchard. Photo: Matthew Connelly

## Legal and administrative information

<b>Secretary</b>	Julia Aston	<b>Bank</b>	Unity Trust Bank plc Four Brindleyplace Oozells Square Birmingham B1 2HB
<b>Bank</b>	Robson Laidler Fernwood House Fernwood Road Jesmond Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 1TJ	<b>Solicitors</b>	SJ Palin & Co 14-16 Bridge Street Amble NE65 0DR
<b>Company No:</b>	2990425	<b>Charity Registration No:</b>	1051657



[www.ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk](http://www.ambledevelopmenttrust.org.uk)