

August 2014

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## Notice board

Pants of Alnwick Exhibition: 3rd Sept to 2nd Nov, Bailiffgate Museum. All members are invited to the opening event at 6:30 p.m. on 5th Sept.

Any Questions: 25th Sept, Bailiffgate Museum at 7:30 p.m. Open to all.

Topical local issues will be discussed by a distinguished panel, with different perspectives on life in Alnwick: local business, our heritage, visitor attractions, transport, planning and representing the community. Members can submit their questions to the chair.

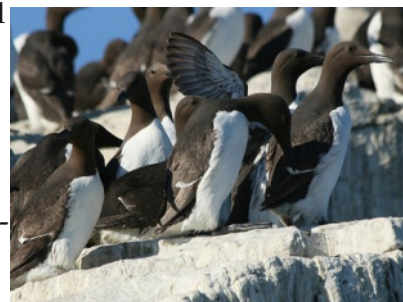
Nostalgic views of the North: 11th Nov, Bailiffgate Museum at 7:30 p.m. John Moreels, MBE, on the work of the Photo Memories Organisation to save and share over over 150,000 images of the North of England.



## Farne Islands Trip

*On 1st July seabirds on the Farne Islands turned out in vast numbers to welcome a boat carrying 40 members of Alnwick Civic Society and their guests.*

Familiarity could easily lead locals to under-estimate the international importance of these islands: their links with early English Christianity, the story of Grace Darling, their role as a sanctuary for seabirds, and the large colony of Atlantic Grey Seals.



Some had never been to this unique place before, others had left too long a gap between visits, so the chance to return was welcome.



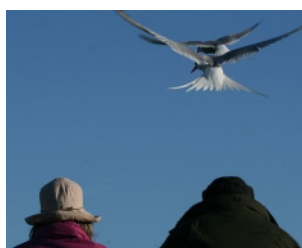
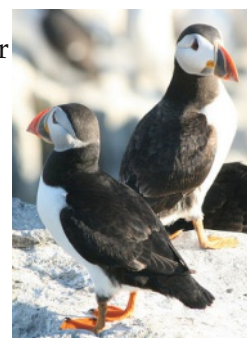
Anyone would be impressed by the sheer number of seabirds, and by the grey seals. Most would take an interest in the history, and few could fail to be struck by the seascape and

views to Bamburgh Castle and the Cheviots. But on an evening visit, as a small group, we looked forward to something even more special.

By convention all Civic Society summer outings are blessed with fine weather, but even by our demanding standards this was a golden evening.

The seabirds and seals did not disappoint, but the school of dolphins that raced us on the outward journey was completely unexpected.

We were expertly conveyed by the crew of Glad Tidings. We thank the wardens on Inner Farne for their welcome, and particularly the head warden, David Steel, for helping with arrangements.



The committee is now left with the considerable challenge of coming up with something equally memorable next year.

# Duchess Eleanor Memorial Window

In 1911, Henry George, 7th Duke of Northumberland initiated the installation of a window in the Duke's School, in memory of Eleanor, Duchess of Northumberland, who had formally opened the 'new' buildings in 1904. Throughout her time as Duchess, Eleanor and her husband, the 4th Duke of Northumberland, had taken a very real interest in both the school and the scholars and, because of their fondness for the late Duchess, many old boys of the school felt it would be a privilege to be associated with this tribute to her and formed a committee in order to assist with the project.

The result was the magnificent and much admired stained glass window in the school hall. His Grace selected the large south east window of the school hall and chose beautiful heraldic symbols to be designed in stained glass.

The chief central compartment of the window is occupied by the arms of Duchess Eleanor in a lozenge-shaped shield displaying the impaled coats of Northumberland and Westminster, surmounted by the ducal coronet with heraldic supporters on either side. In other parts of the window surrounding the central compartment, are shields of arms showing the early important alliances from which the present families of Percy and Grosvenor are descended and also the immediate ancestry of Duchess Eleanor and her husband Algernon. The upper tier of lights show the 'badges' of Northumberland and Westminster, displayed on banners carried by heraldic supporters – the Lion of Northumberland and the Talbot of Westminster. The mottoes of both families, "Esperance en Dieu" and "Virtus non stemma" are in some of the small tracery openings at the top of the window, the initials EN (Eleanor Northumberland) in the others.

The window was installed in 1913 at an estimated cost of £468.00 and is a superb example of the work of C E Kempe and Company, which was formed after the death of the eminent stained glass artist and church decorator, Charles Eamer Kempe.

The memorial window in The Duke's School is quite unique in that it is one of very few examples of 'Kempe' windows devoid of any ecclesiastical symbols.

'Kempe' windows are usually identified by a wheat-sheaf, which was inserted somewhere in the design; this wasn't necessary in the case of the Duke's School because a wheat-sheaf is part of the Westminster/Grosvenor coat of arms and there are several of them in the window!

Eleanor was the eldest daughter of Richard, 2nd Marquess of Westminster and Elizabeth Mary Leveson-Gower, daughter of George, who later became the 1st Duke of Sutherland.

For the last forty years of her life, Stanwick Hall, near Richmond was Eleanor's principal residence. She was almost 84 years old when she was invited to officially open the 'new' Duke's School. This was in fact the last public duty Eleanor would carry out in Alnwick.

Eleanor died on 4th May 1911 and, at her own request, is interred in the churchyard of Stanwick St John.

The following 'Appreciation by an Old Boy of the Duke's School' after Eleanor's death is a perfect example of the fondness felt for her and why the Old Boys were eager to be involved with the installation of a memorial window.

*"A great wave of deep and heartfelt sympathy will be awakened amongst those who remember the days when Duke Algernon and his Duchess reigned at Alnwick Castle when they learn that Her Grace has passed away. But it is not in sadness unbrightened that the news will be received, but deep thankfulness that so beautiful and saintly a life should, by the will of Divine*

*Providence, have extended to the great length of 90 years.*

*How well we remember her graceful presence and queenly mein, and to none more than to the Old Boys of the Duke's School will the passing appeal in all its pathos.*

*How well and with what pride we remember the periodical visits of Duke Algernon and his Duchess to the School. As they entered it was like a ray of the brightest sunshine which illuminated the face of every boy, and ever present to those who were permitted to be the recipients of her gracious smiles, will remain the memory of the joy and the pleasure each visit bestowed.*

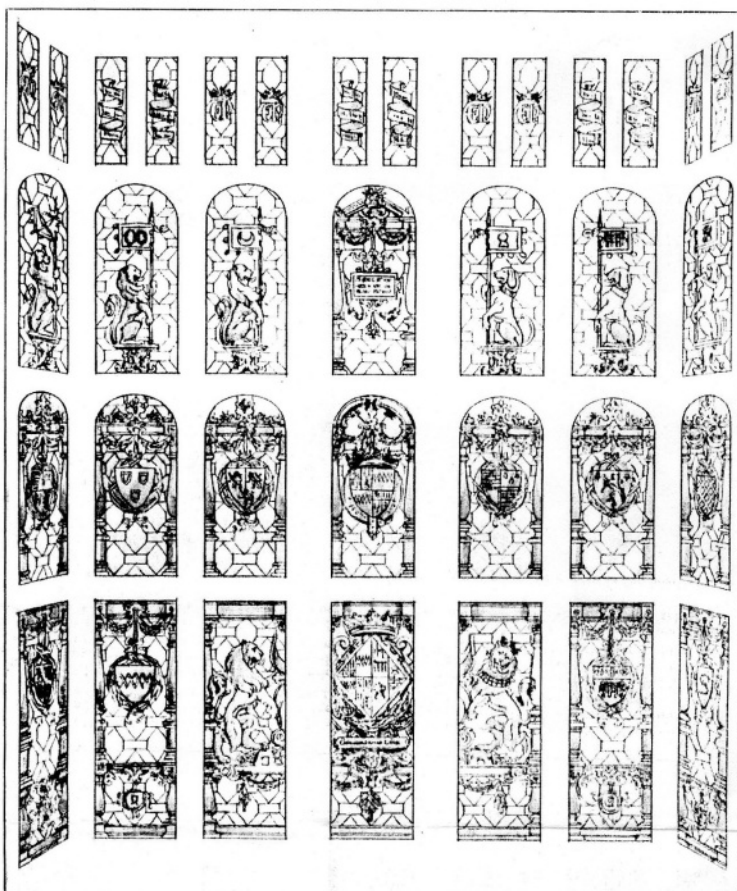
*Her life was indeed a beautiful one, full to overflowing with kindly sympathy and deep interest with those amongst whom she lived, and after the decease of her noble husband "Algernon the Good", her periodical visits to Alnwick Castle gave pleasure and delight to the many who in the past had known and appreciated her many virtues. Her last visit to Alnwick was I think on the occasion of the opening of the present Duke's School in July 1904, and her presence at this function stirred deep feelings of the past in the hearts and minds of those who had known Her Grace in earlier years.*

*Truly may it be said that a great, a noble and a saintly life has closed after a long and memorable wealth of years; but with our sadness at the parting there is present a great joy in the knowledge that the spirit has passed to that rest and reward granted to those who in this world have given of their best to their fellow creatures and have earned that Crown of Life bestowed on those to whom the Master's voice calls in loving welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord".*

(Our thanks to Lorna Gilroy for this contribution).

## DUKE'S SCHOOL, ALNWICK.

Proposed design for Heraldic Stained Glass  
in Oriel Window.





# News in Brief

## Marjorie Deakin Essay Competition

Congratulations to Zoe Coles (first prize), Emily Gray (second), and Destiny Tait for their successes in this year's essay competition, under the title 'A Few of my Favourite Things - What I like best about Alnwick'.

Our thanks again to Barter Books for sponsoring this competition, and for providing the prizes.

## Black Swan

Members will have been pleased to see the return of the old sign.



## Fusiliers Museum

In July, the Fusiliers Museum launched a campaign of visitor activities with a demonstration of how an eighteenth century musket was fired. Nicola Day, the Museum's Activities Officer, has described the new exhibition, 'The Northumberland Fusiliers in the First World War', as "a wonderful exhibition with an extraordinary

story to tell, commemorating the service of the Northumberland Fusiliers in WW1 and highlighting many personal stories of the men involved".

To find out more please contact Nicola Day, Fusiliers Museum, 01665 602152, activitiesfus-northld@aol.co.uk

## Column Field

Members of the society have agreed to "adopt" Column field, and with the support of Northumberland Estates are already working to ensure that some of the more inaccessible areas are kept free of litter. Please get in touch with a member of the committee if you are able to help.

## Neighbourhood Plan

A draft Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood plan has now been prepared.

Before the final document is submitted to the planning authority there is a "pre-submission publicity & consultation" phase.

This is the opportunity for the wider community to be informed of what is being proposed, to make their views known, and influence the final document.

Several engagement activities are planned over the coming weeks.

A short video has been prepared, and will be shown at a variety of locations. A booklet is being distributed with the Cryer; and a pamphlet will be distributed more widely. There will be a stall in the marketplace on Sat. 16th Aug, Sat. 30th Aug, and Sat. 6th Sept. and further activity during the Music Festival and Food Festival. Interest from the local press is inevitable. Public reaction will be analysed to prepare a consultation report, then a final submission to the County Council at the end of the year. Considerable effort has been invested in development of this plan. We hope all members will encourage others to take an interest, and make their own views known.

## Books on Alnwick

A brief reminder that in the next issue we plan to share suggestions on favourite books about Alnwick (and the surrounding area).

Let us know your favourites, please, and why you would recommend them to others.

It is remarkable that every suggestion we have received so far is out of print. Does this reflect latent demand that is not being satisfied by publishers? Or does it mean that publishers are realistic about lack of interest in our town?

## Ray Farnsworth

As the last newsletter was being distributed we heard the news that Ray Farnsworth had passed away. Ray was well known as a passionate supporter of the aims of the society: both as a long-standing member, and campaigning correspondent in the Northumberland Gazette. He will be missed, and our condolences go to his family.



## History of the Civic Movement

The civic society movement dates back to 1846, and now there are over a thousand local societies with over 250,000 individual members. The story of how we got here has been told for the first time by Dr Lucy Hewitt from Glasgow University. "A Brief History of the Civic Society Movement" was published on April 17th.

Copies of the 35-page book can be ordered for £5 + P&P through Civic Voice, who hope that the story will inspire others to become involved in the future of the movement.

<http://tinyurl.com/pr7tn8r>

David Lovie of Alnwick Civic Society, is pictured at the launch with Griff Rhys Jones, President of

Civic Voice, and Laura Sandys MP, who is chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies, and daughter of Duncan Sandys (who founded the Civic Trust).



# Castle Quarter

Castle Quarter is one of the four areas of Alnwick which are being promoted by the Town Team. In this, the first of a series on these quarters, we explore the story behind the townscape we see today.

## Bailiffgate

Bailiffgate may have been one of the early sites of settlement in Alnwick, but whatever the origins, by the 12th century it had become a distinct settlement associated with the castle. Although outside the main town, it was protected by the castle at one end, and the church at the other. In Tate's history it is described as "Bailiffgate, properly Baileygate - the street of the bailey - extends westward from the castle, and was beyond the walls of the town. We have Bellygate in 1653, and so the name is now popularly pronounced; Baylygate appears in 1668 and 1683; and Bayliffgate in 1680, 1691 and 1709. In the last century a row of old houses crossed this street, at a little distance from the castle; a cross stood in front of the square, around it was held a market for country produce, such as butter and eggs, and attached to it were stocks, which the inhabitants were compelled to maintain.

Today we see a broad tree-lined street, suburban in character. Mainly 18th and 19th century buildings are based on a much earlier layout, which can still be imagined as a space that was used for military exercises, lodging for a garrison too large to be accommodated within the castle, and a market.

## Narrowgate

In 1822 Davison wrote "This street has many excellent buildings. It forms a part of the great north road, and joins Bondgate Street. The Bow-burn which crosses it, is an intolerable nuisance, particularly in the winter season. But as there is a sufficient descent, a covered conduit considerably lower than the present watercourse might be made down Bow-lane or Bow-alley, and by continuing this conduit till it formed a junction with the common sewer in Pottergate Street, the unsightly appearance and the inconvenience would be removed".

Half a century later things had improved. Tate wrote: "Narrowgate - a narrow street, as its name imports - extends from Bondgate northwards, and is mentioned in 1290. In this are the Half Moon Inn, which is referred to in 1671, and a house into which is built and old De Vescy Cross. The Bow Burn, now tunnelled over, was crossed by a bridge; and at the northern extremity of the street was one of the defensive gates of the town".

North of Pottergate, high walls still reflect the historic dominance of the castle, and contrast with the more open space of Bailiffgate. South of Pottergate now hosts a cluster of distinctive independent businesses, with views back to the centre.

It still seems remarkable that a road which is effectively single-lane remained part of the A1 until the opening of Alnwick By-Pass in 1970. Traffic at the time must have been another "intolerable nuisance". Almost half a century later, the street is still not exactly friendly to pedestrians. Is it too soon to hope for something better?

## Pottergate

Tate wrote: "Pottergate is the steep street rising from the Bow burn to the tower; but its ancient name in the survey of 1567 was Barresdale Street". Some say the name comes from potters working in the area, others that it was the name of a landowner.

Nobody has yet claimed a link with Harry Potter.

This has never been a major road: even the ancient road to Eglingham probably ran directly from the foot of Pottergate towards the church. However, old postcards testify that the view up Pottergate to the tower has long been regarded as one of the most picturesque in the town. The removal of a garage (which Pevsner described as an eyesore), and the addition of a small garden and statue of Harry Hotspur have been welcomed.

## Fenkle Street

Conzen describes Fenkle Street as an addition to an original forked road (now Bondgate and Market Street), which together surrounded a triangular open green. Surrounding plots would provide protection against wild animals and raiders for stock held on the green. Large burgage plots on the west side show that frontage on this higher side of the green was always highly valued, and these spacious plots would later be used for coaching inns, hotels, a bank, post office, subscription library, and telephone exchange. The east side first developed in Elizabethan times, as the green filled with buildings.

In 1822 Davison's history says "This street runs parallel with the west side of the Market-place. It is wide and airy, and has many excellent buildings, particularly on the west side, which stands on a gentle acclivity. The Subscription Library is in this street, as was also the Dispensary at its first establishment".

Tate, in 1866 says: "Fenkle Street, the corner or angular street, forms an angle with both Clayport and Narrowgate; we have Fenkell in 1567, Fenckle in 1654, and Finkle in 1690. The Town Hall and clock have a frontage into this street; and here are the old hostleries of the Angel, which is referred to in 1738; and the older Nag's Head, called the Griffin, in 1598 and 1768, portions of which may be from two to three centuries old; its projecting bay window, its stone seat and mount by the side of the outer door, appear much the same as they were some century and a half ago".

The southern end of Fenkle Street is considered part of Market District. The northern end boasts a cluster of distinctive independent retailers, which overflows into Narrowgate. Between, the feeling of spaciousness, and some imposing structures are still here, but little sense that these were once regarded as the most prestigious plots in town.

## Away from the main streets

Stonewell Lane gave access to the Stone Well. This later became a centre of industries such as tanning and brewing, which relied on a good water supply. The alignment of plots in this area on old maps suggests that the edge of the early settlement was defined by the Bow Burn: running near New Row to the foot of Pottergate. Perhaps inevitably, subsequent changes in use have eroded traces of earlier developments.

Listed buildings	
<b>Bailiffgate (south side)</b> 1; 1A & 1B; 1C; 5 & 7; 9 & 11; 13 & 15; 17 & 19; 21; 1-3 Northumberland St	<b>Fenkle Street (east side)</b> <b>Co-op building</b> (#8); 14; 16 & 18; 20; 22; 24; 26 & 28
<b>Bailiffgate (north side)</b> 2; 4; 6 & 8; West Wing of Con- vent; <b>Bailiffgate Museum</b> ; Museum piers & railings; 14; 16-20; 22-26; 28 & 30	<b>Fenkle St (west side)</b> 27; 31; 37; 39
<b>Pottergate &amp; New Row</b> <b>Pottergate Tower</b> ; <b>Pant</b> ; 1&2 Pottergate, 5 Northumberland St; <b>Church of St James</b> ; <b>Duke's</b> <b>Cottages</b> ; St Andrew's Hall	<b>Narrowgate (south side)</b> 9, 10, 10A, Paikes Lane; 1-5; <b>11</b> ; <b>General Lambert's House</b> ; Dorothy Foster Court; <b>Dorothy</b> <b>Foster's House</b>
	<b>Narrowgate (north side)</b> 8-14; 16; 18; 20 & 22; Black Swan P.H. (#26); 28; 30; <b>Ye</b> <b>Olde Cross P.H.</b> (#32); 36,

The box shows scheduled buildings in Castle Quarter, with some of the more notable highlighted.

**A Local List identifies historic features that are not scheduled, yet still valued by the community, that make the place distinctive and contribute to civic pride. Are there buildings in Castle Quarter which should be recognised in this way? Let us know.**





# Alnwick Quarters

We like visitors to see the best of our town. We want them to discover hidden gems, to read the layout of the town, and understand the story behind it.

Each area has developed a distinctive character, in part based on the way each has adapted to change over time.

So members will surely view

as inspired the decision by the Town Team to use the historic layout of Alnwick as the basis for the Alnwick Quarters scheme.

We hope the initiative meets with the success it deserves, and in coming issues we will be offering our own perspective on the historic townscape, and some of the notable buildings in each quarter.

The map shows buildings which are currently listed. We invite suggestions of other buildings which add to the distinctive character of the town, and which readers feel should be considered for a Local List.

## Picture quiz

Civic Society members have long recognised that Alnwick boasts an extensive collection of both historic buildings and street furniture.

We are proud of the historic buildings. Perhaps our street furniture now deserves wider recognition.

So we invite readers to locate a selection from the rich variety of parking signs that adorn the conservation area. A reasonably-priced parking disc can be claimed by every member who is able to identify the historic building which lurks behind each sign.



Picture A



Picture B



Picture C



Picture D



Picture E



Picture F



Picture G



Picture H



Picture I

# Perspectives on planning for housing

*Four candidates have been selected to stand for the Berwick on Tweed constituency in the 2015 general election. We asked each to comment on how they will help local people influence decisions on housing. Their contributions are published in the order we received them.*

## Ukip (Nigel Coghill-Marshall)

The ease with which good and appropriate accommodation can be accessed is one of the ways in which a society is judged. In an area such as ours, where many people earn the minimum wage, home ownership can remain a distant dream. "Affordable housing" and the "help to buy scheme" are meaningless concepts serving only to alienate members of the political machine from those whom they should serve. Here, two groups need to be prioritised, young families and the growing elderly population. The Northumberland Plan fails to fully address these needs and seems to be contradicted by plans for 253 new houses to be built near the Willowburn Centre. It is rented accommodation that we need.

Green belts should be protected and not encroached upon. Brownfield site development is the future. Ukip will facilitate this by abolishing stamp duty on houses built on such sites. We are investigating assisting the costs of such developments through the issue of Government bonds and will announce more details as the election approaches. We oppose Government moves to permit developers to override local opinion and will permit local referendums to overturn unpopular planning decisions.

Of course we need a housing mix, but until we attract more high skill high wage employment into the area, we do not need more high priced private housing. More purpose built accommodation for the elderly will in turn release other property for younger people and encourage them to remain in the area.

That way the widening gulf between London and ourselves might just be narrowed a little.

*Nigel Coghill-Marshall is a retired Chartered Insurance Practitioner who lives with his wife in Alnwick.*

## Liberal Democrats (Julie Pörksen)

By this autumn the building of the new Duchess school and news on dualling the A1 to Alnwick, along with increased costs of rural living (the council's post-16 transport charges being one) come into reality - contributing to increased demand for housing in Alnwick.

Housing availability is too often controlled by the large landowner/developer. Large developments will be needed yet I believe the council could be more proactive by working with owners/landlords to develop brownfield sites and bring under-utilised buildings into the residential market. This will help meet demand for smaller homes, including accessible central homes for less mobile residents.

New affordable housing needs to be addressed, currently 'the affordable label' usually means smaller, lower quality, and just 'less expensive' to buy, without bearing any relationship to wages. More housing which is actually affordable to rent should be available so that people of all ages can live in homes that are right for them.

Alnwick's parking and traffic management and bus routes need to be developed hand in hand with additional housing bearing in mind where and how people will go to work, school, and shop, and that (multiple) car ownership is a reality. I frequently listen to residents current frustrations about the lack of coordination of transport, traffic and parking in Alnwick.

A joined up approach, efficient in the use of existing land and property, which responds to the housing needs of local people and is sympathetic to the needs of communities in Alnwick, is in my opinion the way forward.

*Julie Pörksen grew up in Belsay, is an agricultural economist and takes a special interest in rural issues, international development and road safety. In 2013 Julie developed the Lib Dems new policy on the bedroom tax - 'Making Housing Benefit Work for Tenants in Social Housing'.*

## Labour (Scott Dickinson)

Labour in Northumberland have set out plans to build hundreds of new, affordable homes across North Northumberland to tackle the legacy of the Liberal Democrats which meant over 10,000 people were left to languish on the council waiting list. Scott Dickinson, Labour's Parliamentary Candidate for Berwick upon Tweed is determined to press on with his Labour colleagues to create much needed construction jobs and employment across the county. Now Tory Chiefs want to stop new homes in Embleton, Amble, Berwick, Craster, Shilbottle, Rothbury and Wooler. Scott said 'People in North Northumberland need a strong voice who will stand up for them. In North Northumberland only Labour will stand up for ordinary people and this attempt to stop badly needed homes shows how much local Tories are out of touch'. At next year's election, the people of North Northumberland face a choice on housing. A choice between the Tories who are failing to build the houses nationally we need and turning their backs on generation rent and leaving more and more working people unable to afford the homes they aspire to, and Labour, who will get Britain building again and give families who rent a fairer deal.

*Scott Dickinson has always lived in Northumberland, is County Councillor for Druridge Bay, Business Chair and Chair of Northumberland's Health and Wellbeing Board.*

## Conservatives (Anne-Marie Trevelyan)

As Northumberland County Council slowly finalises the Core Strategy for our county, I continue to be concerned that their perspective for new housing requirements is South East focused. They are using extrapolated population data from elsewhere in the region, with too little consideration being given to the proper long-term growth of our market towns & villages in North Northumberland.

I believe that the Core Strategy team need to (a) justify the 10.3% population increase that it is basing its plan upon, most of which is not allocated to North Northumberland, and (b) make the building options much more flexible in terms of location.

I want to see our market towns & surrounding villages able to present brownfield site options as they arise (e.g. once new Alnwick school is built, there will be substantial brownfield space in the centre of town for re-development into housing). There needs to be the flexibility & support for individuals or community groups to be able to build their own homes rather than major developers taking all the sites and the profits. I disagree strongly with the present position that developers can dictate the housing mix, when there is clear evidence of the need for smaller, 2 bedroom homes across the county.

I want to see County Hall leading on the right mix of affordable rented property being built for those who want to rent, with encouragement to create one & two bed rental homes across every part of the rural estate, to enable older residents to downsize & stay close to their families.

Our market towns need to continue to grow and encourage younger families to move into them for the towns to continue to thrive. This can be done most effectively if local people genuinely have control of their local area & I will continue to challenge the Core Strategy proposals with my excellent Conservative County Councillor team until we get that flexibility. Local families who care about their built environment will make the best long-term decisions for their community.

*Anne-Marie Trevelyan is a chartered accountant and businesswoman, who lives near Rothbury with her family. She has campaigned for dualling of the A1, and against onshore wind-turbines. She is the special needs governor at Berwick Academy, a public governor on the NHS Northumbria Hospital Foundation Trust, a Trustee of Belsay Trust and of The Oswin Trust, which helps ex-offenders back into work.*



# Planning matters

Over the first 6 months of 2014 just 39 planning applications were submitted for Alnwick, compared to 55 over the same period last year. Activity here fell 30% compared to early 2013, while activity nationally increased by 5%.

There is less new activity than normal, but plenty of ongoing activity to be tracked. There has been no visible movement on the Corn Exchange or Willis Garage site since approval. We have not yet seen an application related to the Abbeyfield plans for Ravenslaw that have been anticipated since February. Most troubling is news that the appeal over the former Bus Depot site in Lisburn Street has been allowed and planning permission granted for a new residential care home at the former Arriva Bus Depot. Credit to Alnwick and Northumberland Councils, and other community groups for their opposition, but on appeal the inspector considered the effect of the proposal and (incredibly, in our view) found that it would respect the character and appearance of the surrounding area, and accord with the National Planning Policy Framework, in so far as it advises that new development reinforces local distinctiveness. The original decision questioned whether the form of accommodation provided would be acceptable, and whether there is a need for such accommodation in the area. The inspector was satisfied that going forward there will be an increased need for this form of accommodation, and that what sets this proposal apart is the provision of care for a range of needs, in a more institutional and less communal environment than elsewhere.

To be blunt, we are appalled at this decision, and baffled by the rationale.

There was an application in June to convert Wagonway House, creating five flats and a bungalow. This will involve demolition of an unlisted 1960's extension and removal of an internal walk-way. The history of

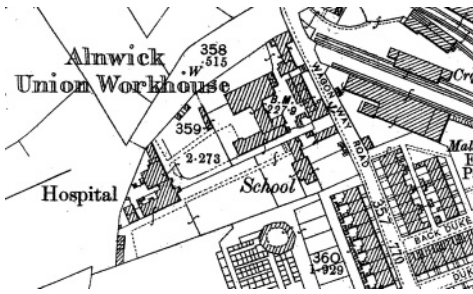
## Viewpoint



Words fail us.

Wagonway House is an object lesson in how a building can adapt to changing needs over generations, and providing it does not damage the external appearance, and secures a long-term future, we are inclined to be supportive. Wagonway House is Grade-II listed and lies within the conservation area. Originally a workhouse, constructed in 1841 by Alnwick Poor Law Union to house 120 inmates. Men lived in the east wing,

and women in the west, with a master's quarters between, and a dining hall, kitchen and wash-house to the south. In the 1920's it may have partly been used as a children's home. Under the Local Government Act of 1929, Boards of Guardians were abolished and the workhouse became Alnwick Public Assistance Institution. During the 1930s, it accommodated the chronically ill, with 39 beds. This closed in 1943 and it became an old people's home. Later

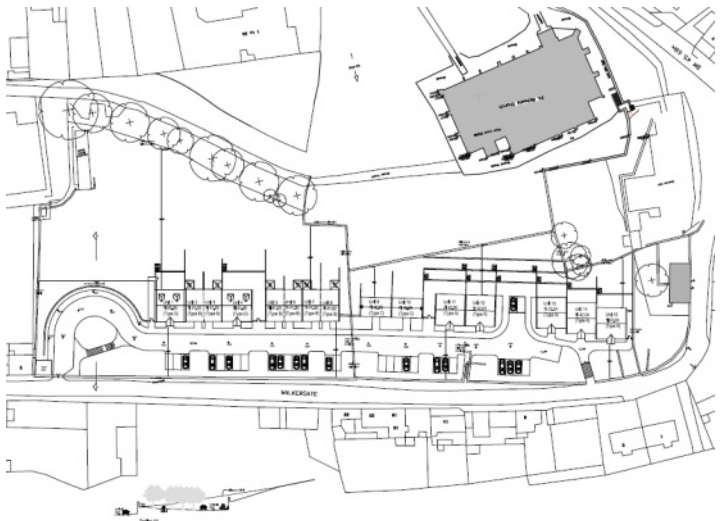


converted to council offices, it was most recently occupied by the Valuation Office Agency (which moved out in 2012) and Citizen Advice Bureau.

We felt that proposals to erect five three-storey houses in New Row were a little sketchy, but saw no reason to object in principle.

Northumberland County Council no longer require the Children's Home at Thornbrae, on Alnmouth Road, and have applied for a change to residential use.

Approval was granted in Dec 2011 for construction of 15 houses south of Walkergate (see plan below), with a number of conditions, including a requirement that development begins by December 2014. Various other conditions have recently been discharged.



We are currently considering the implications of an application to erect 65 static caravans and 25 lodges on land east of Lionheart Station (Ash Close). Members with an interest in this (or any other planning and development activity in the town) are encouraged to make their views known.

## Diary dates

### Civic Society...

The Pants of Alnwick Exhibition at Bailiffgate Museum: 3rd Sept - 2nd Nov. Members are invited to the opening at 6:30 on the 5th Sept.

Heritage Open Day: 13th Sept. Various activities, so watch out for notices.

Any Questions: 25th Sept Bailiffgate Museum at 7:30pm. A panel discusses topical local issues raised by members. Open to all.

Members are encouraged to submit questions via the chair.

Nostalgic views of the North: 11th Nov, Bailiffgate Museum at 7:30. John Moreels, on the work of Photo Memories to save over 150,000 images of the North of England. The meeting will be open to all, with a small entrance charge for non-members.

### ...and more

"Lest we forget": Bailiffgate Museum, until the end of August. Events leading up to the outbreak of the First World War, the reaction in Alnwick, and the stories of men who left home to serve their country.

"The Northumberland Fusiliers in the First World War": Fusiliers Museum from 4th Aug.

Alnwick Food Festival: 20-21 Sept.



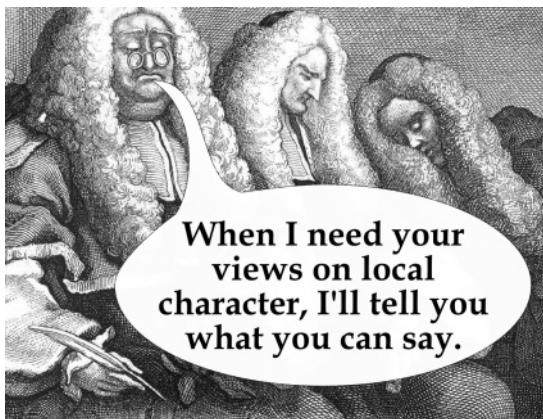
## About Alnwick Civic Society

Alnwick Civic Society was formed in 1974, following the defeat of proposals to re-develop the town centre with a modern shopping area. Since then it has sought to influence development proposals, especially in the town centre and conservation area, to ensure they protect and enhance our heritage.

The society has been involved in a number of successful high profile campaigns. It continues to pursue its objectives by providing a voice for members; through dialogue with planning and conservation professionals, and like-minded organisations; by offering advice, scrutinising and commenting on development proposals; and by recognising excellence, organising public meetings, developing guided trails, and a variety of other activities.

In response to changes in the planning system the society has been heavily involved in development of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, and works with local partners to influence policy at a county level. It seeks to influence national policy in co-operation with other bodies within the civic movement, and was a founding member of Civic Voice.

All who share our aims can support the work of the society: by joining as an individual, family or business member; by participating in activities, sharing ideas, raising areas of concern and pointing out examples of good practice. Or simply by demonstrating pride in our town, and spreading the word about the value of our work.



## Quiz answers

- A) Barclay's Bank in Bondgate
- B) Bondgate Tower
- C) Northumberland Hall
- D) Former Sion Meeting House, St Michael's Lane
- E) Alnwick Council, 1 Clayport St
- F) The Centre, 27 Fenkle Street
- G) Town Hall (from Market Place)
- H) Lunchbox, Market Place
- I) Pinfold & Glebelands Lodge in Green Batt

## Who's Who?

President: Philip Deakin

Chair: Peter Ennor ([peter.ennor@gmail.com](mailto:peter.ennor@gmail.com))

Treasurer and Membership: Gill Parker

Honorary Secretary: Sue Smith

Other Executive Committee members:

Michael Apted

Elizabeth Jones

Trish Jones

Brian Lamb

David Lovie ([davidlovie307@btinternet.com](mailto:davidlovie307@btinternet.com))

Peter Reed / Newsletter ([peter.reed@aligre.co.uk](mailto:peter.reed@aligre.co.uk))

Caroline Stewart

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Facebook: [AlnwickCivicSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AlnwickCivicSociety)