

August 2016

## Contents

Notice Board.....	1
Summer outing.....	1
Alnwick Garden.....	1
Corn Exchange Lane.....	2
Allotments.....	4
Parking & Loading Bays.....	5
Planning matters.....	6
Quiz: a bad sign.....	6
News in brief.....	7
About Alnwick Civic Society.....	8
Who's Who?.....	8
Diary dates.....	8
Quiz answers.....	8
Talking point.....	8

## Notice board

Watch out for details of activities on Heritage open day (8-11<sup>th</sup> Sept)

We are planning another lively Any Questions debate in November. At the time of writing we will say no more - but look out for details soon.

Our next Newsletter is due in early November. As well as being distributed to members, it reaches many of our supporters across the area. If you know anyone who has expressed an interest in joining the society then let us know, and we will send them a complimentary copy.

Thanks to all who have contributed items and suggestions for this edition. We always welcome ideas on how we can make the Newsletter as useful and interesting to members as possible.



## Outing: three churches

The weather on the 25<sup>th</sup> June was dry, but not up to the standard that we usually manage to arrange for our summer outings. The content of the trip, though exceeded even our high expectations.

David Lovie drew on his extensive knowledge of local churches and conservation - to lead members around three very different examples of our rich Christian heritage.



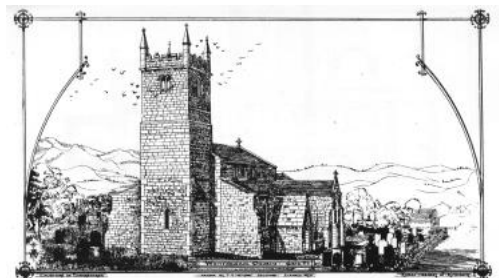
Visiting an historic church is hardly an unfamiliar experience to any of us. But it was a revelation to view the story of each of these three very different buildings through the eyes of an enthusiastic expert.

## The story of Alnwick Garden

*On May 12th, Trevor Jones, Head Gardener at Alnwick Garden, explained the fascinating story behind one of our most well-known attractions.*

Starting with a 1902 photograph of the original formal garden, we saw how today's contemporary, family-oriented garden has evolved from the designs of Jacques and Peter Wirtz. Taking each feature in turn, Trevor revealed the thinking behind the design, the references to historic gardening practice, and some of the practical challenges that gardeners must overcome to keep the garden in top condition for visitors.

The garden opened in 2001. Trevor joined in 2007. Some of our members have been involved for even longer. But whatever their level of involvement, nobody could fail to be im-



These drawings (by F. R. Wilson) of St Bartholomew, Whittingham; St John, Edlingham; and St Michael, Alnwick show the three handsome buildings that we visited. They are just a sample of the treasures on our doorstep. So we hope we can persuade David to repeat the exercise.



pressed by the scale of the project, the imagination and drive that lies behind such a variety of different features, and the wide range of community and charitable activities the garden now supports.

Trevor concluded with some insights into developments that are planned for the months and years to come. We were left in no doubt that the garden will continue advancing as a visitor destination of national importance; and that its contribution to the lives of the community, and the economy of the town will endure.

An interesting topic, and an enthusiastic speaker deserved a wider hearing, but those who joined us enjoyed a fascinating evening. So thanks are due: to Trevor for his talk, and to Gill Parker for her organisational skills.

# Lane survey: Corn Exchange Lane

In 1995 the Civic Society made a study of the public lanes that link Green Batt to the centre of the town. The society wanted to draw attention to the importance of the lanes, and the need to make them attractive and safe, in a manner compatible with best conservation practice.

The original medieval burgrave plot containing Corn Exchange lane was established by Royal Charter between 1157 and 1185. The 1774 map shows a wide, undeveloped burgrave strip between Green Batt and the Horse Market, and the map for 1827 indicates buildings fronting onto the Horse Market (now Bondgate Within) with the remainder of the strip still not built-up. Tate's History of Alnwick (Vol 1) (1866) records:

*"Around 1850, stimulated by examples in neighbouring towns, a committee formed by tradesmen made progress for the erection of a public building for a Corn Exchange near to the Market Place - but unexpected obstacles checked the design. Another scheme, however, was subsequently carried out by private speculation and a large building was erected for the same object, and was opened as a Corn Exchange on May 17th 1862. Unfortunately the situation is inconvenient being at some distance from the market behind the south row of Bondgate and having principal access through an open yard leading from that street. The building is large and commodious: the great room is 90ft long, 30ft wide and 40ft from floor to apex of roof. On Saturdays this room is opened as a Corn Exchange at 11.30am and closed at 1.30pm. At other times the room is used for concerts, entertainments, meetings and other purposes which require more space than afforded by the Town Hall".*

By 1956 the use of the building had changed to that of a cinema. The 1995

survey said: "It is now empty and unused, although its present owner is known to have ideas for bringing it back into some form of commercial or entertainment use".

Before 1774 development at the north end of the burgrave plot included dwelling houses with shops, with side access to the yard which led from the Horse Market. A narrow building behind the shops and on the west side of the yard is also shown on the 1774 map. During 1995 planning permission was granted for the conversion of this building into three floors of flats.

The building of the Corn Exchange in 1862 included the construction of a broad, monumental external stairway giving access to the north entrance of the Exchange and resolving the considerable problem caused by the steep rise in level of the burgrave plot. The 1866 Ordnance Survey plan (right) shows this feature clearly.

In 1995 Corn Exchange Buildings was being re-developed, and the yard also served, on the east side, a proposed District Council "Drop-in Centre", which had previously been Hill House Art Gallery, and is now Gallery Youth.

The clock canopy on the archway to Market Street was a concern in 1995, but restored for the millenium. On the east side of the archway is number 39 Bondgate Within, occupied by General Accident in 1995 (now Your Move), and on the west side, number 40, occupied by Hanny's Health Foods, and Halifax Building Society then, but now Northumbria Pets.

## Physical Description

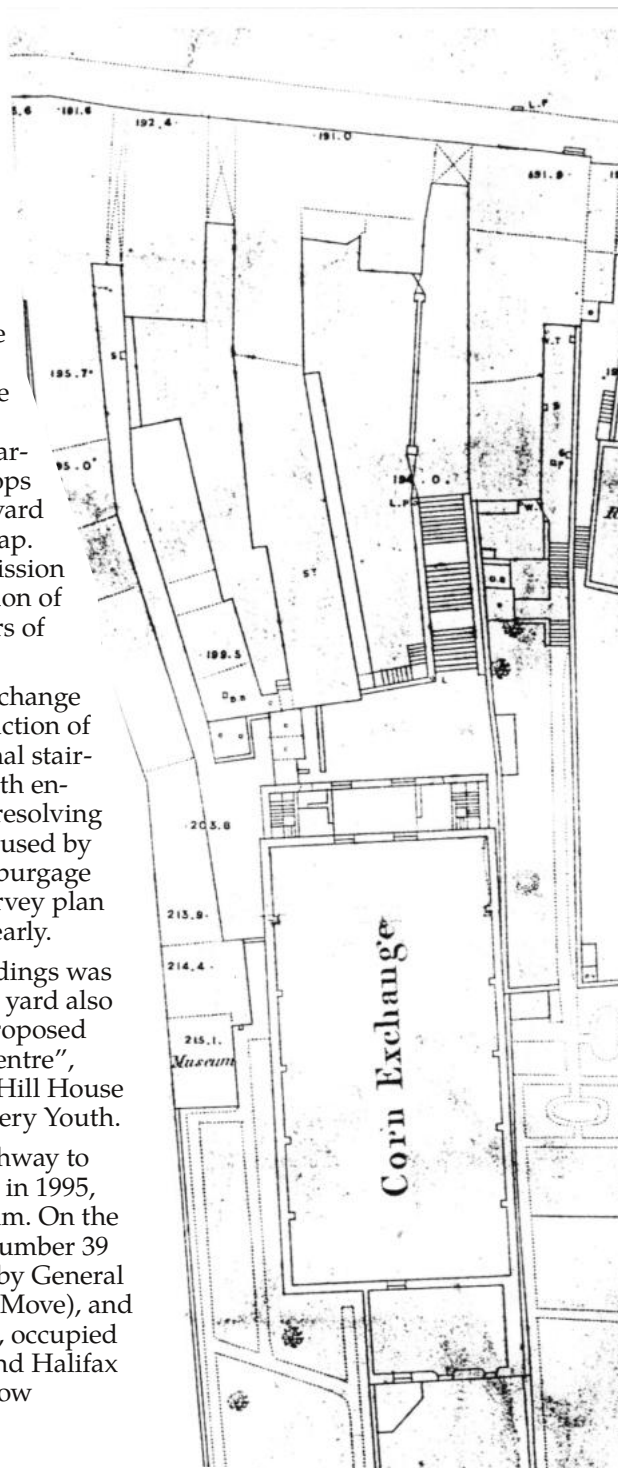
**(a) Floorscape.** The open area between the Government building (Roxburgh House) on Green Batt and the south elevation of the old Corn Exchange is linked to the Roxburgh Place Car Park to the east and to St Michael's Square to the west. As in 1995, the surface consists of unmade waste ground, varying in level and covered with coarse gravel. In 1995 it was described as "unsatisfactory", and few would differ now.

A rough pedestrian path, about 2m wide, along the east side of the old Corn Exchange is still covered with a mixture of mud and loose gravel, overgrown with grass and

weeds. The open side of this path defined the eastern boundary of the burgrave plot, in the form of a dilapidated, low brick wall which acted as a retaining wall of varying height to the roughly surfaced Roxburgh Place Car park. Most of this wall is now gone.

In 1995 the car park was expected to be surfaced and landscaped by the District Council (plan, far right).

The surface of the forecourt to the main (north) entrance to the old Corn Exchange was in a sad state in 1995, and still is. The monumental external staircase to this forecourt is worn and neglected. Many of the full-length steps are well worn, and some have sheared due to settlement, but the two







lighting system. These have now been removed. There is still no effective public street lighting.

**(f) Unusual Features:** The Bondgate/Market Street entrance is marked by an interesting Clock canopy feature. Having been restored for the millenium, this appears to still be in reasonable condition.

huge, one-piece stone landings are still in remarkably good condition.

At the time of the 1995 survey building works were under way for the conversion of Corn Exchange Buildings. Plans indicated a scheme of resurfacing and planting for the enclosed, private courtyard for the new flats.

**(b) Walls:** The east and west elevations of the old Corn Exchange were described in 1995 as

being of random rubble stonework in a poor state of repair, and the good ashlar stonework of the north elevation and the lower quality, coursed stonework in the south elevation were also in a poor state. Rapid decay was anticipated. But although it remains unused, and the building remains a concern, it has been maintained. The feared deterioration has not occurred: indeed the building looks in better state than described twenty years ago.



The walls at the north end of the lane also appear to be in better condition than described in 1995.

The walls at the north end of the lane also appear to be in better condition than described in 1995.

**(c) Windows and Doors:** With the exception of Roxburgh House, in 1995 the windows and doors of all buildings within the plot were boarded up and in need of attention. Only the Corn Exchange itself is now in that position.

**(d) Roofs:** In 1995 the roof of the old Corn Exchange and the other, visible slate roofs at the northern end of the plot still appeared to be in reasonable condition: there seems to have been some deterioration since, but (again) perhaps not as much as they feared twenty years ago.

**(e) Overhead** There used to be many, redundant overhead steel tubes acting as electrical conduits for an external

## Proposals

The Lane continues to serve as an important and well-used pedestrian footpath linking Bondgate Within to the car park (which is accessed from Green Batt) and housing areas south of Prudhoe Street.

In 1995 the lane was described as being in a run-down condition. Today, there is still scope for improvement at

the northern end, but it is apparent from the original photographs that the condition of this part of the lane is better than it was twenty years ago.

The disappointment is at the southern end. In 1995 there was an expectation that the District Council would be making improvements to the car park; and the society was urging that the future status of this footpath was clarified, that it was brought up to a

reasonable standard and made into an attractive and safe pedestrian passage.

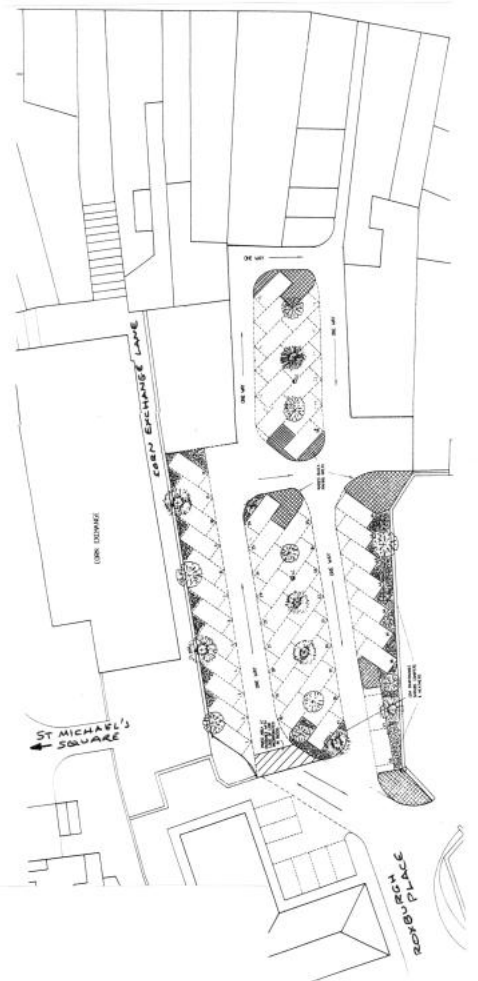
In particular, they sought to make its presence recognisable by creating a southern entrance to it from the Car Park.

In 1995 it was felt that the unofficial east-west roadway between the car park and St Michael's Lane south of the old Corn Exchange could scarcely be described as desirable, and should be stopped up for vehicles, while maintaining a defined pedestrian link.

Doubts about the future of the old Corn Exchange continue. Nothing has come of the hope for a collaborative approach to refurbishment of the Lane and the car park.

It is probably fair to say that today the obstacles to improving this area are better understood than they were in 1995. They are not to be under-estimated, but there is more potential for improvement around Corn Exchange Lane than anywhere else in the Conservation Area. With sufficient will, the obstacles can surely be overcome.

## Plans for Roxburgh Place, 1995



## Thanks to our energetic quality control team

The description of Correction House Lane in our last edition incorrectly stated that a workhouse was built across two burgage strips in 1810 on the east side of the tail end.

The Poor House, or Parish Workhouse, which later became the Militia Depot, is clearly shown on 19th century maps between Roxburgh Place and Hotspur Street. We hope to return to the interesting history of this building in a future edition.





# Allotments

From the middle of the 18th century the combination of enclosure, and rising population led to rural poverty. Various initiatives aimed to offer land to the poor so that they were better able to provide for themselves, but initiatives had little impact until the 1830's. Then fear of unrest as soldiers returned from the Napoleonic wars, bad harvests in 1829

and 1830, and growing poverty meant that support for allotments grew: particularly in the South and Midlands. By 1850 there was one allotment plot for every 320 people in England.

In Alnwick, 18th century maps had shown Crofts and Garths on each side of Clayport. Then in 1848, the Duke laid out more than 200 plots, providing one for every 36 people, or every six households in the town.

A visit to Alnwick by *The Cottage Gardener* in 1852 reported on three main allotment sites: the Clayport Allotment to the west of town; Leeks field (on Denwick Lane) to the east; and Ratten Row to the north. They also described allotments provided for pupils of the Duke's School in Green Batt. Allotment holders were growing "mangold, swedes, potatoes, curled kale, carrots, onions, drumhead cabbage, and various little matters, as rhubarb, and such conveniences".

Nationally, the pressure for more allotments abated as the economy improved in the 1850s and 1860s, but towards the end of the century interest re-awakened, partly under pressure from the National Farm Labourers' Union. In Alnwick, by the 1870's there were allotments off Dispensary Street and on Hope House Farm (later known as the Duntern Allotments).

The introduction of County Councils in 1888, and Urban and Rural Districts in 1894 brought changes in local government. Legislative changes from 1882 to the first world war which required councils to ensure there were sufficient allotments. In particular the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908 established a framework for the modern allotments system.

By the start of the First World War Alnwick had another allotment site off Wagonway Road, which later became St James Allotments. Between the wars the present site at St George's Crescent was laid out.

By the end of the first war there were 1.5m allotments nationally. However, once hostilities ceased much of this was reclaimed for recreational use or housing, and it became more difficult to acquire land for allotments. By 1939 the number of plots had reduced, despite efforts to promote cultivation of allotments by the unemployed during the recession of the 1920s and 1930s.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, the government launched the Dig for Victory campaign to create 0.5m new allotments. By 1944 it was estimated that there were 1.75m plots across England and Wales. Again, once hostilities ceased, the number quickly fell back as temporary plots reverted to their original use.

## Rules and Regulations for the Allotment Gardens in the parish of Alnwick (1852)

*1st The rent is 6s. 3d. for one-tenth of an acre; to be regularly paid.*

*2nd The tenant to be sober, industrious, and of good character.*

*3rd. The ground to be cultivated with the spade, and in no other manner; each tenant regularly manuring and cropping his allotment, observing to keep clean and in proper order the roads—their width to be two feet for ordinary paths, and three feet for the main roads.*

*4th Any tenant found destroying, trespassing, or otherwise injuring the property of another tenant, climbing over or damaging the fences, will forfeit his allotment.*

*5th The children of the tenants are not to be permitted to enter the allotments, unless under the charge of their parents, or other proper guardians, who will be held responsible for their conduct while there.*

*6th No tenant will be allowed to sub-let his allotment, or to barter his interest therein.*

*The above regulations will be strictly enforced.*

*N. B. Dogs are not allowed to be taken into the allotments.*

Post-war demand for housing in Alnwick meant that the number of plots reduced by around a third. Allotment sites off Clayport, and Dispensary Street; and parts of the sites at Wagonway and the Dunterns were lost to new housing.

By 1965 the number of allotments nationally had halved, and the Ministry of Land and Resources set up a committee to investigate. The Thorpe Report was published in 1969, and recommended that each council should provide a minimum of 15 full size plots (10 poles each) per 1,000 households. However numbers continued to fall through the sixties. The decline in allotments slowed during the seventies but then regained pace, and has continued since. ("The Good Life" was originally screened from 1975-78).

The number of allotment plots in Alnwick peaked around 370

between the two world wars. Today there are around 180 plots. This is the lowest number since 1850: less than half the number of allotments in Alnwick at the peak. In comparison, recent national data suggests that across England there is roughly one allotment for every 200 people (every 80 households). The provision of allotments in Northumberland is around twice, and in Alnwick roughly four times, as great as the national figure.



# Parking on Bondgate Within & Loading Bays in Market Place

*There are proposals to create additional parking spaces along the old wagonway on Bondgate, and additional signage on the loading bays in the Market Place. We are grateful to be consulted, but unhappy about both proposals.*

## Parking on Bondgate Within

One of our aims is to conserve the unique character of Alnwick town centre, and features such as the old wagonway are integral to that character. The double yellow lines along the south side of this carriageway are clearly intended to prevent parking and maintain access to premises throughout its length. Extra parking spaces would mean that service and emergency vehicles would be unable to reach commercial premises which have no other means of access. There would also need to be a route almost at right angles across the cobbles to access the truncated wagonway. This access would be more inconvenient than the current tapered approach and vehicles will impact more on traffic through the Hotspur Tower. In our view, allowing motorists to park on a section of the wagonway will lead to further confusion.

An alternative would be to place two flowerbeds on the tapered section of cobbles where it is too narrow to accommodate cars without encroaching on the wagonway. Bike racks could be set between them. This would permit a carriageway along the wagonway to allow access to service and emergency vehicles.



There is an existing circular “hole” in the cobble parking area where there used to be a tree. Less attractive than flowerbeds, but also less expensive, would be a tree or flowerbed to cover this hole and use the remaining narrow area of cobbles for parallel cycle racks.

We regard “soft” solutions such as these as preferable to obscuring this end of the wagonway and/or the need for more regulation and enforcement.

## Loading bays in Market Place

Parking Services are concerned that there is no text on the ground indicating the loading bays, together with the signage being small, and in some places, a few metres away from the loading bay. It has been suggested that the text “LOADING ONLY” be added to the bays to make it easier for users to identify what restrictions are in place.

We were, and still are, reluctant to agree to additional markings in the Market Place which detract from its character and setting. It is incumbent on drivers to read the signs at the entrance to the Market Place and the post-mounted signs before parking in any bay.

There may be a case for an extra sign on the long bay on the west side of the Market Place - but before we can support the idea of more painted surface markings we would like some details of the proposed size and location of the lettering.

## Allotments: Inventory

**Cawledge View:** Located at the rear of the Alnwick Cemetery just off the old Cornhill railway line, and originally part of the embankment. Managed by the Town Council since being transferred from the County in 2013. Cawledge View and St James Estate were built in 1995.

**Clayport:** Established by the Duke in 1849, with six acres. It appears on OS maps up to 1926 as “Allotment Gardens”, but replaced by the post-war housing of Barresdale (1947). The name lives on as Clayport Gardens.

**Dispensary Street:** Appears on OS maps up to 1948, behind the brewery. It does not appear in a list of Alnwick allotments of 1852, but is shown on the 1867 OS map as a garden with a fountain and 37 plots, averaging just over 1/10 acre. A new Slaughter House was built on part of the land in 1876, reducing the area from around 4.2 acres to 3.9 acres. Covered by Windsor Gardens (1953).

**Duke's School:** Alnwick Library originally opened as a school in 1811. Unusually, small plots of garden were allotted to “meritorious scholars, to encourage industrial habits” ... and ... “by way of encouragement, prizes are given every year to those who can produce the best fruit and vegetables”. “it is truly delightful to witness the assiduity of the youths in trying to excel each other. Their plots are about four feet wide by nearly twenty long; and a two feet alley separates the contending parties”. This site appears as a garden in OS maps from 1867-1948, but is now overlaid by housing.

**Hope House Farm / Dunterns:** Established by the Duke in 1873. “The new allotment gardens on the south side of town have now been laid out by order of the Duke of Northumberland, in a field which forms part of Hope House Farm. A large part of the field has been devoted to the purpose, and the necessary preparations for rendering the plots of garden ground immediately available have been busily carried out for some time past” (Alnwick Mercury, 22 March 1873). Appears on 1897 OS maps with 47 plots. The Manse (now Summerhill) was constructed

in 1874, effectively occupying one of the plots from the start. These allotments were initially referred to as being on Hope House Farm, but by 1912 they were referred to as the Dunterns Allotments. Some plots were lost to the construction of housing on the Dunterns (1939). The remainder are still managed by Northumberland Estates.

**Leeks Field:** Established in 1849 by the Duke, with around 8 acres (contemporary documents say 7 ½ acres but measurement suggests it was over 8 acres even then). The OS Map from 1867 shows more than 80 plots, and it was shown on 1948 OS map as “Allotment gardens”. Remained in use until the construction of Alnwick Garden, when it partly disappeared under the coach park. No longer used as allotments.

**Ratten Row:** A site of around 7 acres, and 72 plots, which doesn't appear to have changed in size since it was established by the Duke in 1849. It is now managed by the Town Council, under a short-term lease from Northumberland Estates.

**St James' / Wagonway:** Located off Victoria Road, near to Willowburn. It has 46 plots. Acquired by Alnwick Town Council in 1974, and managed by the town council. There is no mention of this site in a report on Alnwick Allotments from 1852 and on the 1899 OS map the site is shown only as a field. The first mention we have found is on 13th July 1912, when it was referred to as one of the sites looked after by the Allotment Committee (along with Denwick Lane, Dunterns, Clayport and Dispensary Street). On the 1926 map it appears as “allotment gardens”. The 1948 OS map shows part of the allotment lost to what is now Augur Terrace (1946), but at the time was shown as proposed housing (to be named Sea View Terrace and Queen's Rd).

**St George's:** St George's Crescent was built from 1922-4. The Town Council took this allotment over from Northumberland County Council in 2013. The site has 13 plots.



# Planning matters

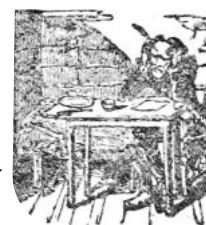
Further consultation on the draft core strategy took place between 15<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July - to test whether the latest modifications are sound. To be sound, they must be 'Positively Prepared', 'Justified', 'Effective' and consistent with national policy. We have already provided detailed comments on earlier drafts, and a number of our concerns have been addressed. In this version, we only commented on one change. This weakened the policy on landscape and townscape, by no longer requiring new development in Conservation areas to make a positive contribution by enhancement but to only respect the historic environment around them. We proposed new wording that would bring the policy back into line with other policies with similar aims. No other major changes directly affect Alnwick. Proposals for housing in Alnwick are unchanged, and the approach to the Historic Environment and Heritage Assets has generally been strengthened. We felt further comment was unnecessary.

Column Field is a well-known, attractive asset to the town. It is in a highly visible position on important approaches to the historic centre. We were not alone in objecting to proposal by the Town Council to erect a 7 metre high aluminium flag pole.

The most recent proposals by Citizens Advice Bureau to erect a sign at Lloyds Bank Chambers, on Bondgate Within are more modest in size, and in a more appropriate position. We decided that no objection was necessary.

We saw no need to comment on various changes of use in the town centre. These included Fenkle Crafts, in Fenkle

Street; former Art House Restaurant at 12-14 Bondgate Within; and Grannies at 18 Narrowgate. We welcome those where window replacements are addressed sensitively, but objected to an application for new PVC windows at the Working Men's Club.



The application to extend the new high school was granted despite inadequate assessment of, and planning for, transport needs. The issues are widely understood locally, and we made representations at the planning committee meeting. Their subsequent approval was subject to a travel plan being in place before the extension was in use.

We have received representations from members regarding the advertisement banners at Pattinson Estate Agents in Bondgate Without. We contacted the County Council, and were advised that they are awaiting a retrospective planning application.

We objected to an application from Lidl, in South Rd, for a 3 metre high sign. This would spoil one of the iconic approaches to Alnwick (as recognised in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan). It lies within the conservation area, under a wonderful canopy of mature trees, and would have an adverse effect on adjacent residential properties. Lidl is well-established and extra signage is both unnecessary and undesirable.

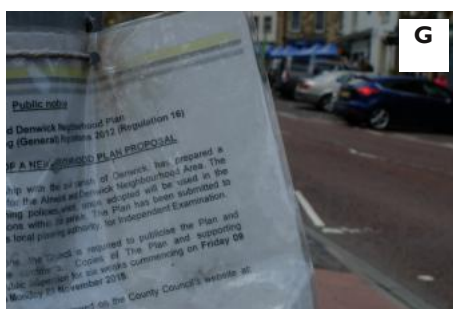
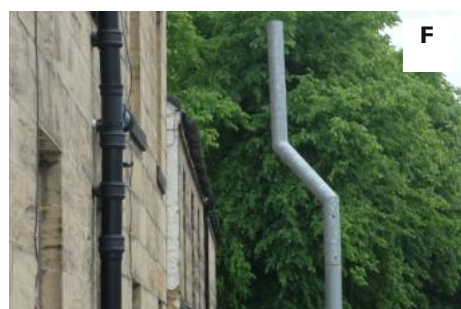


## Quiz: It's a bad sign when...

... it is damaged, blank, invisible, or obscured; advertises an event that has passed; points to something that no longer exists; or defaces an historic streetscape.

When our readers have identified these examples, they may like to examine the guidance published by Historic England on "Reducing Sign Clutter".

See <http://tinyurl.com/j9cyoyx>





## News in Brief

On May 4th we were honoured to receive a Mayor's Civic Award at a ceremony held in the St James's Centre. The citation highlights our commitment to maintain, protect and enhance Alnwick's heritage for visitors and residents. Recognition was also given to the involvement, charity work, community participation or voluntary activity of others, with awards to: Jamie Macaulay (Youth Award), Carlo Biagioni, Margaret Dobbie, David Farrar, Rachael Roberts, Jane Gowland, Elizabeth Jones, Mark Longstaff, Jonathan Park, Ron Bernstein, and Jim Thompson (Civic Awards); 2nd Alnwick Rangers and Royal Voluntary Service (Group Awards).



Elizabeth Jones, Sue Smith, Brian Lamb and Gill Parker represented all members of the society; and are pictured with Mayor, Bill Grisdale, who said "The people receiving the awards this evening all make their contribution quietly, and make an enormous difference to the lives of many other people and the town of Alnwick".

On Tuesday, 17th May we carried out a traffic survey on the roundabouts along Willowburn Avenue. The aim was to establish a baseline from which we can assess the impact on traffic of the opening of the new High School in September. We intend to carry out further surveys after the school has opened. We counted 3,708 vehicles, of which 3,098 passed between 08:00 and



**Do you know where this is? There's a clue on this page, and an answer on page 8.**

09:00 (the peak hour). It was reassuring to find that our counts were remarkably similar to a survey carried out by consultants in 2014. So we can be confident that we have a solid base to assess any changes over the coming year. Thanks to all who participated.

At the time of writing we have no firm information on the schedule for the referendum on

the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood plan. However, rumours are growing stronger that some news is imminent. We are confident that ACS members will want to participate in the referendum, so we urge all to stay on high alert. Meanwhile, we would like to draw the attention of readers to one of several Community Action Proposals that we expect the society to be involved in. CAP HD5 proposes that a local list will be prepared - by inviting suggestions from the public and heritage agencies and setting up a review panel of historians and architects. So it is timely that Historic England have updated Advice Note 7 on Local Heritage Listing.

For more see <http://tinyurl.com/jynddvf>



Those who missed the Church Tour featured on Page-1 (and illustrated above), may be interested to read more about Inspired North East, and the Spirit in Stone Project, which celebrates the heritage of historic churches across the North East. The project has been working with more than fifty churches in the area to engage volunteers and visitors in the rich cultural heritage of historic places of worship in the North East.

See <http://www.inspirednortheast.org.uk> and <http://www.spiritinstone.co.uk/>

We have an opportunity to apply for a small grant from the North of England Civic Trust. The Executive Committee have been developing proposals, and are now preparing a case, which we need to submit by the end of September. This Newsletter is widely distributed, and we expect to be competing for limited funds, so at this stage we prefer to keep our cards close to our chest. We hope to have more to report in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, anyone interested, who would like to know more, is welcome to contact a member of the committee.

We have received representations from members regarding the large number of (what appear to be) scrap vehicles that are parked on the street, for extended periods at various locations

around the town. Our discussions have confirmed that these concerns are shared by other groups in the town. Indeed the problem appears to be even more widespread than we first thought. There doesn't seem to be a straightforward solution, but we will continue to pursue this.



The County Council has produced a draft walking and cycling strategy. Although this is largely aspirational, the breadth of vision and scale of ambition merit support. We have joined the Town Council Sustainable Transport Working Group in welcoming the approach, and stressing the value of local involvement. We also emphasised the positive contribution that walking and cycling can make to conservation and appreciation of our built heritage.

We hear that the Heritage Lottery Fund has recently approved a grant extension for work on the Tower Roof at St Michael's Church. This allows assessment of the condition of the roof to proceed, with a view to preparing and approving a schedule of work - which is expected to be under way in the first half of 2017. We understand that a recent inspection suggests that the condition of the tower roof is not as bad as feared, and a number of our members will be relieved to hear that this important project is back on track.

The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) contains nearly 400,000 entries, but lacks images and many entries are brief and out of date. Historic England are aware that there is a good deal more information about these buildings than is available in the NHLE entry. So they have launched "Enriching the List" - a crowd-sourcing initiative to open up the list to additional information and images. According to Historic England, feedback since the launch in June has been positive. Historic England recognise that Civic Societies contain a vast resource of knowledge about the heritage of their local areas - both as organisations and through individual members. So they are inviting us to help. Individuals can sign up online and Civic Societies can request an organisational account. You can find out more at [www.historicengland.org.uk/etl](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/etl).

*There's no shortage of listed buildings in Alnwick, so if you are interested in co-ordinating efforts, then please get in touch.*

## Diary dates

### Civic Society...

Sept 8-11<sup>th</sup>: Heritage Open Day: Watch out for more details.

Nov: Any Questions. Details to be announced.

### ...and more

Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>: The Victorian Alnwick Professionals project. Northumbria University in conjunction with the University of Oxford.

Speaker: Professor Michael Moss. St James Community Centre. Doors open 7.15 for 7.30 Start. A meeting open to all, hosted by Alnwick Branch of the N&D Family History Society. Refreshments provided. No entry charge, but donations invited. Raffle

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>: Alnwick Food Festival. An important feature of Alnwick's autumn events calendar since 2005

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>: An Evening with Alnwick Castle Archivist. Christopher Hunwick will examine his day to day experience behind the scenes in the Record Tower; and describe some recent research that has been undertaken in the archives. Guest Hall, Alnwick Castle, 7.30pm. Tickets £7.00 from Northumberland and Newcastle Society.

Oct 13<sup>th</sup>: Speak For Your Self: Bailiffgate Museum's Oral History project. They record audio interviews with local residents, collect photographs and documents of past events and places and use these to create short videos based on peoples' memories and stories of life in the district over the past 70 years. They preserve these memories for local communities and the Museum archives. 7:00 p.m. Tickets from the Museum.

## 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 successful high profile campaigns. It continues to pursue its objectives and provide 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.



Victorian Alnwick  
(see Diary Dates)

### 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:**

John Hipwell

Mary McIlroy Hipwell

Elizabeth Jones

Brian Lamb

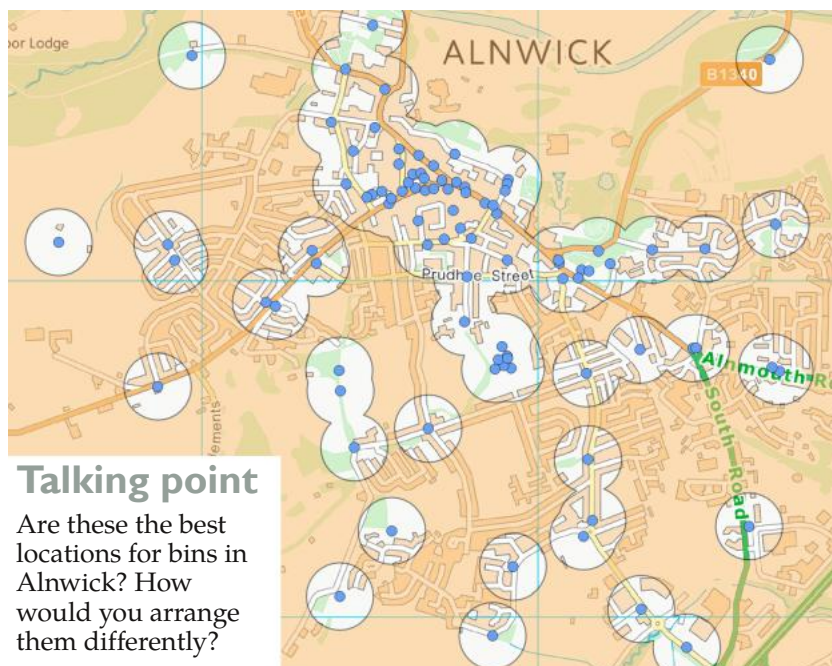
David Lovie ([davidlovie307@btinternet.com](mailto:davidlovie307@btinternet.com))

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

**Web:** [www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @AlnwickCivicSoc

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



### Talking point

Are these the best locations for bins in Alnwick? How would you arrange them differently?

## Quiz Answers

### Bad Sign Quiz (page 6)

- A) 1, Clayport: Former Post Office / Council Chambers
- B) Green Batt, foot of Percy Street
- C) Bus Station
- D) Bondgae Without
- E) Denwick Lane, approaching War Memorial
- F) Lisburn Street
- G) Market Street, near Robertson's Fountain
- H) Green Batt, Bus Stop outside Library

### Do you know where this is? (page 7)

Craftsmen left their mark by drawing around their hands or feet and inscribing their names or initials inside. These examples are on the roof of the tower at St Michael's Church. Charming graffiti that we can treasure, but not see.