

**November 2016**

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## Notice board

Don't miss our Annual Any Questions Debate, at St. James Centre, 9th November at 7:30 p.m. The most compelling debates rely on a good panel, and interesting questions. We have assembled a distinguished panel, and our chair, Peter Ennor, looks forward to receiving your questions (address on the back page).

Do you know anyone interested in joining the society? Could we tempt them with a free copy of the newsletter? If so, please let us know. We keep a stock of spare copies for just that purpose.

Our next newsletter is planned for early February. Suggestions for items that will interest our readers are always welcome.



## A new project: Heritage Heroes

*Over the last few years there has been a growing awareness in the town of the quality and richness of Alnwick's heritage.*

This has been fuelled by an increase in local history publications and walking trails, and further encouraged by the growing popularity of the many quality historic displays and Family History activities at the Bailiffgate Museum. At the same time, there has been a significant growth in tourists from other regions visiting Northumberland and its historic towns, like Alnwick.

We would like to encourage and build on this growth, at the same time as recognising the pride that the Alnwick community takes in our historic town, and supporting the local tourist economy.

One way we can do that is by celebrating the efforts of individuals and the wider community to conserve and record our heritage.

To that end, we are proposing to produce a well-illustrated, A4 sized publication that showcases not only our remarkable Ducal townscape itself but also some of our own 'Heritage Heroes': those who have helped to protect, interpret and promote our town over the years.

This should offer a new dimension to the understanding and enjoyment of our handsome townscape - for the inspiration of residents, children and our growing number of visitors from well beyond our own region.

We plan to examine the townscape of Alnwick through the eyes of those who have made a significant contribution to the protection and inter-

pretation of Alnwick's fine built heritage (see page 4).

We will highlight the contributions of a local historian, an internationally recognised academic, a local illustrator and members of Alnwick's own Civic Society. These represent all those who are committed to conservation of Alnwick's townscape - whether their interest is rooted in their own family history, as natives of the town; built on the choice of Alnwick as their adopted home; or sparked by the long history and unique character of the town.

Our intent is that publication will coincide with the 50th anniversary of Conservation Areas in England in 2017. As it happens this date also falls close to the 150th anniversary of Tate's History of Alnwick, and not too far from the 50th anniversary of Conzen's study of the town, and the 25th anniversary of the publication of Zig Zag Alnwick, by Barbara Woodhouse.

We have an outline plan of how to meet the target publication date, and allowed ourselves six months to pull together the content. We are in the process of applying for funding support from a range of different organisations, and the response is encouraging.

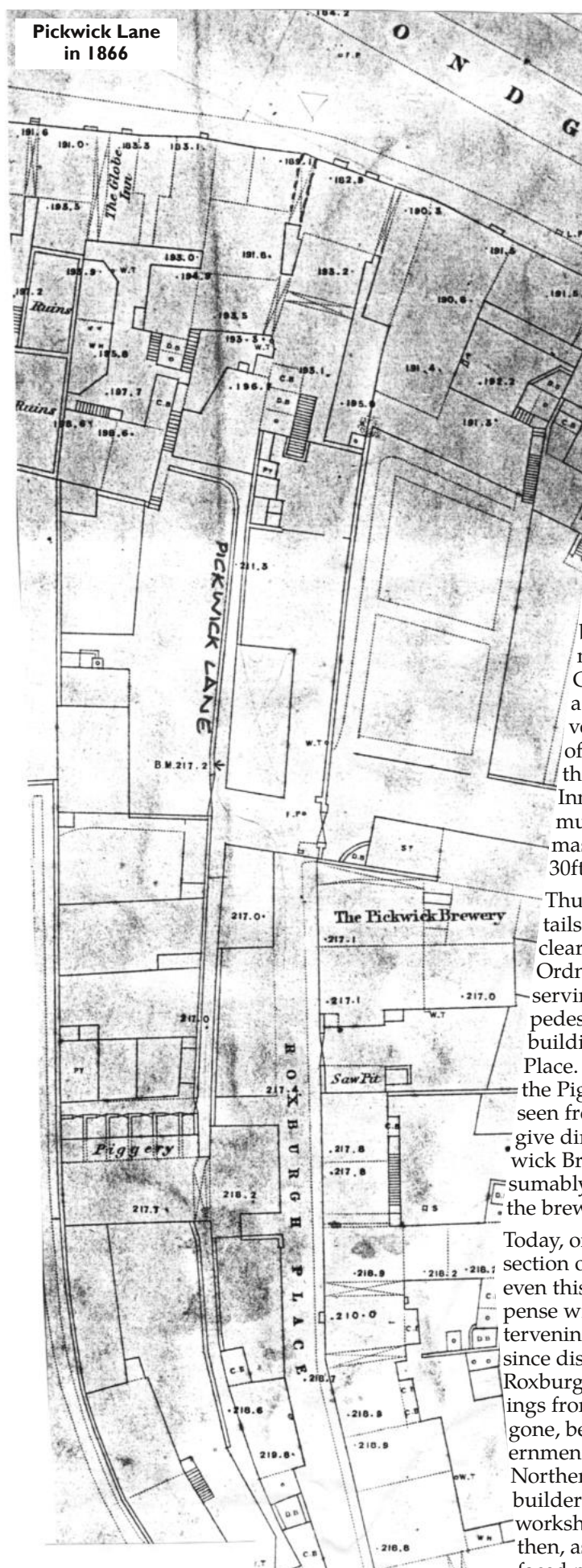
We've also started to collect material, drawing on the Society's own library and archives.

The next, crucial, step is to bring a team together to do the work. So if you have a skill, an interest, information or images to contribute, or some long winter evenings to fill, then please get in touch, and join us.





# Lane survey: Pickwick 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.*

## History

The 1774 map of Alnwick shows no evidence of a Pickwick Lane. The burgrave strip seems to have been intact at that time, with no development behind the frontage house apart from its small extension southwards. However, by 1827 the lane appears to have been established, running right through to Green Batt, though not in a straight line; it was diverted around three sides of a building, linking with the yard behind the Globe Inn, where a series of steps must have been used to master the severe (some 30ft) change of level.

Thus it remained, and its details may be seen quite clearly on the detailed 1866 Ordnance Survey map (left), serving as a through route for pedestrians at the back of the buildings along Roxburgh Place. It also served as access to the Piggery. As far as can be seen from the map, it did not give direct access to the Pickwick Brewery, although, presumably, it took its name from the brewery.

Today, only the most northerly section of the lane remains, and even this has been altered to dispense with the diversion, the intervening building having long since disappeared. By 1995, Roxburgh Place and the buildings fronting onto it had all gone, being replaced by a Government Office, Depot for Northern Electric and by a builder's yard and a motor workshop. The main feature then, as now, was the unsurfaced public car park. The

Northern Electric Depot was replaced in 1999 by Militia Court. Pickwick Lane's present function, as it was in 1995, is to provide pedestrian access from the car park to the town.

## Physical Description

From top (south) to bottom, the lane is never more than about four feet wide.

The photo below shows its undistinguished entrance from the car park - the narrow gap in the wall to the left of (in 1995) a garage entrance.

The southern section runs between stone walls in reason-



ably good condition, the lane's floor sloping steeply downwards (photo below, looking south). The lane's surface in this section is in-situ concrete, laid with ribs to prevent slipping, with a drainage channel on one side.



It then descends a flight of seventeen steps, with a small landing halfway down and with a useful handrail. The steps are in concrete, with tall risers of varying height, the bottom step being several inches higher than the average. At the top, a substantial cast-iron bollard prevents anyone with a pram or wheelchair from attempting to negotiate the steps. The walls each side of the steps above the half-landing are of random rubble stonework in reasonable condition; below that, the wall on the west side is in engineering brick (presumably built to close off the gap left by the demolition of the house that origin-



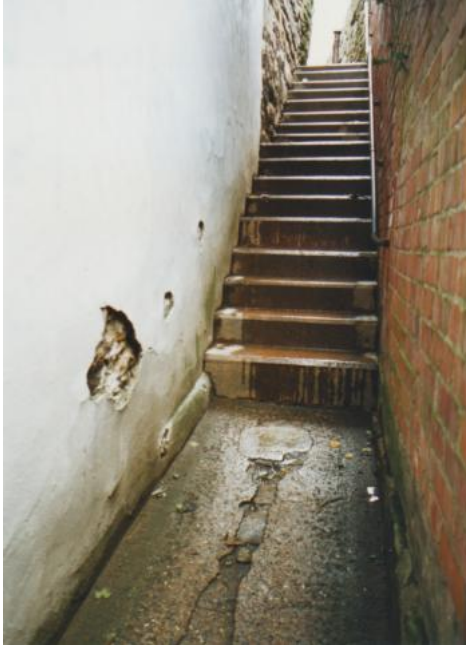


ally occupied this position, around which the lane used to meander), while that on the east side has been heavily rendered and painted. The condition of this wall is now better than it was twenty years ago (photo right) when dampness had caused some of the render to peel off in patches and the white paint was described as an irresistible temptation to graffiti-writers.

The lane continues to slope downwards to the north from the bottom of the steps, passing between high walls until it reaches the first building, the extension behind the Flower shop, where it enters a section of covered passageway leading into a narrow "well", open to the sky and flanked by the high walls of the adjacent buildings. Beyond this is a further covered section before Pickwick Lane emerges onto the pavement above the Cobbles in Bondgate Within. The lane's floor throughout this lower section is of insitu concrete. This was

described in 1995 as being in very poor condition, with an open surface-water drainage charmer on one side. It is now better.

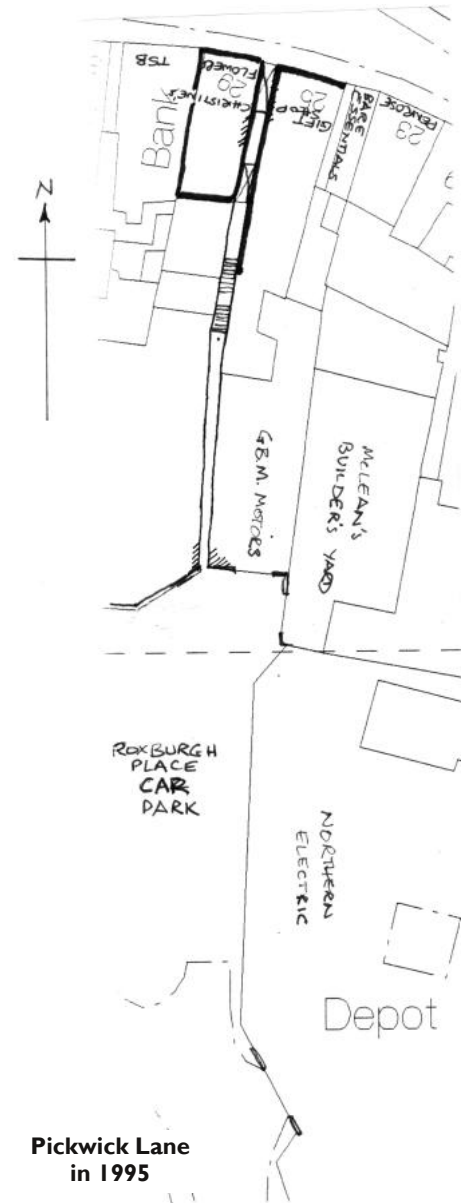
The overall impression remains claustrophobic and steep. The lack of street lighting doesn't help, and despite its direct link between car park and shops, we suspect this lane continues to be under-used.



## Civic Society Proposals

In 1995 the District Council had given itself planning permission to surface and landscape the Roxburgh Place Car Park. Alas this never happened. But it is worth noting that in 1995, when it was expected, the society proposed doing all that was possible to reduce the adverse factors that still make Pickwick Lane unattractive. At the time, their ambitious proposals included:

- provision of street lighting in the covered sections and at intervals in the open parts;
- re-building and re-grading the steps, reducing and regularising the height of the risers and lengthening the treads, to make them an easier, and less dangerous proposition for pedestrians of all ages. Changing the gradient of the steps would probably mean replacing the handrail;
- the flooring should be in well-laid stone flags throughout, with provision for surface drainage; because the lane is so narrow, and the high walls so intimidating, these high walls should be made as light as possible by cleaning and, where appropriate, repairing and re-painting the existing rendered surfaces; and
- the proposed patten of paving of the



car park should be amended, perhaps by introducing a fan-shaped area of setts at the southern entrance to the lane. There would also be scope for a feature such as a decorative stone archway to signal the top of the lane, inviting the pedestrian to use it.

*We conclude this series here: 21 years after the original survey. Perhaps it's appropriate that, of the lanes we have re-examined, we end in the one that today seems to have the greatest potential for improvement.*

## Quality Control

Thanks again: this time to diligent readers of the August newsletter, for pointing out that the Corn Exchange had all the external walls repointed around 2000: which is why it looks better than was anticipated in 1995. Also that the building next to Hannys, was occupied by Halifax Estate Agent, not Halifax Building Society as we said last time.

## Planning matters

As everyone knows, the new High School has now opened, and (perhaps unsurprisingly) the condition relating to a travel plan has not been discharged. Our Chair, Peter Ennor has met again with representatives of the County and Town Councils about safe walking and cycling routes to the school. There is general awareness of the issues around travel to the new school, but very little progress, so our concerns still remain. Sadly, although the potential issues were well-recognised, it has proved impossible to implement a comprehensive solution before the school opened. Monitoring of the travel impact of the relocation will continue to be a priority for us, but there seems to be little else we can do, at this stage, other than continuing to promote awareness of the issues, and hoping that there will be opportunities in future to make improvements.

We can take some consolation from a recent proposal to amend the existing planning permission for the Limes residential development (Land at Willoughby's Bank, Clayport Bank). This involves repositioning a proposed footpath link from the new estate to an existing right of way to the east (Summer Seats footpath). This could form an important link and contribute to safe school travel routes between Chapel Lands / Barresdale and the new High School.

Northumberland Estates has submitted a planning application for the development of a new club house for Alnwick Golf Club. This will allow the site of the existing club house to be redeveloped. This is the subject of a separate, outline application for the construction of 10 dwellings on the site of the existing club house, the golf club car park and part of the golf course itself. We discussed the plans in some detail, along with concerns around the loss of trees, the loss of part of the golf course and arrangements for access. We raised an objection on the basis that this development would involve the loss of greenfield land beyond the existing developed area of the town and the loss of mature trees in an area of high landscape value. These trees are part of the wooded western skyline of Alnwick and help to give the settlement form and definition. This site was not proposed for development in the draft Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan and the proposals pre-empt the Northumberland Local Plan Delivery Document. We are also concerned about the adequacy of the highway and footpath network to accommodate the development. These concerns were shared in the county's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (June 2016) which regards the site as "Not Suitable" and "Not Achievable". We concur. Local residents have similar concerns over access, and have also raised concerns over loss of natural habitat. We fear that, in the longer-term, this area of development could spread into the surrounding land and would then have even greater landscape impact. This would not be valid grounds for objection at this stage, but it remains a concern.

Amendments have been proposed to the conversion of Bolams Mill, Dispensary Street into apartments. These involve changes to high level glazing including the provision of a number of Juliette balconies. We have some reservations about the impact of these changes on the character of this historic building, but on balance felt that we could live with these, considering the wider imperative to bring the building back into use.

Proposals to replace windows at Alnwick Working Men's Club, in Clayport Street have been amended to substitute like-for-like timber replacements. This is a welcome change.

At Hope House Farm, in Hope House Lane, Listed Building consent has been given for the removal of existing window

glazing and replacement with double glazing within the existing sashes. We agreed that this was an appropriate way forward, and welcomed the trouble taken to work with the Conservation Officer. They felt that *"the approach to repair and insertion of new glass is labour intensive but will ensure the whole window will be overhauled, fully serviced and upgraded to provide the thermal quality required without demonstrable harm to the character, appearance and significance of the listed building"*. This is the way these things should be done.



At Pattinson Estate Agents, 19 Bondgate Without, a retrospective application to replace timber windows with aluminium clad bay windows at ground level and upvc windows at first floor level has been refused. This is a decision we welcome.

At Yule House, Back of 16 Narrowgate, consent was sought to install secondary glazing to upstairs windows. We felt no comment was necessary.

There was an application to remove two sycamores to ground level behind Russell House, in Greenwell Road. These, it was said, cause a number of problems including loss of light and interfere with telephone lines. We felt that the justification was weak, and the loss of public amenity regrettable. Elsewhere, Alnwick Cricket Club, in Weavers Way, propose to fell four ash trees which are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order, but considered dangerous. Again, we regret the loss of all four trees and would have preferred that each tree had been assessed individually.

These two applications reinforce concerns we raised in the May issue of this newsletter. Much of our built environment is enhanced by fine trees, and we need to care for them in the same way as we care for our buildings. Many magnificent older trees will come to the end of their lives within the next twenty years or so, and it is time to look at areas where trees could be planted to fill existing gaps, and anticipate gaps which may occur in future. Since we published that item, we have learned that others share our concerns. We are hoping that some joint initiatives will emerge from our various discussions. Please let us know if this is something you would be interested in supporting.

At Alnwick Chiropractic Centre, in Wagonway Road, it is proposed to demolish the existing building and erect three apartments in its place. The site is very constrained, and we have concerns about the lack of private outdoor space and parking, while neighbours have commented extensively on the impact on parking, and disruption to traffic in this busy part of town.

At 12/14 Bondgate Within an application has been submitted to demolish the existing buildings behind the former Gate Gallery and construct a new dwelling. We felt no comment was necessary.

At 1-4 Dorothy Forster Court, Narrowgate, consent has been granted to replace some of the stonework surrounding the entrance door from Narrowgate. English Heritage had no objection. We are inclined to agree with the Conservation Officer's view that the whole surround needs to be re-constructed, using appropriate method, and stone with an appropriate geological match. Reassuringly, the stonemason involved is a well known local specialist, with good reputation for this type of work. Nevertheless, in principle, on such a well-known listed 18<sup>th</sup> century building, it might have been better if the Conservation Officer had required that the work be carefully monitored.



## News in Brief

London's Blue Plaque scheme was founded in 1866, is thought to have been the first in the world, and has inspired many similar schemes in the UK and abroad. Over the last 150 years more than 900 plaques have been erected across London to honour notable men and women. Closer to home, in Alnwick, the printer and publisher William Dividson is going to be commemorated with a blue plaque, and the society has made a contribution of £80.00 towards the cost.

Sadly, the County Council will go ahead with proposals to identify loading spaces in the Market Place by lettering on the ground.

The council is, though, consulting on proposals for parking on the Cobbles wagonway, where it tapers near Bondgate Tower. One scheme would involve redesignation as a parking area; the other scheme would involve the installation of planters. We favour planters, but the advocates for even more parking are vocal.

When money is short, our elected representatives have to make difficult choices about the best use of scarce resources. The introduction of Free Parking cost Northumberland around £1.5m in lost Pay and Display revenue, with little impact on the cost of enforcement. But there are other costs. According to the Local Government Information Unit, it costs about £400 a



year to provide a typical "Free" space in a car park. There are more than 500 free car parking spaces in the centre of Alnwick, so on that basis we are already spending over £200,000 a year to provide motorists with free parking. Some feel that's still not enough.

To match provision in Berwick, Morpeth or Hexham would need another 1,000 spaces (or thereabouts). That's not going to happen. So it's worth reminding ourselves that there are competing demands on space in the town centre; parking in Alnwick has to be rationed - somehow; and "Free" Parking isn't free at all. There is a cost - it just isn't paid by the motorist.

Historic England, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation have jointly reported on numbers of historic environment staff in local authorities. Figures collected in early 2016 show that there were 796 full-time equivalent historic environment specialists providing ad-

vice to local authorities in England. This comprises: 525 working on building and area conservation and 272 providing archaeological advice. Since 2006 the number of conservation specialists has fallen by 36% (292) and the number of archaeological specialists advising local authorities in England by 33% (136). In the last 12 months, against a 5% decrease in the number of specialist advisers, the number of planning application decisions has increased by 4% and Listed Building Consent decisions by 0.6%.



Once again, congratulations are due to everyone involved with Alnwick in Bloom, best overall town in the North-East, for our category; Alnwick Garden for best overall North-East Tourist Attraction; Friends of Alnmouth Station for best overall North-East Rail/Bus/Metro Station; and to all our very successful local winners.

At a useful meeting with members of Friends of the Earth we were able to identify a number of areas where there was common ground between the two groups. At this stage we have expressed support in principle for an initiative on tree-planting. Looking forward both groups could see a number of areas where our interests overlap in taking Community Action Proposals forward for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan.

## Planning continued... Heritage Heroes: Examples

We have raised an objection to a Discharge of Conditions on Land East of Greensfield Avenue (the new Greensfield Development). Firstly, a travel plan for a development on this scale is vital, due to the impact that it will have on movement into Alnwick, but no Travel Plan appears to have been provided.

Secondly, the latest plans include a material and unacceptable change from the outline and substantive permissions that were previously granted. The draft Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan indicates a cycle route along the eastern boundary of this development, where it abuts Fairfields. If this were a properly designated route, without obstructions, it would offer an important alternative link between the north-west parts of Alnwick and the south-east. The initial plans included something close to what we believe is needed. This amendment appears to add at least four sets of steps. On a cycle route!

**George Tate:** (1805-1871): Historian and naturalist, Tate published the first serious history of Alnwick in 14 parts between 1865 and 1869 as "The History of the Borough, Castle and Barony of Alnwick." It has been a mine of valuable and inspiring heritage information for generations since its publication.

**M R G Conzen:** (Berlin 1907 – Newcastle 2000): Geographer and academic, his "Alnwick, Northumberland: A Study in Town-Planning Analysis" in 1960 is still regarded as 'a classic in Human Geography.' His insights and ideas into how the layout and character of English historic towns developed and changed, were piloted in Alnwick and have informed the work of a whole generation of urban geographers, conservation officers and town planners.

**Barbara D Woodhouse:** Illustrator and author of "Zig Zag Alnwick I" and "II" in 1990 both of which illustrated and described many historic buildings and byways in Alnwick. Heritage structures, spaces and their descriptions in short texts are presented in an informal 'Hand-drawn' style which delightfully portray in pen and ink the iconic, romantic and mysterious qualities of Alnwick's rich heritage.



*George Tate*

# Quiz: Schools

*This year is a milestone for schools and pupils in Alnwick, so it seems appropriate to consider how educational provision has left its mark on the town. We could have told a story of seven centuries. From the license for the Chantry Chapel in Walkergate (which required the chaplains "to instruct poor boys in the art of Grammar gratis, and without occasion of money whatsoever"), to the present. But most early developments have left little mark. So instead we've taken a snapshot of the position 140 years ago.*

In 1877, Mr R Davison, school attendance officer for Alnwick, gave the following return of the number of children attending school in the town.

School	No. for whom there is accommodation	No. on roll	Average attendance
National Schools	459	522	411
Borough Schools	386	296	235
Catholic School	130	94	43
Ragged School	150	99	65
Duke's School	212	94	86
Duchess's School	50	50	40
Denwick School	35	15	12
Total	1,422	1,170	892

At the time there was no compulsory school attendance. That wouldn't come until the 1880 Education Act. But these figures suggest that there was sufficient accommodation in Alnwick for the whole of the potential school-age population. Around 70% were enrolled, and around half typically attended. In the late 19th century the town was proud of its educational provision. Compared to national levels of school attendance, these figures suggest that it had a right to be.

## National Schools

National Schools were established in connection with the Church of England, *"with the intention of bringing sound religious and secular education within the reach of all classes, and to impart it at the cheapest rate under trained teachers and with the best methods"*. School rooms and dwelling rooms for a master and mistress were opened in 1849, with 95 boys and 132 girls. Each pupil in the junior classes paid 2d a week, and in the senior classes 3d. a week. In 1854 two class-rooms were added. In 1860 an Infant School was added, but funds proved inadequate, and it closed in 1865.

## Borough Schools

The history of schooling in Alnwick goes back the 15th century, but broadened as the town prospered. By the early 19th century a number of small schools for the children of the freemen had been established in Clayport, Pottergate, and Dispensary Street (others could attend, but had to pay fees). As far as we know, nothing of these various small establishments remains today. Then in 1853 they were brought together when the Borough School was built, to a design by Thomas Robertson. It was admired for its *"rural and picturesque appearance"*, and its situation as *"one of the loveliest in the neighbourhood"*.

## Catholic School

The Catholic School was started in 1845, and originally occupied houses on Lisburn Street, but was then extended, to take over the old Ragged School, together with the ground behind it. In 1889 it was remarked that *"considering the mixed class of pupils that are upon the register, the success is very satisfactory"*. The school appears on OS maps from the 1890's in different forms. The map (right) shows the extent in the 1920's.



## Ragged School

This school originated in 1848, *"with the view of providing destitute children with the elements of a secular and religious education, and of assisting them to enter on a course of honest industry"*. A decade before our survey, Tate commented that *"this school supplies the wants of a class not provided for by other educational societies: out of 253 scholars attending it, 47 are fatherless, 13 are motherless, 4 are orphans, 22 are illegitimate, 40 have one or both parents drunken and dissipated, and the remaining 127 have parents so poor that they are unable to pay the smallest school fee"*. It later occupied the building originally erected in 1838, for an Infant School, to commemorate Queen Victoria's coronation. The site of the building was given by John Lambert; but support drained as a result of sectarian differences over the teaching of Church of England formularies. This resulted in insufficient funding, and the Ragged School took over the building, after the Victoria Infant School closed in 1853.

## Duke's School

This school was established for the education of 200 poor boys, in commemoration of the jubilee of George III. It opened in 1811, then on the establishment of National Schools, changed its role to give an advanced education to eighty boys, covering reading, writing, arithmetic, geometry, navigation, grammar, geography, history, chemistry, mechanical drawing, vocal music and occasionally latin.

## Duchess's School

The Duchess's School was founded in Canongate, by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duchess of Northumberland for instruction of girls, in reading, sewing, knitting, and domestic work. The duchess had six daughters and three sons, and seems to have had little to do with the running of the school. According to Davison's history: *"as the conjugal duties of that most exemplary woman almost entirely confined her to the chamber of her suffering lord, she readily accepted the proffered assistance of some of the most respectable ladies of Alnwick in the formation and superintendence of her new establishment"*. Her successor took a more active role: *"with far greater opportunities of personal inspection, the present Duchess has fostered and improved the good work of her predecessor, by taking upon herself the sole charge and management of the school, which she has recently removed to an airy and commodious house adjoining the grounds of the castle"*. Tate remarks on the school uniform: *"a kind of livery of green, black, and white, the fashion of a bye-gone age"*.

## Denwick School

Denwick Chapel was opened in 1876, and the neighbouring school dates from 1907. We suspect that at the time chosen for this survey the chapel functioned as both a school-room and chapel (we look forward to either a correction, or confirmation, from well-informed readers).



# The State of our Public Parks

*In September the Heritage Lottery Fund published their 2016 report on the State of UK Public Parks. In this respect, Alnwick is in a privileged position. However, given some current pressures, and our own continuing efforts to help maintain Column Field, the report makes interesting reading.*

It shows a growing disconnect between rising use of parks and declining resources to manage them. Parks are highly valued by the public. Usage is increasing. However, maintenance budgets and staff numbers are being cut. As a result the condition of parks is deteriorating. This deterioration is expected to continue and in order to avert a crisis the report calls for more collaborative action to deliver new ways of funding and managing public parks.

Of all the UK regions, the North-East has been hit the hardest, with revenue cuts of more than 19%, staffing cuts of almost 20%, and almost two-thirds of parks expected to decline over the next three years.

There are ten main findings in the report:

1. People use their parks regularly, and visitor numbers are increasing
2. Park maintenance budgets continue to fall
3. Staff and skills are being lost
4. The quality of parks is expected to decline
5. Park services are facing increasing inequality
6. Park management will be more varied in the future
7. Sources of external income are on the rise
8. Communities are doing more for their parks
9. Park trusts appear to be coping better through austerity
10. Local authority commitment to parks does make a difference

## Quiz: Continued

On the left we describe seven schools that were included in the 1877 report. There have been significant changes over the last 140 years, but each of the seven has left some mark to the present day.

Some are still in use as a school; others have found a new role. Can you link each of these seven pictures to the school in Mr Davidson's report from 1877?

- National Schools
- Borough Schools
- Catholic School
- Ragged School
- Duke's School
- Duchess's School
- Denwick School



The report (at <http://tinyurl.com/jf4ccp4>) calls for:

- **Continuing local authority leadership.** As the owners of most public parks and green spaces, logic and history dictates that local authorities have a pivotal role in ensuring the continued provision of quality parks and green spaces.
- **Promoting active partnerships.** With the increasing diversity of organisations responsible for managing parks, greater collaboration and coordination is needed between partners to share funding and expertise to maximise the efficient use of limited resources.
- **Supporting communities to play a more active role.** Communities already play an important part in supporting their local parks and green spaces and this is expected to increase. For those groups that are keen to do more, additional support and assistance should be given to make the most of their contribution and ensure this collaboration is of mutual benefit.
- **Developing new models of management and funding.** Innovation, adaptation and change are an integral part of successful organisations, including park services. The current climate provides the opportunity to experiment, test and refine new contemporary and possibly more cost-effective models of management and funding.
- **Compiling, coordinating and updating data.** Robust data is at the heart of all good planning and decision making. Whilst there have been some improvements in the collection of information, including the development of the long-awaited national green space map, many local authorities still have a limited understanding of the detailed workings of their parks service.

## Diary dates

### Civic Society...

Nov 9<sup>th</sup>: 7:30, our annual Any Questions debate. St. James Centre, Pottergate. Please send your questions to Peter Ennor (contact details, right).

Our Annual General Meeting will be In March 2017. We will publish a notice in the February Newsletter. Meanwhile, if you are interested in joining the committee, or helping in any other way, then this would be a good time to get in touch. It looks as though we will be celebrating progress in 2016, and preparing for a busy year in 2017.

### ...and more

Alnwick Christmas Lights (Alnwick Civic Society Award Winners): will switch on at 7:00p.m. on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Alnwick History Society: meetings held at Bailiffgate Museum, 7:30p.m. on the following dates:

- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2017: *Incendiary Letters and Iniquitous Practices: Smuggling on the North-East Coast*, Dr Tony Barrow

- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017: *The Old Great North Road*, Alistair Sinton  
"Northumberland - Beautiful by Bus" (use the buses to see over the hedge tops to spectacular horizons). Some personal recommendations. (leaflet to be found in the Societies and Organisations File in Alnwick Library).

The National Trust produced a list of "50 things to do in Northumberland before you are 11¾". There's still time before the end of the year. <http://tinyurl.com/hxra5ez>

## About Alnwick Civic Society

Alnwick Civic Society was formed in the 1970s, 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.



### 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)

At the time of writing, we are still waiting (with keen anticipation) for news on the date of the referendum on the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan.

We understand that this is the question (or something very like it), that we will be asked to decide.

It looks innocuous, but in reality it's an important question for how decisions on the future of our town will be taken. So we continue to urge all our members to keep a sharp eye out for news. When it arrives, be sure to cast your vote, and encourage your family, friends and neighbours in Alnwick to do the same.



"Do you want Northumberland County Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Alnwick and Denwick to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

## Quiz Answers

- A) Ragged School, Lisburn Street
- B) Roman Catholic School, Howick Street
- C) Duke's School, Green Batt
- D) Denwick School
- E) Borough School, Howling Lane
- F) National School, Windsor Gardens
- G) Duchess's School, Bailiffgate