

February 2018

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## Notice board

On March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 we will be holding a training session on Heritage Interpretation at Bailiffgate Museum. This is part of our Heritage Heroes project in conjunction with Heritage Lottery Fund. It is open to all. You can book a place from the Bailiffgate Museum web site.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at St James Centre in Pottergate. Cliff Pettit has kindly agreed to speak on Growing up in Pre-War Alnwick, which promises to be a popular and fascinating subject. This is your opportunity to join us as we celebrate a busy and successful year, and lay plans for another. Nominations are invited for the committee, chair, treasurer and secretary.

## Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes

*On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November we launched our publication 'Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes'.*

This 40 page illustrated booklet tells the story of our rich built heritage. It commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Conservation Areas, and celebrates the contributions made over the years by local people and organisations to the conservation and interpretation of our fine townscape.

The launch was timed to coincide with a major exhibition at Bailiffgate Museum of photographs of Alnwick: Past and Present.

The editors and the research and writing group have been heartened by the positive response to the publication. We are grateful for the support of our partner (Bailiffgate Museum), as well as Graphic Designer (Bill Grisdale), and funders (Heritage Lottery Fund, Institute of Historic Building Conservation with Civic Voice, and legacy funding from the North East Federation of Civic Societies).

Thanks to the generosity of our funders, we have been able to pay for the production and printing; and are distributing 2,000 copies free of charge.

Members of the Society should already have received their own copy. We are now offering copies to different organisations across the community. To this end, we have drawn up a priority list of local organisations, groups, institutions and networks which benefit the Alnwick community through heritage, education and the visitor economy.

If you are involved with an organisation or group that should be on our list please let us know.

Should any copies remain after the completion of this first distribution we will consider further enquiries: although we cannot guarantee that there will be enough copies left to meet every request.

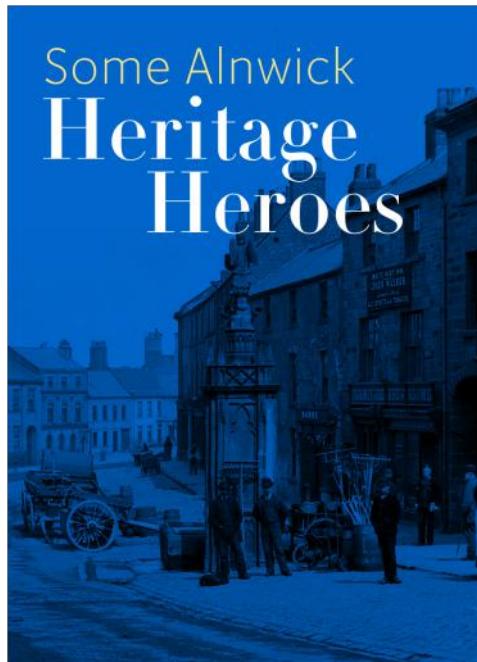
The Project offers wider benefits to the Alnwick community. It has already provided opportunities for local volunteers to develop their research and writing skills. And it continues to provide opportunities to share information through public talks and guided walks.

We want to bring the fine heritage of the town and the valuable contributions of our Heritage Heroes to life.

So members of the team are available to give talks to local groups and organisations about the book and its preparation. In

addition we are willing to lead guided walks for local groups around Alnwick's handsome historic town centre Conservation Area.

We have lined up a number of activities for January to March 2018 and will continue to raise the Project's profile, by providing further information to the media; distributing the remaining copies, running a training event on Heritage Interpretation (see Notice Board, left); and further Guided Walks and Community Talks. Some of these are already booked, but if you are interested in booking a speaker or a leader for a guided walk, please get in touch.



# Parking Study

Last year Northumberland County Council commissioned a study into car park capacity and usage in Alnwick, Hexham and Morpeth. The results were published in December, and a consultation event held on 24th January. Parking is a significant issue in the three towns, and seen by many as a constraint on the economy. Free parking was introduced across the county in 2014 but there is now a perceived lack of parking capacity in Alnwick. This has a number of consequences.

The full report presents existing provision, usage and issues. It forecasts how demand is likely to change, and considers measures to tackle the issues. There is considerably more detail than we can cover here, but the diagram (below right) summarises the issues, and the package suggests a variety of measures. In summary:

## Convert Long Stay to Short Stay parking

The amount of long stay parking is restricting capacity for short stops, and this may damage the local economy if visitors cannot park. A first step would be conversion of Greenwell Road to short stay. This would require alternative locations for long stay locations. Large-scale transfer to on-street parking is unlikely to be acceptable.

## Increase Off-street car parking

Provide parking capacity to relieve existing problems and future requirements. Initial estimates suggest that at least 150 extra spaces will be required at peak times of the year to relieve existing problems, and achieve an operational level of occupancy. These spaces will need to be managed effectively, through time restrictions /charges, to ensure they are used efficiently and the benefits to the town maximised.

## Summer Park and Ride / Park and Cycle

Investigate provision of a seasonal Park and Ride scheme located to the south-east of the town centre. This could intercept long stay trips by commuters and tourists during the summer peak period. A Park and Cycle scheme could be considered if a safe and convenient route could be provided into the town centre, with hire bikes.

## Seasonal Time Restrictions

Separate parking strategies for peak and off-peak time periods. Parking regulations could be amended to provide different time limits during the peak and off-peak time of year. For example, more short stay spaces could be provided in summer, when locals are more likely to walk and cycle.

## Relocate On-street Parking

If additional off-street capacity is provided there would be an opportunity to remove some on-street spaces to the benefit of the public realm in the town centre and in the streets that are used for town centre parking.

## Review of Onstreet Parking Provision

Review the effectiveness and abuse of Traffic Regulation Orders to identify inappropriate parking. Reduce long stay on-street parking where causes problems.

## Direction Signing

Review the fixed direction signs and improve where necessary, particularly better

directions to alternative parking at the Greenwell Road junction.

## Disabled Parking Spaces

Monitor use of disabled spaces over a longer timescale and install more spaces if necessary.

## Residents Parking Schemes (On-street)

Support residents with valid concerns about their ability to park on their street due to parking by visitors.

## Sustainable Transport

Ensure that parking strategy and sustainable transport strategy are consistent and complementary. Car parks contribute to sustainable transport by reducing reliance on the car and preventing uncontrolled increase in demand. Cycle and motorcycle spaces to be provided in suitable car parks. Investigate extra electric vehicle charging points.

## New Development and S106

Seek contributions from developers towards the provision of additional car park supply in the town centre.

## Enforcement

Ensure that enforcement is targeted to achieve good parking behaviour at an acceptable cost.

## Marketing and Promotion

Participate in marketing activities that promote town centre trade through parking initiatives.

## Sponsorship and Advertising

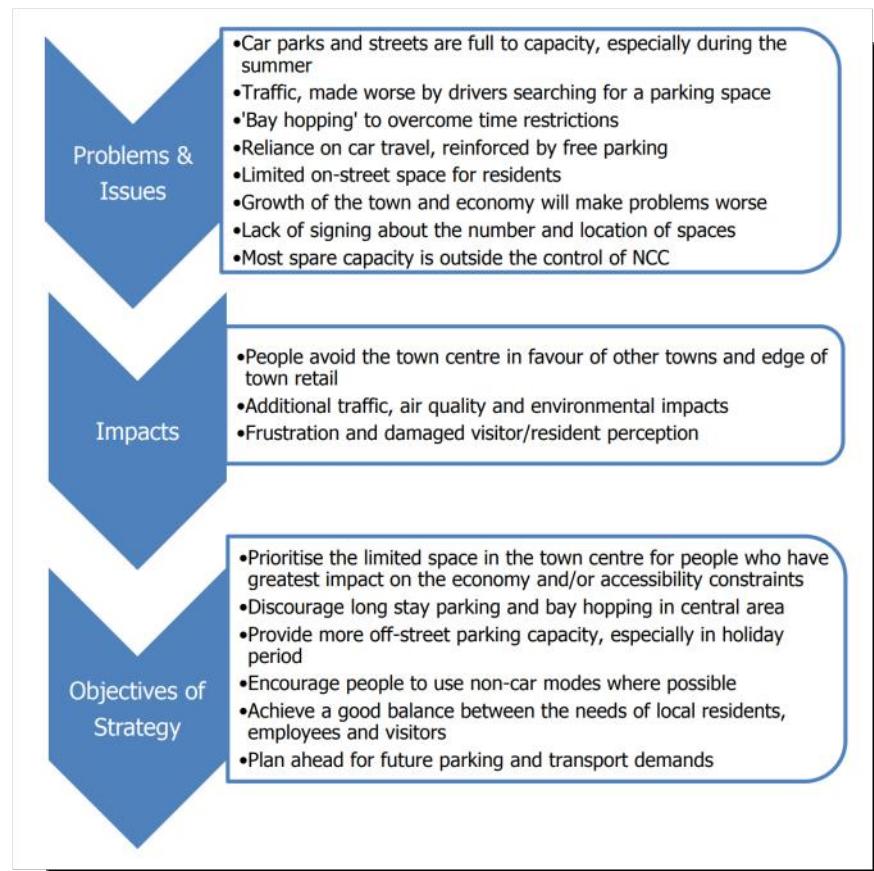
Consider options for generating income by increasing advertising or sponsorship of car parks.

## Reintroduce Parking Charges

Consider the pros and cons of the reintroduction of parking charges to further manage parking demand.

The full report can be downloaded from the NCC web site.

**Continued opposite...**



## Parking study, continued...

We might quibble over some details, but overall we think the study shows a good understanding of the issues in Alnwick. Little will come as a surprise to ACS members. Nevertheless, we hope members will take a good look at the report. There is considerably more detail than we can cover here, and many questions are left unanswered. However, it is already leading to a more informed debate, and real progress is only going to be achieved if the debate continues to be based on careful consideration of this kind of hard evidence and thoughtful analysis.

## Christmas Decoration Competition

*In 2017 the Executive Committee decided to organise a Christmas Decoration competition for shops in Alnwick town centre. Mary Hipwell organised the competition, and reports here:*

The reasoning behind this is that the town centre is not just a collection of buildings, but needs people to work in it and use it. We wanted to reward the shops who made an effort to create a happy Christmas atmosphere and helped attract people into the town centre.

But the main reason was FUN. We hoped the shop owners would have fun decorating their windows, and we hoped the windows would make people smile.

I had visited all the shops to hand over information about the competition, and it made me visit shops I had not really noticed before. I discovered what a treasure trove of shops we have and I am so impressed by the range and quality.

The judging was carried out by a group of committee members with the addition of some local children and local teenagers so that we could say we were representing the whole community. Some of the children decided to include the houses in Alnwick and toured the whole town looking



In the short-term we hope to see some long-stay parking converted to short-stay, introduction of some 30 minute "pop and shop" spaces in the centre, some seasonal time restrictions to better deal with peak summer demand, and some improved signage. Consideration of how to provide additional off-street parking, and a summer park-and-ride are likely to begin, but unlikely to produce results in the short-term.

for decorated houses, though we resisted pressure to include them in the official competition.

The winner was Elemental of Fenkle Street, with a brilliant and clever window showing a traditional scene with a twist which included Father Christmas coming down the chimney and a lady in a ball dress made of Christmas tree fir branches. The concept was good, and very well carried out. Making the ball dress took two days.

The Committee decided to award three specially commended certificates as well. The window of the Salvation Army shop was beautifully decorated - an explosion of colourful objects, all showing aspects of Christmas which created a rich and colourful patchwork. Once more, it was essentially a traditional design.

House and Home were also commended. Their design was in two windows and was poetic in concept, based round white in one window and darker colours in the other, and the addition of parchments containing extracts of poetry appearing to float in the window was impressive and original.

The Farm Bakery produced a clever and very appetising group of gingerbread houses, representing Alnwick. The design was low key and charming and very original.

We were pleased and grateful that the Gazette attended the prizegiving and took photos.



# Planning matters

Northumberland is one of only 15 local authority areas without an adopted local plan. Following the withdrawal of the core strategy the County Council now propose to hold an Initial Consultation in Spring 2018, Consultation on draft local plan in Summer 2018, Publication in Winter 2018, Submission of local plan to Secretary of State in Summer 2019 and Adoption of local plan in Summer 2020.

The plan will include planning policies and land allocations and designations.

Variations have been proposed by Arch to the development at Allerburn House. The most significant element is to omit the conversion of an existing wing, replacing this with a row of 3-storey town houses. Alnwick Town Council has objected to the location, density and height of the proposed dwellings, the negative visual impact they would have on neighbouring properties and their location in relation to the retained part of Allerburn House.

We did not submit an objection. However, both the Town Council and neighbours based their comments on the requirements in the ADNP. These include a requirement for developments to take into account the density and grain of the surrounding distinctive suburban townscape; make a positive contribution to local character; and to respect and enhance the quality of the surrounding suburban townscape.

The County Council has ruled that the proposals are too major to be dealt with by a variation of condition application and require submission of a full application. We will have the chance to comment on the revised proposals.

There are proposals for a new design of shopfront at (listed) 67A Bondgate Within for Cat's Protection. These manage to contravene several of the shopfront design guidelines - in a prominent town-centre location.

We sometimes hear charity shops blamed for the pressures on high street retail. We do not see things that way. At worst they fill outlets that would otherwise be empty, but the best maintain the highest standards of presentation, and contribute to footfall by enriching retail choice.

However, these continuing efforts to erode the attractive historic character of the town are not helping to maintain a vibrant centre. We have objected because of the over use of names and logos on the shopfront.

The proposed housing development at Windy Edge is one of the most complex and controversial applications currently under discussion. The Highways Agency has requested a delay for more detailed consideration of the transport implications, so we are unlikely to see a decision in the near future. Meanwhile, this development has presented us with a dilemma. There are good reasons to be concerned about any development on this site. These include the impact on the landscape, such as views from the historic parkland across the river; difficult access from Alnmouth Road, the additional load on transport infrastructure, public services, etc. Nevertheless, if we believed there were a real need for more housing in Alnwick we would have to view this site as less problematic than some of the alternatives. The estimates of housing demand that were developed at county level had to be taken into consideration for the ADNP, and on that basis it was inevitable that this site would be earmarked for housing. We support the ADNP, so while we had concerns over the impact on the

wider landscape, access, traffic and public services the way these were ameliorated would need to be considered in the context of specific proposals.

However, NCC have now withdrawn the draft local plan, so their estimates of housing demand are no longer relevant. These specific proposals fail to address access issues, and raise new concerns about creating a "rat-run" between Denwick Lane and Alnmouth Road. The complex phasing of the development introduces new concerns around how public footpaths will be retained, and doubt about how the development might evolve over time. On the other hand, an investment on this scale provides a unique opportunity to improve sustainable transport links between the town centre, schools, and this part of town. These could include a bus route through Allerburn Lea, and improved walking and cycling routes along Fisher Lane.

In brief, we question whether this development is required. We do not believe it should proceed without greater clarity on phasing, amelioration of the impact on the landscape, and better understanding of the traffic impact. It should only proceed with an appropriate contribution towards sustainable transport and public services.



The other controversial proposal is for a retail park at Willowburn. Here most public debate is polarised between those who fear the economic impact on town centre retail, and those persuaded by the promise to attract a high-profile name, and hence bring additional retail spend to the town. If that was the choice on offer, this would, indeed be a difficult balancing act.

It is not.

In a volatile and uncertain retail market nobody can guarantee that the rumoured anchor will remain in this location, or even become established in the first place. What this application really proposes is an increase in retail space, outside the town centre and outside the retail corridor that the ADNP outlined (along South Road between the town centre and Willowburn).

The Planning and Retail Statement that was submitted with the application puts considerable effort into demonstrate that the outcome will increase consumer choice, that there will be no impact on investment in the town centre that the impact on local retailers will be negligible, and there are no alternative sites. However, it contains a number of inconsistencies and questionable assumptions. To put it mildly, it is unconvincing.

To satisfy the requirements of the ADNP the applicant needs to demonstrate that there is a need for such a development, and to satisfy planners that there are no suitable town centre or edge of centre sites. On that basis it should be rejected.

But there's more.

Highways England are already concerned about safety and capacity at the A1 junction. We do not believe that anyone has sufficient understanding of the cumulative impact of additional housing at Greensfield, the proposed development at Windy Edge, the new High School, developments on Lionheart, etc. Without taking time to develop that understanding it would be irresponsible to approve further traffic movements, on a site that lies directly between a busy junction, and a large school.

# Councillor Gordon Castle responds to our last issue

In response to a section in November's Newsletter about retrospective planning applications, and work undertaken in Alnwick without planning permission having been sought or granted, I would like to make some points. The accusation made is that some applicants, private individuals and public companies (the implication is of increasing numbers) are "riding roughshod" over the planning process by beginning works that are described as "contraventions" and that county councillors need to ensure that the democratic process is followed. As a member of council planning committees for 20 years I can assure the Civic Society that members follow the rules and do not condone or overlook breaches, but the Civic Society should first be aware of the rules before asserting that they are being broken!

A breach of planning control is defined in section 171A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as:

- the carrying out of development without the required planning permission; or,
- failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted.

However, a planning breach in itself is not illegal and the council will often permit a retrospective application where planning permission has not been sought. If the applicant refuses to submit a planning application when asked to do so, then councils may consider taking steps to compel them to submit one, a slightly different issue.

Moreover, the applicant may apply for permission before or after work has started. In beginning work before planning permission has been granted, the applicant runs the risk of being ordered to alter or even remove it, but that is outside the council's control until elected members make such an order. Refusal of planning permission is not an order to remove or alter work, but a stage in the planning process required by law.

## What this means for Members of the Society

*It is helpful for us all to be reminded that the powers of planning committees are not unlimited. So thanks are due to Councillor Castle for setting out the position faced by those who serve on these committees. However, we still don't think this is the whole story. It is reassuring that our representatives are well advised, and the last thing we want to do is to urge them to operate outside the law. So we ought to clarify our position.*

The reason we have a planning system is to control development. We want to ensure that the best of our heritage is conserved, that the people of Alnwick have good quality of life, and that a better life for one does not make life worse for neighbours or for future generations. In that context, planning committees play an important role, but the planning authority has wider responsibilities, and wider influence.

### "ask not what your county can do for you..."

All applicants should understand the risks they run if they breach the rules. For most private owners, the greatest risk of going ahead without planning permission is that their building potentially loses value, and they risk having to pay for redoing work. Beyond that, we can all help our representatives to raise awareness of the other sanctions that are available.

Northumberland doesn't issue many notices, but in the year to September 2017 they issued one Temporary stop notice, one Breach of condition notice, used an Enforcement notice eight times, and a Planning Contravention notice thirty times. It is rare to prosecute when works that require listed building consent are carried out without obtaining that consent: but it is worth noting that the maximum penalty is two years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine.

Applicants may appeal against refusal and powers are then delegated to government appointed inspectors, whose decisions are usually final. If the decision to refuse is confirmed, members may approve an enforceable order to remove or alter work carried out. There is no appeal against approvals made by officers or planning committees.

Equally relevant, officers and elected members may not weight their views publicly against applications because they are retrospective (though of course one cannot always know what motivates their judgement) and giving reasons to refuse an application solely, or even mainly because it is retrospective invites a successful appeal at the taxpayer's expense. I occasionally say in public at planning meetings (to illustrate my libertarian instincts!) that you can do anything you like in this country unless there is a law to stop you. Officers and elected members must consider all applications, retrospective or prospective, in the same light.

The important exception to all I have said above concerns listed buildings, and it remains a criminal offence to carry out an unauthorised alteration to a listed building. Curiously, the law is much less clear about an owner's obligations to maintain it!

I hope this is helpful in considering planning matters that quite properly concern the Civic Society. As an elected NCC member I Chair the North Northumberland Area Council that now has extensive delegated planning authority empowering every elected member to vote on all local planning applications referred to it from an area that includes Amble to Rothbury and Alnwick to Berwick. I also sit on the Strategic Planning Committee that determines all countywide applications of more than 100 houses, and any that are of major significance. Planning law is very complex and I do not claim to have covered much of it here, but these important features do need to be fully appreciated.

We can also encourage others to appreciate the values that the system is designed to protect. Highlighting both good and poor practice has impact: whether the applicant is a business conscious of its image, or an individual taking note of what their neighbours think. That's why, in our constitution, our purpose is not only to "encourage high standards of architecture and town planning"; but also to "stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of Alnwick and its surroundings"; and to "encourage the conservation, development and improvement of the features which contribute to pleasing and convenient conditions in which to live and work". We've had a particularly productive year in 2017 with our meetings, publications, and co-operation with other organisations. The continuing support of members, their friends and neighbours, and others all helps us to continue this work.

A rigorous planning system prevents corruption and injustice, and members appreciate the contributions of Councillor Castle, and our other representatives at Town and County level. But effective planning, the integrity of the process, and public confidence also rely on professionals. Across the UK many of these critical resources are being cut. We need the authorities to have the skills, tools, and the leadership they need. If they are going to fight for adequate resources, our elected representatives need the community (and particularly members of ACS) to demonstrate that we value rigorous and effective planning, and decisive enforcement. We need to ensure that our elected representatives understand the level of public support for maintaining staffing levels in conservation, planning and enforcement on behalf of Northumberland.

# News in Brief

Members will have been saddened to hear that John Southwell passed away on 1st January, aged 94 years, leaving his wife, Mary, two daughters and four grandsons. Well-known as a long-standing member of the Civic Society, and Alnwick resident for twenty years, John served the society well as Treasurer, over the millennium, before passing the responsibility to Gill Parker. Few will be aware that John was awarded an OBE for his service to education in Burma, while working for the Ministry of Overseas Development. John and Mary first met while working for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, and went on to live in Ghana, Singapore, Nigeria, Jordan, and elsewhere in the Middle East, as well as Ponteland and Alnwick. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last year.

Members may wish to know that the society contributed to the cost of the Blue Plaque commemorating the life of William Davidson that was unveiled in by the Mayor of Alnwick, Councillor

Alan Symmonds, on Bondgate Within in November. William Davidson was born in Alnwick in 1781, initially set up business as a pharmacist, and played a prominent role in the life of the town but is best known for his printing. His life and work is the subject of a permanent exhibition at Bailiffgate Museum.

The Society is also involved in a national campaign run by Civic Voice to encourage greater investment in conservation areas. More than 500 conservation areas are judged to be at risk. Alnwick was briefly considered at risk, and although this is no longer the case, we still share many problems with those which are: including poorly maintained roads and pavements, street clutter and erosion of important features. The jobs of 33% of conservation staff have been lost in the last ten years, and with other funding cuts the problem is likely to get worse. "The Big Conservation Conversation" was launched in 2016 to reverse this trend. David Lovie will represent the society

at an All Party Parliamentary Group meeting with MPs to discuss The Future of Conservation Areas. David will, no doubt, make good use of this opportunity to raise the profile of the society, and share some of the work we have been doing through initiatives like "Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes" to improve community awareness and appreciation of our own conservation area.

In our last edition we printed an extract from the 1822 Alnwick Improvement Act. This act required the occupier of every house to scrape, sweep and clean the pavement around their property, before 9:00 a.m. on Monday and Thursday every week. We asked if anyone knew whether this Act has been repealed. We now have it on good authority that it has. Thanks to a knowledgeable member we all now have more time on Monday and Thursday mornings to support the work of the society.



## Representation of the people

*Earl Grey's Representation of the People Act (1832) extended voting rights in counties to include small landowners, tenant farmers, and shopkeepers. Having proved reform was possible, the franchise was broadened in 1867 and in 1884. Still, until one hundred years ago, no women, and only 60% of men had the right to vote. The Representation of the People Act (1918) gained Royal assent a century ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1918, and extended voting rights to almost all men, and women over the age of 30.*

The franchise increased by 5.6 million men and 8.4 million women, and their first opportunity to cast a vote in a Parliamentary Election would come with the "Khaki" General Election called later that year (immediately after the Armistice which ended the First World War). The election was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918, although the count did not take place until 28<sup>th</sup> (to allow time to collect votes from soldiers overseas). The result was a landslide victory for the coalition government of David Lloyd George. Locally, Francis Blake (Liberal / Coalitionist) retained the Berwick seat, with a reduced majority, on a turnout of 40%. This is how the vote was reported in the Newcastle Journal, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1918

*The peculiar public apathy and absence of excitement which has marked the progress of the General Election – a fact commented on by the Prime minister – was still manifest on Saturday, when the electors went to the polls on undoubtedly the most momentous polling day in the history of the franchise. Momentous, not only because of the fateful issues which the newly-elected government will be called upon to decide, but because of the note-worthy and historical fact that the women of the country exercised their right for the first time of voting in a Parliamentary election.*

*Berwick: Sir Francis Blake, (Coalitionist). W. J. M. Armstrong (Independent) 25,221 electors, including about 8,000 women voters.*

*Polling opened quietly at Berwick, the election exciting little interest. Up to the afternoon only a small portion of the voters on the*

*roll had exercised the franchise, and of those the majority were women. Soldiers were allowed out of the barracks, but appeared to take little interest in what was going on.*

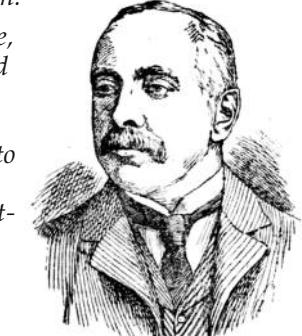
*During the forenoon, Sir Francis Blake, the Coalition candidate, motored round the various polling stations. He met with many of his supporters, with whom he freely chatted, and appeared to be absolutely satisfied with the way events were moving. Coalition supporters are sanguine of Sir Francis's prospects, though they readily admit that in areas round Alnwick considerable amount of support will go to Captain Watson-Armstrong.*

*Towards evening polling became a little more brisk, and laggard voters hastened to get their "cross" down before the booths closed.*

*At Alnwick the election excited little interest, and the poll was small. There are 4,138 voters on the list of the Alnwick polling district, but the great number did not record their votes. There was practically no stir, voting going on slowly and steadily, particularly in the evening. The women voter came up very well, forming, it is believed, about half of those who went to the poll.*

With all that in mind, we hope you have noted the date of our Annual General Meeting, on 21<sup>st</sup> March, at 7:30 p.m. in St James Centre, Pottergate. We are looking forward to a talk by Cliff Pettit on Growing up in Pre-War Alnwick. We will also review the year passed, plan the year ahead and elect the committee for the next twelve months (Nominations invited). We do not yet know whether our election will go down in history as "momentous", "excite little interest", or be characterised by "apathy and an absence of excitement" in Alnwick. But we can promise voting rights to all members, whatever their age or gender. We hope that both men and women will "come up well".

**Alnwick Civic Society**



# Quiz: Old photographs

Old photographs of Alnwick show what has changed, and what has not. They also reveal what our predecessors found picturesque.

Part of their charm lies in the background. Behind the subject, people of Alnwick go about their business, while scallywags play up to the camera.

These fragments are taken from old photographs that illustrated some well-known views of Alnwick. Do you recognise the locations?



## Diary dates

### Civic Society...

On March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00- 12:00 we will be holding a training session on Heritage Interpretation at Bailiffgate Museum. This is part of our Heritage Heroes project in conjunction with Heritage Lottery Fund. It is free and open to all. You can book a place on the Bailiffgate Museum web site.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at St James Centre in Pottergate. Nominations are invited for the committee, chair, treasurer and secretary. Cliff Pettit has kindly agreed to speak on Growing up in Pre-War Alnwick. This promises to be a popular and fascinating subject. This is your opportunity to join us as we celebrate a busy and successful year, and lay plans for another.

### ...and more

Meetings of the History Society are held at the Bailiffgate Museum, starting at 7.30 pm

27<sup>th</sup> February: Phil Huntley will talk on Hughes Bolckow, Shipbreakers from Blyth 1905-1980

27<sup>th</sup> March Andy Griffin will talk on Wheel May The Keel Row - History of the Tyneside Keelmen

24<sup>th</sup> April Topic to be confirmed

On 6<sup>th</sup> March we have been invited to speak to U3A about the Heritage Heroes Project.

## 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.

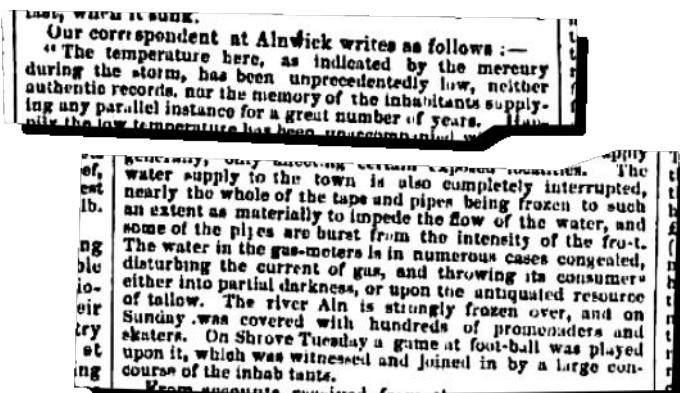
In response to changes in the planning system the society has been heavily involved in development of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, and works with local partners to influence policy at a county level. It seeks to influence national policy in co-operation with other bodies within the civic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



Founding Member

## Newcastle Courant - 23 Feb 1855



## Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes: Some kind comments:

Our thanks to everyone who has helped with the planning, research, writing, design, production, and distribution of Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes.

This is a sample of some of the encouraging support we have received since it was published:

- "I have started reading Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes and I am already engrossed within it!"

- "I am writing to congratulate the Civic Society on a first class publication. It is a very enjoyable and informative book to read and the photos and the artwork really enhance the narrative"
- "I have just finished reading the Heritage Heroes booklet that you kindly delivered. Fascinating stuff, well written and profusely illustrated..."
- "Congratulations - this is a great achievement"

## Quiz Answers

- A) Castle, Barbican
- B) War Memorial
- C) Market Cross
- D) St Michael's Pant / Fenkle Street
- E) Station
- F) Bondgate Within
- G) Bailiffgate
- H) Market Place / Town Hall