

May 2019

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Notice board

When we had to postpone last year's talk by Fiona White on the Tunnels of Alnwick it came as a disappointment to many. So we anticipate healthy interest on the revised date - 22nd May in St James's Centre, at 7:30.

On 10th July it's our summer outing - for a talk on the story of the Bowl Hole Ossuary at Bamburgh, with Jessica Turner.

November: our regular Any Questions topical debate - further details to be announced.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new members who have joined in recent months. It goes without saying that the continuing support of every member is also welcome. But we say it anyway.

Thanks to everyone who helped to put this edition together. We welcome your suggestions for the August issue.



Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 20th March in St James Centre.

Peter Ennor's review of the year covered the continuing walks and talks associated with "Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes", the traffic survey that highlighted growing problems on Wagonway Road, a visit to Lilburn Tower, and successful events such as Any Questions.

Gill Parker reported that the society's finances remained sound, and membership had slightly increased. Sadly, after eight years as chair Peter no longer wished to stand, but the rest of the committee was re-elected, Peter will continue as a committee member, and David Lovie has taken over as acting chair until a more permanent solution can be found. A presentation to Peter recognised the significant contribution that he has made to the society (and to the town) during his period as chair.

Bill Batey is currently Chief Officer & Town Clerk for Alnwick Town Council, and following the formal business he treated us to an overview of his 44 years in Local Government including 19 in Alnwick. Over that time Bill has overseen some significant changes in the structure of local government with the transfer of responsibilities from Alnwick District Council to Northumberland County Council on reorganisation of Local Government in April 2009.

Highlights of Bill's work in the town include the construction of Willowburn Sports Centre, moving the council depot from Wagonway Road to Lionheart, new sports facilities in Amble and Rothbury financed through innovative disposal of council assets, and relocating counter services to more convenient locations for the public.

Today's town council is significantly smaller than the former District Council - both in terms of budget and staffing. However town and parish councils in Northumberland are playing an increasingly important role as local government adapts to changing needs and continuing budget pressure. In part this involves taking on more responsibility for discretionary services of importance to Alnwick. Examples include allotments, signage, planting, CCTV and public conveniences. The Town Council also plays an increasingly important role in harmonising delivery of services, partnership working and in the contribution that local knowledge makes to effective decision making at county level. Examples of this include the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan. One of the first and one of the most comprehensive in Northumberland this has recently influenced the inquiry into plans for the Willowburn Trading Estate and the rejection of plans for housing at Stoney Hills. The Town Council worked closely with the county to ensure that the recent parking review took account of local knowledge, and it plays a key role in the Alnwick Forum, Town Team and shaping the Local Transport plan.

Current issues for the town include the future for the three school sites (Lindisfarne, High School and Duke's Middle School), the Bus Station and the viability of the town centre. We will never go back to a situation where the Town Council operates like the former District Council. It will, though, continue to play an important role as facilitator, influencer, and voice for local people. Bill will retire at the end of September. We are glad we had this opportunity to wish him well.

Northumbrian Roots (by Peter Burns)

Our thanks to Peter Burns for contributing this article and sharing his map of Mesolithic and Iron Age remains in Northumberland.

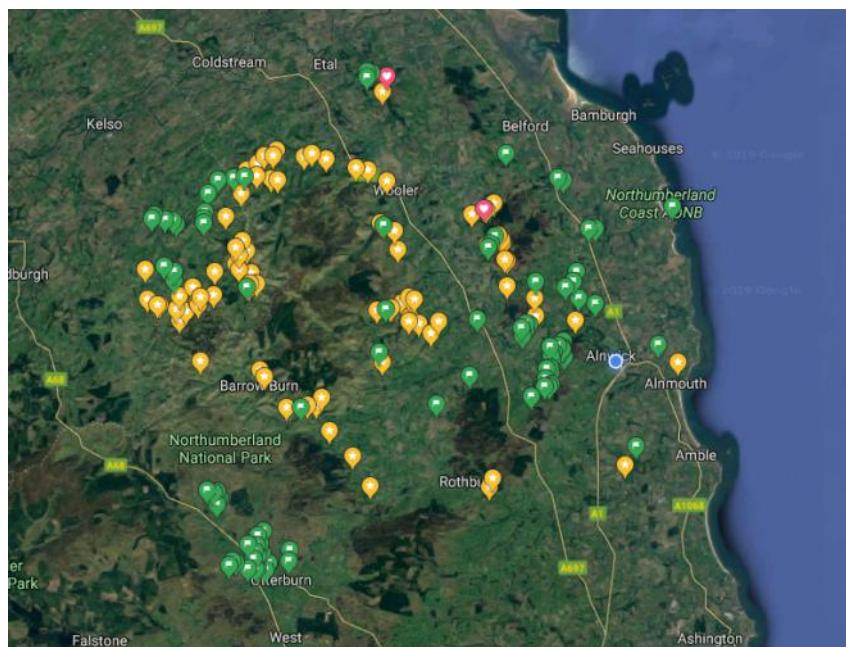
If you have had the pleasure to drive around, or through Northumberland, it wouldn't take long to see a castle or at least see a sign post to one. These are only but a fraction of Northumberland's long, and prosperous history - as anyone with the internet can attest. Maps are digitised nowadays and can be used to search and locate many interesting things, in my case, buried monuments and forts.

One spectacular and not well-known site is in Alnwick itself; Hulne Park to be precise. Within these ancient hunting grounds can be found two standing stones presiding over the lands to the north, one which is littered with hillforts. To find these stones, you must follow the 'yellow' trail around Hulne Park, past Brizlee Tower, through the forest, and then to the hillside. It is like a pilgrimage as no cars are allowed in the park, so you must walk the 2 miles there (and back).

From the Stones, you can see past Eglingham and the tiny church of Old Bewick. There is a small but steep hill overlooking this Kirk, which if scaled, can be found the remains of two iron age hill forts. From here you can see for miles, the river below, the Cheviots in the distance, a great vantage point in any age or time. Old Bewick's hillforts are also the location of some remarkable 'cup and ring' etchings in the surrounding stones.

The Cheviot hills take prominence in the view, and

within these hills lies many a hillfort and barrow. The largest and most awe inspiring is Yeaveering Bell, which is located just west of Wooler. The ramparts are still visible today, as are many roundhouses and huts dotted within the structure and around it, showing the significance of the area in times past; our ancestors memory live on in these ancient and nearly forgotten lands through the cultivation and transformation of their habitat.



A map showing Mesolithic / Iron Age structures as found by searching google maps. The yellow ones are scheduled monuments, and the greens are likely sites, which Peter intends to explore.

Heritage at risk in the area

As a society, our principal focus is on the town of Alnwick and the conservation area in particular. However, at this time of year we sometimes like to look at issues that may interest members in the wider area. Within 10km of Alnwick there are seven entries in the Historic England register of Heritage at Risk. Members will be aware of the concerns over Bondgate Tower and Narrowgate House. We understand that essential repairs to the Church of St James at Shilbottle are now complete, using funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund Grants for Places of Worship. In light of Peter's map (above) members may also be interested in these.

Heiferlaw Defended Settlement (5km away)

A defended Iron Age settlement, 100m north of Holywell, incorporating the remains of a WW-II zero station. The enclosure is roughly circular, with two ramparts of earth and stone and traces of an outer ditch. Condition: Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems. Principal Vulnerability: Forestry. Trend: Declining. During the war, in the event of an invasion, the Special Duties Section would have been responsible for collecting intelligence about enemy forces. They recruited people such as doctors, nurses and vicars, whose work required free movement. These would leave intelligence reports in concealed 'letter boxes' under rocks, in tree holes, etc. The reports were collected by operatives who had access to a secret radio transmitter, then collated by a 'zero station', and relayed to military headquarters. The zero station at Heiferlaw was concealed underground, and was probably the only one of its kind in Northumberland.

Ellsnook round barrow (5.5km away)

Round barrows are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age. This example, 175m north east of Heiferlaw Bridge includes the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow. Partial excavation in 1921 revealed a stone cist, containing a Bronze Age funerary pot. The position of this excavation is denoted by a slight hollow in the centre of the mound and the remains of a narrow trench in the south west quadrant. Condition: Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems. Principal Vulnerability: Forestry. Trend: Stable

Defended settlement (7km away)

Romano-British settlement and field system, 100 metres south and east of Jenny's Lantern, Hedgeley. Remains of at least 15 circular huts and a field system. Survival of such a field system is rare, making this site especially valuable. Condition: Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems. Principal Vulnerability: Bracken. Trend: Stable

Romano-British enclosed settlement (7km away)

800 metres north west of East Bolton, Hedgeley. The foundations of at least three stone houses; and an earth and stone wall. Early accounts describe a further two hut-circles now under vegetation. Condition: Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems. Principal Vulnerability: Plant growth. Trend: Unknown

Narrowgate House (historic building recording extracts)

A planning application was submitted by Stablewood Leisure Ltd. for conversion of Narrowgate House into five short-term rental or residential units, with three new-build residential units in the garden, involving the demolition of a late 18th / early 19th century coach-house and stable building. Planning permission was granted, subject to a programme of archaeological mitigation. This had two main elements - historic building recording, and archaeological excavation. Northern Counties Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake the historic building recording. The results make interesting reading. They include specialist reports on the historic wallpapers and windows. This is a taster. The full reports can be found at

<https://tinyurl.com/y5chq7ht>.

Narrowgate House is also known as 'General Lambert's House', or No. 31 and 33 Narrowgate. It is a substantial Grade II* listed building situated on the west side of Narrowgate, part of the medieval street pattern of Alnwick, and a little north of its junction with Pottergate. This area is in close proximity to Alnwick Castle, and lies within the suggested line of the 15th century town wall. An extensive area of backlands or gardens west of the house includes a coach-house and stables range, also listed Grade II*, and on the north the house adjoins the Grade II* listed building known as Dorothy Forster's house.

Narrowgate House appears to date from the later 17th or early 18th century, since a town plan of 1624 shows the site as divided into strip fields. The first building was a sub-rectangular single-pile house, fronting the street, perhaps divided into three properties. This was subsequently extended westwards, acquiring



the coach-house and stables perhaps c.1800, and was considerably remodelled and re-faced with ashlar possibly c.1830, when owned by the prominent Alnwick solicitor, John Lambert. The present building footprint was fully established by c. 1860.



The re-facing created, in external appearance at least, a substantial Regency-style town house, though it may also at this time have served as offices for John Lambert's legal practice, since he appears to have resided in Bondgate. After Lambert's death the house passed to his son Anthony, also a solicitor, and in 1861 was sold to William Dickson, of Thorp and Dickson Solicitors.



The house continued in use as solicitors offices until, under the ownership of the Thorp family, the practice closed in 2003. A number of schemes for conversion were subsequently prepared, but none reached fruition. The house was finally sold by the Thorps to the present owners for whom this report has been undertaken. Fittings and contents of the house were sold at auction, and a quantity of solicitor's papers deposited at Northumberland Archives.

Internally Narrowgate House is a palimpsest of features and fittings from the



late-17th / early 18th century on-

ward. The most extensive and visible early fabric survives at basement level where, probably as a result of the house becoming offices in 1860s, there appears to have been little subsequent alteration. A kitchen range with vaneturned roasting spit mechanism is a particularly important survival. The ground and first floors which contain the principal rooms show more evidence for alteration, possibly associated with the re-facing, though little subsequent alteration. The second floor, like the basement, retains more visible fabric from the original house.



Planning matters

No doubt the planning matter of most interest to members will be the proposals for development of the Duke's School site. We have commented, and on the opposite page summarised, other comments that have been submitted by the public and various specialists.

The application to discharge archaeological conditions at Narrowgate House has been approved. Historic England have also provided a grant to make the building safe. We understand that work should be completed by mid-summer. We have included some excerpts from the Archaeological report on Page 3, and encourage any member with an interest to examine the full document.

We will be interested to see developments at Greensfield, where a drainage plan needed to be submitted and approved. It has been rejected. Also at Windy Edge, where bronze-age fire pits have been uncovered and archaeologists want to undertake a larger and more detailed dig.

We still await further news on the proposed play village at Alnwick Garden.

At the former Oscar's Wine Bar, in Narrowgate consent is sought to refurbish the ground floor bar and convert the upper floors to guest rooms. The proposals include a new shopfront and the creation of openings to link the premises with the public house next door. We have commented in support, with the suggestion that evidence is left of the walls to the back which at one time delineated the burgage plots.

Permission has been sought to change the use of the library in Green Batt to four residential units. The conservation officer has made no comment on internal changes, as the building is not listed. They regard the removal of unsympathetic extensions as a positive development, but requested clarification of a proposed extension at the rear, and were not satisfied with the initial response. The extension will obscure a significant part of the rear, and is visible from the church grounds. The harm is not substantial, but needs to be justified.

We had some doubts, but chose not to comment on the new signs and changes to the former Iceland Store at 32-34 Bondgate. Within This has now been approved.

At Willowburn an application for trolley parks has been approved, we have heard reports of concerns about construction noise that may have breached planning conditions. However, our most significant concern is that further applications have been made for signage in this general area - key to first impressions of the town.

We have had expressed support for new facilities proposed at the football club, with reservations about the impact of floodlighting on nearby houses, and the design of the pavilion, which could show more confidence and individuality in the context of the site.

The committee welcomed proposals from Barter Books to create an ice cream parlour, but we saw no reason to comment. Nor did we comment on the following:

- Amended proposals at the Old Post Office in Clayport Street for the addition of velux windows and increasing the width of window openings at the rear and the removal of some internal walls.
- A retrospective application to regularise aspects of the new Bike Track.

- Vodaphone antennae near Lion House
- Reduce the cherry tree crown at Rowan Cottage in Prudhoe Street

- New bin stores at The Maltings

- Introducing a bike shop on Sawmill Industrial Estate
- Contamination scheme at former gasworks in South Rd

We have commented in support of an application to repair the balcony at the White Swan, recording our pleasure that the balcony is being repaired and retained. We did not comment on an unusual (some might say 'bizarre') application for construction of a timber lodge in the garden of the White Swan. This has since been refused.

At 9 Percy Street we did not comment on an application for creation of a balcony at first floor level but the Town Council has objected on the basis that the materials, style and design are out of character with the other properties in the conservation area.



Pre-application consultations

Early and meaningful engagement in planning can:

- Improve the quality and relevance of new developments.
- Give people a voice and build their confidence to influence decisions affecting their local area.
- Build understanding between developers, planning authorities and communities.

As part of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Government made it compulsory for developers to consult with local communities before applying for 'major developments'. The same compulsory system does not apply in England, but early consultation still takes place. Indeed some recent criticism of major developments in Alnwick has been that consultation was badly timed, poorly advertised, or not taken into account. Not that it didn't take place.

So the guidance that has been developed in Wales may be of interest to members, individuals in the wider community, general community groups, special interest groups, and elected representatives. In fact all who have a say on development in the area. Further information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y6xwx7qa>.

Their four top tips are:

- Have you fully considered the proposal?
- How could the development be improved?
- Refer to the Local Development Plan
- Refer to other material considerations
- Keep it concise



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Duke's Middle School Comments

The proposed development of the Duke's Middle School site includes conversion of the school to 27 residential apartments, demolition and rebuild of the modern rear extension, development of specialist elderly living accommodation (49 apartments) and 22 residential dwellings, creation of a landscaped open area, and ancillary works including car parking, access and drainage. At the time of writing there have been 65 public comments on the proposals, which are pending consideration. No decision has been taken.

The Society has commented as follows

1. We are generally in favour of the development of the Duke's School building, but the two other groups of houses on the site are not acceptable. The Neighbourhood plan identifies this area as local green space and there is no special justification for using this green space for housing. There is no identified housing need in the area. The identified housing requirement for Alnwick as set out in the current local plan has already been met. The scale and design of the elderly accommodation is overly massive.
2. We do not think there are enough parking spaces in the development, particularly serving the elderly accommodation.
3. We are concerned by the design of the accesses to the development and do not consider that the current road network can support so many extra cars and delivery vans.
4. We think the status of the remaining green area should be clarified so that it remains open for public use in the future.
5. We note with pleasure that many trees have been retained on the site.

The submission by the Building Conservation Officer characterises the impact of the proposals on the listed building and its setting as "*less than substantial harm*" They emphasise that weight should be given to the conservation of the historic asset, seek further detail regarding work on the examination hall, and more detail on construction materials for the proposed extensions, new windows and external doors, replacement windows, sashes, casements and doors in the historic fabric of the listed building, a window schedule, and detailed methodology for the introduction of new pipes, vents and ducts, and the introduction of services, fire separation, noise and thermal upgrading.

The proposals have inevitably attracted numerous other comments, including a particularly detailed submission from the Duke's School Neighbourhood Residents Association. It would be impractical to capture the full detail of all these comments here. Members who are interested should consult the comments and other documents on Northumberland County Council Planning Applications Public Access Portal.

The number and standard of the submissions reflect the fact that this is an iconic site in the town, with strong associations for the people of Alnwick.

Objections include:

Neighbourhood plan

- South end of the Duke's field was designated as a Local Green Space. The proposed development does not meet criteria for exceptional circumstances that are needed to override this.

- Increased pressure on local services – particularly medical
- Loss of playing field

Housing Need

- Questioning the level of market demand and planning assumptions. Comparing allocations to the amount of recent and current development
- Questioning whether this scale of enabling development is really required to finance refurbishing and retaining the listed school buildings

Landscape

- Loss of green space
- Light pollution
- Ecological impact on wildlife and flora. Particular concern for nocturnal wildlife, and especially on the south side of the site
- Visual impact on landscape character and setting, including widespread concern over the scale and build quality of the McCarthy & Stone sheltered accommodation
- Some examples of development that will overlook neighbouring residential properties
- Several concerns over protection of boundary walls, and some concern over the view from Summer Seats
- Need to make provision for long-term management and permanent protection of access to public space

- Immediate loss of trees, and need to plan for long-term tree management

Transport and access

- Increased traffic in surrounding area, including widespread concern about the immediate neighbourhood (Swansfield Park Road, the Avenue and the Dunterns) and some concern over the wider local network (Wagonway Road, Prudhoe Street, Blakelaw Road)
- Unknown impact of development on the wider strategic road network
- Construction impact, including restriction of noise, early / late / weekend work and addressing safety risks associated with neighbouring schools and play area
- Inadequate provision of parking on-site.



News in Brief

We were saddened to hear the news that Charles Westendarp had died in Cramlington Hospital after a short illness. After moving to Alnwick Charles played an active role in supporting the town. We got to know Charles mainly through his contribution as a member of the writing team for Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes, and for his work as a town councillor. Others will have known Charles through the wide variety of different activities that he was involved in. We will all miss his energy and enthusiasm.

Sir David Attenborough has raised awareness of the global issue of litter in our oceans. But litter is a more local issue too. Littered streets give the impression that people don't care about their surroundings or neighbours. Litter spoils our enjoyment of the natural environment, and damages nature too. Research on roadside litter by the RSPB and Keep Britain Tidy found that littered drinks and bottles along our roadsides are killing millions of native mammals every year. More than 8% of bottles and almost 5% of the cans contained remains of rare mammals, including shrews, bank voles and wood mice.

So it is heartening that over 80 people took part in the annual community tidy-up day on Sunday 24th March. As well as some members of the society this included councillors, members of the public and representatives of diverse mix of organisations including Alnwick in Bloom, the Chamber of Trade, Friends of the Earth, Cubs & Scouts, Alnwick Garden, the Junior Football Club, Choral Society, Alnwick Dolphins, HospiceCare, Loving Alnwick, and RAF Boulmer. Litter picking, sweeping, weeding and tidying concentrated on the Bus Station, Greenwell Lane / Greenwell Road car parks, Sainsbury's and Homebase car parks, Swansfield Park, Roxburgh Place Car Park, Taylor Drive, Willowburn Avenue, Upper Dodds Lane and Correction House Lane, Stonewell Lane, and the Market Place.

There are over 3,000 miles of roads in Northumberland and keeping them clean and tidy is the responsibility of the County Council. Clearing litter and rubbish which dropped in the street or thrown from vehicles costs the council (i.e. us) around £2.6m each year. Their Enforcement Team and Legal Services successfully prosecuted 20 cases of littering and 7 of fly tipping last year. There have also been substantial

increases in fines for littering and fly tipping. The county has gained national recognition for their campaigns encouraging people not to drop litter, and for community engagement. Public awareness has grown, and this increased awareness has contributed to the increased number of people reporting litter.

A bid by the town council for funding from the Government's Future High Street Fund has not been accepted. However, funding has been assigned by the County Council and Town Council towards a feasibility study regarding upgrading to the Bus Station.

The BBC shared data unit has found that a "patchy" network of charging points is discouraging UK drivers from embracing electric cars. Their analysis has been reported locally because Northumberland came out particularly well. Drivers in Northumberland can access 85 different charging points (the fifth highest number for any Local Authority) and the average distance between points in Northumberland is under 3km. We think the current position in Alnwick is that there are three locations where the general public have access to vehicle charging points: Greenwell Road Car Park, Willowburn Leisure Centre and Infirmary Drive. There are also charging points for customers / employees at Blackshaws on Lionheart Enterprise Park, outside the office of Challenging Learning at Cawledge Business Park and at Ventex House on Willowburn Trading Estate.

Please let us know if you have information that is more up-to-date.

We understand that a total of £200K has been allocated for repairs and improvements to the cobbles. While this is not sufficient for a complete solution, it is enough to set a precedent for future work. So a sensitive approach is needed which takes account of the historical context, and we have been asked to advise on this. At this stage our primary concerns are the pedestrian crossing points,

and the wagonway. However, because any immediate work will shape longer-term solutions we would also like to see consideration now to an appropriate design and realistic costings for relaying the whole area.



By the time of the next newsletter we hope that progress will have been made on a trial pedestrianisation scheme in Narrowgate. After positive initial feedback from the public, we hear that some traders are concerned over the impact on footfall in Narrowgate, and members of the public have raised concerns about the impact on traffic elsewhere in the town.

At the invitation of the town team, Bill Grimsey gave a talk to approximately 70 people concerned about the changes faced by town centres. His message was that town centres should not be just about shops but they should also offer cultural, recreation and community experiences. Heritage could make a significant contribution.

Where's that castle?

These are some reviews of local castles, taken from a well-known online review site. Can you identify each castle from the way that it has been described? (answers on back page)

- 1) The castle itself is just a few broken walls and lots of grass in the middle. Good views from the walls out to sea and entertaining watching the hundreds of seabirds.
- 2) The castle is impressive and well worth a visit. The state rooms great. The staff around the castle and tour guides great. That's where it ends. The fake figures dotted around the castle roofs and walls? Really? Who ever thought of that?
- 3) A bit derelict, not much there. Most of the interesting buildings gone except main building that is empty and derelict. Unless you are a Castle anorak give it a miss.
- 4) No entry fee and worth a stop if you are passing and have time, but don't go out of your way to visit. Park at the church for a very short walk down to the castle, worth a quick look around. Castle is ruined and no rooms / towers are left to enter etc.
- 5) Beautiful castle from the outside in a fantastic setting BUT don't bother paying to go inside. The grounds around the castle afford a perfect setting for children to run around and enjoy open air, the lime kilns were interesting.

A quick punch up the bracket

We think this picture quiz is tougher than normal. There's reason why we don't want to be too helpful. We'll come to that later.

In this context, a bracket is neither a punctuation mark, nor a slang term for a facial feature. It's a right-angled support attached to a wall. There are hundreds across the town centre. Some are intended to hold flower baskets. Others hold signs for shops and other facilities. They have a role to play in decorating the town and advertising our diverse retail and catering offer. They help visitors to find their way around.

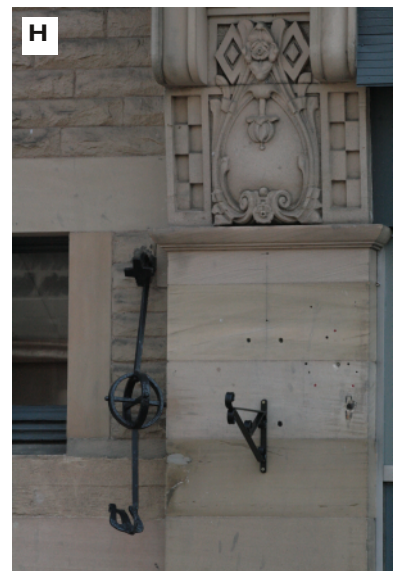
But many brackets are no longer in use. They presumably had purpose in the past. Most look as though they have held signs. Some could have been installed to hold lights, flag poles, traffic signs or window boxes. But today it's not always clear what the original purpose will have been.

Even those which no longer appear to have a practical use can be attractive or intriguing. They are part of the story of our town, and nobody would suggest that they should all go. But some de-cluttering surely wouldn't come amiss.

These examples can all be found in the conservation area. More than half will be passed on a short walk around the central "triangle". And the answers are on the back page.

As with any town, much of the story of Alnwick is hidden in plain sight. It goes un-noticed. So we hope this will prompt members to look out for these brackets, encourage others to do the same, and share what you know of the stories behind these (and other) examples.

But we have another agenda. As you take a fresh look at the upper levels of our historic buildings we hope you will also join us in raising awareness of the inadequate maintenance and the amount of unnecessary clutter that sits alongside these intriguing examples of how past activity has shaped our townscape.



Diary dates

Civic Society...

It was a disappointment to many when we had to postpone last year's talk by Fiona White on the Tunnels of Alnwick. So we anticipate healthy interest on the date that has been rearranged - 22nd May in St James's Centre, Pottergate at 7:30.

On 10th July it's our summer outing - for a talk on the story of the Bowl Hole Ossuary at Bamburgh, with Jessica Turner. Contact a committee member for details.

November: our regular Any Questions topical debate - details to be announced.

...and more

Bailiffgate Museum to 8th Sept. 100 Years of Fashion. Featuring the work of world famous designers and gowns loaned by super model Stella Tennant; Jane, Duchess of Northumberland, and others.

Bailiffgate Museum 4th June, 7:30. Talk: Coquetdale Wills Project. A voluntary exercise to make the ancient wills recorded in Northumberland available online. It will be a huge benefit to many of those researching their ancestors. Douglas Burdon, Head of the Project will tell us all about it, and especially progress made in the Coquetdale area.

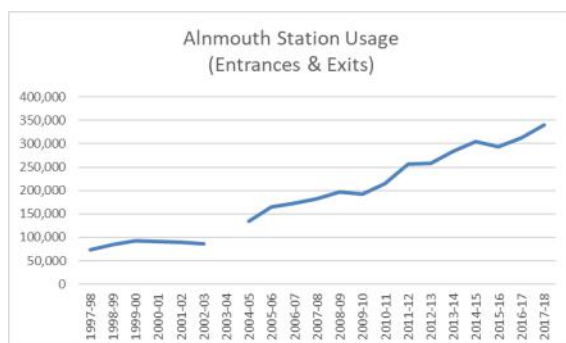
Bailiffgate Museum 2nd July 7:30. Talk: Alnwick's Cholera Families. Cholera ravaged Alnwick in 1849. Over 130 people died in a few weeks. Hear about the background to this epidemic, where it came from and how it arrived. Hear also what happened to their remaining relatives after such a tragedy, with many leaving the area to take up a new life elsewhere.

Meetings of the Alnwick and District Local history Society take a break over the summer months. However, they publish an annual calendar, which can be found on their web site at <http://www.alnwicklhs.org.uk/>. This includes a talk by Sue Wood on Dickson, Archer, Thorpe (see page 3) on 22nd October.

Alnmouth Station Statistics

Estimates of Station Usage are published annually by the Office of Rail and Road. The estimates include the total numbers of people travelling from or to the station (entries and exits); and the total number interchanging at the station. In 2017-8 (the latest figures available) only 898 changed train at Alnmouth, but there were 339,826 entrances and exits. That's an increase of 9% over the previous year, and a five-fold increase over twenty years.

Newcastle saw twenty-five times as many arrivals and departures in 2017-8, but twenty years earlier it was 65 times busier than Alnmouth.



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

Acting Chair: David Lovie (davidlovie307@btinternet.com)

Treasurer and Membership: Gill Parker

Honorary Secretary: Sue Smith

Other Executive Committee members:

- Peter Ennor
- John Hipwell
- Mary McIlroy Hipwell
- Elizabeth Jones
- Peter Reed / Newsletter (peter.reed@aligre.co.uk)

Web: www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk

Email: alnwickcivicsoc@gmail.com

Twitter: [@AlnwickCivicSoc](https://twitter.com/AlnwickCivicSoc)

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

Where's that castle?

- 1) Dunstanburgh
 - 2) Alnwick
 - 3) Warkworth
 - 4) Edlingham
 - 5) Lindisfarne
- Quiz Answers**
- A) Antique showroom, Narrowgate
 - B) Market Place
 - C) Tru Physio & Yoga, Fenkle Street
 - D) Glendale Paints, Bondgate Within
 - E) Gas lamp bracket at bottom of Northumberland Street
 - F) Northumberland Hall
 - G) Old Post Office, Clayport
 - H) Former Co-op, Fenkle Street