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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello Members,

A great deal has been happening in the Town in the last few months. The Neighbourhood Plan has reached the stage of reports from the Working Groups going for approval. The Civic Society has supported this project and a member of the key participants have been given a platform to air their views at our meetings.

It is hoped that it will bring great enhancement to the town with a wide vision allied to imagination. Tourism is central to the economic development but at the moment it is not a particularly good experience for many visitors with a poorly located Tourist Office, unattractive High Street and a shortage of good hotels. Of course, in Berwick, there are a number of excellent 'Bed and Breakfasts'.

However, two projects could greatly benefit Berwick in this respect. Firstly, The Barracks Heritage Hub which has now reached a crucial point. Consultancy work is required if there is to be any chance of raising the substantial capital funding needed to deliver the project. Organisations are being

approached with a view to contributing funds for this consultancy work and The Civic Society Executive have agreed that the Society should help with this. Secondly, there has been good news concerning the Government grant of £2 million to replace the dilapidated jetty at Tweed Dock with a Port to pave way for cruise ships.

The controversial Coach Park in Chapel Street is now open. It has to be said that it is beautifully constructed with flowers, shrub beds and trees and lovely stone work but with no toilet facility and it remains to be seen whether it will bring any benefit to the town. It could always revert to being a car park or being used for a really interesting feature.

Recently, the Civic Society was invited to have a tour round two very impressive new developments. Firstly, 76 Ravensdowne where a group of us were shown round by Simon Maden. Then another group visited the iconic Cowe's building in Bridge Street where the Conservation Officer, Annette Reeves, gave us a guided tour.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we were invited to participate in a Service of Thanksgiving for Berwick-upon-

Tweed in Berwick Parish Church. A number of our members attended and our pop-up boards were on display.

The Main Guard will soon be open for the four summer months where there will be an exciting new exhibition created by Dr Catherine Kent on Elizabethan Berwick - this will be put up by Jim Herbert. We are very grateful to Marion Mead for the work she does in The Main Guard with administration and organising the publications which are on sale. We do need co-ordinators and stewards so anyone interesting in helping please contact any of the office-bearers.

We have just had our AGM which was very successful. There is a strong team now of Office-Bearers and much thanks is due to Vice-Chairman, Catherine Seymour, Deputy Vice Chairman John Webster and Hon, Treasurer, Michael Gallico for their continuing support and hard work. They have all been confirmed in their positions for 2017/2018 and I have agreed to stay on as Chairman for one more year to oversee all the aspects of the Society's work and get the Sub-Committees functioning well. We are still without an Hon. Secretary but a new appointment will be one of our priorities.

The Main Guard Preview Party is on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May (Invitation Enclosed) and I hope to see many of you there. I wish all members a happy Summer.

*Zoreen Lady Hill*

## EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Last year events ended with the Christmas Party on 16<sup>th</sup> December. This was much enjoyed - there was a delicious dinner catered by Ruth Forrest and, as with the previous year, we were delighted to have the Parish Church Choir giving a rousing selection of seasonal songs before the meal.

In January, we had the annual talk given by Mr Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy at NCC and in February another of our popular *Vision for Berwick* Question Time Sessions. Michael Cullen's reports of these meetings are included in this Newsletter. We are very grateful to Michael for assiduously writing The Berwick Advertiser reports. Also the catering team. Special mention and thanks much be expressed to

Peter Maule who retired as wine sommelier after The Christmas Party - he has done a great job.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr Sandra Pendlington of the Richard III Society returned to give an illustrated lecture entitled; "Richard III, Enlightened King or Shakespeare's Villain". Like last year, she held the audience rapt with her lucid and extensively researched description of how Shakespeare's hunch-backed serial killer was at variance with the facts; that he ruled with good governance and piety and was a good lawmaker for the ease and solace of the common people. Also, he was extremely brave in battle. She alluded to the very controversial theory that the Princes in the Tower, Edward and Richard Plantagenet, were illegitimate.

# **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Civic Society held a Service of Remembrance at the Main Guard on the 11th day of November, on the 11th hour.

The Service was conducted by Canon Christopher Smith and Peter Walton (RAF retired), Secretary of KOSB, Paul Marshall representing the Scouts, Army Cadets representative and Andrew Smith, Piper (former KOSB).



**Cadets, Scouts and Cubs  
planted poppies the night before**

There was a display of 651 crosses with poppies in the Main Guard garden (laid out by the Cadets, Scouts and Cubs) to honour the named Servicemen on the War Memorials of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Tweedmouth and Spittal.

It was also very touching to see so many children and teachers of Longridge Towers Junior School,

who observed the Service of Remembrance in such a dignified manner.

After the Service there were refreshments at the Main Guard.



**Pupils from Longridge Towers  
Junior School**

# CIVIC SOCIETY AWARDS

## THE PLAQUE AWARD

The nominations for the 2016 Civic Society Plaque highlighted five recent excellent building and restoration work. On 16<sup>th</sup> of March the winner, 55 Hide Hill (formerly Youngman's Corner) was presented with the Award, Architect Alan Swan, received it on behalf of Park Portfolio. This development has really transformed Hide Hill and is a worthy winner.



**55 Hide Hill**



**Zoreen Lady Hill presents the Plaque Award to Alan Swan**

The Bankhill Development, 34 Ravensdowne. The Anchorage in Woolmarket and the Caesar's Palace Re-development, 19-21, Hide Hill all received much commendation.

# RECENT TALKS

**Michael Cullen** reports on talks given to the Civic Society over recent months.

## CHILDREN'S WAR MUSEUM

On the evening of Wednesday, November 9th, **Brian Devlin** of The Children's War Museum, gave a presentation on the theme of 'Children in Wars'. This involved explanation, archive film, and a number of readings, many by the members of the audience, who dealt surprisingly effectively with previously unseen text.

Not a great deal is known about children's experiences in The First World War, we were told, though Richard Van Emden has thrown some light on boy soldiers. Then there were children who lost their father when very young and later wondered about him, and a loss seldom talked about.

Savage fighting in Guernica brought about the evacuation of 4,500 children to Britain with Unions, Quakers, the Salvation Army, and wealthy individuals providing succour while the Government, anxious to preserve its neutrality, stayed out of it. While

most only stayed for a year or two, some families were never reunited. About 10,000 were sent to Russia and others to Mexico.

We were reminded that the talk was being given on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, which brought home to all Jews the immediacy of the Nazi threat and the urgent need to evacuate their children. Ten thousand reached Britain. Some were housed at a camp at Dover Court and, in a BBC recording, recalled in details the mundane routine of life there - surely because a reassuring normality had replaced earlier terrors. Few of their parents survived the war.

Perhaps best known, and most written about, is the evacuation of 1939 on the outbreak of the war. The movement of so many children in so short a space of time was a logistical success though some areas, such as Berkshire, had to accommodate twice as many as notified. Children had often to endure a choosy selection process with people being asked to 'pick your refugee', leaving some with the idea they were not wanted. Fears of death, of their own and others, alienation in a strange land,

uncertainty and unhappiness, and the yearning to see their parents again, were common experiences. Children in the Warsaw Ghetto faced a grimmer prospect being perpetually on the run and sensing 'death coming close' if their hiding place was found.

## **COUNCIL PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR BERWICK**

On the evening of Wednesday, January 11th, **Geoff Paul**, Director of Planning and Economy at Northumberland County council, made his third visit at this chilly time of the year to update us on Council strategies with particular reference to Berwick upon Tweed.

Securing adequate investment he saw as fundamental to future growth. This could only be secured on the basis of an adequate Neighbourhood Town Plan. This involves having one to which all stakeholders can subscribe and sign up to. Division and factionalism would be completely counter-productive. It is hoped that, following further discussion with stakeholders at the end of January, the framework of the plan could be put in place by March. It does though have to accord with other wider strategic plans.

Priority areas for concern, which he put under the heading of 'Target Intervention' were: securing inward investment; getting housing growth; improving the skill levels of the young, particularly so as to bridge the skills gap that employers find; improving transport with a particular look at rural transport so as to try to ensure there is not an unbridgeable gap between work and home; and exploiting the opportunities that arise from digitalisation. Berwick, Mr Paul sees as a 'fantastic place' which, although one of Northumberland's top destinations, is currently rather underselling itself, though a good deal is going on.

Turning to devolution, Mr. Paul related how the original plan for a devolved authority consisting of seven North-East authorities had come unstuck but been replaced by one involving the three north of the Tyne. This would be granted specific powers but the election of a Mayor is a condition.

The business of Asset disposal particularly exercised some. Leaving the Palace Street Community Centre to lie neglected and deteriorating was thought unnecessary. A difficulty though is that both it and the old Palace Green School are bound by

restrictive covenants. Discussions are in progress about the sale of Wallace Green while that of the Spittal Car Park is on hold pending queries about land ownership. There was continued unhappiness at the continued closure of West Street, with its effect on trade there. Watch this space seemed the only conclusion. Many will!

## A VISION FOR BERWICK

Under the title 'A Vision for Berwick' the Civic Society held another Question Time. The format was as before, namely that the three speakers would address the audience for about ten minutes and then subject themselves to questions.

The speakers on this occasion were **Julian Lake**, Chief Executive of the Community Trust and much involved with the Coastal Community Team; **Mike Fraser**, local historian and Chairman of the Literary Festival's Programme Committee; and **Maurice Ward**, a former Chairman of the Maltings Trust and Amnesty supporter. Zoreen, Lady Hill, the Society's Chair, presided.

First off was **Julian Lake**. He pointed out the challenges faced

by coastal communities are often different from those in the hinterland. While some are wealthy, more tended to be poorer with a lack both of people and economic activity. It is hoped that the participation of a Coastal Community Team could unlock funding for urgent needs - as, for example, the £2 million required by the harbour trust for work on pier and groyne.

So far, a start has been made with the award of £10,000 which will make possible the drawing up of a plan which has to be done by 31st March. He reminded us that there have already been quite a number of plans for Berwick which have not really had any significant impact. Rather than being disheartened by this though he urged the more positive aspect of regarding these other plans as a useful information bank from which to progress. Whatever the plan finally consists of though it should have the widest possible base of agreement following a process of consultation with all the interested bodies. At least give it a try was his message. There's nothing to lose.

**Mike Fraser**, who's given well received talks to the Civic Society and the Berwick Literary Festival, started by saying that he was somebody who had written about

the past rather than being a trained historian. His first subject was William Beveridge. He was elected an M.P. for Berwick but it seemed strange that he only survived as such for ten months in view of his national reputation following publication of The Beveridge Report. This Mike Fraser put down to a certain arrogance and naivety; he wasn't much of a politician and thought his fame sufficient to keep him in the seat for the rest of his life. The thought he might lose his seat had not occurred to him. Mike Fraser has been asked by Beveridge's grandson to write his biography and played a prominent part in the mounting of the recent Main Guard exhibition.

Unlike Beveridge, it is not possible to speak to anyone who knew Sir Edward Grey, nor are there any private papers as they have been destroyed. That makes it harder to get any real sense of his elusive personality.

Mabel Philipson, he suggested, is worthy of future study. After winning the Berwick seat for the Conservatives after the unseating of her Liberal husband for over-expense by a careless agent, she was only the third woman to be elected to the House of Commons.

He then turned to a broader theme - that of the Military Tribunals in the First World War, which decided whether a man's occupation should keep him at home or whether he should be despatched to the front. As the Government destroyed all records of these Tribunals after the war, the best source has to be the local newspapers. Most of those who went before the Tribunal were not conscientious objectors - in fact there were only two in Berwick - but people with good jobs or businesses.

To those of us well aware that the Maltings had had serious financial problems without knowing much more, **Maurice Ward's** talk proved most enlightening. Problems in the past have included the lack of a lease, bad relations with the Town Council, and the prolonged absence of a Chief Executive.

If the response to financial difficulties was simply to cut costs and run an increasingly tight little ship the theatre would eventually fizzle out. The answer is to do the opposite. Put on more shows, keep open seven days a week, and get the place fizzing. Miles Gregory, a great theatre man, was induced to come to Berwick by the promise of complete artistic freedom. Maurice Ward meanwhile attending to the

business side of the operation, finding some helpful money in an obscure account. During his tenure, the rather functional interior was converted into a warmer area with the sort of red plushness to be found in West End theatres. Some had believed it to be of Victorian origin.

The closing of the cinema was regrettable, but did open up another opportunity. Additional funding was obtained by taking on the Gymnasium and Granary.

Matthew Rooke is very much an opera person. His discovery that you can make a group of about ten players sound like a full orchestra makes the putting on of productions a realistic possibility. As a result of the excellent work the Maltings is now known in London. The continuing problem though, in Maurice Ward's eyes, is to persuade good people to stay.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

A Swiss tourist paying his third visit to Berwick in eight months, thought Berwick a lovely town with friendly people and excellent scenery but that it could attract many more tourists. He thought a good hotel would be a real boon but was sharply critical of Marygate which he described as 'terrible'

Indeed, the state of Marygate was what attracted most comment: mention was made of closed shops; the removal of the Tourist Information Centre; the empty Advertiser premises, and the possibility of pedestrianisation.

An obstacle to getting shops going again was pointed out by Julian Lake. That is that it is often to the advantage of large institutions, such as pension funds, to maintain the rateable value of their properties by having them empty rather than letting them for a reduced rent, with consequent deterioration. 'Meanwhile' use, such as that taken on by Serendipity, can prevent this.



**Marygate - redesign required!**

Then how about a street market? A summer festival? Or making rather more of Berwick's history? Mike Fraser pointed out that we had just had Berwick 900. He reminded us too that we have the Maltings, the

Curfew Bar, and three festivals - that there are many good things here. Julian Lake though thought that Berwick could make a little more of its assets, that we have perhaps 'missed a trick'.

A question as to whether small boats might be permitted to moor in the harbour was answered with a firm negative, just as it had been by the Harbourmaster in a previous sessions. The problem with a marina was the initial cost of construction, even though it might be subsequently viable. Some river moorings though might be possible.

In the end, said Julian Lake, we had to accept the fact of change. Amazon isn't going to go away, and it might not be possible to retain all existing shops. We need to think out what we want the Town centre to look like.

## **EDINBURGH'S COCKBURN SOCIETY**

On the evening of 12th April The Society was glad to welcome **Prof. Cliff Hague**, Chairman of the Cockburn Society (Edinburgh's Civic Society) who delivered a talk entitled "Making a Civic Voice Heard: The Work of Edinburgh's Cockburn Association."

We anticipated hearing about Edinburgh's current concerns and picking up a few tips as to how to go about things. Introducing him, John Webster, Deputy Vice-Chairman, revealed the breadth of the speaker's planning expertise, practised at home and abroad.

He began with Lord Cockburn (1779-1854) and with his concern to preserve 'what chiefly distinguishes this place', pointing out in an 1849 letter that 'except for its beauty, it has really very little to depend upon', meaning that it did little trade. He fought particularly strongly against development on the south side of Princes Street with the result that we now have the gardens.

The Society named after him was founded in 1975. Since then it has, amongst other things, fought the proposal to demolish the Sheriff's Court on George IV Bridge, even petitioning Prime Minister Baldwin (1924); and successfully opposed plans for a car park in East Princes Street Gardens (1955) and a six storey affair off Queen Street (1963); and for a ring road plan that would have meant driving a road through the New Town (1965).

A major current preoccupation concerns the proposed future use

and alteration of one of Edinburgh's finest and most prominent buildings, the Royal High School, built in the Greek Revival style. Particular objection has been taken to the proposed unsightly appendages at either end of a proposed hotel and has prompted a public meeting and 3,000 objections. There had been hopes that the flourishing St. Mary's Music School could move there and gain much needed extra space but the hotel now seems to be in pole position.

It is though now too late to affect plans at the St. James's Centre which are steaming ahead with what apparently is being described locally as 'The Golden Turd'.

The Cockburn adopts these methods: putting in objections; having a drop-in surgery; maintaining a media presence; co-operating with other organisations; engaging a Q.C.; and writing to Council candidates. It is seen as important to be responsive to local concerns which can be more effectively acted on with a devolved budget. At present there is no more pressing concern than housing with a need for a summit meeting to address matters.

A new tactic has been to take a more strategic approach to

planning matters by getting on the planning process at a very early stage. though it is still too soon to judge the success of this method. A need is seen for a strong civic voice to support the Green Belt, ensuring that development is consistent with the Council's own strategic plan and not over-ridden by developers.

Then while the Society has a good deal to object to it should not always be saying 'no', but should have a positive vision, as for example, in the state of the streets which are such an important backdrop to people's lives. It should strive to recruit widely, trying particularly to get in as much young blood as possible and seek to avoid getting stuck with any sense of being some sort of elite body. Constantly kept in mind should be the objectives of 'promoting the conservation and enhancement of Edinburgh' and a rigorous scrutiny of contemporary design to ensure that change really does represent 'an improvement in aesthetic and functional quality of shared space'.

Those present will surely have agreed with John Webster that this had been 'an interesting and wide-ranging talk'.

*Michael Cullen*

# OTHER ITEMS

Here are some little snippets of information or short articles that may be of interest.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

The Friday 31st March Neighbourhood Plan (NP) steering group meeting considered the Housing Needs Assessment carried out by AECOM for the NP and the background paper on Housing and associated policy options, produced by Jo Anne Garrick. There was a good discussion and recommendations made which have to be approved by the Town Council.

The Town Council have previously approved the steering group recommendations arising from the Transport, Employment and Tourism papers so these groups are now in a position to work up actual policies at last.

That leaves Built Environment, Natural Environment and Youth.

For Built and Natural Environment to progress the AECOM character appraisal is still awaited in order to produce the background papers.

On 17th March AECOM submitted the character appraisal to Locality, who pay them, and when Locality are satisfied with the work the Appraisal is released to the N Plan steering group.

Eric Goodyer who chairs the steering group confirmed he was not standing again as a Councillor though he still may chair the steering group, but it is up to the newly elected Town Council in May to decide who goes forward chairing the steering group in future.

*Elaine Paterson*



**NP Discussion in Town Hall**

## **WEB SITE STATISTICS**

The Berwick Civic Society website has been updated and efforts are being made to enhance the look of the site and to provide useful and up-to-date information about activities both within the Society and in the town itself. If you have not yet looked at the website before then please do so either by Googling for Berwick Civic Society or entering the url -

<http://berwickcivicsociety.org.uk>

You will find useful information under various headings such as Events, Main Guard, Society News, Newsletter, Exhibitions, Planning, Awards and Building Study.

If, for example, you have lost your copy of the programme for the year you will find dates of all forthcoming meetings within the "Events" tab. If you look under the "Newsletter" tab you will be able to read copies of the newsletter for at least the last three years.

Statistics relating to the website make interesting reading in terms of giving information about how often people access the site and where they are located worldwide. Here are some figures from 2016.

There were 1258 visits made to the site during a 12 month period, or about 105 visits/month and these visits were made by 992 different users.

Interestingly, of these "hits" 55% were from people in the UK but 13% from Russia (are we being bugged?) and 9% from the USA. Other users came from a wide array of countries including Brazil, Germany, Iraq, Austria, Italy and Canada. Can it be the Berwick Civic Society has a global appeal?

*John Webster*

## **REQUEST FOR MEMBER EMAIL ADDRESSES**

It is intended to start using emails as a way of alerting members about forthcoming meetings or asking for volunteers to join sub-groups looking at such things as planning issues or ideas for exhibitions

If you are happy to be contacted in this way can you please send an email to Catherine Seymour headed "email confirmation" so that we can update our membership list and add email

addresses that are new to us. Can EVERYONE please email Catherine in this way because we are aware that many addresses on the existing list are out of date and have bounced back from our recent trial messages.

Please email Catherine at:

[contact@berwickcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@berwickcivicsociety.org.uk)

## **BERWICK CUSTOMS IN EARLIER YEARS**

Every Shrove Tuesday the Pancake Bell sounded. This had once been taken as the signal for apprentices to leave their work and engage in mischief.

On Carling Sunday there had been a tradition of eating grey peas though it was reported in 1921 that this had died out. A suggested explanation for the custom was the tradition that a ship laden with peas had made it up the river during Edward I's siege. 'Pea Sunday' was though popular with youths who were provided with ammunition for pea shooting.

Another supposedly ancient custom, thought when mentioned in 1921 to have been practised for 350 years, was that of committing

a portion of Haggis to the River Tweed. Just why was not explained!

More familiarly, Easter was associated with eggs. While in much of the county the painting of Easter eggs was widely practised, often competitively, a more physical custom occurred in Berwick. In 1928, a large crowd was described on Easter Monday *'bowling their eggs'*

Perhaps though the day more looked forward to than any other was Midsummer Holiday, which the Council began in 1852, and which was increasingly seen as occasion for a mass excursion. In 1898, 1,500 went by train to Newcastle and Sunderland, and 1,000 to Scotland. Barnum and Bailey's World Circus drew people to Glasgow.

From Berwick, others took a cruise on the passenger steamer, Forth, or, as many increasingly did, went off cycling.

*Michael Cullen*

## WHAT WAS IT?



Many of you, like me, may have wondered what the derelict building at the end of the quayside was used for in its heyday. It is in a rather sorry state at the moment with windows and roof open to the sky but it does have an appeal in view of its simple, robust character, and its location looking onto the river. **Jim Herbert** responded to my request for information about the building with some interesting facts and will hopefully come up with the full story in time for the next issue of the newsletter. Here is what he has found out so far:

*“The earliest map I have showing a building on that site is the tithe map of 1850. That, and subsequent maps of the latter 19th century, show a long, continuous building marked “stores”—presumably for the new Ballast Quay. It can’t be anything to do with the old lifeboat station as that was not built until 1901. At the north end is a smaller building marked “Booking Office” (for the*

*ferry?) The OS 1898 map shows a similar range of buildings but there appears to be a gap between the extant square building and others to the north. The narrow booking office appears to have been replaced by a building of similar width to the rest of the range.*

*A painting in the museum collection by Frank W Wood, dated 1882, shows the square building. Closer examination of the north face of the square building shows a roof scar, so the long range must have been joined on to it. Perhaps the 1898 “gap” was an alteration to allow access to the new buildings to the east.”*



So, is it worth preserving? It could be seen as a wonderful asset of some character that could be restored at relatively little costs given the small size of the building. Any number of things might be done with it: a lookout tower; an interpretation centre. Who owns it? For more information go to Jim’s website [berwicktimelines.com](http://berwicktimelines.com)

If you anything else about the square building please let us know.

**John Webster**

## BERWICK'S LAST TWO GOVERNORS

Berwick's penultimate governor must have been one of the more colourful occupants of this post. Not that the people of Berwick would have seen him or necessarily known much about him for by his time there was no requirement to take up residence in the Eighteenth-Century Governor's House or even to visit Berwick.



18c Governor's House at Palace Green

**Sir Barnastre Tarleton** played a prominent part in the American Wars of Independence and particularly around the siege of Charlestown. It was though at the battle of Waxhaw's Creek that he established a dubious reputation. Opposing troops, many of whom were injured, raised the white flag but, disregarding that, Tarleton ordered the slaughter of all. 'Tarleton's quarter' entered the military vocabulary as meaning 'no quarter'. It was later claimed on his

behalf that there had been some misunderstanding - that his men had been fired on, and Tarleton unhorsed, after agreeing to a truce. To his men he was the highly regarded 'Green Dragoon', to his enemies 'Bloody Ban'. After the British defeat and submission the senior English generals were invited to dinner by their opposites, Tarleton though was not invited.

Later, promoted to General, he had hopes of leading British troops in the Peninsular War but that task fell to Wellington. He saw no further military service and in 1808 was appointed Governor of Berwick and Holy Island. He died in January, 1833, and that according to some accounts was that.

Such an obvious sinecure was at odds with the reforming spirit of the time and the Governorship was abolished in that year. Hart's military list though very clearly shows **Lieut. General Sir James Bathurst** listed as Governor of Berwick during the 1840's. Maybe he was aware of the feeling against the continuance of the post for within a month of his appointment he made a donation of £2 to the Soup Kitchen, a sum that didn't make too heavy inroads into his stipend of £568 a year - a sum far higher than most other

Governorships, and the equivalent of about £54,000 in today's money.

His life as a peace-time soldier appears to have been far less eventful than that of his predecessor but even the Soup-Kitchen was not free of controversy. Some believed that the vegetables used in it were a source of cholera, then rampant in the Borders. It was also thought to be much of a magnet for beggars and vagrants and for a while the Town Council withdrew its support.

The Governorship appears to have ended about 1850.

*Michael Cullen*

# THE MAIN GUARD



*Cartouche from the Map of 1580*

## NEW SUMMER EXHIBITION FOR THE MAIN GUARD

Berwick's Elizabethan walls are well-known, the subject of several publications and a major part of the Society's logo. But what do we know about the town which they protected, and the people who lived there? This summer sees the opening of a new exhibition in the Main Guard which explores Elizabethan Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal, through the viewpoint of a birds'-eye map of c.1580 entitled *the True description of Her Maiestie's towne of Barwicke*.

The exhibition looks closely at individual soldiers and civilians as well as at institutions such as the Church and schools, linking the town they know with the one we experience today. Contemporary plans of the town produced by the Master Mason Rowland Johnson and the mapmaker John Speed provide comparisons with the *True description*, and modern birds'-eye views of the town show alternative interpretations of the format. There is plenty for children as well as adults, with questions to answer, colouring sheets and even the chance to dress up as an Elizabethan!

The exhibition is open from the 26 May until 29 September 2017, although visits can be arranged at other times.

**The Berwick Civic Society** is a Registered Charity (No. 508953)

Website: [www.berwickcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.berwickcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Office Bearers 2017-2018**

Chairman..... *Zoreen Lady Hill*

Vice-Chairman..... *Catherine Seymour*

Deputy Vice-Chairman..... *John Webster*

Hon. Treasurer..... *Michael Gallico*

Membership Secretary..... *Catherine Seymour*

Newsletter Editor..... *John Webster*

Website Management..... *Catherine Seymour/John Webster*

Please feel free to email any Officer of the Society using:

**[contact@berwickcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@berwickcivicsociety.org.uk)**

Membership forms can be downloaded from the website:

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