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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello Members

Much has been happening in the Society since the AGM in April with successful events and meetings and two new highly acclaimed exhibitions in The Main Guard over the summer.

With Margaret Guild's legacy we have been able to help fund some very worthwhile projects. The renovation of the Spittal Shelter is described later in The Newsletter and will be the subject of an ITV programme to be screened in January. Also, we were very pleased to offer an annual Civic Society Award, to both the Berwick Academy and Longridge Towers School for a pupil who has made a great contribution to the wider community. The first of these was presented to Kelsey Brodie at the Longridge Founders' Day Prize-giving on 3rd July. Arrangements are now being made for the Academy award which will be presented on 15th December.

The latest interpretation panel designed by Chris and Do Shaw has been erected on the wall at the corner of The Bridge St Car Park by Jones and Jones. It depicts the history of Bridge Street, one of the few areas in the centre of town which seems to be thriving and has a distinctive 'quality feel'.

Continued overleaf

We like to support Berwick Festivals- the Film Festival (17th -21st September) used the Black Hole in the Main Guard again this year for one of their installations. In the summer, members received an invitation to become a Patron of the inaugural Berwick Literary Festival-there was a very favourable response generally and the event was a resounding success on 17th/18th October.

Do Shaw has written a CAAG and Planning and Development report, one of the main issues is the proposal for new building on the Kwik Save site. In some quarters, the plans have been received quite favourably with certain reservations. However, many in the town are appalled at the idea of this prominent site being used for a private office block rather than for a project which would benefit the community- this is somewhat related to the controversial plans for coach parking in the adjacent area. It is clear that concerned members of the public feel that these matters were already a 'fait accompli' before they even came to the discussion stage.

There is a very interesting piece from Janet Clare-Dean who has spent many years monitoring and researching the history of The Governor's Garden. Details of the damage done in the building of the new housing development

and featured in the archaeological excavation report made grim reading. This is a great pity as this hugely important site could have been sympathetically developed to be a great community asset to the town. I fear that the vultures, so brilliantly depicted in the late Arthur Wood's cartoon, are circling round the roof of the magnificent Hawksmoor Barracks-watch this space!!

The Society's 2014 plaque has arrived! Do please use the enclosed nomination form to register a vote for your preferred recipient. Also, there is an information sheet on The Christmas Party with a ticket application form. It is always a good event, so I hope to see many of you there.

It has been suggested that The Newsletter could do with more humour. Anyone who can draw good cartoons please let me know! Some letters would also be welcomed, although we cannot guarantee to print them all.

Finally, I should like to thank all our Executive and Sub-Committee members for their work, commitment and generosity and wish all members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Zoreen Hill
21st October 2014

CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY GROUP

We have had two meetings since the formation of the new committee and currently they have been somewhat informal.

There have been no significant planning applications for us to discuss, although one pre-application proposal for the re-development of the Kwik Save building on Walkergate has been made. The Conservation Area Appraisal Group (CAAG) received a presentation by the architects, Ryders, but the scheme requires the complete demolition and redevelopment of the site and it was considered that conversion of the existing building was neither appropriate nor commercially viable.

It is proposed that the new building will be offices and that such use is not contrary to any conservation or planning policies. It would seem that the proposals were to be 'phased' and based on known requirements for phase one. CAAG were broadly favourable in their response to these proposals, although they articulated a number of concerns about particular features, including detailing on the building, materials and landscaping.

There was an opportunity for members of the public to discuss the proposed plans later the same day and some comments from a close neighbour of the Kwik Save site were less than sanguine. Her concerns included the height of the building and overlooking windows on Hatters Lane, the bulk of it, which she thought should be more broken up, and the impact it would have on the Grade One Listed Scheduled Monument, the Elizabethan Walls. She also thought that the setting of Listed buildings adjacent to Hatters Lane should be considered. (Minutes of CAAG meetings are sent to the Secretary of The Society and available to members who might wish to read them.)

Several Civic Society members have been actively pursuing concerns about the Governor's Garden/Blackburn and Price site. Although planning permission dates back to 2009, it is only recently that work has started on the Garden element of it and the initial stage, involving the clearance of old buildings and the removal of large areas of concrete was very noisy as it was crushed to a state where it could be used as hard core. The piling itself,

using drilled plates, does not seem to have too much impact on the surrounding houses but the demolition which preceded it did. There is concern about house cracks opening and expanding, although it is difficult to prove any cause and effect. Anyone living in the vicinity has been advised to monitor and keep a photographic record of any changes. Some of the piles are very near the Town Walls with excavated areas almost reaching them. English Heritage does not appear to be too concerned but is discussing details of any repairs with the developer.

Although five years have elapsed since planning permission was given, the building materials for the 'New Build' part of the site are still a matter for discussion. The original plan states, '... materials to be used would be slate, stone and render on some areas with timber windows throughout.' Yet the most recent application for the discharge of conditions refers to natural stone and slate and goes on, 'Notwithstanding the description of materials in the application, no development

shall be commenced until precise details of the materials to be used on the external surfaces have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and thereafter no development shall take place except in strict accordance with those details.' Work on the site has clearly started and yet it would appear that the developer is still negotiating with the planning department about the materials to be used in the construction.

The P&D committee have expressed their continued concern about dustbins left in the streets, advertising 'A' frames obstructing pavements and advertising banners and flyers festooning listed buildings and scheduled Ancient Monuments. Despite many letters, there has been only limited response from the Local Authority. It is the belief of this member of the committee that the centre the town looks unkempt and tawdry. We would be very interested to hear the views of other Civic Society members on this.

Do Shaw.

EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS REPORT

Sir Philip Mawer's talk on 18 June, 'CAN POLITICIANS EVER BE TRUSTED' , and Sandra Gann's talk on 9 July on 'ALMONERS-MEDIEVAL OR MODERN?' are considered as two of the best we have had with speakers who were both lucid and entertaining. Michael Cullen abridged Advertiser reports on these meetings are included in this Newsletter.

THE MAIN GUARD EXHIBITION PREVIEW PARTY -29 MAY

Around eighty members and guests attended this event to view the two new exhibitions. It is always a very enjoyable occasion and appreciation should be expressed for the hard work and generosity of the catering team and 'sommelier', Peter Maule for organising the wine and drinks.



CIVIC SOCIETY AND INVITED LUMINARIES

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS -12/14 SEPTEMBER

There were twenty events (sites and tours) in Berwick upon Tweed this year mostly organised by Jim Herbert of Time Lines. The Civic Society made the arrangements for the opening of the Main Guard of course, The Magazine and The Parish Church tours, where the organist John Burton, had kindly organized organ recitals throughout the day.

Also we held a big event in the Guild Hall. There were promotional stalls for the Berwick-upon-Tweed Literary Festival, The Chain Bridge project, the Lifeboat and us, as well as Arts and Crafts. Jim Herbert mounted an exhibition of some of our previous exhibition panels which attracted a great deal of interest. We ran a refreshment stall with delicious food and, in rather prescient mode, decorated in the Union Jack motif! Again many thanks are due to all who baked and catered for this stall which made a healthy profit for the Society. The Fayre was deemed successful and was quite well attended, but there is no doubt that the foot-fall was affected by coinciding with the Beer and Food Festival. However, the large numbers visiting the town helped swell the attendance visiting the sites.



All our meetings and events are being enhanced now by 'Pop-up' boards which have been much admired.

Zoreen Hill
(Chairman Events & Promotions Group)

THE MAIN GUARD

This summer the Society mounted two new exhibitions in the Main Guard. In the Officers Room, to mark the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service, Peter Watts with help from Do and Chris Shaw and others, prepared a history of social welfare in Berwick. The exhibition begins early Poor Law and continues through the centuries to the Beveridge Report of 1942 and the subsequent implementation of the National Health Service. William Beveridge was briefly a member of parliament for Berwick.

The history of Berwick in the Soldiers Room has been revitalised by Jim Herbert. As with our previous exhibition, which had been in place for many years, it covers the town's tumultuous past. The new updated and easy-to-read presentation tells of Berwick's change of ownership through being sieged, conquered, abandoned, bartered, gifted and sold. It includes "new" history uncovered by ongoing research and covers the years of it being a garrison town.

Both exhibitions are much praised in the visitor book.

Before the season started the inside of the Main Guard was painted making the rooms cleaner and brighter. The Main Guard is open from June 1st to September 30th every day except Wednesday from 1 – 5pm. During the 2014 season we had over 6000 visitors, sold over 1300 books and leaflets and received nearly £700 in donations.

We would welcome any members who could give two hours occasionally for Steward duties. It is very rewarding talking to visitors and sharing knowledge of Berwick and other towns. Local visitors also often have fascinating snippets and anecdotes about Berwick in the 20th Century. It is amazing how many people come back to visit the places of their youth



THE SPITTAL SHELTER

At the end of 2013 (and thanks to the 'good offices' of Margaret Thomas and Gillian Hunter) it was brought to the Civic Society's notice that the Spittal Shelter was in need of restoration.

The building is owned by Northumberland County Council, but there were no available funds to effect the necessary improvements, so Gillian Hunter was seeking funding from elsewhere.

The Civic Society had been the recipient of a generous legacy from the estate of the late Margaret Guild and the

shelter was regarded by the Executive as a very worthy project of which to spend a portion of the funds. It was particularly appropriate as Margaret Guild had lived in Spittal from the time of her retirement and loved it dearly. £5,000 was earmarked to help with restoration - this sum was added to by Berwick Preservation Trust who offered to contribute £2,000.

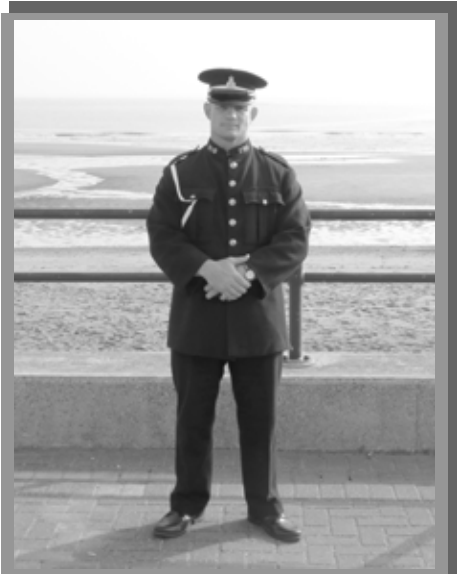
There was a long delay while the legality and ramifications of doing private work on council property was considered and builders and decorators had to be contracted. Then great news! Gillian Hunter who has spear-headed the whole operation telephoned me to say that Wall to Wall television productions who were filming at Ford Castle for a programme on borstal training in the 1930's had identified the shelter with its 1930's Art Deco design as ideal for a small project involving 'The Borstal Lads' helping with the restoration along with professional builders and painters. This was completed in just two days and looked magnificent.



TAKING A MOMENT TO ENJOY
THE SPITTAL PROMENADE

I had the pleasure of opening the restored shelter on 11 September introduced by Dr David Wilson, a TV criminologist and former prison governor who was acting as the Borstal governor - he was charming! It was a beautiful morning and Spittal beach and promenade were looking idyllic. Hopefully some-day soon the full potential of the resort will be realised and Spittal returned to its former glory days.

Zoreen Hill
Chairman



PERIOD 1930'S UNIFORMS



ZOREEN HILL FORMALLY OPENING THE RESTORED SHELTER

SPEAKERS AND GUEST TALKS

APRIL 2ND (AGM) – DR CHRIS SHAW – ‘WILLIAM WILSON’

Walking past Robertson’s Memorial Garden at Bridge End, and perhaps casting the odd glance at ‘the man with no face’ or the almost five-foot tall figure of Neptune, one may have a sense of nothing much having changed there for rather a long time. This would indeed be accurate as it seems to have looked much the same in 1894. The founding father, however, was William Wilson and it was the work of three Wilsons which formed the subject of the talk.

According to the census of 1881, William Wilson employed at that time two men and three boys. His account books show that he had a variety of commissions, an average of eighty-five a year; later, when his brother John was running the firm, it averaged 140.

He was also an architect, one of whose early austere efforts may have been an inn. He later became flamboyantly decorative,

his buildings crowned with eagles and such historical figures as Alexander the Great, Sir Walter Scott and Hercules and often covered in fish scales. His building at 179/180 Main Street, Spittal, at that time the posh end of the village, was clearly ‘built to impress’ and must surely be counted one of the finest Victorian houses locally.

Dr Shaw told us that Wilson had little to do with church yards and that this was by no means unusual then, the reason being that most of them, especially in urban areas, were pretty well filled up and being superseded by cemeteries.

He concluded with some more general reflections, stressing the need for a building style making use of local skills and materials in order to give a place ‘a sense of itself’, something that ‘the forces of homogenisation’ are constantly undermining.

JUNE 18TH – SIR PHILIP MAWER - ‘CAN POLITICIANS EVER BE TRUSTED?’

Being a Berwick citizen now, he hadn't far to come, yet it was still something of a coup to have a talk on political matters from such an authoritative figure whose role as a former Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards had involved him in the sort of things that have tended to give MPs such a collective bad name, with a widespread perception of their doings having an undercurrent of sleaze. However, although there has long been a tradition of regarding them somewhat cynically, and some have not helped their own cause, he argued for a more balanced assessment of their conduct.

While Parliament sometimes does itself no favours with its performances on such occasions as Question Time, he said, most MPs do not deserve knocking copy. They should be assessed independently, not pilloried as a class and most are decent people who are often required to take difficult decisions on inadequate information. The workload is also formidable; Simon Hoggart once observed that one look at an MP's bulging mail bag was personally enough to put him off the idea of ever becoming one!

9TH JULY – SANDRA GANN, RETIRED MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER
– ‘ALMONERS, MEDIEVAL OR MODERN?’

‘Almoner’ is one of those words of which we may have only a fuzzy recollection from, perhaps, history lessons or guide books but the speaker brought it sharply into focus, explaining exactly what the office entailed.

Many hospital patients need more than medical care, she said, and quite a few come with worries, most commonly over money, fretting over which can impede recovery. The Almoner's role is to try to lessen the anxiety by talking to the patient or by offering practical help, such as by taking a cat to the cattery. A

medical recovery is not always the end of things, however, as some while later there can be emotional breakdown.

Historically, by the 1890's the pressure upon hospitals to give free care in this way became enormous and a task of the Lady Almoner was to ensure that patients lived locally and were really in need of help. Consequently the advent of the NHS did relieve financial worries and left more time for emotional needs.

Michael Cullen.

'THE FAMILY TRAIT'

A SNIPPET OF PAST LOCAL NOTORIETY

Berwick had its fair share of troublemakers in the Victorian age, amongst whom were the Barclay family, especially Robert, a particularly troublesome prisoner.

In 1840 The Berwick Advertiser reported that 'considerable disturbance' had been caused by 'that incorrigible rogue and blackguard, Robert Barclay, at present undergoing confinement for an assault on a police constable.' He had been put in solitary confinement 'but the windows, glass and frame were shattered, the bench on which he was to sleep torn up, and having thus acquired a formidable weapon, he beat on all sides of him, shouting at the top of his voice and threatened to murder any who approached him. The assistance of a dozen men was procured, and an iron bedstead being placed before them as a shield, they advanced against him and pinned him against the wall; and he was then secured and heavily manacled'.

Robert and Andrew Barclay concentrated their energies on

such assaults. Andrew tangled with the military, on separate occasions taking on a private and a sergeant. He had a taste for fighting, once tackling on an Irishman called Bracken and emerging unscathed after twenty rounds, the spectators at the contest being 'in a state of intoxication bordering between stupor and ferocity'.

He later caused a riot going to Tweedmouth to fight a man called Nelson and tried his hand at highway robbery. Here too the women did not lack muscle. When Andrew was charged with unprovoked assault Mary Barclay took exception to the presence in court of one James Taylor, who later found his tea-time preparations rudely interrupted. She accused him of interfering in the case, broke a window with her fist, struck Taylor, tore his shirt and besmeared it with blood.

Others who made their mark were Thomas Barclay for being 'drunk and riotous' and Isabella Barclay who was reputed to be 'a common prostitute'. The aggressive trait was passed on as John, Andrew's son, was charged with an assault so violent it left the victim 'faint from loss of blood'. He joined the militia under a false name but once rumbled was speedily booted out.

Michael Cullen.

WHO WAS ADELIZA?

Throughout history “The Palace” in Berwick has been the centre of intrigue and controversy. Beneath the ‘Governor’s Garden’ situated within The Palace, now a building site, lies hidden one of the nation’s lost treasures, a mediaeval Carmelite Friary.

In 1568 Lord Hunsden, Governor and erstwhile spy for the Crown, created an exotic, formal garden there, which has never been built upon. In 2001, Pre-construct Archaeologists gave us a rare glimpse beneath that garden and opened a window into the

lives and times of 13th century Berwick and my connection to the Lords Clare of Suffolk.

The archaeologists discovered cobbled pavements, stone window recesses, sandstone and granite floors, walls, steps leading to a cloister, drainage systems, buildings with hearths and in the southern part of the site, two mediaeval pits of household waste. The remains in the northern section are those of the Carmelite Friary, founded in 1260, the first Carmelite House in Scotland.

The teams said it was the most exciting site they had worked on. Had the site been in Scotland, it would have been listed as a Scheduled



THE HULNE PRIORY SHOWS US WHAT THE BERWICK CARMELITE FRIARY WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE



Monument
but for England
it was not so important!

The Palace was well visited by the Kings of Scotland in the 12th and 13th centuries and the Carmelite Friars officiated in the chapel royal.

To cement relations between England and Scotland, Margerie, the youngest sister of Alexander II married Gilbert, Marshall of England (Lord Clare) in Berwick. The Clare family were prominent barons in the signing of Magna Carta.

And – in the 12th century Lady ADELIZA Clare married off her daughter Alice to one William Percy of Northumberland, who was in need of some financial assistance! Her fortune supported the Percy estate and later, in 1265, helped to found the first English Carmelite Friary in Hulne.

The last Lord Clare was killed leading the charge at Bannockburn resulting in the immense fortune of the Clare's being divided up between three remaining sisters. One founded Clare College, Cambridge, one married Hugh Audley and one wed a Percy trustee. A granddaughter married Lionel, Duke of Clarence, and son of Edward III, both buried in Clare Priory.

The excavation of the Governor's Garden in 2001 turned the clock back to 1235. Had Margerie and Gilbert de Clare walked on the cobbles, sat in the window recesses, banqueted in the hall or processed down the cloister steps to their marriage in The Palace?

Where was the Friary church? Is it a coincidence that the Avenue, adjacent to the Governor's Garden has the dimensions of the nave in the Carmelite Priory at Hulne? Is it a coincidence that the Carmelite Friary in Berwick was built on a site facing Lindisfarne? The present Carmelite friars in Aylesford think not.

The most recent finds in the Governor's Garden were only saved from the development diggers at the 11th hour. Robert Lotherington of Archaeology Research Services Ltd has compiled an interim report of the excavation.

On 18th July, an unsupervised member of the ground crew, truncated part of a mediaeval wall and other in-situ deposits whilst using a mechanical excavator. The operator, apparently, was unaware of the planning requirements!



CONSTRUCTION WORKS UNEARTH
THE HISTORIC REMAINS

Management requested that all work should cease! Archaeologists recorded the remains to assess the extent

of the damage. The mediaeval wall discovered is 5.75 metres high, constructed of dressed limestone with granite facing stones. Two bonding materials had been used, indicating different phases of construction. Following inundations of the site in mediaeval times, it appears from the excavation that inhabitants continued to build on top of earlier remains.

Deposits of shell, animal bone and 15th century green glazed pottery suggests the wall to be pre - 1450. The most revealing find being a glazed mediaeval tile, evidence of a large,

important, high status building. Other walls, similar in date and construction were also found elsewhere on the site as in 2001. Sadly, time was not on our side and further excavation was impossible due to the interests of the development.

What might we have discovered if the treasures beneath the Governors Garden had been treated differently?

Well! That's another story ...
Janet Clare-Dean

'WILLIAM COWE & SONS'

William Mitchell Cowe,
21/6/1941 – 11/9/2014.

William Cowe, who died suddenly on 11th September 2014 aged 73, was the youngest of four children. Apart from a successful four years at Durham University culminating in a physics degree, he lived his whole life in Berwick. In partnership with his eldest brother, Francis, he succeeded his late father (also William) in running the family business of William Cowe & Sons until its closure in 2010.

William loved Berwick and its environs and was never happier than when he was out walking within the borough or in the surrounding hills and countryside. He was a keen golfer and enjoyed piano playing and astronomy. He succeeded his father as treasurer of Bankhill Presbyterian Church and thence to its successor, St Paul's United Reformed Church in Spittal, remaining in the post until his death.

Possessing a strong sense of duty, always ready to help others, William, in his later years became a loyal supporter and valued member of Berwick Civic Society. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

The title was adopted in 1886 when the two brothers Peter and Henry bought the property at 64-66 Bridge Street from the Weatherhead family. Our great grandfather had died in 1865, having operated as a grocer and tea dealer from 1848 on two sites, 91, and, later, 106, High Street. His wife, Margaret Mitchell, kept the business going until her two sons were old enough to take over, probably around 1880 when Peter was twenty-two years old and Henry, still young, sixteen. By 1918 Peter was a sole trader, Henry having started a business.

In 1929 there were five partners:- Peter and his wife Catherine and three of their children: - Margaret, William and Annie. Their other daughter, Mary Watson, probably worked in the business until 1927, when she married Matthew Robertson. Peter died in 1932 and Annie in 1937.

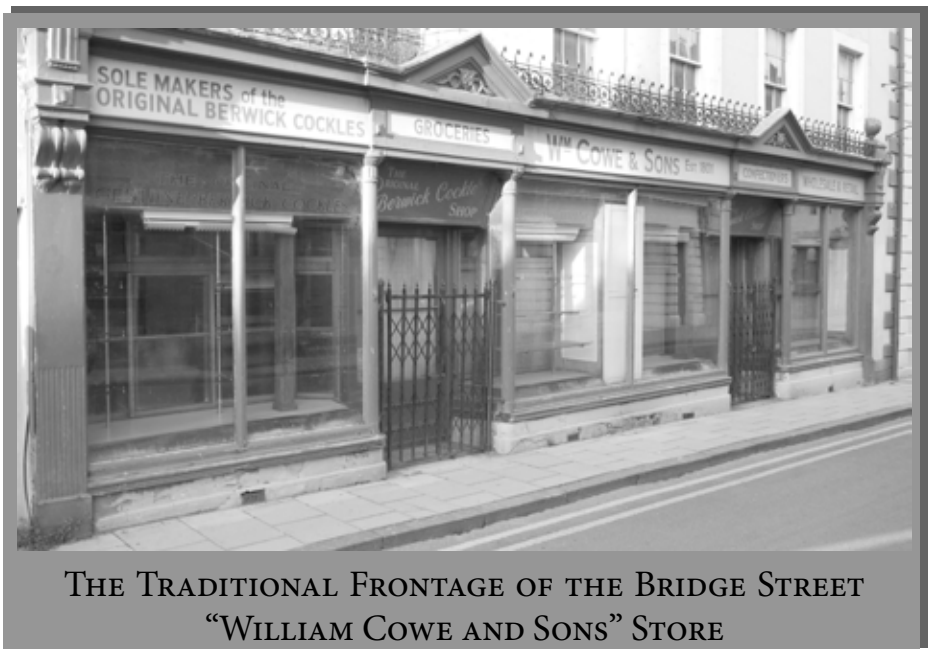
By 1948 only Margaret and William were partners. During those times, which must have been difficult even for those with jobs, Berwick was a busy place with dozens of small businesses throughout the borough wholesale goods from William Cowe & Sons. The wholesale business expanded to cover north Northumberland

as well as Berwickshire, and the retail side was also very busy. Earlier, in 1907, the family had bought the properties of 2, Love Lane and 60-64 West Street which were initially rented out, respectively to Dr McLaggan and Martins the printers, and in 1938 William and Irene moved into Love Lane from 28, Castle Terrace.

Around 1970 the wholesale business operated from 64, West Street. Throughout the years the demand for Berwick Cockles was huge and difficult to meet from just the one small shop and others could sell fifty or more tins per day- they were even popular in London and Oxfordshire.

The business continued to turn over large quantities of confectionery and tobacco in the late twentieth century but in recent years it became more difficult to trade successfully and in February 2010 it was decided that after 162 years and four generations the business should close.

by William Cowe



THE TRADITIONAL FRONTAGE OF THE BRIDGE STREET
"WILLIAM COWE AND SONS" STORE

WIND TURBINES

Through our connection with The Newcastle and Northumberland Society we have received a report by The Northumberland Environmental Policy Group (NEPG) on this issue. Given the present local controversy, it might prove of interest to our members.

It states that 'there is now widespread recognition that Northern England is bearing the brunt of the drive for renewables by hosting half the country's wind farms' and using Government planning statistics, Northumberland has the largest wind farm capacity in any county. High subsidies have overheated and corrupted the wind industry; site choice has been poor and little respect has been shown for the opinions of rural populations, whose local environments have often been significantly damaged'.

The group argues for a more balanced approach to renewable energy development in the county and has made submissions to The Northumberland County Council. It has also met with council officers and written to Peers and MPs.

More local to ourselves, applications have been made within the last two years to deploy turbines in close proximity to Lindisfarne, Bamburgh Castle and the Duddo Stones. These have duly been opposed on the basis of the considerable damage to the setting of these unique ancient assets that would occur.

FELICITY COOKLIN

Members will be sad to learn that Felicity has sold her house on the Walls and moved away from the area. Known to her friends and relatives as Fiz she has been a member of the Society since its early days, she and her family trust were some of the donors for the initial renovation of the Main Guard for which, in the following years she was an invaluable helper. She was a long time member of the Executive Committee and for many years delivered Newsletters to the lower part of the town. Her nickname – Fiz - describes her well – always cheerful and interested, fun to be with and helpful with things that must be done. We wish her well.

The principal stance being taken is that:-

1) The need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and that a balance between benefit and harm should be struck.

2) The contribution Northumberland has made to onshore wind provision should be regarded as a material consideration in future planning decisions.

3) There should be assurances that the planning concerns raised by local communities are given proper weight in planning decisions for onshore renewable energy.

4) Strong protections for natural and historic environment are given weight, such that the benefit of local environmental considerations like landscape, setting, heritage and local amenity are adequately recognised.

It is to be hoped that all this is pertinent to our own experience and will provide us with food for thought.



FRIENDS OF UNION CHAIN BRIDGE

The above group held their inaugural meeting in June. Their aim is to help to raise money to be put towards promoting and raising the profile of this remarkable structure which already has premier preservation status in both England and Scotland and will be celebrating its bicentennial in six years time. More ominously, it has been listed as 'at risk' by English Heritage and the estimated cost of its repair and restoration is £4.7 million.

Current funds for any work on it are somewhat restricted as it is difficult to justify maintenance from the road repair budget, thus additional funding from alternative sources is badly needed. Nevertheless, precedents in a variety of similar, and successful, projects in Scotland, aided by subscriptions and donations from a range of community based bodies. The task would seem to be difficult, but certainly not impossible.

Continued Overleaf

The bridge falls under the joint jurisdiction of Northumberland County Council and The Scottish Borders Council and there is confidence that the two authorities can work together on a Heritage Lottery bid to secure the bulk of the money needed.

Naturally an active and strong Friends group will give worthwhile support to the scheme but, because it clearly comes within

our own 'bailiwick', we too could play a part and become informed, involved and contributory.

For those interested, further information and forms for a £5 membership can be obtained from: - 'Friends of The Union Chain Bridge, Chain Bridge Honey Farm, Horncliffe, TD15 2XT' (e-mail unionbridgefriends@gmail.com)

Derek Butler.

CHARMIAN CATHERINE WOODFIELD 1929-2014

Charmian had been a member of the Civic Society for many years. In her role as Archaeologist she volunteered time to projects in Berwick, including the Governor's Garden. She was particularly interested in Archaeology of Anglo Saxon and Rome and also attended the course by Professor Sir Nikolaus Pevsner on the 'History of Architecture'.

She was born in Leicester, the second of twins and her husband, Architect Paul Woodfield first met her on a site dig at St. Albans and was intrigued how she, with her strident upper class accent, frequently swore at the public in crude barrack room language, at those who approached the excavations too closely. She had a penetrating mind and intelligence

to problems encountered on important excavations and ignored authority, even ordering Professor Eric Birley to get off her site at one time and he was controlling the Minor Structures on Hadrian's Wall! Also of interest is one of her publications, an extensive study on The Whitefriars at Coventry, is held at the Vatican.

Charmian's many friends and family, including her three sons, will remember her as an inspiration, with sharp intelligence, great sense of style and love of hats. A comment made by a friend was that knowing Charmian was the nearest he could ever come to the Bloomsbury Group.

Catherine Seymour

PETER MIDDLEMISS 1943-2014

Some six years ago, Peter Middlemiss retired to Berwick, taking up residence with Fritha in No 1, Ravensdowne. At his retirement he was probably one of the most eminent Anglican laypeople in the world, having served the Church he loved both in his work as a retreat house warden, and also as a key member of many significant committees and working groups, chief amongst them The Church of England's governing body, the General Synod. He took his passion for theological education and exploration with him wherever he went, and was well known and deeply respected in Church Unity Circles throughout the world. This work was recognised when he was appointed as one of the first lay canons of Worcester Cathedral.

His passion for his church continued here in Berwick, acting as he did, as Lay Chair of the Parochial Church Council and Churchwarden of Holy Trinity, and contributing as a Reader to the life of the parish and the Diocese

of Newcastle. In his retirement, he continued to enjoy his many interests, which included coin collecting, old maps, politics, and the creation of new cocktails, notably 'The Ravensdowner', which was launched with style in Jubilee year. He was also involved in many aspects of the town's life; for example 'Slow' food, The Liberal Democrats, the Civic Society and the life of Ravensdowne. Above all he was a dedicated family man, rejoicing in life with Fritha, their children Martha, Christian and Sophia, and their growing number of grandchildren. He died suddenly after a short illness. Holy Trinity was packed for his Requiem Eucharist on Monday 26th October. He was a giver rather than a taker in every aspect of his life, and as such will be greatly missed- not only here in Berwick but in a much wider world. May he rest in peace.

CMS

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You can call in on: 0752 7954 049

Please feel free to e-mail any of the Committee or to request a membership form at: contact@berwickcivicsociety.org.uk