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Hello Members,

The Civic Society has been mainly concerned with the running of The Main Guard for the past few months and having a few meetings including a Question Time, reports of which appear later in the Newsletter. The Summer Exhibition "Guild and Governors" received many very appreciative comments, and praise for the stewards. The Soldiers Room which houses The History of a Garrison Town exhibition and which was largely dismantled in 2013 to make room for the Flodden exhibition has been reconstructed, with new panels mounted last year and we are continuing to improve the aspect of this room. Great thanks is due to Marion Mead, who although retired as Treasurer, has been heading the Main Guard support team, all co-ordinators and stewards and, of course, Jim Herbert, who created the two exhibitions. We are very pleased that Bob Steward has agreed to be a co-ordinator next year and hope to benefit from all his experience.

The Planning and Development Sub-Committee has been incorporated into 'The Executive for the present'. We shall be keeping a 'weather eye' on all developments in Berwick and expressing our views, with speakers at our meetings addressing some of the major issues and key areas which arise in the town. Elaine Paterson continues to be our representative on CAAG. Some years ago the Society committed to contribute to the funding of CAAG's design guides for

planners in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Spittal and Tweedmouth. Three of these are now printed with Elaine's own 'Guidance for Residential Extensions' due out soon. They are really excellent and beautifully illustrated.

The most controversial planning issue recently has been the Kiwk Save building. This has now been demolished and it can be clearly seen what a valuable prime site this is. Is it too much to hope that it could be used to benefit the community rather than for offices?

There is a glimmer of hope for the future of the town with the formation of two new groups, both of which I have been invited to join – The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee which will consist of several working groups and The Berwick Archives and Museum Action Group which is considering the accommodation for the town's distinguished collection of archives and records and forming a Berwick and Borders Heritage Centre. The Barracks is regarded as an ideal site, while maintaining the link with the KOSB Museum and Berwick's military ethos. We are very fortunate in having the leaders of these groups; Professor Eric Goodyer for The

Neighbourhood Plan and Sir Philip Mawer for BAMAG both of whom have great experience and expertise. One of my main hopes for a higher education college or University annex is being mentioned as a possibility at recent meetings and it was encouraging to learn that at The Great Performing Rope event in the Berwick 900 Festival some young people put a College campus on the hanging tablets as their wish for Berwick.

The relocation by NCC of some of the town's amenities has produced some bizarre ideas – the latest being The Tourist Office's move from a prominent site in The Main Street to The Library building in Walkergate where visitors would have to access information facilities by either climbing stairs or taking the lift! I thought Tourism was supposed to be one of the key areas for expansion in Berwick! Fortunately, the controversial plans for The Maltings Arts Centre seems to have been sidelined. There has always been a cordial relationship between The Civic Society and The Maltings and on May 1st this year, I was very pleased to be invited to the unveiling of a plaque by HRH, Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex to commemorate the 25th anniversary of its opening.

Hopefully, it will continue to be one of the town's real success stories with the auditorium, studio, lovely restaurant and stage bar still intact.

We must congratulate Sir Alan Beith for his elevation to The House of Lords after retiring as the MP for the Berwick-upon-Tweed constituency after 42 years. He and his wife Diana are long-standing members of the Society and have attended many of our events in the past. Congratulations also to Anne-Marie Trevelyan, who won the seat in the May election. She is also a member of the Society. Already she has been appointed to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee and is Vice-Chairman of the Forestry Committee.

Finally, I should like to wish all members a very happy Christmas and Festive Season and hope to see many of you at our Christmas Party on 4th December.

Zoreen Hill
Chairman

SHEAKESPEARE'S NOSE

During the 1970's the lady who ran the Avenue Hotel, following the restoration and re-use as a hotel, became most volubly concerned about another of her properties. This was one of the richly adorned houses in Railway Street built by architect William Wilson which has a number of statues on its roof. One of these is apparently of Shakespeare who was not in the best of condition in that his nose fell into the street. This aroused concern about his stability and that of the other alumni paraded alongside him with the prospect of other falling parts hitting passers-by. However, her idea of removing them was not permitted.

EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS

On May 28th we held the annual Main Guard Exhibition Preview Party. Jim Herbert's new exhibition "Guild and Governors" was on display for the first time and also the reconstructed cabinet in The Soldiers Room.

Around seventy members and guests attended this event including The Mayor, Sheriff and Sheriff's Lady. As always it was a very enjoyable occasion and appreciation should be expressed to all who donated food and contributed in various ways.

The Preview Party was an ideal opportunity for a presentation to Marion Mead in recognition of her five years as a quite outstanding Treasurer. She received a beautiful bowl designed and crafted at Tower House Pottery depicting scenes of Berwick which she much appreciated.



WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY

At the last minute, speaker Rupert Letherington of The Archaeological Research Services Ltd was unable to attend this meeting. He was due to give a talk on recent archaeological work in Berwick including The Governors Garden. However, Janet Clare-Dean who has extensive knowledge of The Governors Garden and recent excavations gave a brilliant talk aided by maps and artefacts which was very well received.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY- 11TH TO 13TH SEPTEMBER

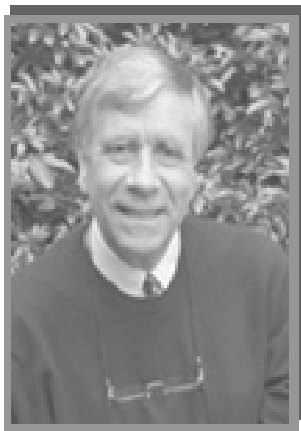
Saturday, 12th September was the worst day with regards to weather in all the years I have been involved with Heritage Open Days. Despite this, it



seems to have been a very successful weekend for the most part. The Civic Society was responsible for The Main Guard and the Gunpowder Magazine where attendances were good with 200 visiting The Magazine on Sunday.

WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER- DR PETER JONES, CLASSICIST.

We were very pleased to welcome as our guest speaker the well-known Classicist, Dr Peter Jones, who gave a lecture entitled: - 'Ancient and Modern Democracy and the Separation of Powers'. Dr Peter Jones was formerly a senior lecturer in Classics at the University of Newcastle. He writes reviews for The Sunday Telegraph, Evening Standard and the BBC History Magazine (for which



he is an adviser) and writes an Ancient& Modern column in the Spectator. A co-founder of the charity, Friends of Classics, he has launched a major 'Classics for All' appeal whose patrons include Boris Johnson, Joanna Lumley, Ian Hislop and Tom Stoppard. His latest publication, Veni Vidi Vici is a story of the Romans, the most enduring empire in history, and how it influences our life today.

On Wednesday, October 14th, Dr Peter Jones, the Classicist well-known for his speaking, writing, and reviewing, and who is currently a good deal occupied with attempts to widen the appeal of the Classics, gave a talk to both societies under the title, "Ancient and Modern Democracy and the Separation of Powers"

We may pride ourselves on our democratic ways but, Dr Jones pointed out, the Athenians would have recognised no such thing in our methods. Rather, our practice of electing 650 MP's and then packing them off to Westminster and leaving them to it would have seemed rather more like an elective oligarchy.

The only true democracy which has ever existed was, we were told, that in Athens between 509 and 323 BC. Here the Assembly was the ruling body with decisions made by males over thirty. There was no higher authority. It embodied the sovereignty of the people which is what democracy means. Not a concept very popular with today's politicians – rather more the stuff of nightmares.

We may regard the vote as an essential part of our 'democracy'. The Athenians though had a different way. That was by the drawing of lots.

To ensure that this didn't simply give rein to people with grotesque ways a Demos Audit kept a close watch on their activities. Those who completed their term of office satisfactorily could be honoured. If though, the service had been a dismal failure the result could be fine, exile, even execution. Nothing like a cosy berth in the House of Lords.

Generals though did have to have some kind of recognised military skill and they were voted for. There was though no concept of anything like a supreme leader. Even Pericles, a general for fifteen years, had to rely on persuasion.

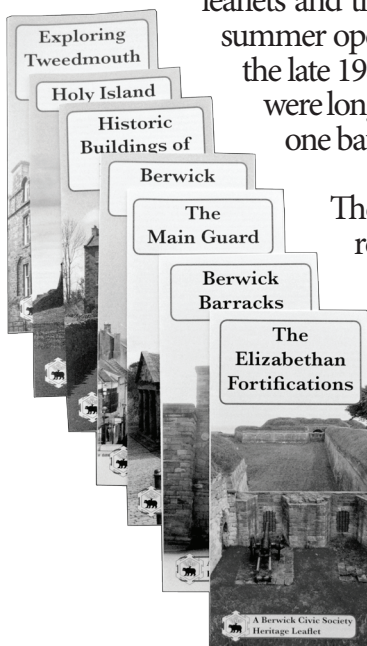
Turning to the law, Dr Jones drew a contrast between our concept of the separation of powers between legislature and judiciary and the Athenian way where both were vested in the Assembly. Lord Bingham's insistence that the principle of the law should control the making of the law was contrasted with Cicero's assertion that the stability and interest of the state should be the true interest of the law – that way there was a community of interest. Lord Denning's assertion that the law was there for us was though rather closer to Cicero. Both systems had strengths and flaws.

Interesting and informative answers were given to a number of questions and a vote of thanks was offered by Bernard Shaw.

MAIN GUARD SUMMER 2015

The Main Guard opened this summer on 1st June with a new exhibition about the Guild and Governors. This was very interesting and well researched.

During the winter Jim Herbert edited and updated the old Main Guard leaflets and they were reprinted in colour in time for our summer opening. The original leaflets were produced in the late 1980s and '90s and have been very popular, but were long overdue for revision and modernisation. No one baulked at the increased price of 50p.



The visitors' book once again makes fascinating reading. This year we've welcomed visitors from all over the world – Australia, Brazil, Texas, Canada and Holland – and from all over the country, including many locals from North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders. Visitor numbers at 5284 were down 900 on the previous four years' average. Should we advertise more widely? Sales were considerably up on previous years – 419 items were sold, with a total income of £619.92. Donations were about 20% down at £556.21.

Once again thanks are due to our loyal volunteers for all the cheerful willing help they give to the co-ordinators. We are always in need of more volunteers so any members who could spare a couple of hours occasionally would be welcomed with open arms! Co-ordinators are also desperately needed. This involves managing the Main Guard for two weeks of the season – filling the steward roster and arranging for closing and opening.

Marion Mead

GOVERNOR'S GARDEN WALL

Surrounding the Governor's garden, a part of the circa.1816, Listed Grade 2 Wall in early September was being demolished, as shown in the photographs. Concerned residents were advised by the builder (who was unaware that this was a Listed Wall), that permission was given for the demolition of part of the Wall, and for it to be rebuilt completely in Stone, instead of restoration. After residents were told incorrectly by NCC by email that: "The Wall is not listed, and there is no breach of conservation", the residents swung into action and after numerous emails, telephone calls and alerting many departments managed to get this corrected as Listed Grade 2 Star.

Thanks to the diligence and intervention by the local residents, the builder has rebuilt the Wall, with the original Georgian bricks to include at least 18 courses of brick on the bottom part and stone at the top to match some of the surrounding Walls around the Governor's Garden that were built about the same time. The left hand gate pillar was also rebuilt with original materials with no attempt to change the gateway, as had been feared.

There is some concern that the correct materials have been used in the repointing of the Wall to include lime mortar.

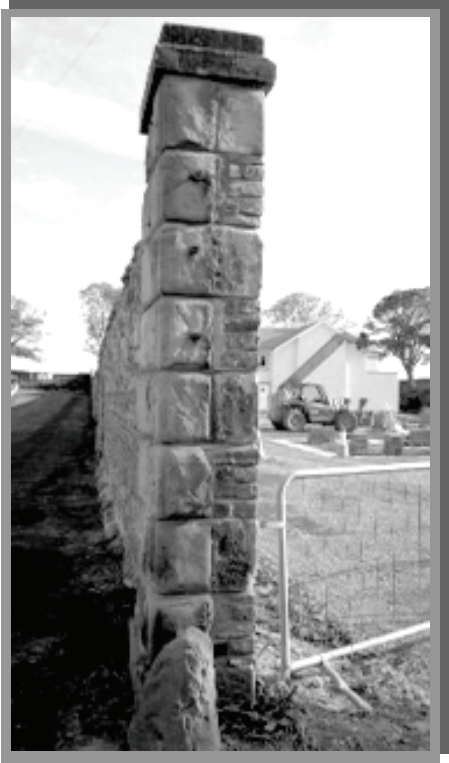
Also, it was thought that because at the same time the Wall was being demolished an Archaeologist should have been



**OOPS....LOOK WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN CONSERVATION EYES
ARE NOT LOOKING!**

present, as a trench was also dug beside it. This is because this important site was once occupied by the Carmelite Friary (est. 1380 until 1520). The Governor's House and site including the Carmelite Friary is mentioned in the Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland Extensive Urban Survey 2009 with the support of English Heritage.

List descriptions are available on the internet for all listed buildings in the country. It is useful to look up on-line to check if a building is listed or not, especially if some work is being done, such as repair, dismantling or demolition. If a building or structure is listed and some restoration/repair is being considered, the surrounding residents are notified, but as shown in this case incorrect information can be given, which must be rectified, to help save our built heritage.



BERWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following the adoption of the Localism Act by the coalition government, Local Neighbourhood Plans were introduced into the statutory planning system in 2011. The Bill in Part 6 gives local communities the right, if they wish to establish a development framework for their own area. This would be used as a material consideration in the planning application process. There are approximately 1000 towns in the U.K. at present who are in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan (Berwick N.P) and this will help identify and shape the local issues that are most important to its residents.

Berwick Town Council and members of the community have recently taken steps to create a Berwick N.P. Notices and Public meetings have taken place and a Steering Group has been formed comprising of 14 members. This will include 7 Town Councillors, one from each Ward, and 7 members of the public to start the process on developing a Berwick N.P. The Steering Group will also set up Working Groups on

various topics and any member of the public who would like to contribute to these groups can contact the Town Office. Ward meetings will be arranged and a website and email address will be provided for comments, questions and suggestions to help shape the future plan of our town. Consultation with the Community will be held throughout the process and it is hoped that many members of the local public will become engaged with the development of the Berwick NP in order to make decisions about its future.

The Boundary of the Berwick NP area has been set and some funding has been secured, although more funds will be required in order to retain a Planning Consultant to assist with this process, as well as other costs. Alnwick and Denwick are in the final stages of their Neighbourhood Plan, which so far has taken 3 years and completion date of the Referendum is in November 2015.

For additional details, please contact Catherine Seymour at: 01289 302 391

THE LONGRIDGE TOWERS CIVIC SOCIETY AWARD

The Civic Society Award for a pupil at Longridge Towers School who has made a great contribution to the wider community was presented to Daniel Flannigan at The Founders' Day on 2nd July this year.

Chairman, Zoreen Hill and Hon. Secretary Jessica Spencer-Barry were invited to attend. Daniel had been a member of local theatre companies for many years including The Maltings Youth Theatre where he has been a great support to younger members. For the last two years

he has been involved with the area National Citizen Service which is a government initiative to invoke confidence and team work and to promote local youth projects. Daniel was invited to host their graduation ceremony this year at the Sage, Gateshead, which he had also done in 2014. This event is attended by approximately 2000 people. After Founders' Day Daniel went on expeditions to Botswana and Zambia which involves charity work with an Aids orphanage, some environmental work as well as an adventure element.



PASSING THROUGH BERWICK UPON TWEED

Sometimes people of mark passed through Berwick upon Tweed. In 1843 this included a contrasting pair. 'The American Smasher', a boxer seven feet tall, who weighed twenty-one stone, was on his way to a fight while the Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Russian Emperor, stopped to change horses on his way south.

That same year John Bright and Richard Cobden came to urge the cause of Free Trade. They spoke in the Town Hall before an enormous audience, curiously estimated by a reporter as between 900 and 1,100. The Free Trade Inn originally called 'Free Trade For All The Nations' is a reminder of that enthusiasm. In old age Bright secured angling rights on the Tweed and became a familiar presence on its banks. Then in 1852 still flushed with the success of his excursion trains to the Great Exhibition, 'Mr Cook of Leicester passed this town on Wednesday with his monster excursion train, one of 26 carriages the other of 24. The Emperor and Empress of Brazil also took the train through

Berwick as did the German Emperor en route to Leith and the King of Portugal on his way to Balmoral.

In 1876 the need to change trains twice compelling Gladstone to linger in Berwick for a while. On the first occasion, when he had two hours to wait, this was thought too good an opportunity to and he was hustled off to the museum to give a speech, a proceeding unlikely to be followed today. In March, 1880, Gladstone was again prevailed upon to speak, this time in more impromptu fashion on a barrow in a station siding but managed a pointed criticism of the Tory government. 'I think, gentlemen, that neither at home nor abroad are you well satisfied; nor have you cause to be'. The following year though the Town Hall's minute bell sounded to mark Disraeli's death and some local Tories drew down their blinds and closed their shops. African explorer Stanley arrived in 1890 travelling in a saloon car attached to the Flying Scotsman. Those on the platform gave him

three cheers and were curious about the black boy travelling with him. On his return south the Corporation honoured him with an address.

Before the First World War various campaigners appeared in Berwick. In 1908 General Booth came to exhort the Salvation Army. Then in 1909 General Baden-Powell encouraged the thriving scouting movement by inspecting a party of 170 scouts on the Stanks in the presence of a crowd of 3,000. The same year Miss Adela Pankhurst and Miss Fawcett spoke for women's rights in the town and a suffragette stall was set up in the High Street. In 1912 a women's suffragette march from Edinburgh, the Dunbar-Berwick stretch being done in a day.

The Blackshirts held a meeting in Berwick in 1935 at which Captain Collier explained Fascist policy. A second meeting the following year though saw a much smaller turnout and a good deal of heckling and fighting. Still, A.K. Chesterton, cousin of G.K., was looking forward to the day when 'Fascism comes to power in this country' In 1937 the Government banned the wearing of Fascist uniform.

Michael Cullen

IN MEMORY OF PHILIP MILLER

JANUARY 1941 – MAY 2015

In no sense could Philip be described as 'retiring'. He put his skills as an architect and historic buildings expert to high-profile use on many fronts in Berwick and managed to cram in a lot of fun as well. The Society's official aim of 'upholding high standards of planning, landscaping and architecture' matched Philip's worldview exactly, and not long after he and Pat moved to Berwick in 2000 they became active members, with Philip subsequently serving on various committees and as chairman.

Philip and Pat were lured to Berwick by the prospect of rescuing Castle Hills House, the Regency villa masquerading as a castle hidden in the trees beyond the Royal Border Bridge. This was

a comparatively small project for them after the restoration of the gigantic stately homes of Ampthill Park in Bedfordshire and Cairness House in Aberdeenshire. Castle Hills couldn't have been in safer hands, and Philip's architectural acumen combined with Pat's design flair have given this local landmark the new lease of life it deserved.

Philip had that valuable and rare combination of a keen historical sense and strong architectural vision. He was adamant that buildings of historic worth should be preserved whenever possible, and that new developments should be innovative, not safe imitation. His time as chairman coincided with an economic boom and a flood of planning applications, some highly unsympathetic. Philip was courageously outspoken against these, giving others (including, I am sure, many officials) the confidence to challenge lazy design and demand high standards for Berwick. He championed the idea of a Local List for Berwick and organised an active Building Study Group as a way to capture the details of Berwick's lesser known historic features.



Philip had many strings to his bow – he was an international expert on ceramics and a historian of the architects Decimus Burton and James Playfair. When he teamed up with Pat to organise several fundraising concerts for the Society, he combined his feel for the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with his enthusiasm for historic pianos and his professional musical connections. Particularly memorable were the concerts with dramatic reenactments – an evening with Charles Dickens at the Kings Arms and a Battle of Trafalgar anniversary concert in the Guildhall with Civic Society member Fionna Fraser as Marianne, the French spirit of liberty. Philip and Pat also opened Castle Hills to the public for Heritage Open Days, with Philip in costume as the first owner, Dr Askew. This delighted the visitors, many of whom had been born or had babies at Castle Hills during its time as a maternity home, and who were astonished at how the building had been transformed in keeping with its origins.

The Civic Society was not the only beneficiary of Philip's energy and talent. He sat on the board and served as chairman of the Community Development Trust, and was a member of the Conservation Area Advisory Group and the City's slow committee. He also collaborated, notably with Bernard Shaw, on various publications and exhibitions.

These included Crossing the Tweed, a book produced with the support of the Institute of Civil Engineers as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Robert Stephenson's death.

Above all, Philip was fascinating company, a generous host at Castle Hills, and a colourful figure at Civic Society events. With the restoration of Castle Hills and their other projects, he and Pat have made an enduring contribution to Berwick, enriched our lives and furthered the work of the Society.

-Alison Cowe

On Saturday, September 19th, Zoreen Hill and Catherine Seymour joined a number of invited guests at Castle Hills House for a Memorial concert. This was presented by John Grundy, the conductor and musician who, in the past, has provided music for some of our Civic Society events.

He was joined by an extremely talented group of performers, which included his colleague, Frances Clement and four of his 'Star' pupils from the Music Academy in Sheffield. It was a lovely evening - one which certainly Philip would have very much enjoyed himself.

THE BERWICK MONSTER

There were often suggestions that Berwick might have made more of itself as a holiday venue. Perhaps it could have made more of its monster.

In 1934 Mr. William Cowe, Lighthouse Keeper, noticed a ripple in the water about a quarter of a mile off and claimed to have seen 'several bumps clearly sticking out of the water. The fish moved at a fast pace through the water, and then disappeared'. Nurse Kearney at Eyemouth claimed too to have seen a 'peculiar object' as long as the biggest drifters with a tail high out of the water. A Berwick stoker saw what he thought was 'the head, which seemed to shake, then swept forward under the water, and left a trail of white foam'. A young man said he'd seen something with 'several black bumps on it' out in the bay. Various explanations were offered. It might simply have been spray breaking over the reef of rocks just north of the Tweed, a submarine, a school of porpoises near the surface, sharks or whales, even a huge conger eel, though the last was ridiculed by fishermen.

Yet some fishermen were adamant that there was some kind of presence out in the bay. As one said: 'I've sailed this bay for forty years and I've never seen anything, but I believe there's something there now. The fish are behaving so differently'.

In 1937 a visitor at Beadnell spotted the 'monster' when looking through glasses. 'When it came towards the rocks he was terrified and ran away'. Poor show that, sir. Later that year a fisherman was reportedly scared by the 'Berwick Monster' seen 'torpedoing over the surface of the water'. Estimates of its length varied. In 1938 a Craster fisherman claimed to have seen 'a jet black creature, fully fifteen long'.

A well-publicised monster could bring a town considerable benefit. In the 1930's Inverness Town Council stopped spending money on tourist promotion. There was simply no need. Nessie was doing a far better job than anyone else could have done.

Michael Cullen

CONTACT INFORMATION

Registered Charity No. 508953
www.berwickcivicsociety.org.uk

Office-Bearers 2014-2015

Chairman.....Zoreen Hill
Vice-Chairman.....Catherine Seymour
Hon. Secretary.....Jessica Spencer-Barry
Hon. Treasurer.....Jack Bryson
Membership Secretary.....Catherine Seymour

You can call in on: 07510141794

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



IN MEMORIAM

MR TOM WAKENSHAW

A FORMER SHERIFF OF BERWICK AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR. HE WAS FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS OPERATIONS MANAGER OF THE RNLI AND HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HARBOUR COMMISSION.

MRS MARGARET McDONALD

WIDOW OF MR MICHAEL McDONALD A FORMER TOWN PLANNER, BERWICK BOROUGH COUNCIL. MARGARET WAS A GREAT SUPPORTER OF THE CIVIC SOCIETY AND USED TO HELP REGULARLY AS A STEWARD IN THE MAIN GUARD

MR CHRIS GREEN

FORMER BERWICK MUSEUM DIRECTOR. HE DID VALUABLE WORK FOR THE SOCIETY IN THE PAST MOUNTING EXHIBITIONS AND WROTE ACCOMPANYING BOOKLETS. HE WAS ALSO A MAINSTAY OF THE MALTINGS ARTS CENTRE FOR MANY YEARS (A FULL APPRECIATION WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER).

