

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Hello Members.

The Civic Society has had a successful and productive period over the last few months. After having Michael Gallico appointed as Hon. Treasurer last year, who has done an excellent job, we are very pleased to have Eirlys Lloyd as the Hon. Secretary.

John Webster continues as Vice-Chairman and has proved invaluable with his work on the Newsletter and website and he has now joined me on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. As mentioned before, the position of Deputy Vice Chairman was created several years ago, when the Chairman was in France for a great part of the year. It is not thought necessary at the moment to appoint anyone to this position.

We are, however, a little "light" on Executive Committee Members with the retirement of Catherine Seymour, Catherine Kent and Michael Cullen due to work and other commitments but they continue to support the Society in other ways. Ian Dods has been co-opted and Pat Miller has recently joined with a few others expressing interest. We should be pleased if more would like to join us and help in the multi-faceted work of the Society.

Michael Gallico now chairs a Planning and Development Sub-Group which is comprised of a strong team: as well as himself, John Webster, Judy Nicholson, Pat Miller, George May and myself are part of the group. Planning applications are discussed and, if necessary, an official response and opinion is sent from The Civic Society.

I have agreed to stay on as Chairman for one more year. I know I said that last year but this will definitely be my last year. It is not good for a Chairman to stay on too long when new blood and fresh ideas would be advisable.

“The true description of her Majesties Town of Barwick” exhibition in The Main Guard was very much appreciated and visiting children really loved trying on the Elizabethan costumes. This exhibition carries on this year and it is planned that we will have the added interest in the Soldiers’ Room of The Tweed 1000 Tapestry being worked on occasions by a small group of needlewomen. The Main Guard opens on 1st June until 30th September. Thanks to Marion Mead for all her support and also the co-ordinators and stewards.

We have been pleased to give donations to the Tweed 1000 Tapestry project, the Tweedmouth Crowning and Carnival Committee and for the Spittal Gala.

In the midst of all the problems at Berwick Academy, it was good that a pupil was identified to receive our Award last year. On the 19th December, I presented the prize to Dorothy Kelsey who had made an outstanding contribution to the wider community.

Many feel that Berwick is really moving forward with the Neighbourhood Plan, the Barracks Heritage Hub, the Port for cruises (pontoons) and plans for Spittal Point. The Civic Society has representation on the Neighbourhood Plan, Barracks Heritage Hub and with the Coastal Communities group. Also, a Berwick Regeneration Commission has been established with the purpose being to bring democratic legitimacy and delivery to regeneration. It is difficult to make much comment at the moment as it is all very much in the ‘melting pot’ or ‘high seas’ at the moment! However, we shall endeavour to keep members informed and give a platform to the key participants in all these projects.

I was invited recently to a moving KOSB exhibition in The Barracks entitled “The Aftermath” depicting the privations suffered after the First World War. It was good to see the old Officers’ Mess nicely refurbished.

The Spittal Improvement Trust has asked the Civic Society to give its support for a full internal and external restoration of the

EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Sandstell fishing shiel. This is a really excellent, imaginative plan - just the thing for this highly valuable part of the town and its potential.

I am part of a small committee organising Heritage Open Days and the aim is to make it a really successful event this year. We are joining forces with the Film and Media, Food and Beer, and Literary Festivals to cooperate with publicity and funding.

Lastly, I should like to pay tribute to Michael Cullen who has retired from the Executive and also from writing our *Berwick Advertiser* reports, which he has done for many years. He has assiduously done this task, attending every meeting and writing on sometimes very complex and detailed subjects. We owe him great thanks. Fortunately, he will still be assisting the Society in other ways. An appreciation of Michael by John Webster is included in this Newsletter.

Hope to see many of you over the next few months and have a very enjoyable summer.

Zoreen, Lady Hill

Last year's Autumn Season continued with a talk given by Dr Adrian Green, Lecturer in History at Durham University entitled; "Little Happier than Hell ? - Housing in 17th Century, Berwick-upon-Tweed and Northumberland." Dr Green had been a tutor of Catherine Kent, who chaired the meeting. This was a very interesting talk and well attended.

We held our annual Remembrance Service on 11th November at The Main Guard. 2017 was the 100th anniversary of The Battle of Passchendaele. As always it was an extremely moving service conducted by Canon Christopher Smith, assisted by Jimmy Mercer KOSB and piper, Andrew Smith. It was well-attended but, unfortunately, pupils from Longridge Towers Junior School could not attend as it was held on a Saturday. However, last year, the excellent, young cornet player from Longridge sounded the Last Post. The 651 poppy crosses, were again laid out by the cadets, scouts and cubs led by Paul Marshall, Anne Forbes and Debra Jerden.

Next year as Remembrance Day actually falls on the Sunday, we shall be holding our service on the Friday.

The Christmas Party was held on 8th December and we were delighted and very grateful that Michael and Alison Gallico offered to host the event in their refurbished new home, 72 Ravensdowne. Fifty-five members attended a most enjoyable evening.

The first of the 2018 meetings was held on 10th January when we welcomed back Mr Geoff Paul to give a talk in his new role as part of the North of Tyne Devolution Team.

This was followed on 26th February by a talk given by Mrs Daljit Lally, the Chief Executive of Northumberland County Council and Director of Delivery for Northumbria Healthcare on her first visit to the Society.

Both meetings were constructive and well-attended.

On 14th March we held one of our popular Question Time sessions with panellists Professor Michael Wright, Mr Jonathan Lee, Headmaster of Longridge Towers School, and Tania Willis, the internationally-acclaimed illustrator who is playing a key role in the Tweed 1000 project.

Michael Cullen's reports on these meetings are contained in this Newsletter.

As always, much appreciation should be recorded to the

speakers who give of their time, the caterers and all those who help at the meetings.

Zoreen, Lady Hill

CIVIC SOCIETY NEWS

CAR PARKING STUDY BY NCC



Car Parking in Berwick - Too Little or Too Much?

NCC commissioned a study by consultants AECOM to look at the parking situation in several towns within Northumberland, including Berwick. This resulted in a detailed analysis of the car parking arrangements within the town looking at such things as locations, capacity, occupancy etc. with suggestions as to where additional parking could be found.

Many of these suggestions could be dismissed either because the site was already under development or was inappropriate - such as converting the grass area in front of the barracks, used for the food festival and other events.

The Civic Society considered the report carefully then submitted a response, as did other community organisations such as CAAG and the Neighbourhood Planning Group. It should be noted that NCC have stated clearly that this is a study and that it would be up the Town Council to agree on the way ahead.

The AECOM report and the Civic Society's response (too long for inclusion in the Newsletter) are available to anyone interested on the BCS website (berwickcivicsociety.org.uk) under the "Society News" tab.

MICHAEL CULLEN



Michael retires from his role of BCS Meeting Reporter

Michael has written reports on Civic Society meetings for the *Advertiser* and the Society Newsletter for some while. He has now decided that 'enough is enough' and that he would like to be able to sit and enjoy listening to the talks without having the added stress of making notes then writing them all up at the end. He will be sadly missed in this role because of his talent for condensing often complex discussions in a clear and easy to read manner.

Michael was a regular visitor to Berwick from the 1960s onwards with increasingly lengthy holiday spells at the Ness Gate Hotel "of blessed memory" while still teaching in the south of England. He bought a house in Berwick in 1987 and moved to the area on a permanent basis on his retirement from teaching.

Michael is of course well-known in the area for the books he has written on the history of Spittal ('Early Victorian Spittal (1837-1964)' & 'Late Victorian Spittal') and Berwick and his other contributions of a general nature to the Newsletter. I am pleased to say that he is going to continue to contribute articles for our entertainment and enlightenment.

I have to confess to cribbing material from some of Michael's publications on a regular basis to help me pad out the Newsletter and avoid blank pages. Anyway, a heartfelt thank you to Michael for all the time and effort he has spent over the years working for the Civic Society.

John Webster



Zoreen presents Michael with wine and a book token at the 2018 AGM

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The P&D Subcommittee, revived last year, aims to review all planning applications that affect listed buildings or the conservation areas in the town, on both sides of the river. Its aim is, simply, to discourage poor developments or alterations and encourage good design and planning: the committee will actively lodge its support for good proposals.

The Civic Society is of course not the only body to review applications - others include the Town Council, the Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG), the NCC's Conservation Officer, the St Boisil's Residents' Association and English Heritage - but the P&D committee aims to make its own independent judgement.

It meets almost monthly, reports back to the Society's Executive Committee and currently consists of five regular members and is happy to involve more. No specialist professional knowledge of architecture or planning is required, although anyone with those backgrounds would be very welcome.

Since last autumn the principal cases reviewed have been the successive plans to build additional houses adjacent to the Ramparts in the grounds of St

Aidan's House. The Society has repeatedly objected to this example of 'planning creep': a developer trying to add extra dwellings to a development after approval.

The Society objected to the retrospective application for the advertising outside Pets at Home; and there is a persistent problem with retrospective applications for work already undertaken (sometimes very poorly). Another frequent type of application is for replacement with double-glazed windows and we have asked NCC to clarify its guidelines for these.

I should say that the vast majority of planning applications are reasonable and well-presented, so they evoke no comment, but the committee has been unhappy on (a few) occasions with poor plans and elevation drawings or when an applicant has submitted no proper heritage and design statement for major work. Without these it is hard to see why alterations are needed or how they will be built and look.

On the other hand there have been several applications for the conversion into housing of empty offices or floors above shops and (so long as important historical features are preserved): this kind of re-use has been welcomed.

All planning applications and their supporting documents and public

comments can be viewed on the NCC planning portal at:

<https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications//search.do?action=simple>

Michael Gallico

(Chairman, P&D Subcommittee)
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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their subscription for 2018: your support for the Society is much appreciated and it makes it easier to plan things like the print run for this Newsletter.

The subscription year runs from January to December, not from one AGM to the next, and it is the plan to send an annual reminder early in the year to those who do not have a standing order.

If you would prefer to pay by standing order or direct bank payment the Society's account details are Bank of Scotland sort code 12-12-57, account number 00156361, account name Berwick upon Tweed Civic Society and payments are due on 15th January.

The subscription is a modest £8 for an individual and £12 for a couple.

Michael Gallico (Hon. Treasurer)

RECENT TALKS

Michael Cullen reports on recent Civic Society Meetings.

HOUSING IN 17C BERWICK

"Little happier than in hell?" That was the introductory quote by **Dr Adrian Green** of Durham University to a richly illustrated talk on housing in seventeenth century Berwick and Northumberland on Wednesday 8th November.

Berwick emerged from the sixteenth century as a rural town, greatly dependent on salmon and grazing, but with an ambition to be rather more than that - a significant civil place in highly uncivil times. Unfortunately there are few signs now of Berwick's 17C building as the town was largely rebuilt after that.

The pele tower at Corbridge is a reminder of Border strife, of a land in Lord Macaulay's words, "constantly desolated by bands of historical marauders". So too, amongst other survivals, is the medieval tower of Belsay Castle.

Chipchase Castle, on the other hand, with its Renaissance flourishes, is a mark of more settled times. These prompted many distinctive town houses. One cited example is 22, Market Street,

Hexham which has mullioned windows, scrolled pediments and a double doorway, one the house entrance and the other possibly leading to a shop.

Lower down the social scale numerous bastle houses were built throughout Northumberland. In these, the ground floor was reserved for livestock where they might over-winter with steps that could be pulled up leading to the accommodation above. Single storey cottages that still exist such as Ladythorne Cottage, Cheswick with its single hearth, byre, chimney stack and 17C door head are often linked to much earlier building though dating can be difficult.

Dr Green explained the significance of the generally unpopular hearth tax, dating from the mid-16c, in that it works as something of a census and gives an impression of the status of the occupants. A single hearth would suggest abject poverty, two that the occupants were a bit better off, 3 or 4 comfortably off, 5 or more the status of gentleman or gentlewoman, more than 10 that of an inn, large complex, or great wealth, and 20 or more a grand house. This was later superseded by the chimney tax, the window tax, and 'temporary' income tax.

Dr Green was introduced and thanked by Catherine Kent, one of his PhD Students.

NCC NORTH OF TYNE DEVOLUTION TEAM

Geoff Paul made another of his January visits to the society ruefully suggesting he wouldn't altogether mind a summer date. While he had previously been briefing us on planning and the economy, he was here this time as part of the North of Tyne Devolution Team to outline progress in that direction.

He made clear what was being considered Devolution and that was the transfer of funding by the Westminster government to a combined authority for it to decide how economic levers be applied. This stage has already been reached by some authorities such as Greater Manchester and Cambridge. Progress in the North-East had been held up by the Governmental requirement for an elected mayor: acceptable to the three Councils north of the Tyne, not so to the four south of the river. That stumbling block led to the withdrawal of the Government offer. Present negotiations with the Government are being conducted by the three northern bodies. As now planned the mayor will preside over a cabinet which will have two representatives from each of the three existing Authorities, and will appoint an Ambassador for

Business, but have no casting vote or power of veto.

Mr. Paul sees devolution offering considerable opportunity for the region. It could lead to 10,000 new jobs with over two million pounds of private investment and much increased output. Growth areas are seen as digital fields, offshore, pharmaceuticals, financial services and tourism. While the offered twenty million pounds per year over a thirty year period is no great sum it needs to be seen as part of a long term, ongoing process with future deals possible. To maximise opportunity efforts must be made to link skills more directly with employment prospects. Education has been made part of the deal, something that could benefit the Region's under-performing schools.

The region's 800,000 people place it demographically at a lowish number for a Combined Authority. It is unusual too in being a predominantly rural area. It does though have 23,000 businesses employing 410,000 workers, 85% of whom live north of the Tyne. It is seen as important that the pull of Newcastle be resisted and that the rural hinterland is adequately provided for.

Zoreen, Lady Hill, thanked Mr. Paul for his 'lucid and in-depth' exposition of the state of play.

NORTHUMBRIA HEALTHCARE

The Society was addressed on the evening of Monday, February 26th, by Mrs. **Daljit Lally**, Chief Executive - Northumberland County Council, Executive Director of Delivery - Northumbria Healthcare.

She drew attention to the wide range of services provided across Northumbria and North Tyneside: over 600 services for a population of 316,000 with a budget of £790m. These included general hospitals at Hexham, North Tyneside and Wansbeck, and four community hospitals, with current plans for Berwick's naturally arousing the greatest interest. Consideration is currently being given to having the new hospital as part of an integrated development with health, social care and leisure services.

In response to questioning though she made clear that there is no possibility of having the specialist staff needed for regaining an A&E service or of having it as a teaching hospital - though members raised in Berwick could remember it doing both. A wide range of services can also be accessed through G.Ps.

Patient satisfaction has been high, ranging from 96-99% in the three cited categories, highly pleasing to staff, though that should not, she

stressed, give reason for complacency.

Changes she saw as worth consideration included widening the range of outpatient services, particularly for the vulnerable elderly patients, reviewing ambulance buses, and having more locally based paramedics. More generally, lessons could be learned from the 'lean' model of hospital management she saw in Seattle over such matters as the avoidance of unused space.

Talking more broadly, she showed that Berwick's employment rate is a little above that for the county as a whole though average earnings are lower. A need was seen to improve the performance of local schools to enable more successful employment applications. Co-operation with the Berwick Regeneration Commission was seen as a promising development while some funding could come through Border Line.

The Society Chair, Zoreen, Lady Hill, thanked Mrs. Lally for finding time from her busy schedule to speak to the Society.

QUESTION TIME

On the evening of March 14th the Civic Society held another Question Time. The invited speakers were Jonathan Lee, Headmaster of Longridge School, Professor Wright, former Principal at Canterbury Christchurch University, and Tania Willis, the acclaimed illustrator.

Speaking first, **Jonathan Lee** started with a few facts about Longridge. Its 330 pupils range in age from three to eighteen. A recent inspection found the school compliant with regulation, doing excellent pastoral work, and making good academic progress. He stressed though that the aim should always be to do better.

The era of the one-post career has gone and today's youngsters face a more unpredictable future. This puts a premium on the acquisition of skills and the development of the kind of resilience that can overcome setbacks. Progress cannot be measured by exams. Education needs to be seen as a creative process with the question often more interesting than the answer. Teachers as role models need sufficient humility to show that they too can be learners. Communication, collaboration, and a sense of community are vital elements in the process.

Professor Wright's expertise was in employment law. Allied to that has been wide-ranging managerial

experience. This has included the governing body of an independent school, the board of an arts festival, and membership of a cathedral chapter. Since taking up residence full-time in Berwick he has been much involved with the Literary Festival as Chair of its steering group, and also with U3A, Probus, and the Parish Church and Arts Choirs.

Drawing on his own wide university background, he couldn't see the prospect of Berwick having its own university campus as feasible. Rather he saw Berwick, despite being a lovely town, having the sort of problems that other small coastal towns, such as Margate and Deal, have had since the days of their attractiveness as holiday destinations faded away. That though doesn't necessarily mean they are doomed to indefinite decline. What is vital is a clear vision for the future - that must precede money.

Tania Willis said that she is one of a number of illustrators living in Berwick and that in this respect the town punches above its weight. The usually solitary life of an illustrator is often now thought an easy one and she talked of life in squat studios before teaching at Glasgow's School of Art. Then it was off to Hong Kong where she spent twenty years. The subsequent reach of her art has been remarkable, ranging from airline logo to children's books with striking works such as 'Twenty

Years of Dragon', and 'Giant Elephants' and she contributed to the Hong Kong Arts Festival. Other activities include developing wallpaper, drawing a number of maps, and designing a large mural for a children's home.

She is currently much engaged with the Tweed1000 project. As a preliminary, a variety of drawings and images are being assembled but a key requirement is to recruit an adequate number of stitchers. While much of the work will require considerable expertise, border work will be more straightforward. Inspiration for this has come from The Great Tapestry of Scotland and it is hoped this will result in a similarly memorable legacy.

Asked why he ruled out the prospect of Berwick having its own university campus, Professor Wright was convinced that there was not sufficient 'wind in the sails financially' to make this feasible. On the other hand, a further education college was certainly possible and would cut out those lengthy trips to Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Another questioner suggested the use of the Old Maltings as an Outreach Centre but was told that while it is relatively easy to get a building that is only of use if you can be sure to get sufficient income flowing through it. This meant siting one in an area populated with the necessary 'critical mass'.

A questioner asked Jonathan Lee whether he encouraged work placement. He definitely does, and the school runs an active programme which pupils take part in from the age of fourteen. The aim is to give pupils a broad experience of the working environment rather than trying to point them down career paths. It includes contact with community activities such as BARK.

Tania Willis observed that she did not think universities 'fleet-footed enough' at a time of change in higher education. While there was an increasing number of Asians on roles, the high cost of student loans was deterring many and arts subjects were further challenged by the number of school syllabus cuts.

OTHER ITEMS

MABEL PHILIPSON BERWICK'S FIRST LADY M.P.

It was something of an accident that brought Mrs Mabel Philipson into the political highlights. Her husband, Captain Hilton Philipson, had been returned as a Liberal M.P. in the 1922 General Election, defeating a rival Liberal, Walter Runciman. A few weeks later a petition was got up against him under the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act. His agent had overspent. This was not one of those cases of wild corruption at which Berwick had excelled in former times but seemingly a muddled affair with the Captain unaware of any excess spending. In due course the result was declared void.

Mabel Philipson was well known at this time as an actress, often appearing at The Gaiety. She resolved though to fight the bye-election as a Conservative. Campaigning, she was particularly anxious to scotch rumours that Baldwin planned a tax on foodstuffs, had a rather feisty meeting in Spittal in which she got involved in an unnecessary row about a lorry and was accused of claiming undue credit for the planned new bridge, and a better-

tempered one in the Corn Exchange in which ladies wore red hats and ribbons to counter the Liberal blue but most were not very interested in the speeches just wanting to 'cheer and cheer and cheer'. At the end she was besieged by autograph hunters and blew kisses to the crowd as she left. A helpful ditty was composed to assist her against Robson, her Liberal opponent:

*'If it's Mabel let her in,
If it's Robson kick his shin'*

She emerged from the contest triumphant; gaining twice the votes cast for her opponent, and took her seat as the third lady M.P. to be elected to Westminster. The seat had to be defended though in the General Election at the end of 1923 and here her majority was smaller though there was no lack of action. *'Hundreds of young people, most of them young women, not yet qualified to vote, have been behaving like hooligans, calling each other names of an unprintable character'*. At yet another election the following year she was returned during quieter scenes when *'a mild sensation was caused by one woman screaming hysterically for three minutes on end'*.

As a politician she was accused of '*betraying her sex*' by not supporting votes for women at 21; became embroiled in controversy as to whether there had been a Russian treaty; sat on a Commons Commercial Committee, and promoted a Rooks and Rabbits Bill - this last added ammunition to Berwick's Labour belief that she was not on their wavelength.

She was once green-carded only to find the lady calling her out of the Commons Chamber wanted only to know whether lady M.P.s were planning to have their hair bobbed.

She was rather accident prone. Mishaps included appearing at her first count with a black eye, having been given an accidental wallop by her police security; missing a constituency meeting after being late for a train; and being put out of action for a while after a mosquito bite.

There had for a while been rumours that she planned to retire before she actually did so in 1928, saying she wanted to spend more time with her family: her son's health had been a concern. Also perhaps to have more time on her farm on which she'd won awards. Before long too she was back on the stage, appearing in Galsworthy's '*Exile*'.

A number of presentations were made to her, one by the Conservative Party at Etal Manor.

She married twice but her first husband was killed in a car accident six months after the marriage. She had three children by her second husband and died in 1951 at the relatively young age of 64.

Michael Cullen

BERWICK AND THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

.....if King Charles II had asked the right question, they might have been called Her Majesty's Berwick Guards.....



Major The Reverend Canon Alan Hughes MBE TD CF, conducting a Flodden Day ceremony with a fellow Coldstreamer

When Civil War broke out in England in 1642 Berwick-upon-Tweed was garrisoned by the Scots, the Scottish Army adventuring around England until 1647. On 28th April 1648 Berwick was taken by Sir Marmaduke

Langdale and Sir Charles Lucas' Royalist force of 120 horsemen. Oliver Cromwell deposed them that September, demanding Berwick Burgesses provision and billet his soldiers, whilst he took up residence at Mordington House, entering Berwick himself on Sept 30th. On 30th January 1649, Charles I was executed at Whitehall and Great Britain became a Protectorate under Cromwell.

The Governor of Berwick in 1649 was 'Roundhead' Colonel George Fenwicke of Brinkburn House, who, with his father-in-law Sir Arthur Hasselrigge, formed Monck's Regiment of Foot near Berwick in 1650. After battles at Dunbar and Edinburgh, they settled at Coldstream, before marching to London to lay down their arms for Charles II in 1660. After quelling a final riot, they were not required to lay down their arms, making The Coldstream the oldest continuously serving regiment.

Instead of asking "where were you raised?" Charles asked "where have you marched from?" and so they took the name Coldstream Guards instead of Berwick Guards!

Fenwicke also caused the Parish Church to be built. Work began in 1648 using stones and timbers from Edward I 13thC Berwick Castle. The oak roof beams were 300 years old when first cut, seedlings when Celtic Saints laid

the foundations of Christian faith on nearby Holy Island.

Fenwicke's memorial on the wall of Holy Trinity reads "a good man is a publick good". Above his stone hang The Coldstream Regimental and Queen's Colours, presented by General Sir Mike Rose in 2000. Poignant for me, having served alongside Mike with The Coldstream in Aden in the 1960s. I petitioned The Queen and Regiment for the Colours through fellow Coldstreamer Viscount Ridley and also suggested to him a visit to Berwick by The Queen, which took place later.

When The Scots crowned Charles II in 1649, Cromwell returned to Berwick 13th July, provisioning the garrison with 3000 tents, 3000 quarters of wheat, 2800 of oats, 400,000 pounds of biscuits, and 180 tons of cheese. He sent 2,500 men ahead to Sir Arthur Hasselrigge, to keep the Berwick to Edinburgh road open for his main force to challenge Charles.

As Cromwell reached the outskirts of Berwick on July 12th, The Mayor and Corporation directed that "it is thought fitt and so hereby ordered that all the Burgesses who have borne office shall be in their gownes, and all other the free burgesses to accompany Mr Maior and the Justices to-morrow morning to attend the General at the first muskitt when he cometh in." Cromwell passed through

Berwick and on to Mordington, his headquarters back in 1648.

The foundation stone of Berwick Parish Church was laid at this time, and Cromwell is credited with influencing the design: no bells, stained glass or sanctuary, the pulpit and bible central in the church, surrounded by box pews. A plain Puritan preaching box, the only Parish Church to built in such a distinctive style during The Commonwealth.

Richard Cromwell succeeded upon the death of his father: the Guild of Berwick Freemen sent him a letter of congratulation. Richard's protectorate lasted barely a year and over the summer of 1659 it was rumoured in the town that General Monck, then occupying Coldstream, was undecided in his loyalty.

The Berwick Guild Book records that "An emergency meeting of the Guild was called 2nd January 1659, as The Mayor had had reported to him by a friend that The Lord General Monck had left Coldstream and made rendezvous at Millfield that day. It was agreed that a letter be sent to The Lord General assuring him that Town was at his service. The letter to be delivered by Alderman Watson, Mr Pratt, Mr Webb and Mr Jackson." Note January 1659! - in those times they did not turn the year until March 22nd - year to year was March 22nd to March 22nd!

Berwick armed itself with old Civil War armour and prepared defences against attack by Monck. The Lord General and Lady Monck came to visit Berwick and were welcomed by The Mayor with gifts of wine and sugar, both General and Town agreeing, with fingers crossed, that they were both still loyal supporters of the Parliamentary cause.

However, as history shows, Monck and his Regiment headed south to Tower Hill via the Knavesmire at York and by the next summer had welcomed the Restoration of the Monarchy as had the people of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

The Berwick/Coldstream link is very personal for me. In 1952 I was made an altar boy by the Reverend Tony Smith, who had come to our Yorkshire parish directly from serving as curate at Berwick Parish Church. In 1963 I joined The Coldstream, in 1994 became Vicar of Berwick to find that the Church had been built by my Regiment in 1650, and in 2015 moved to live in a house built on the gardens of the house where Colonel Fenwicke, founder of my Regiment, once lived.

Alan Hughes

BERWICK FLOOD RISK STUDY



John Webster writes that 'as a newcomer to Berwick I wondered about the possibility of flooding of Sandgate, Bridge Street and Palace Green in the event of an exceptional flooding event from the river. I wrote last year to NCC to ask if they had considered installing inexpensive sliding board barriers at the openings in the Quay Walls such as Sally Port and Sandgate to prevent ingress to the town in such an event.

Much to my delight I got a response from Catherine Seymour, then recently elected as Councillor to say that she was looking into the flood risk issue as a priority issue. She kindly let me use the material below to bring me up to date on what was going on and I thought it might be of interest to others. This article did appear in the *Berwick Advertiser* a couple of months ago so some may be familiar with the content.'

Call made for study of potential flooding sites

Councillor **Catherine Seymour**, Conservative Councillor for Berwick North, is leading efforts to investigate possible flooding and drainage weaknesses in the town after being contacted by worried residents. Now she says Berwick is being pushed as a priority area for study after meetings with Northumberland County Council officers and Northumbrian Water. There are hopes a Berwick Integrated Drainage Study will be brought forward as soon as possible with detailed flood modelling to highlight any potential problems.

Cllr. Seymour says some prevention work was carried out after storms Desmond and Eva in 2015/2016 but people are concerned about flood risk remaining a problem.

"I have been contacted by several people with worries and I feel we need to have a more detailed study of Berwick to discover weaknesses with local drainage, sewer outfalls to the River Tweed, and protection from the river itself," she said.

"Understandably, people want to know the full situation and how prepared we are, as flooded homes can be horrendous for those affected. We also know there are concerns about some areas of Berwick being susceptible to flood

waters, including North Road and Newfields."

"As well, a storm tide, such as the tidal surge in 2013 from the North Sea could cause flooding around Sandgate and the Quayside area too, so emergency procedures need to be in place."

"I am pleased we will be pushing Berwick Integrated Drainage Study as a priority and I am hopeful it will be treated as such and any necessary work can begin quickly.

Berwick MP Annie-Marie Trevelyan added:"I am glad that we are working together to push for this study to protect residents and our landscape." She added: "This has been a very important issue for me for some time, which I have raised repeatedly with Northumberland Water through meetings and correspondence. We need to ensure that we protect our local residents from potential flooding and our environment from the damage that results from weaknesses with local drainage."

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

Website: www.berwickcivicsociety.org.uk

Office Bearers 2017-2018

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

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