

The Berwick Civic Society

is a Registered Charity (No. 508953)

Website: www.berwickcivicsociety.org.uk

Office Bearers 2021 - 2022

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The Main Guard

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Anne Humphrey
Bob Humphrey, Cheryl Bee
Georgina Hill, Bob Steward

Events and Promotions

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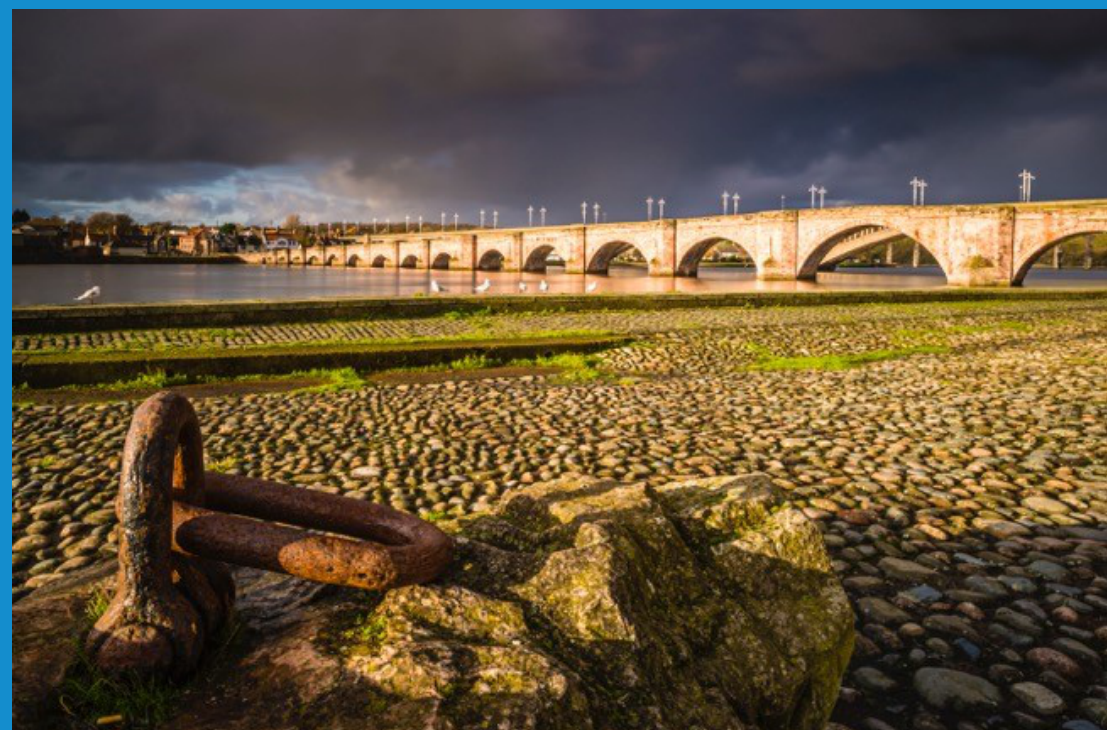
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BERWICK-UPON-TWEED CIVIC SOCIETY



Winter NEWSLETTER

2021

Contents

From the Chairman	1
Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report	3
Hon. Secretary's Report	4
Events and Promotions Report	5
Planning and Development Report	7
Berwick Heritage Open Days Report	9
The Main Guard	11
Berwick during the First World War	12
When did you last visit Ancroft ?	14
Contributions by Suzanne Stanley of the Northumberland and Newcastle Society	16
In Memoriam	19
Committee Structure	
Back cover	

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we emerge from Covid restrictions, I am pleased to report that all aspects of the Civic Society work are getting back to normal.

We held our delayed AGM in the Guildhall in June and it was well attended. The guest speaker was Mr David Barrett, Chairman of the Harbour Commission who gave a interesting, informed talk on developments at the Port and the visiting cruise ships. An article on this, written by Suzanne Stanley of the Northumberland and Newcastle Society is included later on within this newsletter. There is also a piece written by her on the new house development at Castle Terrace.

Big projects in Berwick have continued through Covid. This includes the developments at the Port and the construction of the new Hospital and the new Leisure Centre. The new Maltings, funded through the Borderlands Growth Deal, is expected to be completed in 2025 and a design competition will be launched imminently.

A new plan is taking shape regarding the Barracks which is, of course, an integral part of the Town's heritage. Sir Philip Mawer has done a tremendous job in spearheading this project - to ensure the conservation of this site for future generations

There has been many visitors to Berwick this Summer and Autumn and, judging

from the comments of those visiting the Main Guard, people have been struck by it's history and beauty.

We should make sure that the infrastructure of the Town is in line with this new interest including, importantly, the preservation of our unique historic assets and the development of our hospitality industry (good hotels, in particular) and take advantage of our inspiring scenery and views.

We were very honoured to have as our guest speaker in August, Lord Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York. This was a combined meeting with the History Society in the Guildhall. A short account of his lecture entitled; "Why Conundrum?", written by James Bruce, is included in this Newsletter. We are delighted that Lord Sentamu and his wife, Margaret have now become members of the society.

Also we welcome, Mr Gilbert O'Brian, who has played a key role in the Georgian Society, as a member. He has also agreed to join our Planning and Development Committee.

Another new recruit is Homer Lindsay who has agreed to become our Website Manager. His expertise will be invaluable as we look to update and modernise the website.

We have a small Executive Group and each one has been outstanding in their work and dedication. Anne Humphrey, our Honorary Secretary, has become a

Linchpin in the running of the Society and in liaising with other bodies such as the Northumberland and Newcastle Society and the Alnwick Civic Society.

Many thanks to Michael Cullen and Sandra Gann for their interesting pieces included on Berwick during the First World War and Ancroft.

Lastly, we were deeply saddened at the death of Judy Nicholson last August. She had been the Honorary Secretary for many years and became indispensable assisting three Chairmen during that time - making a major contribution. Judy had a warm, lively personality and was much loved. I felt privileged to count her as a friend. A moving account of her life is written for this newsletter by her daughter, Sally Anderson.

Best wishes to you all for the coming season.

Zoreen Hill

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Those you who were at the AGM in the summer will know that our previous Treasurer, Michael Gallico, stepped down from the role. I agreed to take it on temporarily until we can find a permanent replacement for Michael, so if that sounds like something you would be interested in please let me know.

The society's finances remain relatively healthy, and now that we have been able to re-open the Main Guard and re-start meetings and talks these will bring income into the Society. The Main Guard itself brought in £560 in the two months it was open, and with the daily average number of visitors higher than in 2019 I am hopeful that we will see that repeated or improved in 2022.

We have always supported other local groups by way of donations, and thankfully our financial position allowed us to carry on doing that in 2021. We also (again as in previous years) were able to make awards to local students in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

Finally, I would like to thank Michael Gallico for all his work as Treasurer. The books were very orderly and clear, with anything I didn't understand being down to me! Thank you Michael for making the handover straightforward.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Bob Humphrey
Acting Treasurer.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

It doesn't seem that long since our last newsletter but here we are with Christmas fast approaching!

We are slowly returning to some form of normality and the Executive Committee are now meeting in person. I would like to thank the members of the Committee for submitting their reports to me and thereby making my job a great deal easier. I would also like to thank everyone who has attended meetings and who have tried very hard to accommodate the dates that were given, it is very much appreciated when I know how busy you are.

It has been gratifying to receive emails over the past few weeks from the members and I hope that I was able to answer your queries and thank you for some of the nice comments.

After being one of the many who have had to shield over the past 18 months, it was lovely to be able to steward a couple of Sunday afternoons and get to see people in person. I thoroughly recommend it and it was wonderful to see so many visitors through our doors and members too. I also enjoyed the drop ins from some of the members, their company was the icing on the cake!

I must thank Suzanne Stanley for offering her articles and the emails that have ensued.

Our link with Alnwick Society has strengthened and I hope that this continues.

If you have an email address and wish to receive emails via our MemberMojo please contact me.

The Civic Society has been busy behind the scenes as it was very important that we continue to function, when there are so many challenges that this beautiful town are facing and are going to have to face in the future.

I wish you a peaceful Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.

EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS

On November 10th we had a presentation by Ros Lamont, Executive Chairman of the Maltings, assisted by Rob Murfin, Director of Planning and Local Services at Northumberland County Council, chaired by Brian Gowthorpe.

We held our annual remembrance service at the Main Guard. Full reports and photos will be in our Spring newsletter.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Christmas Party

Thursday, December 9th at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

A chance for a get-together after Covid. This will take the form of a finger buffet with wine and guests will be seated at tables. Food is being provided by Susan A Reay catering. An early application for tickets is recommended.

Wednesday 13th January, 2022

A question time session - the time and the topic to be announced.

Late February / early March

Dr Adam Manuge has agreed to visit us.

Adam was co-author of a book entitled; "Berwick-upon-Tweed - Three places, two nations, one town" and is now Senior Lecturer at the Department of Architecture and History of Art in

Cambridge.

He will give a lecture on the Villas of the Lake District. The villas date from the late 18th Century to about 1914 and reflect changes in the appreciation of landscape scenery as well as the Influences of Wordsworth and his circle.

Also he is happy to take part in a small discussion group about Berwick, as he sees it at the moment, after his extensive research some years ago

Wednesday, 9th March

Elizabeth Devon talks on the Geology and Industrial Archaeology of parts of the North Northumberland coast from Berwick to Holy Island.

Wednesday, April 13th, 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

The AGM (7pm). Speaker to be announced.

LORD SENTAMU'S TALK - REPORT

On 13 October a joint meeting of the Civic and History Societies was privileged to hear a sparkling lecture, 'Why Conundrum?', from Lord Sentamu. The retired Archbishop was born near Kampala, Uganda, in 1949; escaped the tyranny of Idi Amin in 1974; studied and took holy orders at Cambridge; was consecrated in London, then moved to Birmingham and added lustre to the See of York from 2006 until 2020. Speaking to a large audience at the Guildhall, his theme was the name of Conundrum Farm, on Halidon Hill near Berwick. The 'drum' element means ridge, while 'conun' could mean wolf or hound, or else brave, valourous. Conjuring up the bitter Anglo-Scottish feuding of the fourteenth century, he quoted Bishop Eddington of Winchester's comparison of Berwick to the African city of Alexandria. Via the Sphinx, Stone Henge and Mona Lisa's smile we were led to a discussion of Paulinus's Christian

mission to Northumbria and Bede's Ecclesiastical History.

The oft-told story of the sparrow which flew through King Edwin's banqueting hall may

relate to a residence at Yeavinger Bell near Wooler. "Even so, man appears on earth for a little while; but of what went before this life or of what follows, we know nothing." Lord Sentamu's own Baganda tribe are rather like the English, he told us, inasmuch as theirs is the dominant language of Uganda, so they rarely bother to learn anyone else's!



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Committee has reviewed 39 planning applications so far this year and has commented on the majority of them. Wherever possible we try to be as positive as we can but sometimes applicants are unaware of the restrictions that apply to listed buildings and in Conservation Areas; sometimes designs are ill-thought-out and of poor quality. Some Civic Societies see themselves as dogged guardians of heritage and the status quo but we have stated that one of our aims is "...ensuring that what we are creating now will be worthy of preservation in the future." Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal have long and fascinating histories which have resulted in many interesting buildings and spaces that should be cared for and respected. But this should not be the only consideration; for their success and survival towns have always developed in response to social and economic change; these periods of change leave behind architecture and landscapes that reflect contemporary designs.

These issues came up in a particularly controversial application for 30 new homes at Spittal Quay (referred to as Land East of Lifeboat House Dock Road). One of our Society's guidelines is as follows: "4. The Society will oppose any development which will detract from the natural beauty of the coastline and

the Tweed Estuary since these together with the Town's special history are considered as Berwick's most important assets." The Civic Society duly opposed an earlier and larger 2019 proposal by GMC Developments for this industrial site and the planning authority refused the application. The site was formerly used by Tarmac Aggregates for loading vessels from two tall steel silos. The Conservation Area Advisory Group opposed both the original and the revised proposals. The Northumberland County Council Built Heritage and Design Officer also objected to the current proposal, mainly on the grounds of scale and the impact on the waterfront. The Civic Society decided to support the application, following consideration by both our Planning & Development Committee and our Executive Committee; it should be noted that there is some duplication of membership across the two committees. We also made a number of detailed comments concerning the design and the future management of the development.

It is worth explaining why we decided to support the proposal. We considered that the developer had clearly learned a number of lessons from the criticisms levelled at the first application. The new proposal was a major redesign. The height of the flat blocks was reduced by

1.5 metres, the mass of the buildings was reduced and there are 5 fewer flats. The developer worked up two options, one more traditional and the other of a more contemporary design, both using local stone and slate roofs. The site is not in either of the nearby Conservation Areas but because of the sensitivity of the location overlooking the Tweed estuary, the developer submitted the designs to Historic England before drawing up a planning application; their reaction was generally supportive and they suggested a number of changes which the developer has adopted, choosing to apply for the contemporary design.

The proposal is for 3 blocks of 8 flats which use design ideas from traditional local warehouse buildings; adjacent is a terrace of 6 contemporary townhouses. Civic Society colleagues agreed that whatever one's personal design preference, the development is a serious architectural design. The site has been dormant for 13 years and a high-quality new development ought to receive careful consideration. The application was supported by a thorough heritage statement which drew attention to the site's and the area's longstanding former industrial history, including the large scale and adverse visual impact of the steel silos. Many of the objections to the application emphasised that it was too large for the setting. However, the design and access statement supporting the application included a perspective across

the Tweed estuary from Pier Road; we were surprised to see that development did not appear excessive; this is perhaps because its scale echoes residential developments at two existing residential conversions of warehouse buildings opposite Tweedmouth Dock and at the Pier Maltings. It was also apparent that the visual impact of the development is greatly reduced because of the scale of the heavily wooded hillside immediately behind it. The planning application remains under consideration by the planning authority.

Brian Gowthorpe, Chair of Planning and Development Committee

BERWICK HERITAGE

OPEN DAYS (HODS) 2021

This year the event took place in Berwick between 10 and 19th September and as ever, it demonstrated that 30 years on, we are still going strong and introducing new elements. Despite all the uncertainties caused by the pandemic, we organised a hybrid event this year – online via our website with live talks for those at a distance and in person for local people and visitors alike. This was a challenge in itself juggling the different elements but it worked.

Most of our events the first week were online. Our website hosted various quizzes to test your knowledge of Berwick in the past and we featured a different building/structure every day in Berwick Through Time. We also ran a series of talks relating to Berwick's history which were attended by over 300 people from all over the world. However, we did run some in person events as well then - either self guided walks or exhibitions in buildings normally open to the public. Many people supported Secret Spittal and Bridge Street Revealed, an opportunity to enjoy a walk and find out more about these places. One of the highlights of the first week was the open morning at the Infirmary's Archaeological Excavation – a chance to talk to those involved in the excavation and to see what they had

found. Those venues normally open saw an increase in visitors that week thanks to HODS and our excellent social media presence, booklet and signage.

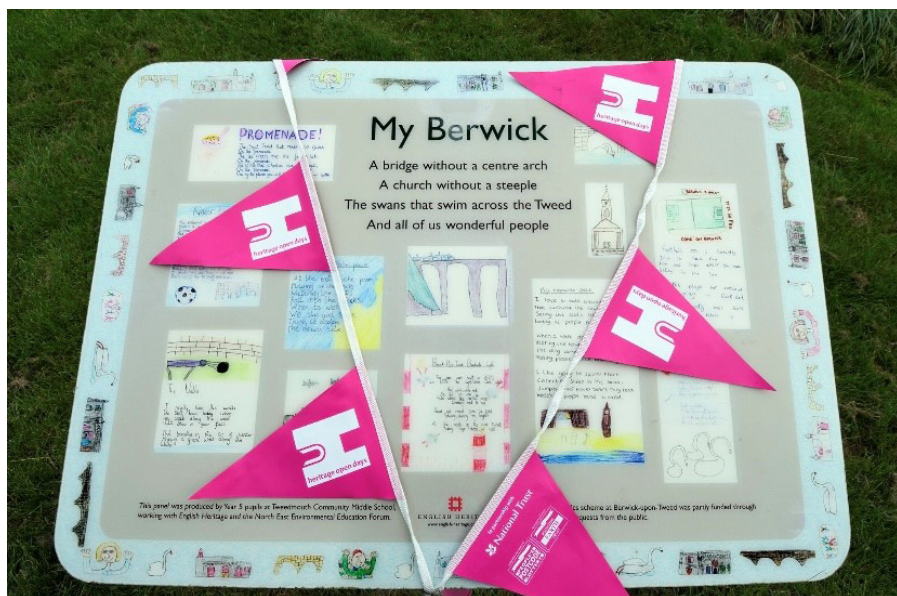
Our main weekend was 17th – 19th September when we encouraged local people and visitors to get out and about and enjoy Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal's wonderful heritage. The weather was mixed but it was great to see so many people going from venue to venue and appreciating our history. We couldn't open as many places as normal but our overall visitor number of 8414 (including guided walks) was very similar to 2019. All our guided walks in Berwick and Tweedmouth were very well supported and most of them were fully booked. We even added in a new one – Berwick Between the Wars.

Berwick HODS is an event which relies on volunteers and it is always a challenge finding enough people who want to help. However, this year, English Heritage offered their volunteers who assisted by manning the English Heritage owned sites. This proved to be really successful and we're going to continue this partnership in the future. We can't run the event without our volunteers and their enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to talk to people is crucial to

its success.

Although we have just finished Berwick HODS 2021, we are starting to think about 2022 – there is a lot to do behind the scenes. Again, it will be a hybrid event, promoted via our website, social media and the booklet. Berwick is a town which organises more events than anywhere else in Northumberland and probably most places our size in England. We're keen to add to what we offer and so, if you would like to get involved in organising this event, volunteering or know of any buildings which might want to open, do let us know. Just contact me initially on berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk.

Linda Bankier and the Berwick HODS Steering Group



photos by Brian Morris

THE MAIN GUARD

The Main Guard was open for two months this year - August and September for four days a week rather than six and also Bank Holidays.

We had a high number of visitors during that time and it was deemed a very successful season with a pleasing number of sales and donations. Jim Herbert's exhibition of "Guild and Governors" was in the Officers room again this year with the permanent exhibition on the History of a Garrison Town in the Soldiers Room. They have lost none of their interest and extremely favourable comments were received.

It was a worry after Covid if many people would be willing to steward but a good number of our members did volunteer. We are very grateful to them as we would not have been able to open without this support. We held a small reception to thank the stewards.

We took the opportunity then to present retiring Treasurer, Michael Gallico, with a gift and token of thanks for all his work in the five years he held the position.

The Main Guard provides a focal point for the visitor experience of Berwick and the Walls and it is a lovely little building. We hope next year to enhance the visitor experience with imaginative displays and ideas.

Zoreen Hill

BERWICK DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Scoutmaster Ferrier Steven, camping at Yetholm with a party of scouts, must have been among the first in the country to catch news of the declaration of war which he picked up on his wireless apparatus on relay from the Eiffel Tower. His equipment was promptly confiscated until the end of the war while he went on to serve as a wireless officer.

From then on the town was on something of a war footing. Mary Weatherhead, when a pupil at Spittal Shool remembered seeing 'the first Zeppelin going across Berwick. All the people in Falloden Terrace were out watching'. She feared worse : that the Germans would soon be dashing up Spittal beach. Preparing for such an eventuality the school got its practised evacuation time down to a minute. In town the most obvious sign of military activity was that of the Northern Cyclists Battalion at their muster in Sandgate. Some though grumbled that they were all rather in the way.

The town became a darker place. The Commanding Officer would permit only three lights which caused consternation in some black spots such as the bridge. A motor crash in Tweedmouth was blamed on the gloom. Lights out time varied, leading someone to ask whether 'the Zeppelin fellows might enquire what time would suit Berwick best?' Lighting

a lamp without first drawing the curtains would get you on the wrong side of the Defence of the Realm Act and probably fined.

The febrile atmosphere was seen in an anti-German demonstration following the sinking of the Lusitania. Special Constables had to be brought in to clear the High Street and a labourer was charged with inciting a riot. Jitteriness too was perhaps the cause of a fatality when a sentry posted on the bridge shot at a car which failed to stop but instead hit a young lady on the foot, from which wound she later died.

Spy scares fed the rumour mill. It was thought that spies might have been involved in the sinking of the Scout Cruiser Pathfinder off St.Abbs head. A party of foreigners had taken a nearby villa and were thought to be flashing morse signals seawards. Soon after the villa was shut up and no-one knew where the party had gone. Then there were a suspicious seeming fellow on the walls and a chap parading round Berwick in scout uniform who was certainly not Robert Clements or any known scout. Constance Craigie Halkett, living at the Lions House, also came under suspicion after the Sea Scouts spotted a light and thought that deliberate signalling.

As the war ground on shortages and increasing Government control of food

and other materials were what impacted most on civilian life. In 1917 a 'Machinery for Rationing' aimed to ensure that no-one ate more than four pounds of bread a week, Wednesday was declared a meatless day, and prices were set for a range of foods. These though were often too high and led to waste. Nothing should look too tempting. A Berwick baker was fined for putting an almond on top of a cake.

Many were engaged in relief work. 'The Berwick Guild of Aid', 'The War Relief Fund', 'The Local Relief Fund' and a 'Berwick Bottle Week' all looked to help troops and their dependents. The firm of W.D. Purves set up a recreation room for soldiers and sailors. Russian Flag days aimed to support Petrograd's Anglo-Russian Hospital. 'Comrades of the Great War' was started up on a national scale.

With peace came an end to such nuisances as gangs of girls running round shining torches in people's faces. More seriously, many later became involved with the League of Nations' activities.

Michael Cullen

WHEN DID YOU LAST VISIT ANCROFT?



St Anne's Church, Ancroft, Northumberland

St Anne's is one of the oldest surviving 11th century churches with a 12th century mediaeval cross slab used as grave cover still intact and some mediaeval floor tiles amongst the Victorian replacements. The church was said to have been built by the monks of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne as a Chapel of Ease to avoid the residents having to walk too far to their mother church. This area of North Northumberland remained part of the lands of the Prince Bishops of Durham until 1844 and old maps still have 'part of the County of Durham' across the area from Ancroft to Norham. During the Border Wars a fortified pele

tower was added to sit on top of the west end of the nave to act as a refuge for villages to gain safe shelter during the frequent raids. It was also the priest's lodgings. Despite these precautions between 1333 – 1345 the region was described as "being laid waste by Scottish Marauders" and the population was greatly diminished as many people left the area.

During the Plague years the village population was also decimated by deaths from disease until the decision was made to destroy all the village houses by burning in an attempt to stop infection spreading. Today the burrows in the field

over the road opposite the church show where the village community once lived. However fortunes change and Ancroft became very prosperous during the Napoleonic Wars. A shoemaking industry flourished in the village where the population was then over a thousand people. The Ancroft cobblers became quite famous and made boots for the troops in the Army and Navy. There is a line of 100 trees on the skyline to the south west of the village which are said to represent the cobblers of Ancroft.

Later during the French revolution ten nuns from the Poor Sisters of Rouen escaped from France and found refuge in Haggerston Castle under the auspices of Sir Carnaby Haggerston. They all died while living there and are buried in St. Anne's churchyard. There is a gravestone with all ten names inscribed on it near the entrance to the church.

Today the population of the Ancroft parish is about 900. The church has many visitors to see the architectural features, some from so long ago, and to read the history of the church and community displayed on the rear walls of the church and remember the stories of a bygone age. On your way out pause at the Churchyard gate to look at the Louping Stones to enable ladies to mount their horses with their long skirts. SYG Nov 2020.

Sandra Gann

BERWICK: SHIPS AHOY!



As you'll all be aware, July saw the arrival of the first cruise ships to Port of Berwick. Those of you who attended the AGM in July will remember that David Barratt, Chairman of Berwick Harbour Commission, described it as an exciting time, and hopes the town views the port and extra visitors as a benefit to local businesses. Certainly the overnight fees are very welcome for this asset-rich but cash-poor harbour which David describes as "a little gem", hoping it doesn't end up with a developer who will put flats on it. The essential creation of a new stone jetty was the opportunity to put in a landing pontoon, allowing yachts and cruise ships to use the facilities, but further investment is needed for coach parking, reception facilities, better toilets and a café. He emphasised that though, historically, Berwick has been a successful port and still handles and stores bulk cargoes of wheat, timber, fertiliser and oil-seed, agricultural trade is decreasing.

It's important therefore to develop the leisure use of the port alongside the bread-and-butter commercial function.

The first ship, Island Sky, sailing round UK waters and carrying 66 of a possible 118 passengers, moored off Spittal Beach on 21st July. Spirit of Discovery, a 55,000-ton vessel carrying 500 passengers arrived the following day, and apparently the tender was "back and forward all day". Walking tours of Berwick, a river cruise and a coach trip to Manderston House were on offer, and feedback suggested that the visitors loved it, despite the thick mist on 22nd which meant the ship was barely visible from the pier (I can vouch for that!). They also went into Berwick shops "and bought things!" says David. Despite Covid (30 staff were on hand to clean and sanitise coaches and everything else likely to be touched by human hand) it seems to have been a positive start to an additional use for Port of Berwick.

Suzanne Stanley

DEFINITELY NOT PASTICHE!

As frequent visitors to Berwick, we sometimes walk along the river, up Pedlars Path, and back down Castle Terrace, admiring the Victorian and Edwardian villas in their extensive gardens on the



north side, and paying less attention to the 20th century houses facing them, until recently we were stopped in our tracks by an angular clean-lined property in progress. It is the eco-friendly home of Eric and Suzanne Deighton who used to run a B&B on the walls (renovating the Grade II Listed property in the process). Wanting to move on from there, they needed a home and a project, and discussed Eric's long-held ambition to build an energy-efficient house. Their home became the project. The south-facing green field site with outline planning permission for a bungalow had been on the market for four years, apparently waiting for them. Eric needed to ensure that he'd still be able to see the

Tweed however, so got a friend with a forklift to come and hoist him up to sitting room height. The vital view was there.

The Deightons explained their requirements to architect Keith Renton, a specialist in eco-building and the planning process, then Robert Hodgson of Hodgson White Designers and Architects interpreted the design to fit building regulations. Eric also thoughtfully consulted all potentially affected neighbours, explaining the project and even showing them a 3-D plan. No-one objected, and despite its originality and uncompromisingly contemporary design, the planning application went through smoothly. The foundations were dug out in 2018, and neighbours must have watched with huge interest as the house quickly materialised. To ensure precision and efficiency, they chose a Scotframe kit house, the panels coming pre-insulated (using an injected product based on recycled vegetable oil). Using a kit also reduced on-site build time: erected by crane, it was windproof and watertight in two days. Eric applauds the construction contractor Keith Thomas, who had to meet the energy conservation standards, resulting in the whole house, when tested with doors and windows closed, demonstrating less than 1cm² of air leaks either in or out. Essential ventilation comes (apart from opening the windows)

via a mechanical ventilation and heat recovery system (MVHR). The current Energy Performance Certificate rating of the house is A+, whereas the average for existing houses is D.

There is no oil or gas – all heating and hot water are derived from an air source heat pump which delivers 4 units of energy for every 1 unit of power input. That one unit is currently taken from the grid, but will eventually be supplied by photovoltaic panels on the planned garage. The underfloor heating water pipes are beneath porcelain tiles for the quickest heat transfer, and controlled by zoning. The large south facing triple-glazed windows accommodate the wonderful panoramic view and solar gain, and heat is retained by the 300mm insulation in the walls and roof, but regulated by the MVHR. Total annual energy costs of the completed project are estimated at £112.

Externally the house is sculptural – lines and angles enhanced by larch panelling to contrast with the white render. Because it is set deeply into the south-facing slope, an earth retention scheme to the rear and side were essential. Eric's tour de force is the high gabion wall to the north, stepped to the east, where every single stone was judged by eye and placed by hand. It is a very beautiful defence work. Much remains to be done, he says: the south-facing flat roof is to be fitted with sedum panels for their appearance and wildlife benefit, a rainwater capture system is planned, and he already has a



greenhouse for vegetables, a wildflower meadow area, and a pond and borders to attract wildlife.

We agreed that local and national government and developers show too little interest in and commitment to building homes with higher energy ratings and contemporary design (why are houses still being built with strips of timber glued to their gables to make them look 'Tudor'?). Despite making the right noises, they seem not to take visual or environmental issues seriously. Manufacturers could, with investment, create more energy efficient products, and considering the continuing house building boom, it's tragic that there hasn't been a requirement to fit thousands of new homes with PV panels for example. 37a Castle Terrace is a fine example of what can and should be done, and Berwick should be proud to have residents who are willing to take that initiative.

Suzanne Stanley

IN MEMORIAM

Judith Anne Nicholson - 23/05/1940 to 18/08/2021

Judy was born and grew up in Stockton-on-Tees. Her father worked as a draftsman at ICI and encouraged my mother's interest in science and natural history. She was the first in her family to go to university; she studied Zoology at Bedford College in London, and this was where she met Robin Nicholson. After university she married Robin and went straight to be a Biology teacher in Stockport. Judy was an excellent teacher and had a keen interest in education. She taught at the same school for almost 40 years, seeing it change from a girls' grammar school to a girls'-comprehensive and then to a mixed comprehensive. She embraced the challenge of teaching young people of all abilities. She not only taught all sciences, but also RE, maths. Being a dedicated school teacher did not stop her putting her family first; she had two children and managed to juggle looking after the home, teaching and supporting her family.

Judy enjoyed reading particularly detective novels; P. D. James was her favourite with Dorothy Sayers a close second. She loved the theatre and with Robin went to many plays, operas and ballets. Retirement and the move to Berwick (Robin's hometown) coincided with her grandchildren being born. Her granddaughters were frequent visitors to Berwick; Judy was a dedicated grandmother and enjoyed joining in their games and enthusiasms, even when she was busy nursing Robin during his many illnesses. She was greatly shaken by the house fire at 3 The Avenue but adapted to the situation with great fortitude and put a positive light on the refurbishment. Judy will be sadly missed by many.





Credit Brian Morris