

# The Berwick Civic Society

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

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Vice Chairman ..... TBC  
Hon. Secretary..... Anne Humphrey  
Hon. Treasurer..... Bob Humphrey  
Membership Secretary.... Bob Humphrey

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Sandra Gann  
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Homer Lindsay

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## The Main Guard

Cheryl Bee  
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# BERWICK-UPON-TWEED CIVIC SOCIETY



## Summer NEWSLETTER

2022



Some years ago The Civic Society awarded The Loovre a plaque commemorating its exterior restoration. It has now been transformed by Hugo Hughes into a popular mini-holiday home, small but perfectly formed, with bedroom, sitting area, kitchen, shower and toilet rented on Airbnb and Crabtree & Crabtree web site where inside images can be found."

*Watercolour by Susan Hughes.*

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello members,

As the Summer approaches we can report The Civic Society is definitely on course for an exciting programme of projects having survived all the Covid restrictions.

Berwick is also having much pleasing development with the state of the art new Leisure Centre and plans for The Maltings underway. We have been included in discussions concerning the Berwick Museum and as to whether it should move to a new site or remain in The Barracks.

The rebuilding on the Hospital site has revealed significant archaeological finds which has led to some suggesting that perhaps another site should have been chosen. However, it is vital we get a new hospital service in the near future with the services needs.

There are others plans and projects being developed and, with tourism ever-increasing in the town, there is reason for optimism.

We have a small dedicated Executive Committee who have all been a tremendous support. The role of Secretary in any Society is absolutely vital and Anne Humphrey has been outstanding. The presentation after the AGM from the The Historic Towns Trust by Dr Julian Munby

and the Society's involvement has been very much at her instigation.

Brian Gowthorpe, Chairman of The Planning and Development Committee has bought all his expertise and experience to the position. As well as advising on planning applications he has instigated a 3-D digital model of the town and taken a keen interest in a number of other initiatives including the Cycling and Walking infrastructure plan and a new Culture Creative zone.

We also have an excellent Treasurer and Membership Secretary in Bob Humphrey.

CAAG have resumed their meetings and presentations too, after Covid restrictions, and I represent the Society and co-operate in our shared objectives.

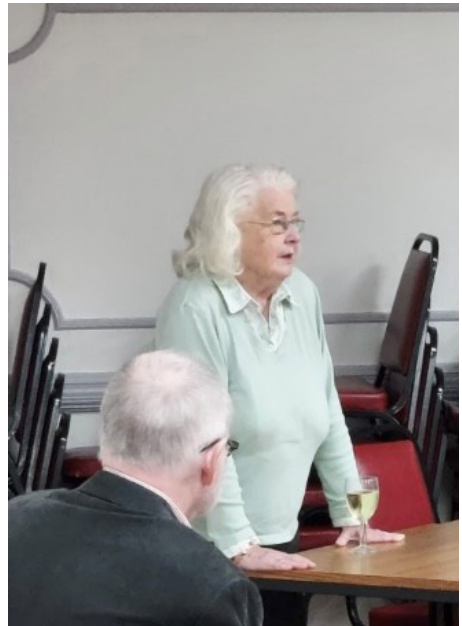
We have had varied and interesting talks with impressive speakers. Firstly, in February, Michael Farr who is Director of Assets and Growth at Bernicia Housing Association. Then two in March; Elizabeth Devon a geologist and Dr Adam Manuge, Senior Lecturer of Architecture and History of Art, Cambridge. He is an old friend of ours having done much research in Berwick for his book in 2009; "Three places, Two nations, One town. It was good to see him again and he enjoyed having a look round Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal during his stay.

After the AGM, we had Dr Julian Munby's talk which was fascinating. Reports of the various talks are included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire Executive Team and all the membership for their support.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable Summer.

**Zoreen Hill**





## HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Those of you who were at last year's AGM may remember that I volunteered to take on Treasurer on a temporary basis, and I'm still here - Temporary seems to have become permanent! That said I am happy to carry on in the role.

A copy of our accounts for 2022 were on your chairs, but if for any reason you haven't got one and would like a copy please let me know. Also, if any of you would like an electronic copy I'll be happy to send you one.

The last two years have been difficult financially for all organisations such as ours. We have had all the usual expenses, but not being able to open the Main Guard meant an obvious reduction in income. Thankfully in 2022 it looks very much like we will be back to normal on all fronts.

However, one of the things that I have noted both when looking at our 2022 budget and at previous year's accounts is that we regularly run at a loss. We are fortunate that due to some sound financial planning (before my time) we have been able to absorb that. I would like to thank Jim Waugh for examining our accounts; it is very much appreciated.

Finally, although he did formally step down at last year's AGM for half of

2021 Michael Gallico was holding the Treasurer's reins, and I would like to express my thanks to him for passing everything over in an orderly manner.

**Bob Humphrey**  
**Acting Treasurer.**

## HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

It doesn't seem that long since I was writing my report for the last newsletter but here we are. Spring has sprung!

The Civic Society have been very busy and we have been very lucky that the Events team has been able to plan and coordinate some very interesting talks in the past couple of months and the in the coming months.

The Historic Towns map is going to be interesting and a team of volunteers is needed, thank you to those who have offered their services. We are looking for people who have a keen interest in the town's history, railways, medical, sport and geography, admin skills and fund raising, you do not need to be an academic! Do you know of anyone who might have an interest? My thanks must go to Ian Hall of Alnwick Civic Society for all his help and advice, especially on the fund-raising side. We also hoping to meet up with Steve Wilton from Skipton Civic Society who have also produced an historic map.

I know I say this every time but I have enjoyed corresponding with some of you and I hope that I have been able to answer your questions and queries satisfactorily. It has also been a pleasure to meet some of you in person and socialise.

Zoreen is working hard on arranging and coordinating the Review/Jubilee party celebrations in May and we're hoping that it will be a fine day.

If anyone who hasn't already contacted me about Stewarding this season, please would you let me know asap, as The Main Guard will be opening for the season on 1st June 2022. You do not have to be an expert on local history, giving a warm welcome to the visitors is the important thing.

If you have any questions or queries please contact me and I will be more than happy to help you.

Have a lovely summer.

# EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS

This year's calendar of events begins on the 11th May with a talk by Hugh Garratt on; "Change and Decay: Some Key Issues in the Conservation of Historic Buildings.". This was arranged by Brian Gowthorpe and it will concentrate on a problematic area which occurs time and time again in planning applications.

Brian will give us a talk himself on the 13th July entitled; "The Perils of Property Development". In between, on 8th June we are very pleased that Richard Simpson, Vice Chairman of Simpsons Malt will give a talk on; "Simpson Malt - A Berwick History".

The acclaimed archaeologist, biographer, teacher of woodland and tree histories, Max Adams, makes a very welcome return on October 5 to give a talk entitled; "The Museum of the Wood Age".

Our combined meeting with The History Society takes place on October 19th. Again this year, we have a very eminent speaker in Robert Bartlett Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University St Andrews who has broadcast a series on BBC television. His talk is on; "The Miracles of St Ebba of Coldingham".

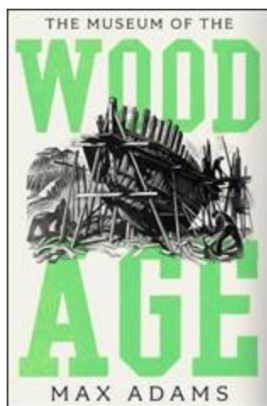
November 9th sees a focus on the famous Sir Walter Scott Mansion, Abbotsford on; "The Abbotsford Trust - An Outreach Talk" by Hamish Reid.

At the end of the year on December 7th we plan a Christmas themed event in The Parish Centre - the format and details to be confirmed later.

## **The Museum of the Wood Age**

Published 1st September 2022

by Head of Zeus



*Max Adams Photo Credit  
Kona Macphee  
Royal Literary Fund*

## IS BERWICK CHANGING FOR THE BETTER?

We regularly hear grumbles from those who are convinced that Berwick has declined from a previous golden age of bustling prosperity; they are convinced that nothing much happens except decline. In fact, Berwick continues to change a lot more than people might think. Gilbert O'Brien, Honorary Archivist of The Georgian Group and a member of our Planning and Development Committee, recently shared photographs of Berwick from the 1990s. Many parts of the town were completely recognisable but much has changed, as in the following examples: the bus station has long since left the town centre, replaced by infill developments on Marygate and on Walkergate; whatever one's view of the Governor's Gardens development, it has tidied up an underused site next to the Town Walls; Greaves West and Ayre have moved to modern offices on Walkergate; several trade counters have moved out of town enabling the redevelopment of rundown buildings in the heart of the Conservation Area; Maden Eco Homes redeveloped the former meeting house

on Chapel Street formerly occupied by City Electrical Factors; the bland Pets at Home building replaced Tweedmouth Cop, a far from universally popular change; there are many more.

Nor has investment dried up despite the recent pandemic. We've had a good run in the last four years: Berwick has attracted major investment from a range of funders. We will soon have a new hospital and a new sports and leisure centre. Our arts centre, The Maltings, which has served a very wide catchment area for thirty years, has worked with Northumberland County Council to secure Borderlands funding, an innovative cross-border public investment initiative. This will largely enable the redevelopment and enlargement of the main Maltings building.

Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal have a lot to recommend them with three Conservation Areas in a dramatic setting where the Tweed meets the beautiful Northumberland Coast but we still have problems.



- Berwick has some of the lowest pay rates in the country. About 40% of employees earn less than the real living wage.
- A great many of our holidaymakers are also from low-income households which limits the town's income from tourism.
- Berwick has lost a lot of jobs; we urgently need more jobs that are higher skilled and better paid.
- House prices are rising, partly as a result of holiday homes but also from inward migration.
- At the same time there is a growing shortage of houses to buy and to rent.
- Retailing is a problem too: some of the shops on Marygate, our high street, have been vacant more than 5 years.
- The town centre looks tired and jaded.

The Civic Society recognises the need for further regeneration in Berwick and believes that this could be promoted through a 3-D digital model of our town. We have been working with Digital Urban, a specialist in 3-D urban data modelling. They used seed funding and satellite data provided by the European Space Agency, as well as investing quite a bit of their own time. The Civic Society is collaborating with Better Berwick, a relatively new organisation that is an alliance of the public and the private sectors. Better Berwick sees the value of a 3-D digital model to promote regeneration and to attract more investment; it has already secured a small grant to improve the model from the Local Enterprise Partnership. We hope to tell you more in our next newsletter.

**Brian Gowthorpe, Chair  
Planning & Development Committee**

# 'VILLAS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT'

## A TALK BY DR. ADAM MENUGE

Lecturer in the History of Art and Architecture at the University of Cambridge

Dr. Menuge began by describing the characteristics of a villa. These were primarily places of retreat where one could put aside worldly cares, either for a short while or as a permanent lifestyle change. Possession could signify the achievement of social and economic aspiration, and living in one presumed a comfortable existence. So while there were variations in form, a villa had to be substantial enough to house servants. Unlike a country house though it was not seen as part of any dynastic concern and could be readily traded when occasion arose. In reshaping their lives those who got villas built were also transforming

the landscape in creating a relationship between house and garden, leaving only traces of earlier agricultural working.

While ownership of a villa in the Lake District might now sound highly desirable that would have been incomprehensible in Daniel Defoe's day. Hills were then seen as a blot on the landscape, a hindrance to travel and an impediment to the military. That began to change in the second half of the Eighteenth Century when people started visiting, encouraged to take more than a passing interest in the landscape by the guide books of Thomas West and others, along with cartographic prints. Wordsworth's poetry, isolation during the Napoleonic Wars, the coming of the railways, and increased interest in conservation all helped to form a new aesthetic and swell tourist numbers.



While the notion of a villa suggests a classical form, that, we were shown in a series of illustrations, was by no means common practice. What Wordsworth thought the first such, Belle Isle, built in 1774, could hardly have been more different in form. With an octagonal shape, and windows looking in eight directions, it got called 'The Pepper Pot' while Brathay was built in the Gothic style. Belmont, by contrast, was a good deal more conventional. Features found in houses included crenellations, Italianate towers, bay windows, mullions and transoms.

Getting a villa built where it commanded a good view of the lake was important.

From Bella Grange you could see in both directions. No great elevation was needed to get a panoramic view as the later vandalised Caife Station, put in a prime vantage spot by Windermere, showed.

Funding for these houses came from a variety of sources : beer, gin, cotton, and sugar were mentioned, the latter involving complicity in the slave trade, and which provided the means to build Storrs Hall and Croft Lodge. On the other side of the coin, Eusemere was owned by Thomas Clarkson, never given the credit he deserved for his anti-slavery work.

The later Victorian period was the heyday of the Lake District villa. A typical approach would conceal sight of the villa along a tree-lined approach until suddenly revealed. Strategically placed at the right height, it might well, as at Storrs Hall, have had substantial extensions. Outside there would be an ornamental garden at the front and elsewhere an orchard, vegetable garden, and cow house. Nearby would be a boat house for recreational use with, perhaps, participation in such high jinks as the Keswick Regatta. All in all, Arcadia in Britannia.

After the First World War many budgets came under strain and a number of villas were converted to institutional use, with some now owned by the National Trust.

This was a most informative and interesting talk and we were very grateful to Dr. Menuge for finding the time to come and give it.

**Michael Cullen**

## **Civic Society talk 9th March 2022**

How many people have thought about the significance of the rocks they walk over to our everyday lives? This was the question with which Elizabeth Devon opened her fascinating talk on the Geology and Industrial Archaeology of the coastal area between Berwick and Holy Island.

In Carboniferous times, when these rocks were deposited, about 330 million years ago, there was an Ice Age similar to the one we are in today. The rocks reflect the freezing and thawing of ice at the Poles. When sea level was high, limestones were deposited; when sea level was low, coal trees grew. With Sandra's help. Elizabeth demonstrated the sequence of deposits, called a cyclothem, using pieces of foam, two scarves and some tiny plastic trees! She pointed out that the sequence was repeated many, many times. She then showed how the sequence could be tilted on its side so explaining how we are able to walk across many different rock types between Berwick and Lindisfarne, for example limestones, mudstones, coal and sandstones.

Subsequent slides showed the various rock types in more detail and where to go to see them. Beautiful fossils were shown in the limestones, spectacular coal tree fossils from Hud's Head and even fossil poo in burrows. As each rock was investigated, the industries it supplied were listed.

It was shown that the richness of the geology has a direct link to the local industrial activity. From medieval times the area was good for farming, fishing



and salt-panning and even then locals scraped bits of coal out of the seams for their domestic use. However, it was not until the mid 19th century that areas such as Cocklawburn were at their zenith when such industries as coal mining and limestone working were done on a commercial scale. The introduction of the Main East Coast railway line in this period helped the transport of mined coal, quarried sand, clay and lime. They moved along wagon ways linked to the main line.

Looking at the tranquil beauty of this coastline today it is hard to imagine that in the mid to late 19th century over 190 people lived and worked along a half mile stretch at Cocklawburn.

Overlooked by Seahouse, once a farm, then the Limestone Company Gaffer's house, there were three thriving settlements: Saltpan Hows, Philadelphia and Sandbanks. The remains of cottages at Sandbanks can still be traced and maps of the period show us the supporting buildings of a mill, smithy and workshops.

There were three lime kilns in the area one with visible remains on the edge of the dunes. The other two lime kilns, following closure, were filled in with debris from the second world war to avoid accidents but one was used as a gun emplacement during the second world war and is accessible today.

Finally we were reminded that this area, now part of the North Northumberland AONB and linked to the Lindisfarne Peregrini project, alongside the archaeological remains, has a rich diversity of plants and bird life. All of this results ultimately from the rocks beneath.

**Sandra Gann**



# THE MAIN GUARD

Last year we had a much shortened, limited season but it was still very successful and much appreciated by visitors.

This year we are back to our usual months and timings - 1st June to 30th September, open every day 1pm to 5pm apart from Wednesdays.

A highlight will be the party on Thursday, 26th May when we shall celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also preview a rerun of the late Chris Green's 2002 Exhibition on Royal Berwick.

We hope to make this a very special evening there will be a finger buffet (catered by Susan Reay who laid on such delicious food at our last Christmas Party) and wine. Details and an application form for tickets are included with this newsletter. It is hoped as many as possible will attend.

Our annual Remembrance service will take place on Friday 11th November at 11 am. This year is the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War also the Royal British Legion is celebrating the centenary of remembrance traditions.

We have a small dedicated team who coordinate the running of The Main Guard and quite a few members have already offered to steward. More volunteers would be very welcome and should notify the Hon. Secretary, Anne Humphrey.

**Zoreen Hill**



## OUR WOODLANDS: STORM ARWEN AND BEYOND

Popularised by Tolkien, the Welsh name Arwen means noble maiden, fair, or fine. Well, you must all judge for yourselves how appropriate that was. Reading and cooking by torch- and candlelight, boiling pans of water for washing, and catching a whiff of camping stove gas or paraffin, might have had a touch of novelty for a few hours. But when the situation stretches to days, particularly for those who are dependent on medical equipment, live alone, or have no alternative means of

heating homes that suddenly have an ambient temperature of less than 10C, then it becomes very stressful. Many Northumberland residents (including us) found themselves in this position from Friday 26th November until various dates well into December. Fortunately, good-neighbourliness and community initiatives meant that most people were cared for at some level until domestic normality was restored.



Sadly, things were far from normal outside. Skylines and landscapes all over the county have been changed completely as whole woods were flattened, significant tree collections at Wallington, Craggside and above all Howick Garden and Arboretum were disastrously affected by the 98mph gale, and so, for example, were much-loved trees in my own village of Swarland, noted for its tree-lined roads and Forestry Commission woodlands. Even those who had recently had NCC-approved tree surgery in the protected tree belt found that their trees had been snapped, severely damaged, rendered unstable, or ripped out of the ground completely. In some cases, this caused serious damage to homes, hedges and fencing. There's an incalculable cost to landowners and public bodies who are having to re-open footpaths, somehow "tidy up" tens of thousands of fallen and damaged trees, then deal with the ensuing hundreds of thousands of tons of cut timber which no-one now wants to buy at the old market prices. It's ironic that at a time when we're all being urged to plant more trees, a storm rips out millions of them across many counties, changing the appearance of the landscape and reducing further our ability to cope with increased CO<sub>2</sub>. Many people now feel anxious about having trees in their garden or anywhere near their property. However, we must hope that Arwen and subsequent storms have taken out all of the weakest specimens,

so that it's the ideal time to re-plant native trees both for the appearance of our communities and for their enormous ecological and climate value.

That value can't be underestimated, and as part of the current England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO), the Forestry Commission lists as the benefits of woodland creation:

- Restored landscapes
- Soil stabilisation resulting in reduced soil and nutrient loss
- Carbon capture
- Reduced pollution and improved air quality
- Increased biodiversity, providing varied food and habitats for insects, birds, mammals and fungi
- Provision of timber as a low-carbon building material and wood fuel
- Dappled shade for rivers (some are becoming too warm for some species to breed successfully)
- Shelter for livestock and crops
- Flood alleviation and enhanced water quality.

With reference to flooding, at a recent Forestry Commission webinar, the speaker pointed out that 45% of rainfall is intercepted by conifers (25% by broadleaves) and evaporates without ever reaching the ground. And the transpiration rate from one mature tree



is 2,000 litres per day, water that would otherwise stay in the ground. Tree roots also deeply penetrate and loosen the soil which increases water absorption, decreasing panning and run-off. Trees also absorb and store more CO<sub>2</sub> than all other types of land use combined. It's vital therefore that larger private and public landowners look for suitable woodland creation sites, and the EWCO scheme offers significant financial support for planning, design, planting and subsequent management assistance to those with available land of one hectare or more. Details are available on-line.

Meanwhile, it's important that we as householders also aim to create or maintain whatever tree and hedge cover we can manage. There are numerous small community planting schemes already taking place, often with the help of free tree packs from the Woodland Trust. Sadly, for many years, after such unprecedented loss and damage, we're just going to be replacing rather than adding to the tree cover—the photographs show part of what was dense woodland near Alnwick.

**Suzanne Stanley**





## NEWSLETTER SNIPPETS

Nelson at Trafalgar

May I suggest that your signal:

“Howay lads, let’s gan and fill them in” maybe be better rendered:

“England expects that every man will do his duty”

Highest score in Scrabble or is it?

OXYPHENBUTAZONE (a type of anti-inflammatory drug)

1780 points

A study published in the Medical Journal of Australia called “Licence to Swill” found that James Bond had a “severe alcohol disorder”.

If Heinz tomato ketchup pours out of the bottle unaided at a speed faster than 0.028 mph, it is rejected for sale.

Bees that return to the hive drunk are not allowed in.

A True Story. In the 1930s it was decided that the cemetery needed a wall around and the cost would be met by the Parish. The Parish Priest went from door to door with his collecting tine and knocked on the door of an elderly widow and when he explained why he was there this was her answer in broad Geordie.

“A waal aroond the chorchyard, wey ah nivvor heard iv sich a thin. Them that’s in canna git yeut an them’s that are yeut divvint want tuh gan in. A waal aroond the chorchyard!!!”

A wall was built round the churchyard in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne and it’s still standing today.

# THE HISTORIC TOWNS MAP

PRESENTATION BY JULIAN MUNBY

FORMER HEAD OF BUILDINGS AT OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Julian Munby gave a presentation of behalf of The Historic Towns Trust, whose vision is for every town and city in Great Britain to have an authoritative atlas of maps and text that enables greater appreciation of the nation's urban history and historic townscapes. Julian gave a very detailed presentation of how Oxford was able to produce their map and the important finds that had been made. The presentation was well received and everyone was appreciative of Julian's time and effort. Towards the end of the talk Julian displayed some maps of Berwick and the map of Alnwick and Alnmouth, which helped the members visualise what the map of Berwick might look like.

Giles Darkes will be the cartographer, who is renowned in his field and at some point the Civic Society will be introduced to him

Julian and John Moore, former Collections Manager at the University of Glasgow and also a Trustee of The Historic Towns Map had met with some members of the Civic Society earlier that day to give some guidance and advice on how Berwick would achieve an historic Map of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal. On visiting The Main Guard, they had seen that we already had a tremendous amount of information and the problem might be how we whittle this down.

To produce our map would require an amount of approximately £14,000 and

this would be raised by the Civic Society through fund raising. A team/committee will have to be formed within the Civic Society to coordinate the project and it is hope that the project from start to finish would take between 18 months to 2 years. This will not be an easy task, challenging at times and hard work, but hopefully with an excellent outcome.

It is the hope that Berwick Civic Society would be able to get the maps into the local schools, Alnwick Civic Society were able to achieve this and it has proved successful. It's important that our younger generation learn the history of their local area and what part we played in the history of this nation.

Thanks must go to John Moore who has been the point of contact for the Civic Society over the past few months and will be the Trustee of The Historic Towns Trust responsible for this project; John was able to answer many of the questions raised before, during and after the meeting.

It was lovely to see how interested and enthusiastic the members of Berwick Civic Society were getting the project to fruition, now all we need are willing volunteers and of course the funds.

**Anne Humphrey**

# BERWICK HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

This year Heritage Open Days (HODS) will take place in England between 9 and 18th September inclusive and the general theme is “Astounding Inventions”. I’m not sure how we will fit into that at the moment and so, if anyone has any ideas, do let me know.

Berwick HODS will run over the whole period but we will concentrate most of our in person events over the weekend 16th to 18th September. As we have done over the last few years, we will also have some quizzes on our website and will run a series of online talks leading up to our main weekend. This will allow those who can’t actually visit Berwick an opportunity to take part as well.

This year, we have been chosen to take part in the National “New Wave “ initiative which is a programme to help us engage with young people, particularly in the 18 to 25 age bracket. A member of our Steering Group is attending the online training and we will either organise an event suggested by this age group or help them to run one. We are still in the early stages of working on this but look out for further details nearer the time. Only 7 groups have been given the chance to take part and so this is great for Berwick. At the moment, we are still working on our programme. Once it is ready, we will publicise it locally. However, in the meantime, if you know any local buildings

or events which would like to be part of Berwick HODS, please do get in touch. Also, if you would like to help us in any way – volunteering over the weekend or getting involved in the organisation of the event- please do get in touch – [berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Linda Bankier,**  
Berwick HODS Steering Group



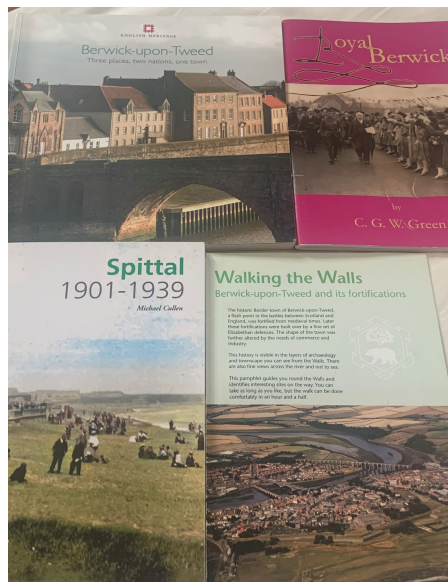
# PUBLICATIONS

We should like to strengthen our Publications offering and would welcome more members on the sub-committee who might be interested in this aspect of the Society's work.

Our own leaflets and publications like "Walking the Walls" and "A History of a Garrison Town, proved very popular. The "Royal Berwick" booklet, which accompanies this year's exhibition has been popular and should be of particular interest. Books and cards by local authors and artists have also sold well. There have been many request for booklets to be written on our exhibitions such as "Guild

and Governors" by Jim Herbert and "The True Description of her Majesties Towne of Barwick" by Catherine Kent.

Michael Cullen has published a new book on Spittal - 1901 to 1937 - a few copies will be on sale. There has been some talk about having a reprint done of Adam Manuge's acclaimed book; "Berwick-upon-Tweed - Three places, Two nations, One Town" which was sold out in The Main Guard sometime ago. When it was discussed with Adam during his recent visit he indicated that he would like to update the final chapter on; "Safeguarding Berwick's Past for the Future".





# IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we should mention three deaths which occurred since the last newsletter;

## **Bernard Shaw**

A former Chairman of The Society in 1995-1996 and for many years the great stalwart of The Main Guard.

The following is an appreciation by James Bruce, Chairman of The History Society;

Bernard was born and raised in Southport, and after a short career as a footballer and National Service in the RAF he trained in Chester to be a teacher. Initially teaching PE and Science in Liverpool, he later moved to Walker School in Newcastle. Following early retirement, he and his wife Margaret moved to Berwick in 1989.

He was a member and later Chairman of the Civic Society, and it was under his Chairmanship in 1995 that the Main Guard was restored to become the Society's Headquarters.

In 1997 he was a founder member of the re-launched Berwick History Society, joining the committee in 2002, and then carrying out the office of Chairman for more than a decade until 2017.

He also served as a trustee of the Berwick Community Trust for many years. All in all, he was a great advocate and champion of Berwick, even giving lectures about the town in South Korea, Estonia and Poland.

Bernard received great support from his wife Margaret and in 2021 they received an award for Extremely Special People from Tom Fairfax, High Sheriff of Northumberland. He is fondly remembered by all who knew him, and much missed.

### **Ron Shaw**

A long-standing member of the Society, he died on December 23 last year having been predeceased by his wife Shirley in 2020. He will always be remembered as a creator of the popular St Cuthberts Way walking route covering parts of North Northumberland and the Scottish borders and had spent his life working in travel.

Ron was also a member of Probus and was involved in supporting the Berwick Swan and Wildlife Trust. He was a great help to The Civic Society delivering Newsletters in his area also he was an enthusiastic steward both in The Main Guard and for Heritage Open Day sites - his particular favourite being The Cumberland Bastion.

### **Dr Jimmy Mitchell**

Dr Jimmy Mitchell, a long-standing member, died before Christmas. For many years he was a much loved and respected medical practitioner in Berwick.

In his last years in retirement he lived in Paxton and was known for his love of fishing he was a member of the Salmon Club and a River Tweed Commissioner. We extend great sympathy to his widow, Marian.