

November 2015

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Notice board

25th November, 7:30 p.m.
St. James Centre. Our annual Any Questions Panel will discuss topical local issues. Members are encouraged to submit questions to the chair beforehand.

**Note
change
of date**

Stop Press: Alnwick Conservation Area no longer regarded as being "at risk". See Page 5.

Consultations on both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan Core Strategy are under way until late November. See <http://tinyurl.com/nk3nrct>

The next ACS newsletter is planned for early February 2016. We welcome contributions and suggestions of topics that will interest members.



Alnwick and the changes it has undergone...

On the 13th December, 1871, John Atkinson Wilson gave a talk in the Town Hall, entitled "Alnwick, and the changes it has undergone since the latter part of the 18th century". On 17th Sept 2015, the Society used illustrated extracts from that lecture to look back at how things have changed since.



The original aim of the lecture was to show how much life had improved in Alnwick compared to times past. J. A. Wilson expressed this in his introduction (below).

It is still striking how much change

had happened over the preceding century. But perhaps change is something we have come to expect.

Today we are even more struck by how much of his material still resonates.

The society has already been asked to repeat the event for another community group.

Our thanks go to Gill Parker for proposing the idea, and (along

with Trish Jones) for assembling and editing the material.

Members who are interested in receiving a copy of the original text are invited to get in touch.

I have undertaken to give a brief description of the state of Alnwick as it existed about the close of the last century, and of the changes it has undergone between that period and the present; and although the incidents I may relate are too trifling in their character to have occupied the pen of the historian, yet I trust they may not prove altogether uninteresting.

Those who are old enough to remember the condition of Alnwick half a century ago or more, will be sensible of the important changes it has since undergone, and I trust be able to confirm much of what I am about to relate.

And with regard to those who have more recently sprung into existence, some account of the early state of the town may not be entirely devoid of interest. It shall, at all events, have the effect of making them more contented when they look around them, and contrast what they now see with the state of things from which they have happily escaped.

It will show them the progress which time, the most irresistible of re-

formers, has produced in the face of many obstacles, and in spite of those who cling with fondness to whatever is ancient, and view with suspicion, and almost with alarm, every attempt at innovation.

Our local historian, Mr Tate, informs us that Alnwick derives its main interest from its ancient history - when battles were fought before its gates, when it was repeatedly besieged and burnt, when kings were slain, and malefactors executed within sight of its walls, and their gory heads exhibited over its gates. With such a picture of its ancient history, have we any cause to regret that we did not live in that "golden age" when Alnwick is said to have achieved its greatest celebrity?

Should we not rather be disposed to exclaim with the poet:-

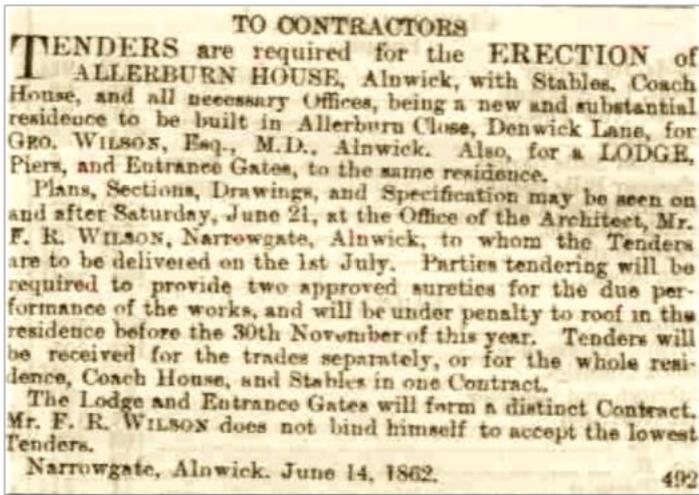
*"The good of ancient times
let others state;*

I think it lucky I was born so late"



Allerburn House

Allerburn House was built in 1862/3 for George Wilson, Esq. M.D. and was designed by the architect and surveyor Frederick R. Wilson. It was built on a site called Allerburn Close, named after the Aller Burn, which runs at the side of Denwick Lane down to the Aln. In his History of Alnwick, George Tate described Allerburn House as a "beautiful mansion".



Dr. Wilson lived at Allerburn House with his wife Rosa Isabella and daughter Rosa Robina for only six months. He died in November 1863. His wife died two days later and they were buried together in Alnwick Cemetery. The house was left to their only daughter.

Dr. Wilson was obviously a man of some means, although by 1862 he was semi-retired because of his health. He'd had a very successful practice in Alnwick, in partnership with his father, who died in 1856, aged 75.

Alnwick Journal

15th November, 1863

Dr Wilson was universally popular with all classes of his townsmen from his frank and hearty manners, and the genuine liberality of his heart ... he was possessed of ample means, and was generous in its distribution; but, with no ostentations; for the most part he "did good by stealth".

Alnwick Mercury

1st December, 1863

... his manner was agreeable and generally jocular – so much so at time to be liable to be misunderstood by some ... he said what he meant and he meant what he said. Dr George Wilson was no hypocrite ... naturally of a retiring disposition he never sought after pre-eminence.

Allerburn house was a substantial property, with five bedrooms. The two principal bedrooms had adjoining dressing rooms. Dr Wilson employed male and female servants, and the house was built with three water closets: one for the family, one for the maid servants, and one for the menservants. It also had a bathroom, and water was piped to the site from the end of Bondgate by means of a two inch pipe, laid by Alnwick and Canongate Local Board of Health, at Dr Wilson's expense. Gas was also laid on, and it must have cost something to bring services to a site some distance from town.

Census returns for 1871 show Allerburn House was occupied by Isabel Ann Parker who was born in Africa, and who described herself as an annuitant. She lived there with four daughters and a middle

aged friend who formerly was a governess. They had four servants, a cook, a housekeeper, a parlour maid and kitchen maid, and also employed a gardener who lived in the lodge with his wife and two grand-daughters. Three of the daughters were still there in 1881. By then they were employing different servants.

By 1883 Allerburn House must have been owned by Thomas Tate, a local man who was born in Lesbury. In 1883 he gave notice to the Local Board of Health of his intention to build an earth closet in the garden, near the vinery. This was built by Thomas Robertson and Sons.

In 1886 plans were submitted by F. R. Wilson for an extension at Allerburn House for Mr. Tate. The extension was a servant's hall with bedroom above, and this was built at the western end of Allerburn House, next to the kitchen.

Census returns for 1891 show Thomas Tate was then 55 years old, he describes himself as "living on his own means". His wife, Sarah, was 39, they had one son and four daughters, the youngest of whom was only two. They employed a governess, and seven female servants, also a gardener who lived in the lodge with his wife and two young daughters.

In 1906 Marmaduke Temple Wilson, one of F. R. Wilson's sons, submitted plans to Alnwick U.D.C. for an Earth Closet, and various agricultural buildings in the field to the north of Allerburn House, and these were described as "additions" for Allerburn.

By 1910 Thomas Tate had moved away, and Allerburn House came into the possession of the Carr-Ellisons. After WW-II it was sold to the Health Authority. In preparation for the formation of Alnwick District Council on 1st April 1974, Allerburn House was acquired from the Health Authority for £55,000.

Allerburn House now belongs to Northumberland County Council, and is on the market. "This unique and prestigious landmark building with many original features extends to approximately 1,000 m² and is set within a landscaped site of 1.33 hectares (3.29 acres). Currently the house is divided into a range of private offices, general offices and meeting rooms. Upon entering the House there is a large reception area with a grand stairway leading to the first and second floors. Allerburn House has been extended over the years and now offers a range of office accommodation that would suit any modern organisation looking for impressive and imposing accommodation".

With thanks to Anne Harper and Marjorie Brown



Lane survey: Dodd's Lane & Three Tuns Lane

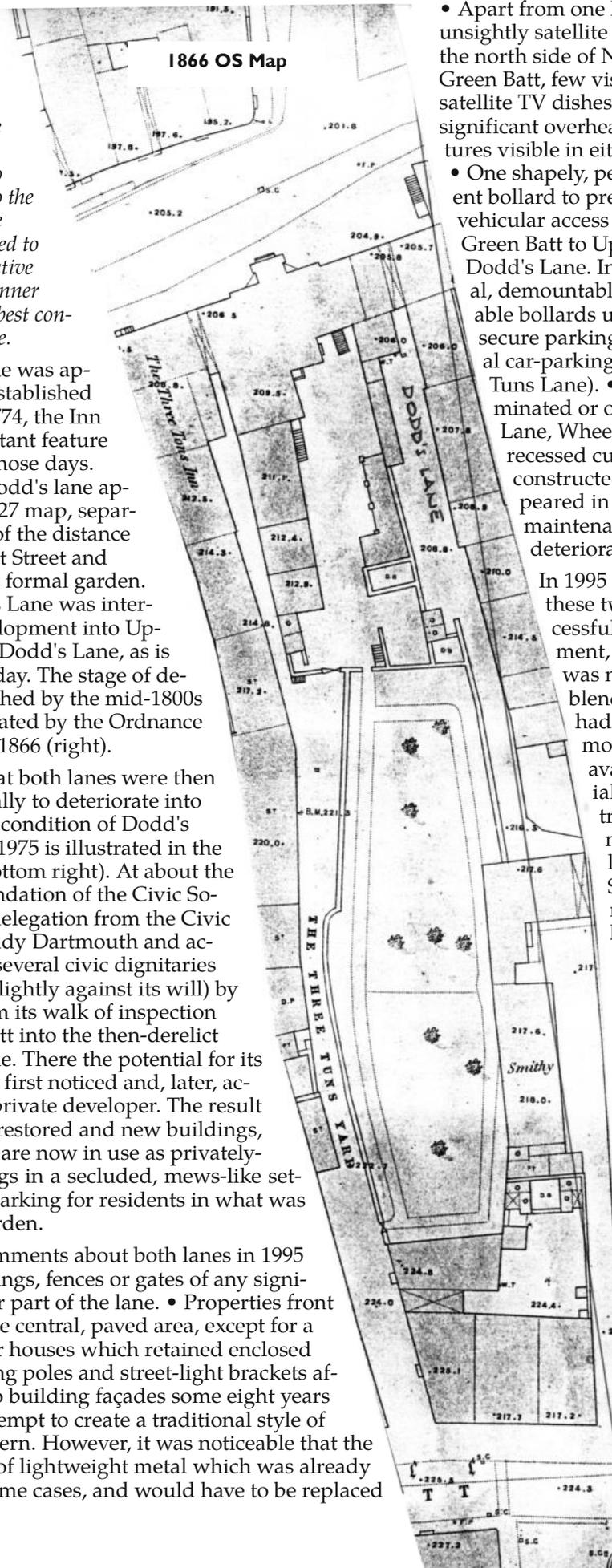
In 1995 the Civic Society made a study of the public lanes that link Green Batt to the centre of the town. The society wanted to draw attention to the importance of the lanes, and the need to make them attractive and safe, in a manner compatible with best conservation practice.

Three Tuns Lane was apparently well-established as a route by 1774, the Inn being an important feature of Alnwick in those days. The adjacent Dodd's lane appears on the 1827 map, separated for much of the distance between Market Street and Green Batt by a formal garden. By 1851 Dodd's Lane was interrupted by development into Upper and Lower Dodd's Lane, as is still the case today. The stage of development reached by the mid-1800s is clearly illustrated by the Ordnance Survey plan of 1866 (right).

It is thought that both lanes were then allowed gradually to deteriorate into slums. The sad condition of Dodd's Lane as late as 1975 is illustrated in the photograph (bottom right). At about the time of the foundation of the Civic Society (1974), a delegation from the Civic Trust, led by Lady Dartmouth and accompanied by several civic dignitaries was diverted (slightly against its will) by the Society from its walk of inspection along Green Batt into the then-derelict Three Tuns Lane. There the potential for its restoration was first noticed and, later, acted upon by a private developer. The result is a mixture of restored and new buildings, many of which are now in use as privately-owned dwellings in a secluded, mews-like setting, with car-parking for residents in what was the Fontana garden.

The general comments about both lanes in 1995 were:

- No railings, fences or gates of any significance in either part of the lane.
- Properties front directly onto the central, paved area, except for a few of the older houses which retained enclosed yards.
- Lighting poles and street-light brackets affixed directly to building façades some eight years before in an attempt to create a traditional style of lighting by lantern. However, it was noticeable that the supports were of lightweight metal which was already corroding in some cases, and would have to be replaced before long.

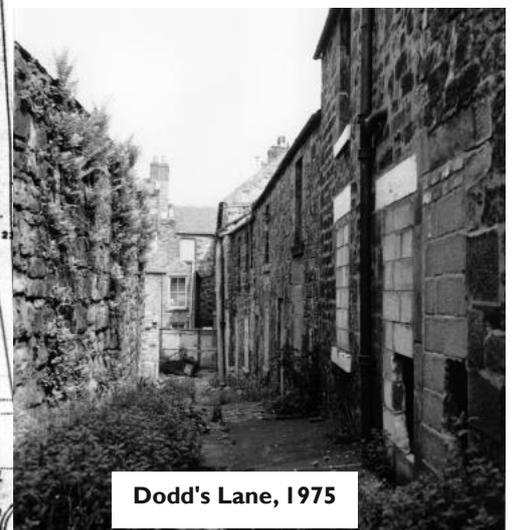


- Apart from one large, unsightly satellite dish on the north side of No 22 Green Batt, few visible satellite TV dishes or other significant overhead features visible in either lane.

- One shapely, permanent bollard to prevent vehicular access from Green Batt to Upper Dodd's Lane. Individual, demountable, lockable bollards used to secure parking rights for property-owners in the general car-parking area (accessed from Green Batt via Three Tuns Lane).
- No significant advertising signs, illuminated or otherwise, in either lane. In Lower Dodd's Lane, Wheelie-bins and dustbins stored discreetly in recessed cupboards built into stone walls, or in stone constructed lockers with timber doors. These appeared in good order, but would need on-going maintenance by their owners if they were not to deteriorate.

In 1995 the Society found that the restoration of these two lanes since 1975 had been very successful in many ways. It was a vast improvement, and had brought back to life an area that was nearly derelict. New and old houses blended well, and the ambience of a mews had been achieved. The only regret was that more money (private or public) was not available to ensure the use of natural materials in the flooring, and of better-quality, traditional doors and windows in both new and restored dwellings. It was too late to do anything about this, and the Society's suggestions were for relatively minor items:

- Replacement of street lighting fittings with better quality ones.
- Improvements to the flooring and lighting in the passageway at Market Street.
- Removal of the patches of render on the wall of 22 Green Batt, and restoration of the stonework beneath it.
- Removal of a TV satellite dish and its supporting bracket on 22 Green Batt (which has now gone).



Dodd's Lane, 1975

Chapel Lane Campaigners

At the lower end of Chapel Lane, next to the 18th century Wesleyan Chapel there is a street lamp with a modern design luminaire, set on a more traditional column. Over the last eighteen months, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of tourists walking up Chapel Lane to view the listed Chapel and its surrounding walls.

Originally the street lamp was modified, with other measures, to successfully deter inappropriate late night activity overflowing from the main street into the Lane. However the style of the luminaire is out of keeping with that of the column, the landscape of the historic Wesleyan Chapel and other (since improved) lighting in the area.

A group of local residents approached Cllr Castle and Cllr Cairns for help. The Councillors asked that Alnwick Civic Society give an opinion, which has supported the replacement of the modern luminaire with a light fitting more in keeping with the historic landscape but still in tune with the lighting requirements in the Green Batt area. This move has since met with Town Council approval and the task of fitting a replacement light has been passed onto Council staff for action.

Residents have planted out a small flower bed in the Lane, further planting and seats have been added to the Chapel and approaches made to see if the

Chapel might consider erecting a board outlining a little of its history for visitors. Councillors have negotiated changes also to the waste collection arrangements at the entrance to Chapel Lane and instigated appropriate sweeping arrangements so that the wheelie bins can be tidied away on collection day. The improvements have been brought about through joint action between the Councillors, the Civic Society and local residents.

The next task on the residents' list is to see if there is a way to brighten the entry under the arch, but that is for later. In the meantime, thanks are extended to the Civic Society for its professional advice; to Cllrs Castle and to Cllr Cairns for their enthusiastic support and help; and to the Wesleyan Chapel for its interest.

Chapel Lane Residents Group.



The Street Pride campaign was launched five years ago by Civic Voice to support local action to help rid streets of unnecessary clutter.

At the heart of Street Pride is a toolkit for local groups.

If you and your neighbours are inspired by the progress in Chapel Lane then you may want to find out more about Street Pride here:

<http://tinyurl.com/o9pdzgw>.

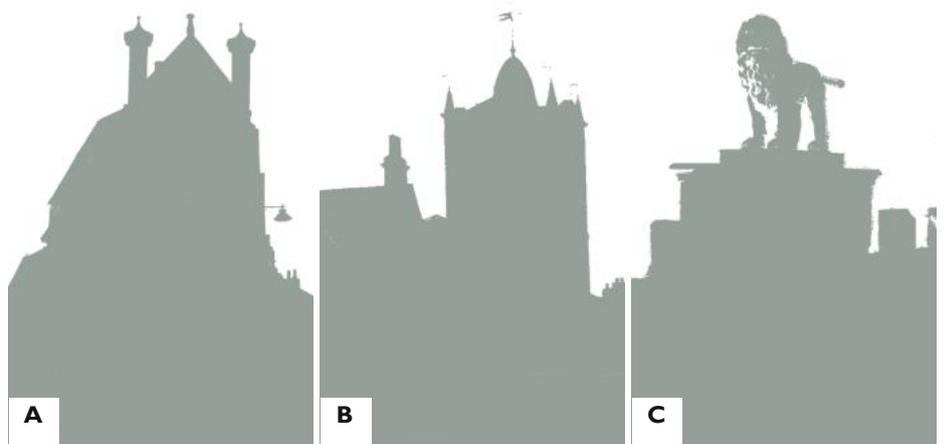
Silhouette Quiz

Étienne de Silhouette (1709 – 1767) was Controller-General of Finances under Louis XV. At the time France faced a financial crisis, as the result of massive over-spending and war with England.

In 1759 Étienne tried to cut the deficit by curtailing royal expenditure, increasing taxes on the rich, and introducing a “general subvention” on symbols of luxury (such as doors and windows).

His austerity policy didn't go down well, and he only remained in post for eight months. However, his name became synonymous with penny-pinching and anything made cheaply - such as inexpensive images cut out of black card.

How many of these Alnwick silhouettes do you recognise? Bonus points will be awarded for identifying those which Étienne might have seen if he had visited Alnwick towards the end of his life.



News in Brief

Alnwick Civic Society was a founding member of Civic Voice. This entitles us to some free National Trust day passes. Numbers are limited, and we want to use these passes well, because they can be worth up to £14. If you are a member of ACS, and have a good use for one of our passes, then please get in touch. If you are not a member, then application forms can be found at:

<http://alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk>.

Individual membership of ACS costs just £8.00 a year, and Family membership costs £12.00. Do the sums.

Hundreds cheered as top cyclists sped through Alnwick during the Aviva Tour of Britain in September. To mark the event Alnwick Town Council ran a window display competition with Alnwick Chamber of Trade. Over 30 shops took part, with Northumbria Pets in Bondgate Within taking 1st place, Hotspur 1364 in Narrowgate taking 2nd, and Glendale Paints in Bondgate Within taking 3rd. Cancer Research in Narrowgate and Elemental Tattoo Parlour in Fenkle Street were both highly commended. We applaud this initiative. The contribution that window displays make to the quality of our town centre ought to be recognised, and we hope this will continue. So thanks to all who took part, congratulations to the award winners, and to Fernando Gaviria Rendon, André Greipel and Edvald Boasson Hagen, who took the first three places in this stage of the race.

We wanted a debate on traffic in Alnwick, and we seem to be getting one. On Sept 24th the Gazette picked up our comments on 20mph limits, shared space and sustainable transport. This attracted a response from campaigners opposed to any shared space scheme. They raise important issues, and no doubt we will return to the topic. For now, let's just say that nobody is arguing that Alnwick needs a badly designed shared space scheme.

Congratulations to Alnwick in Bloom on their success in the 2015 Northumbria in Bloom competition.

And congratulations to Sir Alan Beith, long-time friend of Alnwick Civic Society, MP for Berwick for 42 years; former deputy leader and front bench spokesman on Treasury and Home Affairs, chair of the Commons Constitutional Affairs, and Justice Committees; currently President of the Historic Chapels Trust; and (until he stood down as MP) the longest-serving member of his party in the House of

Commons. Sir Alan was appointed a life peer in the dissolution honours list, becoming one of our two valued supporters who sit in the House of Lords (where he joins his wife, Diana, Baroness Maddock).

Alnwick has been selected as one of nine towns to be researched in a three-year project looking at the lives of professional people in the Victorian period. Academics from the University of Oxford, and Northumbria University are working alongside members of the public with an interest in family history to collect information on the lives of 23 individuals. To view, or to contribute information see <http://www.victorianprofessions.ox.ac.uk>

According to the Department for Transport (DfT), traffic nationally increased by 2.3% over the year ending June 2015. A combination of economic growth and lower fuel prices meant that more miles were driven in the UK last year than ever before. The volume of traffic nationally is now higher than it was when it last peaked in 2007. The highest rates of growth have been in rural areas, on minor roads, and by light goods vehicles. But DfT figures suggest that things are different around Alnwick. Our traffic levels didn't seem to fall much during the recession, and haven't risen much since.

We were pleased to learn that the Town Council has established a new Sustainable Travel Working Group. It will assess the current state of sustainable transport provision for Alnwick, and draw up recommendations for an integrated strategy and prioritised delivery plan. The emphasis is on pedestrian, cycle and community transport, including limited mobility. The first priority is for walking and

cycling routes to the new High School. The society has been invited to participate, along with the ADNP Topic Lead for Transport.



In 1941, the National Buildings Record started the Architectural Red Box Collection to document our built heritage, especially buildings threatened by bombing during WW-II. Images were added over the years, until the collection was closed to new material in 1991. The collection has now been digitised, and can be viewed online as the England's Places Collection.

See <http://tinyurl.com/nwh9t9z>.

The collection includes these images of Alnwick buildings that were lost about 30 years ago. Where were they? (Answers on back page)



For obvious reasons neither of these two vanished buildings appears on this year's Heritage at Risk Register, which was published by Historic England as we completed this issue of the newsletter.

Bondgate Tower, Heiferlaw Defended Settlement, a scheduled Camp on Alnwick Moor, and General Lambert's House (see Planning Matters on page 7) are still identified as being at risk. However, Historic England no longer regard Alnwick Conservation Area as being at risk. We look forward to learning more in future about the reasons for their change of position.



"We obviously need better cycle routes to the new high school"

Fly-tipping

Since September, the Household Waste Recovery Centre has charged a fee for disposing of rubble, plasterboard or soil. Will this encourage fly-tipping?

There was already a limit of 6 cubic yards of DIY waste per household per year. The council say that this equates to 150 bags of sand, meaning 150 of the bags you find in a DIY store. We think it is easier to imagine 6 cubic yards as equivalent to ten of the big dumpy bags that builders use. That allows for quite a lot of enthusiastic DIY over a year.

Since September, the council has been charging for disposing of rubble, soil and plasterboard. Charges range from £2 for a bag, £12 for a car-full, to £20-80 for a trailer or van-full (depending on size). You need a permit if you take household waste in a van, trailer or commercial vehicle.

The charges don't cover the whole cost, but they contribute towards it. Some will argue that they already pay for this service through council tax. Others will say that more of the cost should be borne by those who create the waste. Our concern is that a few might try to avoid the charge by fly-tipping.

Fly-tipping is an offence under the Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; a blight on the landscape; a source of pollution; a potential danger to public health and a hazard to wildlife. Unscrupulous operators can undercut those who are more responsible, so it can also undermine legitimate businesses.



Northumberland deals with around 1,600 fly-tipping incidents a year, at a cost of £80,000; and takes action (i.e. issues cautions, prosecutions, etc.) on about half of those, at a further cost of about £30,000 a year. Most incidents of fly-tipping in Northumberland are on highways, and around 7% on footpaths.

Nationally, the numbers of fly-tipping incidents were falling until 2012/3 but have risen more recently. In Northumberland the number of incidents in 2014 was lower than it was in 2012. Let's hope that trend continues. We don't want to see an increase in fly-tipping now that these new charges have been introduced.

We can do our bit. The council wants us to report fly-tipping. So that an incident can be dealt with properly they ask members of the public to record as many details as possible, such as the kind of items that have been tipped, whether the incident was witnessed, and whether any vehicles were involved. But please be careful.

Fly-tippers are acting illegally. They won't want anyone observing them or taking photographs. And some waste might be hazardous. It isn't a good idea to try and move it or to open any bags.

To report fly-tipping see: <http://tinyurl.com/ng364sc> or call Northumberland County Council on 01665 660733. In our experience this will result in action being taken quickly.

Land for housing

The Office for National Statistics has updated their statistics on changing land use in England. The most common development was a change to residential use. In 2013-4 this accounted for 1,997 hectares out of 5,333 hectares developed.

Between 2013 and 2014, 59% of new residential addresses in England were created on previously developed land, and 41% on land that had not been previously developed. In Northumberland the mix of land used for new housing is almost the opposite of the national picture: 36% is on previously developed land, and 64% on land that has not been previously developed. The largest part of that undeveloped land lies within built-up areas, not farmland.

Across England, the proportion of residential land taken from agricultural use is only 5%. In Northumberland it is 10%. Although higher than average, this is not unusual for a rural county: Shropshire, the East Riding, Cornwall, Wiltshire, East and West Devon, and Herefordshire all show similar figures.

Affordable housing in rural areas

"A Living Countryside" is a recent paper from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) on the challenges of providing affordable housing in rural areas. It argues that the special characteristics of rural areas need to be recognised in Government housing policies. The authors believe that affordable housing is crucial to the vitality and sustainability of the countryside, but find that housing in many rural areas has become increasingly unaffordable. The failure to create affordable homes fuels some of the issues facing rural communities, such as falling numbers of young people.

The report says that providing affordable housing in rural areas is often more challenging than in urban areas, and should be treated as a special case in policy formation.

Around Alnwick, the situation is very different. Two-thirds of land earmarked for new housing has previously been in agricultural use, with the remainder changing from a mix of commercial, industrial and residential use.

In Alnwick we think the potential for new housing on developed land is under-stated. But the other thing these figures underline is how much variation there is between local conditions. Northumberland County Council will have a perspective on housing needs which differs from the national view, and the people of Alnwick will have a perspective which differs from the county view.

The challenge for the county is to ensure that housing policy reflects local conditions. The challenge nationally is to allow local authorities enough flexibility to meet local needs (see item on affordable housing, below).

And the challenge for the town is to make our voice heard. (see *Land Use Change Statistics in England: 2013/14*)

However, instead of encouraging affordable rural housing, recent policy developments threaten to make things worse.

Developments in rural areas are often small in scale, so removing the requirement for a proportion of affordable housing on small developments hinders provision. If housing association tenants are allowed to buy their properties at a highly discounted rate it will have a particularly damaging impact, because the level of affordable stock is so low.

The paper proposes a range of solutions to increase and sustain affordable housing in rural communities. These include better funding and guidance, incentives to identify suitable sites, and exemptions from national policies where they restrict delivery of rural affordable housing.

The full report is here: <http://tinyurl.com/oqz5g4c>.

Planning matters

The committee have spent some time discussing whether to press for Allerburn House to be listed (page 2 for background). The criteria for listing are: • Architectural interest: architectural design, decoration, craftsmanship; • Special interest: nationally important examples of particular building types and techniques, technological innovation or virtuosity, significant plan forms; • Historic interest: illustrate important aspects of England's history, close associations with nationally important people.

We all want to see this building retained, but views differ on how this is best achieved. Retention depends on finding a viable use, and on balance we feel that pressing the case for listing at this stage in the life of the building would carry too great a risk.

September saw more planning activity than at any point this year. In light of this, and high-profile proposals for Narrowgate House it was disappointing that there was insufficient interest to convene the Advisory Panel in October, for a broader perspective from members. However, the committee went on to discuss current activity. Most proposals have merit, or limited impact, so need no comment.

Revised proposals have been submitted to convert 9 Paikes Street to a Café and Hot Food Takeaway (fish and chip shop). The revisions are designed to address concerns regarding the impact of a rear flue.

It seems that the new residential care home on Lisburn Terrace (former Arriva Bus Depot) will go ahead. As previously discussed, this is regrettable for many reasons, but now seems inevitable.

External fly screens on Turnbull's first floor windows are needed for environmental health protection. As they will have limited impact we do not intend to comment.

Proposals to construct a 3 bedroom house next to Bank Top Farm are of appropriate scale and style for this location. We saw no reason to object.

On proposals to run an external gas pipe up the front of 18 Narrowgate ('Grannies') the conservation officer has commented that this "is the only viable place that works for the building internally and is the minimum disruption possible". Without seeing any supporting evidence for this claim we find it difficult to believe.

Bus subsidies

Northumberland County Council spent £2.4 million on subsidising bus services last year, and aim to save £200,000 (8%) from this budget. Their priorities are:

1. Support Economic activity, enabling residents and visitors to get to key centres during peak times.
2. Support social activity, enabling residents to access essential services during the day, on a minimum of one day per week.
3. Enable children to travel to the nearest suitable school or college

The public consultation agreed with the way bus subsidies should be prioritised, but not with the proposed scale of the cuts. Almost 2/3 respondents preferred a smaller budget reduction, almost 1/3 thought 8% was reasonable, and 5% would support a larger budget cut.

The group which was established to oversee the review was of the same opinion as the public. They also felt that the budget should be protected, given the importance of public



transport to the residents of Northumberland. However, the Council needs to realise savings across all departments and they will proceed with the budget reduction.

Most importantly, an application has been submitted to convert Narrowgate House (General Lambert's House) into 5 residential units with a crêperie in the basement, and a further 3 residential units in the grounds. The plans require demolition of a Coach House and Stable Block to facilitate access.

This is a prominent Grade II* listed building, with a long and complex history, and a variety of original features. The building is already in poor condition, and deteriorating. It has been more than seven years since it was identified as a Building at Risk by English Heritage, and it is currently ranked as priority A "with immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric". It needs significant investment, and for that it needs a viable future.

Whatever that future may be, there are also numerous conservation issues to consider. If there were a straightforward answer the building would not have stood empty for the last twelve years. Some compromises seem inevitable, but on the face of it these are credible proposals, and they deserve careful examination. It will take some time to prepare a properly considered response, and meanwhile we welcome your views.

Consultations on the Neighbourhood plan and Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy are under way, and will run through most of November. We are preparing responses, and welcome comments from members.

Historic England has identified the loss of original details such as doors and windows as one of the main risks to conservation areas. They have recently updated their guidance on the care, repair and upgrading of traditional windows (<http://tinyurl.com/p4z2f9w>).

Loss of original details can also be controlled by withdrawing permitted development rights. Few local authorities do this: perhaps because they fear imposing a burden on home-owners and extra workload on staff. But there might be a way round this. A Local Development Order (LDO) can be used to give prior approval for works that are carried out to a required standard. Using an LDO alongside withdrawal of permitted development rights could make life easier for those who choose to conserve original details to an acceptable standard. This is quite a technical issue, and we would welcome informed views on whether it might work in Alnwick.



transport to the residents of Northumberland. However, the Council needs to realise savings across all departments and they will proceed with the budget reduction.

This will be achieved primarily through efficiencies and renegotiation of contracts, which we suspect has to involve some service reductions. The council has also promised to explore alternatives, such as community transport and lift share; to seek funding from partner organisations; to promote bus use; to work with transport providers to improve the customer experience; and to enhance the Concessionary Transport Scheme.

Concessionary fares are of little value without a service, and the most common reason the public give for not using the bus is that they already don't run often enough. So further cuts look like a slippery slope, and we hope the Council is not just paying lip service to a more proactive approach.

Diary dates

Civic Society...

25th November, 7:30 p.m. St. James Centre. Our annual Any Questions Panel will discuss topical local issues. Members are encouraged to submit questions for discussion to the chair beforehand.

The next ACS Newsletter will be published in early February. Look forward to details of our Annual General Meeting.

...and more

17th November - 28th February 2016: "Finding Your Place" exhibition at Bailiffgate Museum. Featuring several community projects in the Alnwick area, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Christmas Lights Switch-On: 20th November, in the Market Place, from 7:00 p.m. Alnwick Christmas Lights is a voluntary group who give up evenings and weekends to decorate the town every year. All funding is raised locally.

Alnwick Local History Society: 24th November. History of Chillingham Cattle, Philip Deakin. 26th January. George Tate: Historian of Alnwick. Peter Carter. Both 7:30 p.m. at Bailiffgate Museum. £2.00 for non-members.

National Tree Week: 28th November - 6th December. More details at <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/>

About Alnwick Civic Society

Alnwick Civic Society was formed in 1974, following the defeat of proposals to re-develop the town centre with a modern shopping area. Since then it has sought to influence development proposals, especially in the town centre and conservation area, to ensure they protect and enhance our heritage.

The society has been involved in successful high profile campaigns. It continues to pursue its objectives and provide a voice for members: through dialogue with planning and conservation professionals, and like-minded organisations; by offering advice, scrutinising and commenting on development proposals; and by recognising excellence, organising public meetings, developing guided trails, and a variety of other activities.

In response to changes in the planning system the society has been heavily involved in development of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, and works with local partners to influence policy at a county level. It seeks to influence national policy in co-operation with other bodies within the civic movement, and was a founding member of Civic Voice.

All who share our aims can support the work of the society: by joining as an individual, family or business member; by participating in activities, sharing ideas, raising areas of concern and pointing out examples of good practice. Or simply by demonstrating pride in our town, and spreading the word about the value of our work.



Who's Who?

President: Philip Deakin

Chair: Peter Ennor (peter.ennor@gmail.com)

Treasurer and Membership: Gill Parker

Honorary Secretary: Sue Smith

Other Executive Committee members:

Elizabeth Jones

Trish Jones

Brian Lamb

David Lovie (davidlovie307@btinternet.com)

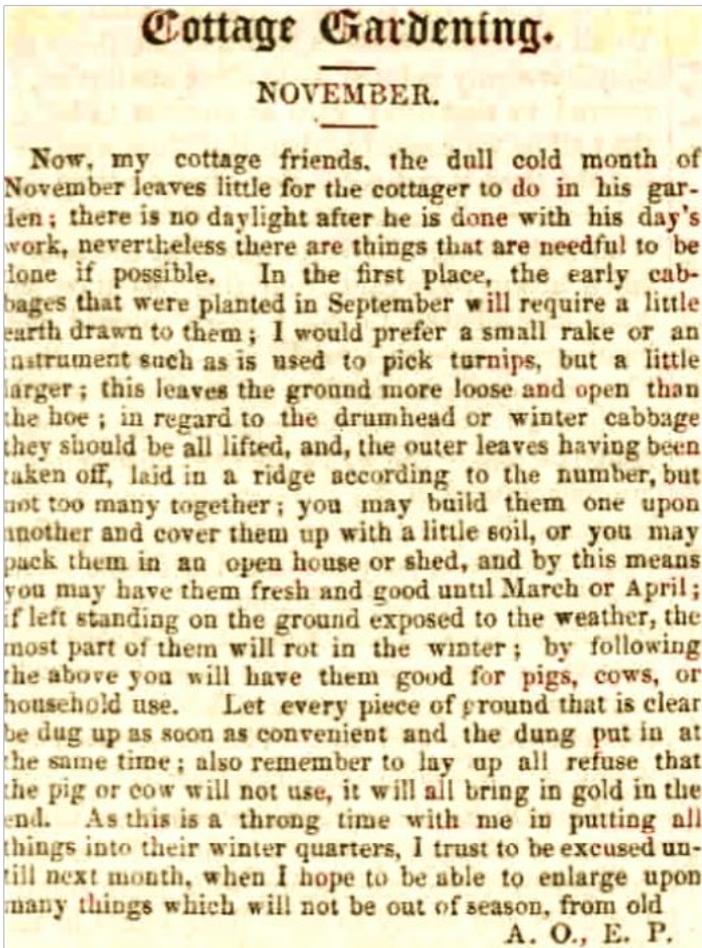
Peter Reed / Newsletter (peter.reed@aligre.co.uk)

Caroline Stewart

Web: www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk

Twitter: @AlnwickCivicSoc

Facebook: [AlnwickCivicSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AlnwickCivicSociety)



Alnwick Mercury, 1st Nov, 1861

("throng time" = busy time)

- Quiz answers (Page 4)**
- A) 11 Narrowgate (former Savings Bank), 1855 (did not exist before 1767)
 - B) Town Hall, 1731; with clock tower added 1767 and corner spires of tower 1771. (did exist before 1767, but without the tower)
 - C) Lion Bridge, 1773 (did not exist before 1767, but the earlier bridge did - until destroyed by flood in 1770)
 - D) Brisle Tower, 1781 (did not exist before 1767)
 - E) Camphill / Peace Column, 1814 (did not exist before 1767)
 - F) Wesleyan Chapel, 1786 (did not exist before 1767)
 - G) Pottergate Tower, Rebuilt 1768 (did not exist in this form before 1767)
- England's Places (Page 5)**
- Former Dispensary / Wingrove House,
Dispensary Street
Swansfield House, Swansfield Park