

August 2018

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## Notice board

17<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7:30: "The Tunnels of Alnwick": a talk by Fiona White, at St James Centre, Pottergate. Secret passages are common in European folklore, and Alnwick is no exception. Discover the truth about the tunnels of Alnwick.

7<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7:30: Any Questions: "The Good Life in Alnwick", a new approach to our ever-popular annual debate.

18<sup>th</sup> Sept - closing date to nominate your favourite Conservation Area (see back page).

Thanks to everyone who has helped to put this edition of the newsletter together. Contributions, and suggestions are always welcome. The next edition is planned for early November.



## Summer outing to Lilburn Tower

*This year our summer outing was to Lilburn Tower on the 9th June. We enjoyed a guided tour round a fascinating building, a stroll round impressive gardens, fine weather, and a warm welcome from Mr and Mrs Davison.*

Lilburn Tower is a Grade II\* listed building, commissioned by Henry John William Collingwood and designed by John Dobson. The foundation stone was laid in 1829, but the building was not completed until 1842, at a cost of £25,000.

The house is an imposing Tudor-style building, described in Pevsner as "quite splendid". There is a large portecochère (entrance porch). In 1843, shortly after the house was occupied, John Dobson was recalled by the new owner, and this porch was moved to the left, and some remodelling of the interior took place. A ceiling was inserted in the hall, and the staircase partitioned. All to reduce draughts.

In other respects this is renowned as the Dobson building that remains most close to his original design.

The Gothic style interior is impressive, and includes decorated

ceilings with pendants, and substantial fireplaces.

The Davisons have been able to retain much of the the original furnishing, alongside their own collection.



Lilburn Tower is surrounded by acres of carefully designed and well-maintained parkland and gardens on a gentle rise above the River Till. There is a Victorian conservatory, herbaceous borders, fruit and vegetable gardens, topiary, sculpture, walled gardens, a water garden and woodland.

Lilburn Tower is not normally open to members of the public, although the gardens and grounds are occasionally opened in support of local charities. If you have an opportunity to visit then we encourage you to do so. We were particularly privileged to be shown

around the house and gardens by Mr and Mrs Davison. Our thanks to them both: for allowing us to visit, a fascinating tour, and for their warm hospitality. And thanks to Gill Parker for organising another memorable summer outing. We now have less than a year to wait for the next, and we are looking forward to it with keen anticipation.



# Traffic Survey on Willowburn Avenue

*Our latest traffic survey was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The main findings were a substantial rise in volume of traffic on Willowburn Avenue, and times when Willowburn Avenue traffic stops altogether and backs up on the A1 north exit slip road - risking a serious traffic hazard on the A1 itself.*

*The matter of the A1 slip-road pedestrian crossing together with the planned new pedestrian crossing on Willowburn Avenue associated with the new Retail Park application is causing a conflict between pedestrian safety and road traffic safety.*

*The inconsistency of this actual survey with the projections put forward by the developer of the new retail development gives serious cause for concern. We submitted our findings to NCC Planning and Highways England for urgent attention, and the Town Council highlighted them verbally to Councillors at the Strategic Planning meeting when the application was considered. Nevertheless, it was approved.*

## Introduction

The purpose of the traffic survey is to establish the broad effect on traffic levels in Willowburn Avenue and vicinity of the opening of the new High School in September 2016. A Tuesday was chosen as the most "normal" day of the week (along with Thursday). All three surveys were carried out before the May bank holiday at a time when it is believed that most students were still at school prior to many going on exam leave. The surveys were all carried out on the 3rd Tuesday in May to provide a direct comparison.

Weather can have a major effect on traffic volumes. On all three occasions, the weather was dry and relatively mild to warm. Wet weather, if it had been encountered, could have skewed the results, given the large number of students walking to school on fine days.

## The Survey Results

The survey period was 07:45 to 09:00. In total, 4729 vehicle movements were recorded this year, compared with 4317 movements last year (excluding movements in and out of Greensfield Court, which were counted in 2017 but not this year or in 2016) an increase of 9.5% over last year and of 27.5% over 2016; traffic has become more peaked in the hour between 08:00 and 09:00, increasing by 13.5% over 2017 and by 31.6% compared with 2016.

At the time of the 2017 and 2018 surveys, there were temporary traffic signals at the Oaks roundabout, first for reconfiguration of the roundabout and this year for water supply works, although the latter had only been put into place the day before so may not have been fully known at the time of the survey.

The figures from here onwards refer to the peak hour only, from 08.00 to 09.00 and unless otherwise stated to all traffic movements, including buses, comparing the 2018 survey results with 2016.

The largest percentage increases (over 60%) in traffic volumes on existing roads occurred on Willowburn Avenue heading from the South Road roundabout to the Taylor

Drive roundabout and on Wagonway at the top of Willowburn Avenue, where traffic in both directions increased by about 55%. Traffic heading into the South Road roundabout from the Shilbottle Road and the A1 southbound slip road increased by over 25% in total, but this hides a wide variation in direction of movement, with a 125% increase in vehicles heading into Willowburn Avenue, partially compensated by a 29% drop in right turns. This may be a temporary distortion resulting from the

roadworks at the Oaks roundabout, or a more permanent diversion of traffic using the southbound A1 from the north to avoid the town centre and the War Memorial junction, or a combination of both. There is some evidence of the same happening in the opposite direction to access the A1 northbound or southbound, or the Shilbottle Road.

The transport consultants for the high school as first proposed estimated that 48 vehicles would enter Taylor Drive; we observed 290, 6 times as many. 111 vehicles exited Taylor Drive at the roundabout. We cannot be certain but a small yet noticeable increase in traffic on Weavers Way may suggest that some parents were making use of Weavers Way and Taylor Drive in both directions to drop off their offspring and continue round the loop. Significant others drove up to the school and were observed to turn around in the vicinity of the school. The number of vehicles entering the Sainsburys arm of the roundabout (but not the number leaving that arm) has fallen since the 2017 survey, which may be due to students old enough to drive parking their cars on Taylor Drive beyond the school rather than in the Homebase car park, as agreed when the school first opened.

There are a number of other significant changes in movements, both upwards and downwards, and the picture which these results paint is of massive changes in traffic patterns over the two year period. As measured, South Road was actually quieter this year than it was in 2016, yet Willowburn Avenue south section is now carrying nearly 1100 vehicles, compared with 700 in 2016. Much of this increase is down to Taylor Drive traffic but, as mentioned earlier, the residents living at the eastern end of Wagonway have suffered a huge increase in traffic and now

have to contend with over 800 vehicles passing their door in the morning peak period. The roundabout at the end of their road was briefly observed to be clogged with traffic entering Wagonway while at other times drivers exiting Weavers Way and unimpeded on the roundabout were forced to brake sharply as they met the end of a queue just out of sight into Wagonway.

Willowburn Avenue is a well aligned two way road with good sight lines and 1100 vehicles per hour should be well within its theoretical capacity yet it was frequently observed to be full of stopped or slow moving traffic. At the Taylor Drive roundabout, the very necessary pedestrian controlled crossing is well used, with at least a couple of hundred students crossing there (were they more



# An international perspective

After the recent request by the County Council for people to suggest where new houses should be put in this area, I thought it might be interesting to see how other countries manage. We seem to have a very top down system, with the Council allocating large areas where developers cram in as many houses as possible in “estates”. Once land is allocated for housing, the value sky rockets because they will not allow development on other land to take place until they see a housing “need” again.

Going through the planning process in the UK is very expensive and detailed and time consuming, and when the houses are built the plans have to be approved through the building warrant process.

In rural France it is very different. The commune (the parish council with slightly added responsibility for rubbish collection and maintenance of the green spaces) nearly always has a few plots of land available for anyone to buy. The commune chooses to buy the land from the farmer at agricultural prices then puts in a road and services. They end up with around 12 plots of land of varying sizes and advertise it on a sign at say, 17 euros per square metre. The buyer chooses his own builder and builds what he wants on the site. Once the plots have been bought, the commune buys another parcel of land so there is always a supply.

Self build is expensive in this country because of the permissions you need, and the paperwork you have to pay for, and because of the time this process takes. In rural

France, the government has preapproved styles of houses which are deemed to suit different areas. In the north and west these tend to be single storey long houses with steep roofs which are plastered and painted cream or yellow. They have strict building regulations, but their tradesmen are rigorously trained and have the responsibility of making sure the buildings comply, so the commune is not involved in building control at all. All this makes building a lot cheaper and quicker.

The pre-approved style is designed so that it is cheap to build, but if a young couple buys one and then has a family it is very easy to simply install a staircase and put in attic windows – again no permissions required.

If you wish to deviate from the pre-approved style, a simple request on a sheet of paper to the local Mairie is needed with a very small fee.

I cannot see how we could translate that system to this country without a lot of extra legislation, but it is interesting to see that there are other ways of dealing with housing in the countryside. We might be a little more flexible.



## Traffic Survey (continued)

disciplined in using the crossing than in 2017, or was it just that there are now more students at the school?). It was also noted that buses entering and leaving Taylor Drive, being driven carefully, had a disproportionate effect on traffic flows.

In the short term, the most serious consideration is that on two occasions, five to ten minutes apart, traffic approaching the South Road roundabout was observed to be queuing on the A1 slip road back on to the main carriageway. This presents a major hazard for through travellers on the A1 who may be unaware of local circumstances and, thinking they are on a quiet section of the A1, will not at all be expecting their way to be impeded by stopped vehicles. It is just possible that the same may be happening on the southbound slip road, although this traffic has priority over traffic from Shilbottle. Traffic on all arms of this roundabout turning into Willowburn Avenue has increased hugely in just two years and the A1 slip road has the third bite of the cherry after South Road and Shilbottle Road traffic so is possibly suffering the most from congestion. The evidence for this, apart from observation, is that significantly fewer vehicles are heading into South Road from this slip and from the Shilbottle direction than was the case in 2016.

## Conclusions

The upheaval in traffic patterns cannot entirely be blamed on the relocation of the High School because other major changes have been taking place in the area. The new McDonalds has opened, although we have no measure of its effect on traffic at this time of day, and the early stages of the new Greensfield housing development have now been completed. Of most concern currently is the proposed

retail development on the south side of Willowburn Avenue incorporating a Marks and Spencer Foodhall and a drive-through coffee shop. The traffic consultants for this scheme expect only a small proportion of the new business to come from entirely new trips to the area, with a much higher proportion coming from people already in the area (i.e. Sainsburys, etc. and the High School itself) and from local diversion of traffic already passing by. By this they must mean traffic on the A1 diverting off at the slip roads and/or traffic which would have used South Road to enter Alnwick diverting into Willowburn Avenue and then leaving in the opposite direction or via Wagonway. They have incorporated a second light controlled pedestrian crossing on the southern leg of Willowburn to link the existing shops to the new. Throughout the working day and beyond, the proposed development would have a huge impact on vehicle movements in the south of Alnwick and especially on Willowburn Avenue itself. The “solution”, if the development is to go ahead, is for the developers to pay to lengthen and/or widen the A1 slip roads to allow any queues to be accommodated off the main carriageway. Further work, which can only be done when the school is fully functional, is vital to assess the likely impact of their proposals.

The survey work we have undertaken, originally to assess the impact of the new High School, is now proving vital in our understanding of how this part of Alnwick is developing. It has highlighted the conflict which has arisen between keeping the major A1 highway safe and flowing freely and the needs of local people, especially pedestrians, to move around safely.

*Many thanks to all those who have participated in the survey work so far.*

# Planning matters

The area around Howick Street is described in Pevsner's Buildings of England as follows: "*This superior-quality residential suburb was created in the 1830s by William Smith, on land formerly belonging to General Lambert, with written-in specifications for ashlar fronts, chimneys and slate roofs. A variety of styles was used, from chaste Georgian to Gothick. The suburb is still virtually unspoiled though few of the buildings demand individual notice*". The Howick Street development began when the land on which it stands was sold by John Lambert, in parcels, to individual builders. Pevsner highlights the Mechanics' Institute and the composition of houses in Percy Street, facing St Paul's Church. The Mechanics' Institute, of course, has one of the most well-known doors in Alnwick. However, we have drawn the attention of Conservation Officers to another door in Percy street. The replacement is totally out of keeping with this period (1830s). The property is Listed Grade II and lies in the Alnwick Conservation Area. We understand that Listed Building Consent was not obtained for the new door, and that discussions between Conservation and Enforcement Officers are ongoing.



We imagine most members will have been disappointed, but not surprised, to hear in June that plans for the Retail park on Willowburn were approved, and in July that the Lilidorei play village at The Alnwick Garden was approved by Northumberland County Council. Now that consent has been granted for the play park, the Garden needs to identify funding partners for the scheme.

An application has been submitted to bring 1, Clayport back into residential use: the use it was originally built for. The building was vacated 2013, and since then very little repair and maintenance work has been carried out. The building is beginning to show signs of neglect. The proposals will enable a vacant and decaying Grade II\* Listed Building to be rescued and to once again contribute to the fine townscape of the Alnwick Conservation Area. The proposals are sympathetic to the character of this handsome 18th Century town house and the approach to retain and appropriately repair what original exterior and interior period features remain after its unfortunate history of conversion to other uses, is supported by Alnwick Civic Society. The plans are also supported by Historic England and the Georgian Group. We agree with Historic England that the finer details of the proposed conversion should be agreed with the County Council's own conservation officers, and with the Georgian Group that a thorough internal photographic record is made when the stripping out work has been completed.

Reverting to its original use will assist in reinforcing the residential use within the Conservation Area thus supporting the sustainability of the mixed uses of Alnwick's historic town centre into the future. We have requested that the County Council approve the application, subject to the finer details being agreed by County Conservation Officers. The application documents include a detailed historic statement, which will be of interest to members. We have included extracts (opposite).

The committee was more divided on an application to create four apartments on Paikes Street, in a building that currently houses retail/commercial units at ground



floor and apartments above. This will involve the change of use of the retail commercial units to residential space.

Shop fronts are important features of any town and we all felt that it would be disappointing to lose these. However, there was also a view that retail occupancy in the centre is an ongoing concern. If we are going to see changes of use for any retail premises in the centre then there are more prominent locations where the impact would be of more concern than in Paikes Street. In the end we chose not to comment, although we agree with the conservation officer's comments regarding the care that needs to be taken with the way that work on stonework and windows is approached.

At the time of writing, the inquiry was under way into proposals for housing on Willowburn Trading Estate. The key issue is that the site is designated as employment land (not for residential use) in the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan. The proposal was initially recommended for approval, then refused unanimously by Northumberland County Council's strategic planning committee last July following adoption of the ADNP. The applicants, Northern Commercial Properties (whose

majority shareholder is Lord James Percy) and the Harris & Sheldon Group, are trying to overturn this position. Since the appeal was lodged a second outline bid has been submitted and unanimously rejected by the planning committee. The inquiry decision was delayed when the Government published its revised National Planning Policy Framework. Now it's unlikely that we will hear the decision of Planning Inspector Nick Palmer until September.



A full Draft of the new Local Plan is out for consultation until 15<sup>th</sup> August. We will submit a response from the Civic Society, but this has not yet been finalised, so we will publish more in the next newsletter. The Local Plan includes the policies that will be used to guide and determine future planning applications in Northumberland, detail the scale and distribution of new development and include land allocations and designations. The documents can be viewed on the northumberland County Council web site. The timing for the remainder of the process is:

- Initial consultation - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 (Complete)
- Consultation on draft Local Plan - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 (Under way)
- Publication - January 2019
- Submission - May 2019
- Examination hearings - September 2019
- Adoption - March 2020

# I, Clayport: Heritage Statement Extracts

## Description

The property consists of a Georgian House fronting onto Clayport Street and a range of more recent buildings attached to the rear. The listing description dates the main house to 1815 but the plaque on the wall of the house dates it to 1780. It appears from the deeds that the house was constructed in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and modified in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to incorporate the carriage archway at the side. At the same time the extensive garden plot at the rear was sold off and reduced. It is possible that other internal alterations took place at this time. The building is believed to be designed by architect William Newton who died in 1798. The main house comprises a two-storey property with attic and basement built in ashlar under a slate roof. Specific architectural features include a pedimented roof, pedimented portico with doric columns, and decorative window surrounds with arched and triangular pediments. The property ceased to be a dwelling when it was bought by the Post Office in 1912 and further extensions were added to the rear to create the sorting office. In 1940 the Post Office moved to new, larger premises in Fenkle Street and the building became a local government office and underwent significant internal alterations in the 1970's under the control of Alnwick District Council. Its use as a council office ceased in 2013 when it was vacated by Northumberland County Council.

## Significance

No 1 Clayport Street is a building of national importance and regarded as being of high to very high significance. This is recognised by its Grade II\* listing. It is listed because of its architectural, historic and aesthetic value. The exterior of the house (particularly the main façade) is mainly intact and forms an impressive frontage facing the public hall (Northumberland Hall) and market square (Clayport Square)

Its setting includes properties either side of it, those along Dodds Lane and those immediately to the rear. To the front its setting extends along Clayport Street to the bus Station and eastwards along Market Street to its Junction with Bondgate Within. It includes the southern end of Fenkle Street and Market Place as the building is clearly visible in various vistas and in glimpses as you enter the market square from the yards and alleys connecting it to the rest of the historic core.

## Proposed Development

Externally, there will be no change to the physical appearance of the main façade. However, a series of sympathetic repairs such as re-pointing, repainting and cleaning of the ashlar stonework will make a difference to how the building looks and significantly improve its physical condition. To the rear there will be some minor alterations to the east elevation (the old sorting office). This elevation was re-modelled by Alnwick District Council in the late 1970's/ early 1980's. It is proposed to introduce new, better proportioned window openings and new timber windows of a more sympathetic design; along with the installation of new cast iron gutters and downpipes to match those on the original house. This, together with general repair and maintenance of the rear and side elevations will significantly enhance the overall appearance of the building. No demolitions are proposed.

Internally, the modern partitioning, suspended ceilings, joinery work and fixtures and fittings erected to form the Council Offices will be carefully removed and a more sympathetic floor layout introduced which respects the footprint of the original building and the proportion of its sash windows. The existing stairs will be removed and a new feature staircase installed as part of an impressive hallway as you enter the main house.

Very little remains of the original interior apart from small sections of internal wall, floors joists and boards and timbers in the main roof. The reproduction sash windows are generally in good condition as is the main entrance door and the timber gates in the archway fronting Clayport Street.

Lath and plaster ceilings and some plaster mouldings have survived and are visible within the modern suspended ceilings. However, these do not appear to be contemporary with the original house. It appears that the original plasterwork was removed and a lower lath and plaster ceiling installed - possibly when the building was re-modelled in the mid-late C19th. The staircase was probably remodelled at this time. Further alterations appear to have been carried out when the building was converted to a Post Office including the removal of structural walls and internal partitions. Further

modifications, including extensions, remodelling the east elevation, and a complete internal fit-out (including new partitions, joinery, suspended ceilings, new heating/ services, fixtures & fittings) installed to revamp the council offices post 1974 re-organisation.



# News in Brief

Each summer Alnwick in Bloom organises a shopfront competition timed to coincide with the visit of Northumbria in Bloom judges, when they visit for their assessment of Alnwick. All entries were of a particularly high standard this year. The themes of either WI or RAF obviously hit a chord with the entrants and those with a double frontage often chose to do both. A very impressive feature was the research that had been put into these displays. The 2018 summer competition has been a huge success and it was very good to see such thoughtful responses from everyone who entered. We shoppers salute you all!

- Northumbria Pets RAF Window 1st
- House and Home WI Window 2nd
- Kiddies Cabin RAF 3rd
- Wool Shop WI Highly Commended



opportunities for the North East, Cumbria and Scotland to develop a common 'voice' to influence UK Government. In his November 2017 Budget Statement Chancellor Philip Hammond announced that progress was being made in negotiations for a Borderlands Growth Deal.

Following the Northumberland County Council's Borderlands stakeholder event at Northumberland Hall on 22nd May 2018, a number of local organisations held a wider consultation to involve a broader spectrum of stakeholders. This was held at the Garden Pavilion on 26th June. It was geared around themes of: Digital, Energy, Destination, Productivity, Business Growth, Transport, Innovation and Skills, and Quality of Place. The aim was to put Alnwick at the heart of Northumberland's thinking in relation to the Borderlands Growth Deal, and to enable businesses, traders, communities and residents to express their views and aspirations for the town and Borderlands area. Ideas were captured from the round table discussions. More than 40 attended the event, and in total over 100 have contributed ideas.

Along with a list of projects that are already in the pipeline, a number of Project Templates have been completed, and submitted to the County Council.

1. Alnwick Town Centre Transformation
2. Aln Valley Railway Project/ Cycleway improvements
3. Alnwick Recycling Village
4. Alnwick Rehabilitation Village
5. Alnwick Community Arts/Venture Hub
6. Educational Hub across major Borderlands towns
7. Borderlands Foyer based in Alnwick
8. Alnwick Community Distillery
9. Community Adventure Hub



The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan contains a number of Community Action Proposals, involving different bodies to take forward specific actions. The Town Council has delegated responsibility to the Town Team for proposing a three year rolling plan with specific proposals to:

- improve accessibility and pedestrian flows around the town centre
- develop public facilities and use of public spaces in particular the Market Place
- encourage independent retail outlets
- promote Alnwick as a destination Market Town
- develop a seasonal strategy for the Market Place

The Society is involved, both through the Town Team (where we are represented by David Lovie) and through the Sustainable Transport Working Group (where Peter Ennor and Peter Reed are helping to look at improved accessibility and pedestrian flows around the town).

Through the Town Council, we are in correspondence with the County Council regarding faulty signs. Gill Parker has already identified more (see back page), and if any members are interested in participating in a wider audit then we would love to hear from you.

We have spoken with the County Council's open space officer about the possible relocation of the Column Field picnic table to a more suitable location. Unfortunately it doesn't sound as though anything will happen soon. Perhaps if we concentrate our regular clean-up on the land within the railings it might encourage someone to address the issue.

We have been approached for advice on sources of information about the history of General Lambert's (or Narrowgate) House. Unfortunately we have not been able to offer much help, beyond the obvious archives. If any members can provide more useful insight then we will pass on your suggestions.



Many of us are keen on maps, and some of us are fans of on-line mapping. So we should probably have known that there is a considerable amount of heritage data on the Defra "Magic" map pages. If this comes as a surprise to you too, then you might want to spend some time exploring <http://magic.defra.gov.uk>

The Borderlands Initiative was launched in 2013 by Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council and Northumberland County Council. It followed publication of the Borderlands report authored by academics at Northumbria University. This recommended joint working between local authorities on either side of the Scotland-England border in order to exploit and develop mutual economic and social links. It sees

# Quiz: Flowers in bloom

**“I love summer in Northumberland. It’s the best day of the year”**

*Some old jokes are worth conserving, even if this one doesn’t stand up well to the unusually hot weather we’ve experienced this year.*

We captured these images as Alnwick prepared for the arrival of the Northumbria in Bloom judges. It’s a small way to thank everyone who works hard to present the town at its best, add colour to our public spaces (and incidentally to our newsletter). Thanks to their efforts Alnwick has been awarded gold (and runner up status) by the North East Branch of Britain in Bloom for the last six years, only occasionally pipped at the ultimate post by better-funded competitors.

We offer no gold awards for identifying these locations, but if you are unsure of any, then you will find the answers on the back page.



## Diary dates

### Civic Society...

17<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7:30: "The Tunnels of Alnwick": a talk by Fiona White, at St James Centre, Pottergate. Secret passages are common in European folklore, and Alnwick is no exception. Discover the truth about the tunnels of Alnwick.

7<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7:30: Any Questions: The Good Life in Alnwick, a new approach to our ever-popular annual debate.

### ...and more

18<sup>th</sup> Sept: Deadline for nominating your Favourite Conservation Area. Civic Voice – the national voice for the civic movement – has called for civic societies, conservation groups and local councils to help find England's Favourite Conservation Area. The award is open to all conservation areas across England through a simple online nomination at

<https://tinyurl.com/y7pmm7ez>

Conservation areas were introduced in response to widespread public concern over the pace of redevelopment in Britain's historic towns and cities. A conservation area is typically designated for part or all a village or urban area which has particular architectural or historic interest. It is recognised by this designation that conservation areas have a special character and appearance worthy of protection and enhancement. The deadline for applications is 18<sup>th</sup> September and the shortlist will be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> September to coincide with the anniversary of Kesteven County Council – the planning authority at the time – designating Stamford's historic core as a Conservation Area, the first in the country. Please get in touch if you need any help to decide which Conservation Area to nominate.



## About Alnwick Civic Society

Alnwick Civic Society was formed in the 1970s, 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](mailto:peter.ennor@gmail.com))

**Treasurer and Membership:** Gill Parker

**Honorary Secretary:** Sue Smith

**Other Executive Committee members:**

John Hipwell

Mary McIlroy Hipwell

Elizabeth Jones

David Lovie ([davidlovie307@btinternet.com](mailto:davidlovie307@btinternet.com))

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**Twitter:** [@AlnwickCivicSoc](https://twitter.com/AlnwickCivicSoc)

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

## Recycling old street furniture

Outside Ruby Tuesday (8, Narrowgate), and outside Bailey's (at the pedestrian crossing) we find another two fine examples of Alnwick's historic street furniture, both thoughtfully converted into ashtrays for the convenience of visitors and other passers-by. We hope the wiring in the one on Narrowgate has been disconnected.



### Quiz Answers

- A) Column Cottage (floral clock face).
- B) Fenkle Street from Northumberland Hall
- C) Pottergate Memorial Garden
- D) The Gren Batt Garden (Library behind)
- E) Column Field (Column behind)
- F) The Fleece Inn (Bondgate Without)
- G) Column Field (War Memorial behind)