

Cockermouth & District Civic Trust Newsletter



President: The Lord Egremont, Chairman: Phil Campbell
Secretary: John Dent, Treasurer: Elizabeth Silman
Issue no 143, December 2019.

The recent period has again been dominated by politics and most recently by the general Election. By the time you read this, we should have a new government. During the election campaign, Civic Voice launched its Manifesto for 2020-2023, intended for MPs and parliamentary candidates, journalists and researchers who want to find out more about what the civic movement wants from the next government. Its well worth a read by us as well. In 2020, Civic Voice celebrates its 10th anniversary and we have been members for most of this time. Civic Voice is using this as an opportunity to review its own strategy for the next 10 years. In recognition that we now have a significant number of new members, we are organising a 'Member's Social' at Club Derwent on Tuesday 14th January. Please do come along and bring your own ideas about the role of the Civic Trust and the future of Cockermouth. A reminder to pre-existing members – please check that you have renewed your subscription for this year – we need you!

Member's Social Evening, Tuesday 14th January **7.30pm**

We have recently recruited a significant number of new members and it is important for our future as a society that they, or you, become integrated and involved in what we are doing, whether its in a small supportive role or in a leading way. Perhaps the first step is to meet existing members in a social atmosphere and learn about our activities and possibly influence our direction. For this reason we have arranged a social evening at Club Derwent on 14th January. Whether new or old, it would be really good if we can get a good number of members to come along. It starts at 7.30pm and finishes when you decide to leave. The bar will be open for sale of both alcoholic and soft drinks and we will provide some nibbles.

Each of the current committee members will introduce themselves and talk for a maximum of 2 minutes about something that they have been involved in. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion and for you to input ideas or concerns either verbally or on a post-it note.

Just for this evening only, we will be offering all of our books (and DVDs), to members at half price.

Club Derwent is in what was the Conservative Club at 7 Main Street, first door on the left as you enter the building.

It is not a ticketed event, but if you are thinking of coming, it would be helpful if you could let Phil or Shirley Campbell know so that we get a rough idea of numbers.

Phone 01900 823485

Email cctmember@btinternet.com

Please come.

Kirkgate Centre 25th Anniversary 2020

Member of Civic Voice. Registered charity number 254362

Talking about anniversaries, the Kirkgate Centre will be celebrating its 25th anniversary next year. Back in 1990, Allerdale BC applied for planning permission to demolish the former All Saints School to extend the car park. The Civic Trust contested this & campaigned for its use as a civic resource. Eventually, the building was sold to the Trust for £5 & the Kirkgate Centre was born. Following the purchase of the building by the Civic Trust, it was handed over to the Kirkgate Centre Trust to develop into the well used arts and community centre that it is today, with the formal opening in 1995.

Being so involved in the establishment of the Kirkgate Centre 30 years ago, we have been strongly interested and supportive of it over its 25 years. We believe that it has made a major contribution to the social life of our town. It is sad therefore that the Kirkgate Centre is facing a difficult year for its anniversary year. Grant aid has dried up and it is currently operating at a significant loss, which is not sustainable in the long term.

The Kirkgate Centre Trust do need more volunteers as they have had to reduce their permanent staff to a minimum. If any of our members feel they have skills that they can offer, particularly marketing through social media, I'm sure the Kirkgate Centre will be delighted to hear from you.

AGM

Our AGM was held on Wednesday, November 6th. The following were elected to serve again for 2019-2020:

Phil Campbell	Chairman
John Dent	Secretary
Elizabeth Silman	Treasurer
Duncan Keeler	Committee & Membership Secretary
Darren Ward	Committee & Architectural Adviser
Shirley Campbell	Committee
Ros Earthy	Committee
Brian Coley	Committee
Margaret Coley	Committee

Andy Roberts was elected to the Committee for the first time this year. Welcome Andy.

Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture, Friday 27th September

We are pleased to report that this year’s Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture was both well received and a sell out. Consequently, although we don’t seek to make a profit, since all tickets were sold and our lecturer Professor Richard Oram only asked for travel expenses, we and the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Group received a boost to our funds as a result.

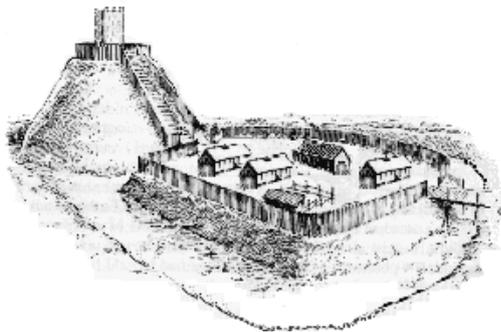
We also took Professor Oram on a tour round Cockermouth Castle. He is a specialist in medieval history and has a particular interest in castles. He was therefore able to give us a number of pointers to help with our future castle tours. For example, he pointed out another stone in the wall of the inner gatehouse which is clearly of Roman origin. He also was able to inform us of the purpose of the tower within the Kitchen Tower – its for latrines. The kitchen staff had to have somewhere to go!

Next Lectures

A reminder of the remaining lectures for this season, all at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House.

Feb 5 th	Johanna Korndorfer	Lake District Dark Skies Project Officer Project
Mar 4 th	Alastair Sharp	Work of the West Cumbria Samaritans
Apr 1 st	David Cornwall	‘Amid the Fretful Dwellings of Mankind’, Wordsworth’s Childhood Home.

Tute Hill Information Panel



A project for this coming year is to seek to erect an information panel for Tute Hill, which is scheduled as an ancient monument under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979. It is located adjacent to the Leisure Centre. Our proposed wording for the panel is as follows: ‘Tute Hill is the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle, the forerunner of Cockermouth Castle. The motte or mound would have supported a timber tower which was basically a lookout and an elevated fighting point. It

is likely that a bailey would have been associated with the motte. This would have been a protected enclosure on a larger but lower mound adjacent to the motte. Domestic buildings would have been placed here including a stable, kitchen, chapel and workshop.’

We have also approached Lord & Lady Egremont about the possibility of an information panel about Cockermouth Castle on the railings on Castlegate. They have agreed in principle and we are going to discuss the detail of this proposal with them in the new year.

DVD Sales

The Kirkgate Centre Trust invited us to have a stall as part of their open weekend. It was good to be there & was a good advert for the Civic Trust. However, book & DVD sales were very low. The Town Mayor, Julie Laidlow did buy the DVD on Cockermouth 1967 and 2017 compared & liked it so much that she said so on social media & we have since sold over 60 through Julie’s shop, Firns, as a result.

Planning Issues

- No news yet on the decision following the appeal on the proposal for the out of town B&M store.
- We have objected to the proposal for disabled parking (etc) at the entrance to All Saints Church on the grounds that if the proposal failed to address the visual impact on the historic building & alternative options had not been explored.
- Access on the footpath beneath the old railway bridge at the end of the Greenway behind Aldi has been prohibited due to Allerdale BC declaring a dangerous structure. The bridge itself is owned by Lloyd Motors. We have written to Allerdale BC reminding them that the bridge is a rare remaining example of the town’s industrial archaeology and as such is on the Allerdale Local Heritage List. We would like to see all reasonably practicable steps taken to repair the bridge to a safe state.



Phil Campbell, Chairman