

# ALNWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1197235

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2021-12-21

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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Percy Terrace  
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**Website** [alnwicccivicsociety.org.uk](http://alnwicccivicsociety.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE AREA COMPRISING ALNWICK WHICH AREA SHALL HEREINAFTER BE REFERRED TO AS "THE AREA OF BENEFIT"(I) TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE IN OR AFFECTING THE AREA OF BENEFIT.(II) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT.(III) TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION PROTECTION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

**Activities:** To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting Alnwick and environs; to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, and architecture in the area; to secure the preservation protection, development, and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the Alnwick area.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£2,697	£3,833	-	-
2024-12-31	£1,561	£2,956	-	-
2023-12-31	£1,164	£1,429	-	-
2022-12-31	£3,701	£6,983	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PETER REED	Chair	2021-05-17
GILLIAN PARKER		2006-05-17
SUSAN SMITH		1996-04-26
Timothy Smith		2023-03-08

**ALNWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1197235

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# Accounts

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## Alnwick Civic Society

### Annual Review 2025

It's gratifying to begin this review by reporting that our finances are sound, our member numbers are healthy, and our relationships with partner organisations are in good order.

Overall, the Society's financial position remains robust. The treasurer's financial statement showed that assets at 31st December 2025 amounted to £5,542.78. For 2025 the committee determined that it should maintain its ongoing strategy of supporting a growth in the society's activities and commitments, with a particular emphasis on Heritage Awareness. In this regard there was an especially strong focus on supporting Heritage Open Days which was financed from the ring-fenced Heritage Awareness Fund and a generous donation from Alnwick Town Council, made specifically for this event.

In 2025 the committee noted a significant increase in its operating costs, particularly in respect to printing which is the society's largest financial commitment. Overall, this did mean that expenses for the year exceeded revenue by £1,135.52 but still leaving, in the committee's view, a viable carry forward figure. However, with ever mounting overheads likely to be a fact of life for the foreseeable future, the committee has decided that it will need to increase subscription fees for 2027. This will be the first adjustment for around ten years and although we don't want the increase to be off-putting we do believe we need to take some account of the inflation that has occurred in that time.

The society has now concluded its work in rationalizing its banking arrangements to provide improved online banking facilities. The old paper-based account which was held at Lloyds, Alnwick is now closed, and the overwhelming majority of members have helped smooth this process by switching to pay their subs into the newer online account.

This year we welcomed 12 new members to the Society and continued the work to ensure our existing membership database was up to date. Overall, membership stayed almost exactly constant to last year, with 114 individuals in total. Setting aside the 'one-off' donation from the Town council for Heritage Open days, members' subs once again provided the cornerstone of our annual income providing £790.50 out of a total of £1,697.28 and so we do thank you all for your continued support.

Over the last twelve months our Planning Advisory Group reviewed 192 planning applications across Alnwick and Denwick. That's 8% more activity than in the previous year. The most significant was the revised plan for the former Duke's School which was decided in October. Other decisions of note included plans for resurfacing the Cobbles on Market Street, demolition of Park Cottage, launch of Alno Lounge at the former Barclays Bank and plans for the new Banking Hub on Paikes Street. So far we have made a formal response on twenty developments. On ten we drew the attention of decision makers to an issue that we felt affected the special character of Alnwick or was important to the local community. In one case we expressed support for a proposal that made a positive contribution and we raised objections on nine proposals that did not comply with policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, Northumberland Local Plan or national policies. Once again, the recurring issues were shopfronts that did not comply with the Alnwick Shopfront Design Guide and failures to make a case for replacement of historic windows. On the whole, Conservation Officers, ourselves, and the Town Council are taking a consistent approach to these applications and there are signs of some improvement in compliance when it comes to window replacement. Progress on the standard of shopfront design is less encouraging.

The Society has continued to contribute to the refresh of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, taking a lead on Heritage and Design. That work will largely be completed in early 2026 with submission of the draft plan to NCC. They will then arrange a final consultation, independent examination and referendum. Feedback from statutory consultees and public consultations helped to refine aspects of the plan relating to heritage, without uncovering anything particularly controversial. However, some of the design proposals generated a considerable amount of comment. At the time of writing that feedback is being factored into the draft that will be submitted to NCC.

Our programme for 2025 included talks on the Alnwick Soup Kitchen and developments at Bailiffgate Museum. We worked with the Alnwick and District Camera Club to deliver the "Alnwick Through the Lens" exhibition. A joint meeting with the Alnwick Local History Society looked at the legacy of Conzen's study of Alnwick in the 1960s. David Smith MP spoke about his first year representing our constituency at Westminster. We held two panel discussions: "A spanner in the works?" considered the interaction between planning and conservation, and our "Any Questions?" evening looked at different experiences of projects to bring new life to historic buildings. Our summer outing was to Felton. For Heritage Open Days a willing band of volunteers helped to open a dozen different locations across Alnwick. Despite disappointing weather the festival attracted at least as many visitors as the previous year. We participated in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's Church and led Heritage Walks for exchange students, neighbouring History Societies and Story Fest. A fresh

approach to Social Media has raised our profile and is generating interest across the wider town, and our quarterly newsletter continues to be well-received by a growing number of members and friends of the society.

Members of the society continue to work with Alnwick in Bloom to maintain the quality of Column Field and are becoming more active in litter picking. With the Town Council we have agreed to prioritize half a dozen vulnerable heritage issues, including General Lambert's House and Bondgate Tower (both of which remain on Historic England's list of Heritage at Risk). There's no easy solution to such complex challenges, but we have seen limited progress. We made better progress with more straightforward cases, several of which have now been resolved. Overall, the number of issues that we are tracking has come down from over 80 to fewer than 50.

A successful year across a wide range of activities is the result of considerable commitment by members, committee, trustees, and friends of the society. Thanks are due to all for their support in 2025.

Peter Reed

Chair ACS

## Account Summary 31/12/2025

Account Code	Account title	Balance
	<u>Assets</u>	£0.00
	<u>Current Assets</u>	£0.00
	<u>Cash in Wallet</u>	£0.00
	<u>Classic Account</u>	£804.72
	<u>Treasurers Account</u>	£4,738.06
	<u>Liabilities</u>	£0.00
	<u>Credit Card</u>	£0.00
	<u>Income</u>	£0.00
	<u>Donation</u>	£1,852.60
	<u>Gift Aid</u>	£303.72
	<u>Grant</u>	£250.00
	<u>Historic Maps</u>	£688.93
	<u>Subs 2023</u>	£702.50
	<u>Subs 2024</u>	£794.50
	<u>Subs 2025</u>	£790.50
	<u>Subs 2026</u>	£40.00
	<u>Expenses</u>	£0.00
	<u>Bank Service Charge</u>	£0.70
	<u>Donations</u>	£100.00
	<u>Events</u>	£2,647.43
	<u>Insurance</u>	£509.08
	<u>Online Services</u>	£79.66
	<u>Printing</u>	£3,739.60
	<u>Refreshments</u>	£317.85
	<u>Subscriptions</u>	£542.80
	<u>Supplies</u>	£280.75
	<u>Equity</u>	£0.00
	<u>Opening Balances</u>	£8,337.90
	<u>Imbalance-GBP</u>	£0.00

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## Profit & Loss For Period Covering 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

### Revenues

<u>Income</u>		£0.00
<u>Donation</u>	£1,526.00	
<u>Gift Aid</u>	£140.05	
<u>Grant</u>	£0.00	
<u>Historic Maps</u>	£208.73	
<u>Subs 2023</u>	£0.00	
<u>Subs 2024</u>	£0.00	
<u>Subs 2025</u>	£782.50	
<u>Subs 2026</u>	£40.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>£2,697.28</b>	

### Expenses

£0.00

## Expenses

<a href="#">Bank Service Charge</a>	£0.00
<a href="#">Donations</a>	£100.00
<a href="#">Events</a>	£991.44
<a href="#">Insurance</a>	£195.24
<a href="#">Online Services</a>	£0.00
<a href="#">Printing</a>	£2,101.72
<a href="#">Refreshments</a>	£78.40
<a href="#">Subscriptions</a>	£225.80
<a href="#">Supplies</a>	£140.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£3,832.80</b>

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Net loss for Period £1,135.52

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## Balance Sheet 31/12/2025

### Assets

Assets		£0.00
Current Assets	£0.00	
Cash in Wallet	£0.00	
Classic Account	£804.72	
Treasurers Account	£4,738.06	
Total Current Assets	£5,542.78	
Total Assets		£5,542.78
Imbalance-GBP		£0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>£5,542.78</b>

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### Liabilities

Liabilities		£0.00
Credit Card	£0.00	
Total Liabilities		£0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>£0.00</b>

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### Equity

Equity		£0.00
Opening Balances	£8,337.90	
Total Equity		£8,337.90
<b>Retained Losses</b>		<b>£3,829.34</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>£4,508.56</b>

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**Total Liabilities & Equity** £4,508.56

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**ALNWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1197235

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# Accounts

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# **Alnwick Civic Society**

## **Chair's Annual review for 2024**

The Society was founded in 1974 and in our 50th anniversary year we commemorated the work of members, celebrated what still makes Alnwick special, and strengthened the foundations for our work to continue in future.

In addition to helping with the refresh of the Neighbourhood Plan, members reviewed 178 planning applications and responded to 25. Welcome developments included work on the Borderline Greenway and refurbishment of the Cemetery Lodge. The most controversial was the new Garden Centre. Common issues include removal of historic features without justification, ill-considered choice of materials in the Conservation Area and inappropriate shopfront design. The programme of events had included talks on Alnwick's Shrovetide Football; Neighbourhood Planning; the Northumberland Coast National Landscape; the Housing Challenge and the future of Alnwick High Street. We commemorated the 200th anniversary of Alnwick Mechanics' Institute, held an enjoyable Social Evening at Barter Books; a tour of Northumberland Archives; and a memorable Evening with John Grundy. Heritage Open Day was well supported, with record numbers visiting St Mary's Chantry House on Walkergate, General Lambert's House on Narrowgate and other venues around town. We supported both the visit of 200 cyclists to Alnwick by the UK Tandem Club's National Rally and the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's Church.

Heritage is a great way for young people to discover links between their surroundings and the wider world, so it was gratifying and enjoyable to work with St Michael's (now Harry Hotspur) Primary School; the Duchess's Community High School, and to explore Alnwick's built heritage with French Exchange Students and their hosts.

General Lambert's House and Bondgate Tower both remain on Historic England's list of Heritage at Risk, and the best we can say for now is that the assessment of their condition has got no worse. We continue to monitor other vulnerable heritage across the town, tracking some 80 issues with the Town Council. Some have been resolved, but a similar number added, so the list gets no shorter. Nevertheless, coverage is more complete and we are better placed to progress the more urgent issues.

During 2024 we reviewed our policies to stay in line with new recommendations from the Charity Commission. We like to think that our relationships are in good order with heritage organisations and other local stakeholders, with the wider Civic Movement and with elected members and officers in Alnwick Town Council and Northumberland County Council. So we look forward confidently to the year ahead with the support of the committee, trustees, members and friends of the society.

Financially the Society remains in good health. The treasurer's financial statement showed that assets at 31st December 2024 amounted to £6,204.13. For 2024 the committee determined that the society was in a financial position where it should support an increase in activities and commitments, for example by continuing to utilize the ring-fenced Heritage Awareness Fund for projects such as Heritage Open Day and a Woodhorn Archive visit. Overall, this meant that expenses for the year exceeded revenue by £1,394.78 leaving, in the committee's view, a more appropriate carry forward figure.

The society continues to work towards rationalizing its banking arrangements to provide improved online banking facilities. As most members now pay their subs into the online account it should be possible to run down and close the old branch account in the foreseeable future. This year we welcomed 14 new members to the Society and continued the work to ensure our existing membership database was up to date. Overall, membership went up a little from 106 to 115 individuals in total, with members' subs providing a significant proportion of our annual income (£786.50 out of a total of £1,561.37).

Following the annual election of trustees, four continue in post: Gill Parker, Sue Smith (Honorary Secretary), Tim Smith (Treasurer) and Pete Reed (Chair).

**Peter Reed**

**12.03.2025**

## Account Summary 31/12/2024

Account Code	Account title	Balance
	<u>Assets</u>	£0.00
	<u>Current Assets</u>	£0.00
	<u>Cash in Wallet</u>	£0.00
	<u>Classic Account</u>	£474.17
	<u>Treasurers Account</u>	£6,204.13
	<u>Liabilities</u>	£0.00
	<u>Credit Card</u>	£0.00
	<u>Income</u>	£0.00
	<u>Donation</u>	£326.60
	<u>Gift Aid</u>	£163.67
	<u>Grant</u>	£250.00
	<u>Historic Maps</u>	£480.20
	<u>Subs 2023</u>	£702.50
	<u>Subs 2024</u>	£794.50
	<u>Subs 2025</u>	£8.00
	<u>Expenses</u>	£0.00
	<u>Bank Service Charge</u>	£0.70
	<u>Donations</u>	£0.00
	<u>Events</u>	£1,655.99
	<u>Insurance</u>	£313.84
	<u>Online Services</u>	£79.66
	<u>Printing</u>	£1,637.88
	<u>Refreshments</u>	£239.45
	<u>Subscriptions</u>	£317.00
	<u>Supplies</u>	£140.55
	<u>Equity</u>	£0.00
	<u>Opening Balances</u>	£8,337.90
	<u>Imbalance-GBP</u>	£0.00

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## Profit & Loss For Period Covering 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

### Revenues

<u>Income</u>	£0.00
<u>Donation</u>	£179.00
<u>Gift Aid</u>	£163.67
<u>Grant</u>	£0.00
<u>Historic Maps</u>	£424.20
<u>Subs 2023</u>	£0.00
<u>Subs 2024</u>	£786.50
<u>Subs 2025</u>	£8.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>£1,561.37</b>

### Expenses

<u>Expenses</u>	£0.00
<u>Bank Service Charge</u>	£0.70
	£0.00

[Donations](#)

[Events](#) £1,216.99

[Insurance](#) £168.36

[Online Services](#) £0.00

[Printing](#) £1,226.41

[Refreshments](#) £93.64

[Subscriptions](#) £182.00

[Supplies](#) £68.05

**Total Expenses** £2,956.15

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Net loss for Period £1,394.78

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## Balance Sheet 31/12/2024

### Assets

Assets		£0.00
Current Assets	£0.00	
Cash in Wallet	£0.00	
Classic Account	£474.17	
Treasurers Account	£6,204.13	
Total Current Assets	£6,678.30	
Total Assets		£6,678.30
Imbalance-GBP		£0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>£6,678.30</b>

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### Liabilities

Liabilities		£0.00
Credit Card	£0.00	
Total Liabilities		£0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>£0.00</b>

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### Equity

Equity		£0.00
Opening Balances	£8,337.90	
Total Equity		£8,337.90
<b>Retained Losses</b>		<b>£1,831.27</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>£6,506.63</b>

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**Total Liabilities & Equity** £6,506.63

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**ALNWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1197235

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# Accounts

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# Alnwick Civic Society: Chair's report on 2023

We had a busy year in 2023, and I am grateful to everyone who has supported our efforts to promote high standards of planning; to raise awareness and to protect what is special about our town.

We have seen some significant planning applications during the year including conversion of the former Duchess's High School to a hotel, repairs to the wall in Greenwell Road Car Park, conversion of Northumberland Hall to house Bailiffgate Museum and a long-awaited application for development of shops at the north side of the Market Place. In total we considered 124 applications, expressed support for one, objected to six, and on another four we neither objected, nor supported, but drew attention to matters that we felt needed careful consideration. The Society is also represented on the steering group for the refresh of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, and throughout the year members have debated the issues, helped to collect evidence and engaged with the Public Consultation.

With lockdowns behind us it has been a pleasure to welcome growing numbers of members and supporters back to our programme of talks and events. Special thanks are due to our speakers: Phil Huntley (Fisher Lane), Marjorie Brown (Percy Tenantry Column); John Matthews (Northumberland and Newcastle Society), Sue Wood (A House Through Time); David Smith and colleagues (Northumberland Fusiliers) and a distinguished panel for our Any Questions discussion: Kevin Trickett, the Reverend Mitchell, Ian Brown, Jean Humphrys and Louise Dawson. A variety of different groups have enjoyed our guided walks of Alnwick's built heritage and a growing number of contributors to our newsletter have earned the positive feedback that is received from readers.

English Heritage regards two Grade-1 listed structures in Alnwick as being at risk. Both have complex issues that need individual attention. A risk reduction plan is now in place for Bondgate Tower, but progress on implementation has been frustratingly slow. However, we have also been working with the Town Council to monitor other vulnerable heritage in the town. Over the year some 70 issues have been logged, and around a third of them are on the way to being fixed. For reporting more general issues with the condition of our streets the County Council has introduced a new system and we have used our own "Eyes and Ears" register to monitor the results. It is now significantly easier to submit reports, and some types of issue are getting fixed more quickly than before. However, there is still scope for improvement and we are far from being able to say that every report is addressed promptly.

On a more positive front in 2023 we recognized those who are making a difference in the town by re-launching our Civic Society Awards. The community nominated a wide variety of different initiatives, as well as a variety of restoration and renovation projects. Presentation of the awards in November was followed by a lively discussion on the role of the community in shaping Alnwick's future.

Last year the Boundary Commission toyed for a while with changing the name of our Parliamentary Constituency to "Berwick and Morpeth", but we argued that "North Northumberland" had precedent dating back to the Great Reform Act of 1832 and would be a more appropriate name for a rural constituency where the majority of the electorate live outside two towns. We will never know how much weight was given to our submission, but when we vote in the next General Election we will be reminded that the Boundary Commission made the right choice.

Financially the Society remains in good health. The treasurer's financial statement showed that assets at 31st December 2023 amounted to £8,073.08. Expenses for the year had exceeded revenue by £264.82 but there were no grounds for concern as more recent income, in the form of gift aid and map sales, indicated that the society was operating in the black again. £2,500 of the society's assets were ringfenced for heritage awareness projects as a consequence of past donations. Bank accounts had been rationalised during the year to provide improved online banking facilities.

This year we welcomed 11 new members to the Society and also did some work to ensure our existing membership database was up to date. Overall membership remained stable at 106 individuals in total with members subs providing a significant proportion of our annual income (£702.50 out of a total of £1,164.10).

It would take too long to thank everyone individually who contributed to the work of the society last year. Sadly Richard Allsop is no longer with us, but I should mention Brian Lamb for his work on the Tree Team and others who have helped to scrutinise planning activity, all who helped with the Neighbourhood Plan, but particularly Alan and Jill Waton. Bev Joicey, Lalik and George Naysmith for their work on the Civic Society Awards, Allan Mann, Lorna Gilroy

and a number of photographers for their contributions to the Newsletter. And of course, my fellow trustees and committee members for their support over the last twelve months. Colin Watson for his contributions across a number of different areas, Sue Smith as Secretary, Tim Smith as Treasurer, Gill Parker as Membership and Speaker Finder, and Peter Ennor as President.

In 2024 we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and there is no shortage of opportunities to get involved in the work of the society. All are welcome to help influence Alnwick's future, raise awareness of Alnwick's past, and help to ensure that Alnwick's heritage is in fit condition to be passed to future generations. Just let one of us know where you would like to start.

P. Reed

Chair

Alnwick Civic Society  
**Account Summary 31/12/2023**

Account Code	Account title	Balance
	Assets	
	Current Assets	
	Cash in Wallet	
	Classic Account	£8.00
	Treasurers Account	£8,065.08
	Liabilities	
	Credit Card	
	Income	
	Donation	£147.60
	Grant	£250.00
	Historic Maps	£56.00
	Subs 2023	£702.50
	Subs 2024	£8.00
	Expenses	
	Bank Service Charge	
	Events	£439.00
	Insurance	£145.48
	Online Services	£79.66
	Printing	£411.47
	Refreshments	£145.81
	Subscriptions	£135.00
	Supplies	£72.50
	Equity	
	Opening Balances	£8,337.90
	Imbalance-GBP	

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## Income Statement For Period Covering 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

### Revenues

#### Income

Donation	£147.60
Grant	£250.00
Historic Maps	£56.00
Subs 2023	£702.50
Subs 2024	£8.00

**Total Revenue** **£1,164.10**

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### Expenses

#### Expenses

Bank Service Charge	
Events	£439.00
Insurance	£145.48
Online Services	£79.66
Printing	£411.47
Refreshments	£145.81
Subscriptions	£135.00

Supplies	£72.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£1,428.92</b>

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Net loss for Period £264.82

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## Balance Sheet 31/12/2023

### Assets

#### Assets

##### Current Assets

Cash in Wallet

Classic Account £8.00

Treasurers Account £8,065.08

Imbalance-GBP

**Total Assets** **£8,073.08**

### Liabilities

#### Liabilities

Credit Card

**Total Liabilities** **£0.00**

### Equity

#### Equity

Opening Balances £8,337.90

**Retained Losses** **£264.82**

**Total Equity** **£8,073.08**

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**Total Liabilities & Equity** **£8,073.08**

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## Membership Report 2022-23

No. of 'paid up' members for 2022-23, as follows:

Business Members: 5  
 Individual Members: 33  
 Family Members: 30  
 Student Members: 3  
 Honorary Members: 5

Total 'Paid Up' Members: 76  
 Total No. Members Est: 106

**ALNWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1197235

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# Accounts

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# Chair's review of the year (Jan – Dec 2022)

This is the first time that we report as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission. Our new status has not changed our role, but it has given the society a separate legal personality. That means we can take on more ambitious projects and reassure funding bodies, without introducing a heavy administrative burden.

This report will follow the three elements of our purpose, as laid down in our constitution:

- Promoting high standards of planning and architecture
- Educating the public in various matters (principally the built heritage and natural environment)
- Securing the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest

## Planning and architecture

Over the last year we have examined 163 planning applications. We concentrate on major developments that impact the whole community, and on applications that will affect built heritage and the conservation area. We made representations on 19 (as we did in 2021). In two cases we expressed support and we objected to eight. In most cases our comments drew attention to an aspect of the application that we felt needed particularly careful consideration. We are grateful to all who helped us to ensure that we represent views from a cross-section of the society. Some examples from the last year show the importance of their contributions:

- We objected when we felt that there was insufficient information for neighbours to assess the impact of changes to the proposed retirement block in the grounds of the former Duke's School
- We objected to illuminated advertising signs on South Road on the basis of road safety and damage to the character of a major approach to the town
- Decision takers had plenty of expert advice on which windows at the former Duchess's High School in Bailiffgate should be replaced and which could be repaired. We refrained from making our own suggestions. However, a project with such a high-profile, by a prominent developer on a building of national importance should be a model of good practice and we objected when we felt this wasn't the case
- Proposals by Lidl to expand retail space, while reducing car parking seemed inconsistent. We felt that aspect of their plan needed careful consideration and that measures might be needed to encourage a switch from private cars to active travel
- We objected to proposals for a new bypass of the B1340, North West of Denwick because we felt it was important that the community should have an opportunity to assess the wider impact of such a major proposal

If members are interested in getting more involved with this aspect of the society's work then there is an open invitation to join the Planning Advisory Group.

The long-awaited Northumberland Local Plan was finally adopted in March. This is the basis for planning decisions across the county and outlines the policies that are used to determine planning applications. The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan is the way that the town contributes to planning decisions. The Civic Society was heavily involved in the development of the original Neighbourhood Plan. Now, with a new Local Plan in place that Neighbourhood Plan is to be refreshed and we are gearing up to support that important initiative this year.

We were pleased to participate in the Alnwick Forum event in November along with the Town Council, County council and a number of other stakeholders. This was a welcome opportunity to meet with our members, and with the wider community to discuss a range of views on various proposals for the town.

## Informing the public

Through the year there have been a variety of opportunities to engage with our membership and the wider Alnwick community. In January we had a joint meeting with the Charles Close society for a talk on the Ordnance Survey Name Books. In March, Jane Coltman spoke after our AGM on Hidden Alnwick. In May, Mick Grant described the History of Theatre in Alnwick; in July Jessica Turner spoke on St Aidan and in September we heard Paul Henery on his work as a

Wildlife Artist. We took a slightly different approach to Any Questions in November, with an expert panel discussing aspects of economic development and employment opportunity in Alnwick. Our summer outing in August was a fascinating walk over the geology of Howick Bay, guided by Allan Mann.

On Heritage Open Day in September, we brought different heritage groups together again, to raise awareness, and showcase Alnwick's heritage. More than twenty different organisations and around fifty volunteers were involved. We recorded an increase in visitor numbers, and received positive feedback from both visitors and participating organisations. There is some lasting legacy in the form of information panels in shop windows and at the Youth Hostel. We can't name-check everyone, but Lorna Gilroy deserves special mention for pulling an ambitious plan together.

Four times a year, Gill Parker and Mary Carter distribute around 150 copies of our newsletter. Roughly half go to members, around a third to influencers, such as Councillors, Conservation Officers and journalists. The remainder go to various friends of the society. The content has been strengthened this year by a wider range of contributors, including Lorna Gilroy and Allan Mann.

In 2021 our high profile achievement was development of the Historical map of Alnwick and Alnouth by Ian Hall's team. In 2022 that initiative was taken forward in a number of ways. The Duchess's Community High school installed a wall map in one of their halls as a focus for future map-related activities, and we participated in some heritage-based workshops with primary schools. Throughout the year, a group of enthusiasts has been building on the information collected for the map, to start developing a web site on Alnwick's heritage: [www.alnwickheritage.org](http://www.alnwickheritage.org) . We also kicked off a couple of initiatives that we hope will reach a wider public in 2023: with the creation of an information panel and the donation of some reproductions of early Ordnance Survey maps to Bailiffgate.

## Conservation

We have long felt the need for a Heritage Advisory Group as part of the Town Council's Alnwick Partnership, so we welcomed the formation in 2021 of such a group with the brief to maintain awareness of regulations regarding heritage and design; share best practice on heritage issues; support work relating to heritage; and raise awareness of Alnwick's heritage. The schedule of Community Action Proposals in the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan was recognized as having been over-ambitious, so the group started to prioritise and then progress a more realistic list.

One outcome of this approach was a joint session with the Environment Advisory Group where officers from Northumberland County Council gave a presentation on the significance of historic windows, in the context of energy conservation. Many owners of our traditional buildings rightly wish to reduce their Carbon Emissions but feel frustrated by current planning policies and this was a useful introduction to how the different pressures are balanced through legislation and policy.

Overall, though, progress with the Heritage Advisory Group has been disappointing, and we are currently reassessing how best to proceed.

Work that we helped to initiate in 2021 on reducing the risks to Bondgate tower has continued behind the scenes during 2022, but so far there is little to show. We are in contact with stakeholders, and hope to be able to report more substantive progress before too long.

Elsewhere, Gill Parker and Trish Jones have continued to support the Friends of Column Field, and the Tree Team coordinated by Brian Lamb has continued their monitoring of tress, and scrutiny of related planning activity. Colin Watson has continued to track a variety of issues through our "Eyes and Ears" initiative. We had hoped that if we took a systematic approach to reporting problems it would help authorities to be more proactive in their response to issues that affect the appearance of the town centre. In that we have been disappointed. However, we have seen some individual successes. Out of more than 50 reports, around two-thirds have now been fixed. We are grateful to county councillors who have helped us to press for action on individual priorities.

## Conclusion

Finally, we have welcomed several new committee members in 2022, and I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their support during the year. Gill Parker as Treasurer, Sue Smith

as Secretary, Mary Carter, Allan Mann, Lorna Gilroy, and Tim Smith. Elizabeth Jones has moved away from Alnwick so this is my last opportunity to express appreciation for her many years of support, and thankfully, the advice of our President, Peter Ennor continues to be invaluable.

We are not a large Civic Society. Civic Societies in major cities boast far larger numbers of members. I like to tell them that we will be impressed when their membership exceeds 1% of their population. As ours does. With healthy membership numbers, an active committee, and good relationships with our partner bodies, the society is on a sound footing and we can face the future with confidence.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 12/21/2021	To	Period end date 12/31/2022
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Subscriptions	547		-	547
Donations	65	-	-	65
HMRC (Gift Aid)	2,671	-	-	2,671
Transfer from Treasurer's AC	110	-	-	110
Map Sales	-	308	-	308
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,701</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,701</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
Charitable donations	68	-	-	68
Subscriptions	128	-	-	128
Insurance	136	-	-	136
Exhibitor stands, room hire	373	-	-	373
Printing, Stationery, etc	633	-	-	633
Speakers	60	-	-	60
Map expenses		4,242	-	4,242
Heritage Open Day Expenses		1,343	-	1,343
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>5,585</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,983</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>5,585</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,983</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>- 5,277</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 3,282</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>- 1,033</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>8,848</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,620</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,338</b>

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank balance	5,800	2,538
		-	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>2,538</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name
	Peter Reed

**CC16a**



**Last year  
to the nearest £**

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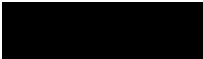
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**Endowment funds**  
to nearest £

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OK

**Endowment funds**  
to nearest £

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**Current value (optional)**

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**Current value (optional)**

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-
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**When due (optional)**


Date of approval

3/28/2023