

Bridge was officially opened and a plaque, approved by your Society - but sadly in 2011 looking worn - unveiled. In a magnanimous gesture the task of declaring the bridge and its road open was given to the Lord Lieutenant, who in his earlier capacity of Chair of the Civic Society had caused Borders Region such aggravation.

Major General Sir John Swinton

FLODDEN 500

Flodden 500 is the over-arching project which aims to support the many and disparate programmes and activities that are working towards the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden (9th September 1513–9th September 2013).

Heritage Lottery (Stage I) funding is being sought for what is seen as a major, co-ordinated, cross-border research project. Communities have already come together to establish Britain's first cross-border eco-museum (a museum without walls).

The ecomuseum starts by linking together 12 sites across northern Northumberland, the Scottish Borders and in Edinburgh which have an intimate connection with the story of Flodden. They include churches, bridges, castles, museums and of course the Battlefield itself. In coming months and years we hope this family of sites will grow as community projects open up new attractions that wish to join the Flodden 1513 ecomuseum.

Berwickshire Civic Society members who have family memories or papers could contribute greatly to a suggested Scottish project, which might look at establishing the routes and encampments of the Scottish Army to and from Flodden. We know little of the effect on the countryside and people as the soldiers and camp followers passed through.

See www.flodden1513.com for progress so far, and how to get involved.

Over the course of a year Berwickshire receives visitors from all over the world, many of whom are pre-eminent in their fields. Two such, Dr Dana Cordell from Sidney and Mrs Elizabeth Haines from Stanstead, have generously contributed these articles which reflect how their interests relate to Berwickshire.

It's in your Hands

Earlier this year I stayed in Berwickshire for the first time. We arrived in wonderful spring sunshine which impressed me as much as the beauty of the area and the wonderful clear air. During the journey from Berwick to Greenlaw I noticed how clean and tidy the area was. However, I suspect there are still areas where litter is a problem. Until recently, I worked as the Conservation Officer for our local Council. A perennial problem in Conservation Areas and elsewhere is one of litter. I was frequently being asked how this issue could best be addressed.

Well for me the answer is simple – it's in your hands. That is, we all have to stand up for what we believe in and rid ourselves of the litter. I have found that if one adopts the patch around where you live and clears any litter regularly, it will gradually improve and within six months I can assure you, the problem will be at least halved. Eventually it will diminish to almost non-existent. One has to adopt a different mindset to the one that litter is "someone else's problem – the council will clear it up". It isn't and they won't. Budgets are stretched to breaking point now and it is impossible for any council to continually clear litter. Whereas, if we go out once a week or fortnight and take responsibility for clearing litter on our patch it has a two fold effect. Firstly, the area is kept clean. Secondly and more importantly, I believe, is that the people around you see what you are doing and that you care enough to clear the area. Much litter is strewn by people who just do not think. Suddenly they see local people, people that they can relate to, caring enough to clean up the area. This will actually make some previously unthinking people stop and think about how they can dispose of their litter responsibly. Frequently I am surprised by the people who engage in conversation and express their pleasure at what I am doing.

The environmental charity "Keep Britain Tidy" have reinvented the campaign of the last century to the new "Love Where You Live" campaign. This will be taken into schools to encourage a younger generation to care for their environment. So when you go out to care for your patch, take your children and/or grandchildren with you. It's amazing how effective this practical action is at reinforcing upon them how important it is to dispose of litter responsibly and how these simple steps will help to maintain our wonderful green environment. The solution really is in your hands.

© Elizabeth Haines

Help feed the world ~ with your next visit to the toilet!

What does your toilet behaviour have in common with feeding the world?

Your urine (and faeces) contains valuable nutrients, including phosphorus, which is essential for growing crops. In fact, all life depends on phosphorus – it's in our cells, our DNA and our bones. Agriculture today is totally dependent on concentrated phosphorus in the form of fertilisers to maintain high crop yields and feed 7 billion hungry mouths.

But the world's main source of phosphorus – phosphate rock – is a finite resource and it is running out.

Phosphate rock took hundreds of millions of years to form on the seabed and was gradually forced onto land by tectonic uplift. But large expanses of high quality phosphate rock are only found in a few places in the world. In fact, nearly 90% of the world's remaining high quality phosphate rock is found in Morocco and China alone. And scientists predict demand for phosphate might outstrip supply this century – possibly as soon as the next few decades. Scarcity of phosphate could be the biggest threat to food security this century.

But the good news is, all the phosphorus in the food we eat, comes out

our other end. And better still, urine is essentially sterile and can be easily reused as a liquid fertiliser. So your grandfather was onto something peeing on the lemon tree. The Chinese have been reusing their excreta for over 5000 years. The Swedes invented a urine-diverting toilet that literally separates your pee from your poo when you sit down so you can fertilise your garden or the local farmer's land. And the Canadians have worked out how to extract phosphorus-rich 'struvite' crystals at the wastewater treatment plant which are being bagged and sold as 'crystal green' fertiliser.

Berwickshire Residents alone could produce around 13 tonnes of elemental phosphorus from excreta each year. And one day someone might pay you for your pee. So next time you get the urge to visit the toilet, think about where you might deposit your liquid gold.

Dr Dana Cordell

Dr Cordell is a Research Principal at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney, and co-founder of the Global Phosphorus Research Initiative (www.phosphorusfutures.net).

Appeal for Information

Antony Chessell, of Coldstream, would be grateful to learn whether any of our members has detailed knowledge of a bridge at Swinton. He is writing a book about the Leet Water and is curious about a carved design on one of the coping stones on the parapet of the road bridge at Grid Ref. NT83874779 (just north of the Main Street/Coldstream Road junction in Swinton). Mr Chessell notes that there seems to be an inscription that cannot be made out due to weathering and lichen.



If anyone can shed light on this please write to us at enquiries@berwickshirecivicsociety.com

The Objects of the Society

Berwickshire Civic Society has been established to promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means, but not otherwise:

- a) To stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of the County of Berwickshire.
- b) To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest.
- c) To encourage high standards of architecture and town and country planning in Berwickshire and comment on plans or decisions of the Local Authority.

(For a copy of the full constitution please contact the Secretary)

APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete in block capitals)

I..... (full name)

of

..... (full postal address)

hereby apply for membership of the Berwickshire Civic Society and agree to be bound by the constitution thereof. I enclose my first annual subscription of £12.00 (individual), £18.00 (couple) or £20 (business).

email:

(Please provide an email address if you are happy for us to contact you occasionally by e-mail. We shall not use it for any other purpose, nor give it to a third party).

BANKERS ORDER

To the Manager of

.....
(insert the name and address of your bank)

Please pay now to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Market Square, Duns, Berwickshire (Sort Code 83-18-40) for the credit of the Berwickshire Civic Society (Account No. 00111667) and on 6th April annually hereafter, the sum of *(delete as appropriate)*:

Twelve Pounds / £12 (individual) - or

Eighteen Pounds / £18 (couple) - or

Twenty Pounds / £20 (business)

Name A/C No.

Address

Signed:

Date

Please send this application form with a cheque or the completed bankers order form to: **Mr. R. Lindsay, Broomhill, Todlaw Road, Duns TD11 3EW.**