

TOWARDS A BETTER PLAN

Why are two historic huts in danger?

The Berwick Youth Project plans to renovate the old Grammar School building as supported accommodation for young people. We all applaud this excellent mission. However, their proposal includes large new builds to the rear resulting in the disposal of the huts, despite their Grade II* listed status and their suitability for reuse.

Two 6.4m-high buildings are planned: a 1.5-storey 5-bay garage block, and a speculative house build intended to fund the garage (not the main renovation). The area's unique and popular views from the celebrated Town Walls, pictured below and front, will be ruined, having been enjoyed for hundreds of years. Appeals from the Victorian and 20th Century Societies and Historic Buildings and Places, along with many residents, have all been ignored.

What we propose

That these historic huts are renovated and reused, supplemented as required by low garages. This plan (described on our web site) will retain an important part of Berwick's heritage, keep the views from the Walls, and avoid 100,000 kg of construction CO₂.

Can you help us?

Please visit our web site, below, and sign our petition.

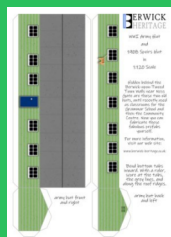
Please ask the Berwick Youth Project to reconsider.

Please speak to local councillors and anyone else you know to spread the word.

You can also download card models of the huts from our web site, print them out, and send them to a friend, or build and display the models yourself.



www.berwick-heritage.co.uk
facebook.com/smashingheritage
Instagram.com/berwickhuts
change.org/savethehuts



SAVE BERWICK'S HERITAGE



**A conservation area is in danger.
Gorgeous views from the Town Walls
will be ruined.**

**A WWI Army hut and a rare 1908
corrugated classroom are to be
swept away.**

**Our history and heritage are for all:
residents, visitors, and future generations.
Don't let them take it away from us.**

**BERWICK'S SMASHING HERITAGE.
IF YOU LOVE IT, DON'T STAND FOR IT.**



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THE WWI ARMY HUT

Participant in an existential struggle, and part of the Grammar School's history

What's an Armstrong Hut?

Armstrong huts were built in World War I to serve and house the surge of volunteers who joined Kitchener's new army, and predates the more famous Nissen hut. This narrower hut is an evolution of Armstrong's original design.

Who designed it?

Major Bertie Armstrong and a team of Royal Engineers designed 17 different types of hut to create camps for the expanding Army. When they presented their ideas, the Army adopted them despite Lord Kitchener considering them "unnecessarily good."

What is it made of?

This hut is wooden. The original Armstrong huts were clad in corrugated iron, but there was a shortage since the Germans had the monopoly on the zinc used to waterproof the iron, so wood was then used instead.

Why is it here?

The hut was acquired by the Berwick Education Committee in 1920 from the army camp at Blyth, and adapted for classroom use.

Why is it so special?

It's a rare survivor of a turbulent time: such huts were as much a part of the experience of the war as the trenches. It's also integral to the Grammar School's history, having hosted classes for nearly a century. Once renovated, it will have much to offer, both practically and in contributing to the town's unique heritage.

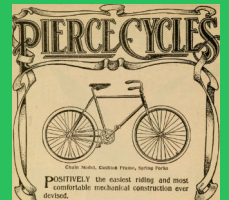


THE CORRUGATED CLASSROOM

A fascinating relic of the Edwardian era

What is this building and why is it here?

In 1908 the governors of Berwick Grammar School commissioned a new building. Responding to demands in education for more practical subjects, they wanted a technical classroom where boys could learn woodwork and metalwork. A bike store was also part of the plan as pupils were now coming to school on bikes in sufficient numbers to need a place to store them. By this time, the bicycle was an affordable reality for many people – even schoolboys could own them.



Who designed it?

The governors asked Speirs & Co. of Glasgow to design, supply and erect the building. Beautiful hand-coloured elevations and original plans survive in the Berwick archives.

What is it made of?

Corrugated iron, an innovative building material invented early in the nineteenth century, was the perfect choice for a low cost, easy to maintain, functional building like this. Firms such as Speirs & Co. produced everything from cottages to chapels and sent them in flat packs across the world. Even Queen Victoria had a ballroom made of corrugated iron in the grounds at Balmoral.

Why is it so special?

As well as being a fascinating and very rare corrugated iron building, inheriting a Grade II* listing from the Grammar School, the classroom tells part of the story of education and life in Berwick-upon-Tweed. And it still has plenty of life left for a variety of purposes.

