

Hometime Dark was commissioned by Berwick Townscape Heritage Initiative in association with Inspire Northumberland. The images and poetry presented in the twin volumes capture the hidden human stories and voices within two important Berwick buildings – and the bustling commercial, family and social life they once contained.

As part of the project artist Mike Golding and writer Jacob Polley were invited to explore the buildings and family firm of William Cowe and Sons; makers of the famous Berwick Cockle sweet. *Hometime Dark* is the results of their conversations, imaginings and discoveries.

“Using photography to gather up physical evidence, my subject has become time itself and the idea of narrative, the images transforming the objects, traces and images into metaphors for memory and its fragmentary, involuntary drawing of the past. In this way the photographs create an archive of the psychological repercussions of the space, traces and still lives with which the viewer can imaginatively engage to create their own stories”.

Mike Golding.

“I have become interested in the processes associated with the buildings and with the making of the Berwick Cockle sweetie, the manufacturing process and the process of time that has rendered grocery businesses in Berwick more or less defunct.....to record short interviews about the making of the sweet, about those who made it (the cockle-men) and about the life of a Berwick grocer’s shop as well as responding to the spirit and concept of the photographer’s work and found material within the buildings”.

Jacob Polley.

Acknowledgements –

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