

# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 32 – September 2001

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **AUTUMN LECTURE IN THE GUILDHALL**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2001**  
**At 7 p.m.**

**THE ALNWICK GARDEN : A  
GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY**  
Mr August, the Director of the Duchess of  
Northumberland's Garden Project will talk  
about his work on the gardens at Alnwick.  
*Refreshments; Raffle; Non-members  
Welcome. Please bring a friend!*

## **Other Societies' Lectures**

### **Belford Local History Society**

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre. Time: 7.30p.m.

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|--|--|
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2001  | Prehistoric farming in the Cheviots: Dr M. Aylett.                     |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2001 | The History of Belford Hall: Mr P. Deakin                              |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2001 | Party at Welcome House by kind permission of Dr. D. & Dr. G. Morrison. |

### **Berwick History Society**

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick . Time: 7.30p.m.

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|--|---|
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2001  | The Travels of Lord Stewart of Rothesay 1795-1797 : Lord Joicey |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2001 | The Steam Organ and the Traditional Fair: Cllr. W.G.R. Weeks    |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2001 | The Churches of Berwickshire: Dr. G.A.C. Binnie                 |

### **Border Archaeological Society**

Venue: The Parish Centre, Berwick. Time: 7.30p.m.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2001  | Build Yourself a Greek Temple : Marjorie Deakin |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2001 | Research for Archaeology: Linda Bankier         |

### **Coldstream & District Local History Society**

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream. Time: 7.30 p.m.

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2001                      Ancient Settlements in the Bowmont Valley: Mr Sangster.
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2001                      Mr J.B. Barr Senior O.B.E. : Mr Barclay Barr  
(NOTE: This is a joint meeting with Cornhill W.I. at Cornhill Village Hall.
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2001                      Berwickshire Wartime Diaries: Mrs Sheila Romanes.

**Dunse History Society**

Venue: Duns Social Club, 41 Newton St. Duns.    Time: 7.30 p.m.

- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2001                      Scottish Film and Television Archive: Mrs Janet McBain.
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2001                      William Wallace-Borderer: Mrs F. Douglas Douglas

**Embleton Local History Society**

Venue: Parish Church Room, Embleton.    Time: 7.30 p.m.

- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2001                      The Gretna Rail Tragedy and Gallipoli: Mr C. Petit.
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2001                      Wm. Leith of Berwick, Sail and Tent makers  
From 1793 : Mr W. Leith

**Glendale Local History Society**

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.    Time: 7.30 p.m.

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2001                      The Pre-historic Archaeology of Glendale:  
Dr C. Waddington.
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2001                      Sources for the History of Holy Island: Mrs S. Bird.
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2001                      The Battle of Hedgeley Moor: Rev. A. Wiltshire.

**Norham Local History Society**

- Venue: Norham Village Hall                      Time: 7.30 p.m.
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2001                      Charterhall and Winfield Airfields, A Wartime History ; Ian Brown.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2001

Coalmines of the Scremerston Triangle: David Heywood.

**North Sunderland & Seahouses Local History Society**

Venue: St. Paul's Parish Hall, North Sunderland.

Time: 7.30p.m.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2001

The Hartley Pit Disaster: Rev. D.G. Rogerson.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2001

A Walk along the Tyne: Mr Dennis Skinner.

**Northumberland & Durham Family History Society**  
**(North Northumberland Group)**

Venue: White Swan, Lowick.

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001

Trip to Newcastle City Library (Bus leaves at 9.30 a.m )

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2001

Freemen of Alnwick: Mr. C. Petit.

**The Alnwick Garden – A  
Garden for the  
Community**

**F.B.D.M.A. Autumn Lecture on Tuesday 30 October at 7pm in the Guildhall**

At a time when most of us are thinking about putting our gardens to bed for the winter, there is a large band of workers planning, building, digging and planting to ensure that the new 12 acre garden at Alnwick Castle is ready for public viewing this month.

The brainchild of the Duchess of Northumberland, the garden will encompass a spectacular Grand Cascade with 21 weirs and programmed water displays. There are 2 ½ miles of paths and 500 metres of borders in the Formal Garden. There will be a Rose Garden filled with sponsor David Austin's roses. In all, 65,000 trees and plants will be positioned by hand. An awesome task ! Because there is so much to be done to create this garden of delights, a labour intensive, hands-on project, it will be some months before its full beauty will be apparent.

However, we of the F.B.D.M.A. are pleased to be able to welcome as our Autumn Lecturer Mr Ian August, the Alnwick Garden Project Director. He will take us through the Duchess' first ideas for the garden to the moment when we, the public, can set foot in it.

Mr August tells us that visitors " will be assured of a world class attraction ".

We look forward to hearing about this piece of history for tomorrow, a garden designed especially for children, the disabled and the serious horticulturist. At our A.G.M., we heard how the landscape had been altered and shaped at Ford 200 years ago by men of vision. The Duchess' vision for her garden will become reality and will be visited and discussed over the next 200 years.

Please make every effort to attend this lecture and why not bring along a friend who might be interested in hearing about the garden, and perhaps joining our "Friends". As usual, entry is free and there will be light refreshments and wine.

*Barbara Herdman*

## **ARCHIVE NEWS**

The summer months are always very busy in the Archives because we get a lot of visitors from all over the country and abroad coming to research their Family History. This year has seemed particularly busy, with days when there have been just enough seats for everyone. This obviously has kept me very busy, with not much time to do my own work on public days.

However, I have still managed to do a lot on the days I am not open. Before the summer holidays, I worked with a number of local schools in the area – several classes from Berwick Middle School came to find out about the coming of the railways to the town and Sixth Form History students from the High School visited the Office to find out what research sources are kept here. In addition, just before the summer holidays, I worked with Spittal First School on their book, " A Children's Guide to Spittal " which was published in July.

The Record Office has also been working with other organisations – at the beginning of August, I set up the exhibition " Ford at the Time of the Waterfords" in the Cheviot Centre in Wooler and it is to remain there until mid October. The exhibition was originally displayed in the Lady Waterford Hall about 8 years ago and illustrates life on the estate in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I have also been working with Berwick Civic Society - on 8 September, "Doors Open" took place in Berwick

where buildings not normally open to the public are open for the day. The Council Offices took part in the scheme for a second year and over the course of a morning, I took over 100 people on a short tour of the building and told them about its history. I didn't have much of a voice left by the end but I think everyone who came , enjoyed their tour.

Tomorrow's History, a web-based North East project seems to take up a lot of my time at the moment with my involvement in both phases. The Record Office is producing some sections on the Ford Estate and maritime sources for which I have chosen documents and written captions and I am also helping the Friends with their maritime leaflet which is part of the second phase. All the work on the project should be finished by the end of December and should hopefully be available on the Internet in early 2002.

Finally, I've also started to teach some Beginners Family History classes in the Record Office in conjunction with the Northumberland College. The College has found some funding for two five week courses which I run on Tuesdays and which have been fully subscribed. Hopefully, we will be able to run some further classes next year.

### **Family History Resources**

The St Catherine's House indexes for the years, **1926 to 1930 inclusive** have now arrived, so if you are looking for anyone's birth, marriage or death in that period in England or Wales, the Record Office can now help you. This means that we now have the indexes from **1837 to 1930**.

### **Lowick Churchyard Survey**

Thank you to everyone who came along and helped with the Churchyard Survey. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't very kind to us this year – our first bad day since Kirknewton. However, we braved the cold and the very damp grass and managed to copy down about two thirds of the inscriptions. Some of them were very difficult to read and involved Friends either clambering into bushes or digging down the sides of 18<sup>th</sup> century stones to find inscriptions which had been covered with earth over the years. Kath Tansley managed to find a gravestone by the side of the church totally overgrown with grass which I had missed on my initial hunt. She managed to roll the grass off the stone and found the inscription mirrored and indented on the grass – the original inscription had been wonderfully preserved.

As we didn't manage to complete the survey on the Saturday, some of us went back one Monday ( a bit dryer ! ) and nearly finished it. Joan Wright kindly offered to finish the remainder and the completed file is now in the office ready for typing.

Thank you again to everyone who came along to help and particularly to Barbara Herdman who sorted out the "logistics" and wrote the article for the newspaper .

### **Rev. W.S. Gilly – Peasantry of the Border, 1841**

Over the past couple of years, I have corresponded with a gentleman who has been researching the life of Reverend W. S. Gilly , 1789 – 1855. Reverend Gilly had an unusual career – ordained as a minister in 1813, he worked in the south of England for awhile. However, on the death of his wife in 1822, he left this country and went to the Vaudois region of Italy. This visit was to have a lasting impression on him and for the rest of his life he championed the Vaudois people, the most ancient surviving Protestant Community in the world . His name is still known in that area today. In 1824, Reverend Gilly was appointed as a Canon of Durham and in 1831, he came to Norham. He remained there until he died in 1855. Gilly was very active during his time at Norham and he championed the local agricultural workers. In 1841, he wrote **The Peasantry of the Border – an Appeal on their behalf** in which he described their working and living conditions in the Norham area. The book is a contemporary account of life for these people and makes very interesting reading. It has just been reprinted and if anyone is interested in buying a copy, just get in touch with me and I can give you the details of whom to contact.

*Linda Bankier*

## **The Past, the Present and the Future?**

When I was a schoolboy back in the thirties we had a family outing for a day and in the afternoon arrived at Beeliegh Abbey, a pleasant country house in the upper reaches of the River Blackwater not too far from Southend on Sea, where we lived at the time.

There were some very pleasant rooms and quite splendid gardens but my interest was taken by some chained books. The house belonged to Christina Foyle and contained her father's library which was where I had arrived. These books and manuscripts fascinated me. I had taken to books as soon as I could read and enjoyed handling and reading books. These items were completely different - for one thing I could not read them not

having started Latin but the effort that had gone into the production of these documents was a source of wonder to me. From that day to this I have been fascinated by hand written books, the methods of their production, materials, illumination and illustrations which are testimony to those who worked in conditions we cannot now contemplate. I also became interested in the early printing processes and the glorious books that were produced. With printing, came access to books by a greater proportion of the public (by no means all) for the hand written books were usually commissioned by monasteries, churches and the like for their own use or by wealthy and influential nobles or royalty again for their own use.

I took calligraphy classes to improve my understanding of the old hands. I thank Pauline Yell for all her help and patience with a student who had his own agenda and was not learning calligraphy to produce any art form. I have a secret desire to replicate some as yet unknown document or charter, just to show that I can do it (no fraud or forgery being intended). One visit the Calligraphers made was to the archive and Linda had some splendid pieces for us to look at and I had yet another branch to a long held interest. New hands/alphabets came to light and the delights of hand produced records of the minutiae of life in the sixteenth century and onwards.

Of course the archive has a great range of material, great charters, important civic records, family records, maps, indentures, court and church records, shipping and commercial records and of course census and many other important items far too numerous for me to name. My own favourites are the little gems from the petty sessions, drunkenness, keeping disorderly houses, gaming regulations and all the difficulties arising from having soldiers billeted upon the house etc.

Much use is made of the records to trace family trees and Linda runs classes on this subject. Being a Cockney by birth I would have to go elsewhere for my records but I feel things are best left alone as I am sure I would turn up some dreadful skeletons! I have a great grandfather who had a circus and together with T.E. Barnum opened the first indoor circus in Europe in the 1880's at the Agricultural Hall in Islington and there are plaques to confirm this fact...but that's another story for the future perhaps!

**The point of this piece is to underline the worth of the archive and its presence in Berwick.**

[ Perhaps the usual call of use it or lose it, is not completely appropriate as the archive is suffering from its own popularity and is found to be outgrowing its present premises; storage space is filling up and there is not really the room to house all those who want to visit and use the archive. Hopefully this situation will be resolved in the future. Keep your fingers crossed!

*Gus Fairburn*



## **BERWICK AND RUSSIA**

If you mention Berwick and Russia to anyone, they automatically think of the two being at war with each other. Chris Green and I are trying to investigate the origins of the story but haven't solved the mystery yet. However, one day, Chris did mention that he had a photograph of a bed in the Anglo Russian hospital in Petrograd, Russia which had been donated by the people of Berwick. I decided to investigate this further and found the following articles about a Russian Flag Day in 1916 when the town and the District raised money to support the Russians.

### **BERWICK JOURNAL**

**13 APRIL 1916**

#### **RUSSIA'S FLAG DAY**

We beg to draw attention to the announcement in our advertising columns regarding various efforts being put forward to make Russian Flag Day in Berwick-upon-Tweed and District an outstanding success. Not only in the Borough but in the surrounding district have arrangements been made for undertaking the work of collecting, and an area as far south as Belford, and as far west as Cornhill will on Saturday be covered by the lady collectors.

We are glad to learn that the Essay Competition has resulted in a large number of entries, so large in fact that it will be some little time before an announcement can be made as to the prize winners.

A special feature of the arrangements in aid of the Flag Day is an Evening Entertainment to be held in College Place Hall (old Infant School), on Monday evening. Several young ladies connected with Wallace Green Literary Society took part last week in portraying certain scenes from "Cranford" and they kindly offered to give a 2<sup>nd</sup> representation. This, along with a pleasant hour's enjoyment and we trust the Hall will be packed when the Mayoress takes the chair at 7.30.

We bespeak for all engaged in this undertaking liberal welcome from the inhabitants of the Town and surrounding districts, and we trust the result may be not only the establishment of a Berwick-upon-Tweed Bed in Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd but a remittance of a substantial sum to the Russian Red Cross work and Russian Jews Fund.

## **BERWICK JOURNAL**

**20 APRIL 1916**

In accordance with arrangements made by the Chairman's Committee of Berwick European War Relief Fund, the 15<sup>th</sup> April was appointed as a Russian Flag Day, and the Flag Day Sub Committee were authorised to arrange this effort on behalf of the Russian Flag Day Organisation ( the Chairman of which is the Earl of Rosebery ) and the Russian Jews' Relief Fund. One of the first objects of the Russian Flag Day organisation is the maintenance of an Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd, and the Sub-Committee were, accordingly, asked to do their best to see that enough was raised to effect the establishment of a Berwick bed in that hospital.

Considerable impetus was given to the movement by the following messages received shortly before the Flag Day arrangements were completed. :

The Right Honourable Sir Edward Grey K.G., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs wrote : " I feel sure that the aims and object of the Russian Flag Day will meet with the warm sympathy and support of the inhabitants of Berwick-upon-Tweed. I wish the Flag Day all success "

The Right Honourable the Earl of Rosebery K.G. K.T. , President of the Russian Flag Day Organisation wrote : " I am glad to hear that you are holding a Russian Flag Day in Berwick-upon-Tweed on April 15<sup>th</sup>. All that we can do to show our appreciation of the gigantic efforts made by our Russian Allies must be a welcome task to us, and I am sure the response will be adequate to the reputation of your historic district.

Mr W. Llew Williams, a recent lecturer in Berwick on Russian and Armenia wrote : " All success attend your efforts.

The prompt and business like methods shown by the Headquarters of the Russian Flag Day ( London) and Russian Jews Relief Fund ( Edinburgh) also helped in no small measure in facilitating the working out of the local programme.

### **ESSAY COMPETITION**

The essay competition organised by the Sub Committee and open to young people under 16, was also a gratifying success, and helped to bring the Flag Day before the attention of old and young. An unexpected number of entries ( 84) was obtained from Schools in the Borough and County, one or two entries coming from as far as Holy Island. The sum obtained from entrance fees yielded 14s.

The judging of the essays has not yet been completed: and a further announcement as to the entries will be made shortly.

### **ORGAN RECITAL**

The earliest of the functions held in this town in connection with the Russian Flag Day was an organ recital of Russian music given by Mr George Ballantyne, Organist of Wallace Green Church. It was an exceedingly interesting programme,

including some well known and representative pieces, and others that were new to most of the audience and were selected as embodying some special characteristic. In Arensky's "Pres de la Mer" for instance, the ebb and flow of the sea were beautifully suggested; while the higher flights of the imagination and fitting expression in the "Reve Angelique" of Rubinstein. Chopin's "Marche Funebre" has been recalled ... lovers of music by an incident in the War which shows the regard which the Russian Poles have for the memory of their famous composer. When Warsaw was evacuated, the casket containing the heart of the great Chopin was reverently removed by the Russians lest it should fall into the hands of the Huns. A recital which was a rare treat to the large audience closed with Lvoff's "Concert Variations on the Russian National Anthem". The gifted Organist of Wallace Green may be congratulated heartily on the knowledge and taste which he displayed in the arrangement of the programme, as well as in the technical skill and artistic feeling of his performance. Mrs Shepherd's rendering of the solo "O fair, and sweet, and holy!" impressed the audience by its beauty of expression.

The programme was as under :

- Prelude in C Sharp Minor .....Rachmaninoff
- Pres de la Mer.....Arensky
- March Funebre.....Chopin
- O fai, and sweet, and holy ! .....Rubenstein
- Soloist – Mrs Shepherd
- A) Chant Sans Paroles.....Tschaikowsky
- b) ..... Lied.....
- c) de Angelique .....Rubenstein
- c) The Russian National Hymn.....Lvoff

The Mayor ( Ald. Plenderleith) who presided made a few remarks at the interval. He hoped .... Would be a great success and said it had been the effort of the Committee to establish a bed in the Anglo-Russian Hospital, Petrograd for our Ally's brave wounded. Berwick district would be proud to say it had helped Russia in her hour of strife. He intimated that the Committee had received two letters to be publically read to the people of this district, one from Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Minister, the other from Lord Rosebery, Chairman of London Relief Fund. In closing, he said the Committee were highly appreciative with the loyalty Mr Ballantyne had shown.

By the kind permission of the Trustees of Wallace Green Church, the Church was made available on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April for the rendering by George Ballantyne, the Organist , of an Organ recital of Russian Music in aid of the Flag Day Fund. Mr Ballantyne's enthusiasm for the end in view was mainfest from the very first. After lengthy preparations he submitted a varied programme of the choicest music by the best of Russian musicians to a large and representative audience.

The Recital which was preside over by His Worship, the Mayor , as Chairman of the General Committee of the Relief Fund, was universally considered a success

in every way. Mrs R. Shepherd also contributed to the programme by singing a very appropriate and pleasing solo. The financial result was very satisfactory, a collection of £7 19s 6d having been taken at the Recital, while the sale of the programme realised upwards of £3. The work of selling programmes was kindly undertaken by the Girls Auxiliary and "Rising Tide " members of Wallace Green Church., and their efforts in this direction were supplemented by the Flag Day collectors and pupils of Mr Ballantyne.

## FLAG DAY OPERATIONS

With regard to the scheme of collecting, the Sub-Committee met some weeks ago with ladies representative of Tweedmouth, Spittal and various villages and districts in the immediate neighbourhood, and these representatives without exception, entered heartily into the scheme. Supplies of flags, boxes, and necessary material were sent to them in good time, and some of them commenced operations on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> inst., others on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> inst, the Flag Day proper.

So far as regards Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal, three depots were, arranged as follows :

- 1) Berwick – Town Hall, under the charge of Miss Caverhill, Miss Blair, Miss Nora Alder, Mrs Adam Darling, and Miss Henderson ( The Anchorage)
- 2) Tweedmouth – At St Cuthberts Hall, under the charge of Miss Mason and Miss Miller.
- 3) Spittal – At the Church Schools under the charge of Miss Chisholm.
- 4) The collecting itself was placed in the hands of the following ladies who all proved themselves to be successful in the art of filling collecting boxes :....

The total receipts at Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal Depots on Saturday were as follows :

Berwick.....	£53	1	4	½
Tweedmouth.....	12	11	10	½
Spittal .....	5	2	10	½

Which in each case was a most gratifying result.

Additional collecting boxes were kindly taken in charge by Mr Turnbull ( local Secretary of the Boy Scouts ); Mr Redfearn ( Taxi-cab proprietor) and all the local banks

Depots in the vicinity outside the Borough were as follows :....

The total receipts from the county depots were : Ancroft 19s 4 ½ d; Bowsden £2 9s 4 ½ d; Burnmouth £1 7s 8d; Cornhill and Tillmouth, £6 0s 6d; Duddo and Allerdean, £3 17s; Etal, Crookham and Ford, £4 4s 9 ½ d; Haggerston. Fenwick, Goswick and Belford, £10; Hornccliffe, £2 2s 2 ½ d; Lowick, £4 17s 8D;

Mordington, £1 12s 7D; Norham £4 7s 10d; Scremerston £2 8s 8 ½ d; Thornton 18s 10 ½ d.

Aided by beautiful weather on Saturday, the collectors set out upon their task with a keen eye to business. The Town Hall in Berwick itself, bedecked as it was with Russian Flags of official size, especially sent down from London, presented an animated scene, and as one of the ladies at the Depot remarked there was quite a "rush on Russia".

On the part of the public, there was a great demand for a special motor flag which had been received from the Russian Flag Day Headquarters and some of the ladies soon found all their supply of these, as well of the small flags, was quite exhausted. About midday the following telegram was received from the Chairman of Committee at Russian Flag Day Headquarters :

To : Henderson, War Relief Fund, Berwick. Executive Committee of Russian Flag Day send its most sincere good wishes for successful celebration and offers its grateful thanks to you and all your workers and helpers.

(Signed ) Albert Vickers

During the afternoon the Pipe Band of the Boy Scouts led by Pipe Major Drumbreck of 2-10 Royal Scots paraded High Street, and successfully directed a great deal of attention to the collectors boxes.

Some of the collectors were posted at various "points" in the Town for prescribed hours, while others carried out a house to house collection in all the streets, and collecting operations were continued up till about 7 o'clock pm, some of those who had finished early in the day coming on duty late in the afternoon.

The Boy Scouts rendered admirable work by acting as Orderlies at the various depots , and in conveying messages and material to the offices of the Flag Day in Sandgate. By 7 o'clock the Town Hall and the other two depots in the Borough, and the proceeds from the boxes were soon ascertained owing to the capable management of the Treasurer, Mr J.W. Carmichael. Including gross receipts from the sale of the programmes and collection at the Organ recital, and Saturday's collection, a total of over £91 was reached , and the result was announced by 8.30 pm.

#### EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

On Monday evening , 17<sup>th</sup> April, a further effort on behalf of the Flag Day took the form of an Evening Entertainment in the College Place Hall ( the Old Infant School). This was arranged by ladies of Wallace Green Church Literary Society and consisted of a representation of scenes from "Cranford" and a short musical programme. The Mayoress presided over a crowded house, and a silver collection was taken on behalf of the Flag Day Funds which amounted to £4 11s 3d. The parts taken by each lady in "Cranford" were well sustained and only a considerable amount of hard practice could have enabled them to portray the life in the old fashioned town in such a natural manner. The songs sung on this

occasion were chosen, as being in accord with the spirit of the entertainment , and added considerably to its charm .....

The Flag Day Sub- Committee take this opportunity of tendering their most cordial thanks for the generous and enthusiastic spirit shown by all who assisted towards making the Russian Flag Day such a success, and especially to the above named lady collectors, depot representatives and helpers; also to Mr Ballantyne. Organist of Wallace Green Church, for most generously declining to allow the Sub Committee to devote any part of the Organ Recital collection towards remunerating him for the very great amount of time and trouble expended by him upon the work of the Recital; to Mr John Black of Seahouses for kindly conveying the material to the various country depots and arranging to bring it back to Berwick after the close of the Flag Day. To the young ladies who helped so much by selling programmes ; to the business men who displayed printed matter on their premises; to the management of the Picture Houses for the excellent screen and musical advertisements given by them for several evenings; to the ladies and gentlemen who willingly assisted the Secretary in the large amount of clerical work preparatory to the Flag Day. ; and to the Town Hall keeper and clock keeper for the services rendered by them on the Flag Day. In connection with the Monday evening entertainment, the Flag Day Sub Committee would also acknowledge their gratitude to all who by their voluntary effort took part in the programme, or assisted in its preparation, and to those ladies and gentlemen who kindly gave and lent floral and platform decorations.

The following letter, received by the Hon. Secretary, from Russian Flag Day Headquarters, will no doubt be gratifying to the lady collectors in the town. Similar letters have been received in respect of other depots :

London 15<sup>th</sup> April 1916

“Dear Mr Henderson – Will you kindly convey to the ladies in charge of the Depot at the Town Hall, Berwick-on-Tweed, and to the Berwick-on-Tweed collectors, our very sincere thanks for their efforts today, Saturday on behalf of the Russian Flag Day celebration. We do not know, of course, whether you had a fine day, or what the result was, but the latter consideration never affects our keen appreciation of the generous and warm hearted response we received from all workers, and therefore we do hope that you will convey to all that have helped you our profound thanks – Yours very faithfully,

(Signed ) Charles Watney  
Hon. Secretary

The gross result of the Flag Day and Entertainments was, we learn , about £140.

**BERWICK ADVERTISER,  
23 JUNE 1916**

**The Russian Revival**

Out from his lair comes the great Russian bear,  
His strength and vigour renewed,  
With an onslaught dread to crash and to tear,  
And a soul with war's fire imbued.

For still in his mind there is left behind,  
The thought of his long retreat,  
When valour and tact and a master mind,  
Saved their hosts from a grave defeat.

Through the winter long he has grown quite strong,  
From the stores of his great Allies,  
Now revenge he'll seek just to right the wrong,  
And his hated old foes chastise.

He is striking hard, and the winning card  
Seems held by the Russian bear,  
For there's nothing now can his march retard,  
Or the might of his hosts impair.

On the open plains he records but gains,  
And trophies of limitless size,  
Where the Prussian hordes in his hands remains,  
Struck dumb in a blank surprise.

And the world looks on as Cossacks from Don,  
On chargers that challenge the wind,  
Envelope those crowds with their hopes all gone  
And their nations defeat devined.

More strength to the bear that shows everywhere  
He with the Allies mean to win  
When the eagle shall fall in utter despair,  
Headlong from its perch in Berlin.

Thomas Grey, Tweedmouth

*Linda Bankier*

## **Tomorrow's History Project.**

In the June issue of the Newsletter it was reported that we were hoping to apply for a grant to produce a leaflet entitled '**The Historic Port of Berwick**'. We are delighted to tell you that we were amongst the 107 applicants to be awarded this grant.

Enthusiasm we have in abundance but time we have not. (The completion deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup> 2001) We would like as many 'Friends' as possible to be involved. We are particularly interested in borrowing **photographs/ old paintings** or is anyone willing to write a 'potted history' (100-250 words) about any of the harbours or havens under the registration district of the Port of Berwick, which is from **St Abb's to Alnmouth**. Ports already being researched are Alnmouth, Beadnell, Seahouses, Holy Island, Spittal, Berwick and Eyemouth but anyone willing to report on Boulmer, Newton by the Sea, or Craster, etc will be very welcome.

We will collect and return any photographs etc. if you are unable to bring them in to the archives, phone Pat: (01289) 306183, Yvonne: (01289) 382497 or any committee member.

As well as providing photographs for the leaflet, we are also putting a series of photographs (with some text) onto the 'Tomorrow's History' web site which will provide a major, web-based local heritage resource for North East England. Why not make a contribution so that you can really play a part in 'Tomorrow's History'?

*Pat Willcox  
(Hon. Sec.)*

**Editor's Note:** The Pilot for the Tomorrow's History Web site is already online at <http://thenortheast.com/info-north/tomorrows-history/partners.htm>

## **ASPECTS OF BERWICK'S CULTURAL HISTORY**

### **1: Concerts in Context**

One of the more neglected aspects of Berwick's cultural history is music. In the Civic Society exhibition at the Main Guard and in the accompanying booklet *The*



*Arts in Berwick*, music only gets a brief look in. In a recent talk to the Civic Society I tried to redress this, by looking at the music that might have been performed in Berwick in three distinct periods; the Middle Ages, the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. I thought it would be interesting to the Friends to see how many questions still remain to be answered.

Perhaps one of the best-known pieces of Medieval inspired music is Karl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. First performed, as a ballet, in 1937 it came from a collection of poems, both pious and ribald, transcribed from a manuscript in a German monastery. The work, often heard in Berwick courtesy of the Arts Choir, is not an attempt to reconstruct what medieval music was like but an attempt to capture the robust vitality of the Middle-Ages. It's strident primitive earthiness was much appreciated in a Germany intent on re-establishing a glorious Medieval Reich. Even if it had been Orff's intention to reconstruct Medieval music, he would have found it very difficult. The study of early music as we understand it today did not exist in the 1930s. The few concerts of early music by the Dolmetsch family in Haslemere from 1925, and the explorations by Wanda Landowska into the harpsichord repertory were considered eccentricities by mainstream audiences. Since that time early music scholarship has blossomed and a whole industry has developed of specialist players supported by a mass of early instrument makers. In the last thirty years or so, we have moved from the programming of general early music concerts, where the pieces could range in date from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, to highly focused performances in which musicians specialize in a very precise period or type of music. Indeed this specialization is now getting a bit out of hand. This year's York Early Music Festival was devoted to the music of Northern Italy to such an extent that a French performer felt she had to apologise for including one brief non-Italian piece in her solo recital. What the research and specialization has done though is to concentrate on the *contexts* of early music. Not just how individual pieces were performed but where and on which occasions? Larger concerts are now often reconstructions of precise events, the last major concert in York this year was a reconstruction of a Mass performed in Venice in 1623 in celebration of the abatement of the plague. These trends in scholarship and performance are very relevant to the cultural history of Berwick. Within the three periods I have mentioned, there are specific locations where music might have been played. For the Middle Ages there are the churches and monastic sites and halls of the castle and merchants. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Earl of Dunbar's palace, and in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the homes of prosperous traders as well as the Church with its west gallery, and, after 1761, the Guildhall.

Certain themes emerge and spread across the three periods, all of which need more research in the local context. First there is the sacred and secular divide. For the Middle Ages, there are many surviving musical settings of monastic chant, some specifically written on the life of St Cuthbert, but very little is known of secular song in the area at the same time. Richard the Rhymer, Edward II's crwth (bowed harp) player may well have entertained the court at Christmas 1310 in the castle, but what did he sing? What songs were being sung in the halls of the merchants along Bridge Street? In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the issue is broadened, the sacred vs secular element is still there, made more intense by

James VI/I desire to re-establish Bishops in Scotland. How far does music play a part in this debate? On the face of it, James and Dunbar, his right-hand man, are supporters of Bishops and elaborate music. Dissident elements such as Berwick exile James Melville (1556-1614) were fierce opponents of the revival and might be expected to oppose them in music as in theology, yet Melville says in his diary he loved music. Again, there are questions over the nature of the St George's day celebrations Dunbar staged in the Castle. Were court composers, like the Italian Ferrabosco involved in writing music for Dunbar as they were for James' masques in London?

The musical questions for the 18<sup>th</sup> century are primarily ranged around the tension between Italian style and 'local' Scots style. Head of the Berwick waites in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was John Oswald (d.1758), his son James Oswald (1711-69) perfectly captures the conflict. On the one hand Oswald junior wrote in a lively Scots style, while, once in London he alternated this with essays in pure Italianate refinement. Did the 'local' tradition in poetry and painting represented by the Ramsey's father and son, David Allen, Alexander Carss and James Thomson find a true musical expression in the work of Oswald as it might have been played here? Only more research will tease out these fascinating questions, and I hope in future numbers to be able to engage with these issues.

*Chris Green*

### **Bondagers in North Northumberland**

Bondagers were female farm labourers, their name coming from the bond (or agreement) made between the farmer and the male agricultural labourer, or hind as he was known. The hind was bound to have one female labourer always in readiness to answer the master's call and to work at stipulated wages. To this engagement the name of bondage was given and such female labourers were called bondagers, or women who worked the bondage.

The bondager system seems to have been unique to Northumberland, Durham and the Scottish Borders. The sparse population in North Northumberland was given as a reason for the importance of female agricultural labour in the area. The absence of villages, which were rare meant each farm was dependent upon its own resources for labour and the work of the women was essential as the men alone could not carry out the work of the farms. Each farm was provided with an adequate number of cottages with gardens and every man who was engaged by the year had one of these cottages.

There was a similar demand for both male and female agricultural workers until the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century, when new technologies and specialisations meant that men were employed on a regular basis with women being used as casual labour when required. In Northumberland women seem to have been employed regularly in the fields since at least 1770 when turnip husbandry was introduced.

Each man, instead of working for weekly wages, was hired for a year. He was provided with a cottage and small garden for him and his family. Several of his family may also be engaged for a year. The wages of the hind were paid chiefly in kind. The wages of his sons may be in money or in kind, plus money.

The Farmer spoke to those Hinds he wished to retain for a further year about February. If he did not speak, the hinds considered themselves discharged. The Hirings were held in March, each town having a separate fair. The discharged workers stood in a line, the hinds wearing a sprig of hawthorn in their hat, carters a piece of whipcord and shepherds a tuft of wool, while the farmers inspected them and decided which workers to employ. The removal of the discharged workers, or "Flitting", took place in May (the " May Term" begins on 12<sup>th</sup> May). The employer who hires a man always has to move his family and household goods, no matter what the distance.

As previously mentioned, the Hind was paid chiefly in kind. This included the keep of a cow or cows, a quantity of wheat, oats, barley, rye, peas, potatoes, wool and coal. He was also paid a small amount of cash to cover the wages and keep of his bondager. The Bondager was only paid for each day she worked. In 1845 her wage was 10d per day for small work and 1s 6d for harvest. The Hind received £12 for the year's work of his bondager. He would be expected to pay her £9 in wages, which only left £3 for her year's board and keep. By 1867 the bondager's wages had risen to about £12 10s per year, the hind receiving about £15-£17 from the farmer to cover this. In many cases the bondager was a relative of the hind or his wife – daughter, sister, niece – but sometimes a bondager was from outside the family. Many hinds raised objections to this, especially where they had to hire a stranger, not having any member of their family capable of acting as bondager – "The woman only earns her wages, we meat and wash her for nothing".

Copy agreement between Bartholomew Dunn, a hind and Mr Hindmarsh of Ilderton

Bartholomew Dunn (hind) agrees to serve William Hindmarsh as hind at Ilderton, from May 12, 1891, to May 12, 1892, for 13s a week and the keep of a cow (Mr. Hindmarsh to provide the cow), 16 stones of cake, and 40 stones of bran for winter food. One pig and 1,200 yards of potato drill, Agnes Cowens (step-daughter) to have 1s 6d a day for the whole year, and 3s a day for 20 days' harvest

The work of the bondagers was hard and physical and they were expected to work outside in all weathers. Their clothing was practical to cope with the work and weather. The bondagers wore a straw bonnet over a scarf (known as an ugly) tied round the head to protect the complexion, a blue blouse with a pink or brightly coloured kerchief. They wore a coarse woollen skirt, short enough to work in, with a washing pinafore with sleeves called a slip over whole dress in

summer and a stout apron over in winter. Oversleeves were tied on while at work and a shawl was worn over the shoulders. The costume was completed with black stockings and hob-nailed boots. In 1867 Mr Henley felt the dress of these northern women to be admirably adapted for their work, being made to fit easily it does not encumber them, and being of strong materials it defies all weather.

Typical duties of the bondagers may include:

- In spring, weeding the land, picking stones to prepare for sowing potatoes and turnips, spreading manure/guano between drills, prior to sowing turnips. Singling turnips – using a hoe to clear away superfluous plants, leaving single seedlings at equal distances apart.
- In summer making hay, sometimes forking (pitching) and loading hay or corn and sheaving corn in harvest (usually 2 women put to the work of one man). The heavy, continuous and suffocating work of feeding the threshing machine with sheaves.
- In November: pulling up the turnips, chopping off the green tops and storing them, turning the handle of the turnip cutter to chop turnips ready to be fed to the sheep. Cleaning out Cattle Byres
- In the winter, turning over manure heaps stacked in the yard. Occasionally driving carts or harrowing

Barn work consisted of passing sheaves of corn to the man who feeds the thrashing machine, clearing away the straw and sacking the corn, sometimes carrying it up to the granary. Mr Henderson, steward of South Rock farm says “Women carry up stairs to the granary sacks of corn of the following weights: 8 stone of wheat, 112 lbs; 9 stone of oats, 126 lbs; 8 stone of barley, 112 lbs”. This barn work was considered the hardest part of their labour, having the exhausting effect of factory work because of constant strain of attending on a machine. Working with threshing machines could also be dangerous and proved fatal to Isabella Clark, sister to my great-great grandfather, William Clark.

### **The Berwick Advertiser**

Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> 1849

On Friday last, an inquest was held at Fenwick Grange, in the parish of Kylloe, before Thomas Adams Russell, Esq., coroner, on view of the body of Isabella Clark, a fine girl about 16 years of age, the deceased, on the Tuesday preceding, was working at a thrashing machine, driven by water, and having opened a door leading into the machinery, her clothes came into contact with the wheels, and she was drawn in amongst the machinery, and the unfortunate girl got dreadfully crushed and lacerated in her body. The deceased lingered until the Thursday morning following, when death put an end to her sufferings. Verdict: Accidental death.

The turnip crop was considered the principal one in Glendale district. Turnips were drilled on the ridge and women and children hoed these, formed in a line directed by a steward. Each woman took one drill, two children doing the work of one woman. Five women were expected to do two acres in a day. In 1867 Mr Henley observed 55 people at work hoeing turnips on Mr George Rea's farm (probably Ilderton) – 36 were women and girls, the youngest aged 11. Three stewards were in charge, keeping excellent order. Some of these workers had come from Mr Rea's other farms, being transported in straw-lined carts.

At this time women and children worked nine and a half hours in summer – from 6a.m. to 6p.m. with 2 hours off at lunchtime and a short break at 9.00 and 4.00. In winter the light regulated the hours worked. The bondagers did all this work on a diet, which consisted chiefly of oatmeal porridge, bread, made from barley and pea-meal mixed, potatoes and occasionally bacon.

The bondager lived as part of the hind's family in the farm cottage. The conditions of these cottages varied considerably, many were small and overcrowded and had just one room, without window frame, oven, copper, grate, shelf or any fixture of any kind, the hind had to supply these. Crowded into these were the hind, his family, sometimes including his parents and a female bondager, together perhaps with the family cow and other livestock housed at one end, separated from the family living quarters by a partition or by the large box beds. During the second half of the nineteenth century there was a considerable improvement in the housing conditions. Many new cottages were built generally having 2 rooms with a back kitchen and loft, plus a shed, pigsty and garden. Some villages were entirely rebuilt, including Chatton.

The Victorian middle classes questioned the morality of female agricultural workers. Agricultural work was felt to be unfit for women "being injurious to health and invariably accompanied with moral degradation", although these concerns did not extend to dairymaids, usually classed as domestic servants, where the work was also strenuous with long hours. The overcrowded housing conditions were felt to lead to immorality and heavy physical work may make girls unsuitable for their future roles of wife and mother; even their practical clothing was said to be unwomanly – "the field labouring girl was held to be spoiled alike for domestic service and for marriage, coarsened by her work and by the mixed company she kept – to the point that womanliness was destroyed".

Opinions also differed in North Northumberland. In 1867 Dr Cahill of Berwick stated that the women of the country are far more healthy than the townswomen and tenfold less affected by female complaints. He considers that their field work fits them to be good bearers of children and the strength of the population is kept up by them. However, in 1891 Mr John Paxton, surgeon, living at Norham, believed that field work unfit the women for domestic duties as wives and mothers – they were inferior to those who have been in domestic service and the young women who are in the hind's houses and away from their own families are

not under proper supervision. The lack of supervision by the field steward over the language used was the great moral evil of field work. Rev Wilsden, Vicar of Wooler, differed saying that the morality of their young women compared favourably with that of domestic servants. The fact of fathers and sons working on the same farms as their daughters and living in the same house has a wholesome influence. The daughters work in the fields while the mothers mind the house. At first he thought unfavourably of female field labour, but as long as the young women are engaged on the lighter employment he believes the life is suitable for them and tends to form a healthy stock of future mothers. Mrs Black, wife of a farm steward at Ilderton with two daughters working as agricultural labourers, considered the girls who work in the fields make better wives than those in service for they ken how to save and pinch - they cannot cook food, perhaps for the gentry, but they can do well enough for themselves and they can bake, milk a cow and make butter.

The bondage system was objected to privately and publicly on grounds of morality and decency – having to lodge a hired woman in the same room as the family. However, in 1867 Mr Henley, the Commissioner, was unable to trace any excess of immorality as connected to the bondage system. In many cases the bondager was a relative; in the 1851 Census 68% of the female agricultural labourers in Kirknewton, Wooler and Eglingham parishes were daughters and 4% were relatives of the head of the household; in 1891 82.5% were daughters and 12% were other relatives.

Some gentlemen felt that the practice of women leading or driving horses on the farm or on the road was dangerous and unsuitable. However the women themselves stated “we fight to drive the carts, it is easier work than loading”. After all it was considered alright for women higher up the social scale to drive carriages or gigs.

In 1837 a combination was formed for the extermination of the bondage system. Although it produced an advance in the wages allowed by the farmer to the servants, it failed to end the system. About 1845 there was a protest in Wooler against the bondage system during the March Hirings. According to Hastings Neville, an eye-witness reported that a school-master addressed the crowd from an upper window of an inn. Late in the day there was a great commotion in the Market Square. A farmer engaged his hands leaving out the bondage condition. Others followed and the bond was broken.

After that the system gradually died out. Women workers remained, performing a great deal of the work on the farm. Although they were still included in the bond between the hind and the farmer, they were engaged by the farmer and worked directly for him. The women were only paid for the days they worked with no wages paid during sickness or bad weather.

By 1891 young men were drifting away from the countryside and the supply of female labour gradually became less with fewer young girls taking to outdoor work. More land was being laid to grass but it is difficult to tell whether this was the consequence of less labour or the cause of it. Many farmers and workers now becoming dissatisfied with the yearly system of hiring felt that a monthly system could work better. Although the bondage system had gradually died out, women agricultural workers, wearing the bondage costume, were still seen working in the fields into the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the Second World War, women agricultural workers again populated Wooler when a large hostel was built to house the Land Army.

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Jane Glass

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER**

15 September 1827

**A FEMALE GAMESTER** – Could we look into the mind of a Female Gamester we should see it full of nothing but Trumps and Mattadores. Her slumbers are haunted with Kings, Queens and Knives. The day lies heavy upon her till the season of play returns; when, for half a dozen hours together, all her faculties are employed in shuffling, cutting, dealing and sorting out a pack of cards, and no ideas to be discovered in a soul which calls itself rational, excepting little square figures of painted and spotted paper.

10 March 1827

## PARLIAMENT

**HOUSE OF LORDS : Wed. Feb. 28** Their Lordship did not meet

**Thurs Mar. 1** No business but presenting petitions relative to the Corn Laws & Catholics...

**Mon Mar. 5** No business of importance

**HOUSE OF COMMONS :** At four o'clock 30 members only being present, the House adjourned till tomorrow.

14 Sept. 1822

## MR HOGG'S NEW ROMANCE

This Day are published 3 vols 12mo, Price £1/4/5, Boards "THE THREE PERILS OF MAN" or War, Women and Witchcraft. A Border Romance by JAMES HOGG, Author of "Winter Evening Tales", "Brownie of Bodsbeck"; "Queens Wake", etc. Printed by Longman, Hurst, Rees, Oime & Brown, London.

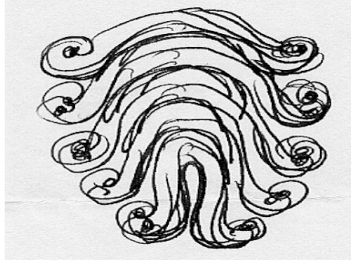
*Muriel Fraser*

### **A Letter from a Friend!**

Thank you for the latest fascinating issue of the Newsletter. We look forward to the regular arrival of a good read.

My attention was caught by the mention of **Wigs** in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century recipes. Since this may puzzle some of your readers, may I say that I've been using this recipe for many Christmases now, since a Swedish friend taught me to make them. I also make the traditional 'church door' 'sleeping pussycats' and 'Lucia crown'. **The easiest way to explain is, perhaps, to draw it.**





The risen dough is knocked back, rolled and shaped and laid on the baking sheet in the form of a sausage-curl wig,( like a barristers wig), brushed with egg yolk and decorated with plump currants. Bake briskly, as for a morning roll. Delicious with Christmas morning coffee!

If anyone is interested in tasting 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century food, I recommend the splendid working kitchen at Callendar House Museum, near the centre of Falkirk. Take a good appetite with you.

Fiona Fraser.

### **Letter from the Editor.**

Dear Friends,

I was a little dubious when asked to join the committee of the 'Friends', (even more so about being the editor of this popular newsletter!) however I am delighted to say that it is proving not only interesting but also most enjoyable.

As part of the research for the Tomorrow's History Project, I went back to the place of my childhood, namely Alnmouth, to meet Mr Fred Bettess who has a wonderful collection of maps and photographs, a deep personal interest and knowledge of this place, not to mention an excellent thesis written by his late wife, Gladys. As I pored over them, memories of my childhood came flooding back, the games that we played and the characters that we knew, like old Bill Brown who rowed people across the river for a penny, and Jack Stewart, an old fisherman who told us stories....isn't it funny how all adults seem very old when you are young!

With thoughts of Jack in my head, I called to see his daughter who had been a long time friend of the family and fortunately she recognised me! Luck was certainly on my side that day as within minutes another old neighbour, mother of some of my school friends arrived. It wasn't long before the photographs were out and even more memories came to the surface, but the best was yet to come....for as I was leaving Jack's daughter gave me an old notebook containing

some of the memories that he had dictated about his early life and the village of Alnmouth. Perhaps I will share them with you in a future edition of the F.B.D.M.A. Newsletter!

Please remember, if you have any **interesting stories, items, events, letters** or **queries** please send them by E-mail to [gallagher@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:gallagher@ukonline.co.uk) or by snail mail c/o. Records Office, Wallace Green, Berwick upon Tweed.

Yvonne Gallagher