



# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter

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*NUMBER 34 – February 2002*

## **Dates for your Diary**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2002

### **Bondington Project Launch**

**At the Maltings, 7.00 pm**

Come along and hear about this exciting project and the work which has been done on the site at 21, Castle Terrace.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2002

### **Friends AGM**

**at the Parish Centre, Berwick , 7 pm**

AGM followed by a talk by Chris Green on "Royal Berwick". See enclosed papers.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2002

### **Maritime Leaflet Folding Morning,**

**10 – 12 in Record Office** – please come along and help us fold the maritime leaflets needed for the Tourism Providers leaflet collection morning near the end of March.

Saturday/ Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> May 2002

**Bygone Borough of Berwick  
in Guildhall, Berwick.**

Weekend of displays, talks and drama about  
the History of the area.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2002

**Archive Film Night  
in the Maltings run by the Berwick Record  
Office and the Northern Region Film and  
Television Archive**

See article.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2002

**Visit to the Alnwick Garden and Archives  
in Alnwick Castle, 3 pm.**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2002

**Autumn Lecture: Use of the Berwick Archive  
in the Guildhall, Berwick, 7pm**

A talk by Doreen Grove on using the Archives  
for her research on the town's Fortifications.

## **Other Societies' Lectures**

### **Belford Local History Society**

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

Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002

Prehistoric Farming in the Cheviots: Mr M. Aylett.

Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> Apr. 2002

The Railway and the Stevensons: Mr A Fendley.

Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2002

The Excavations at Bamburgh Castle: Speaker to be  
announced.

Wed, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

Trip to Lindisfarne.

### **Berwick History Society**

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

Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002.

The Coalmines of the Scremerston Triangle:  
David Heywood

Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> Apr. 2002.

A.G.M. followed by A Road to Nowhere?  
The Romans in the Eastern Borders: Mike Bishop

### **Border Archaeological Society**

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

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Mon. 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002  | Build yourself an Empire : Jeremy Patterson<br>(Joint meeting with the Civic Society)         |
| Mon. 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 2002  | Early Christian Sites in Berwick : Alan Williams  |
| Mon. 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2002  | Northern Britain – the Hebridean Dimension :<br>Roger Miket                                   |
| Mon. 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2002 | Archaeology of the Christian Conversion in North<br>Northumberland : Professor Rosemary Cramp |

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

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

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Thur. 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002 | A.G.M. plus “Mair O’ my Borderland”: Ian Landells.         |
| Thur. 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr. 2002 | Winfield Airfield: Mr Ian Brown.                           |
| Thur. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May.2002  | Fortifications in the Borders: Mr J. Dent/ Mr R. McDonald. |

### **Dunse History Society**

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

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Wed. 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002 | Costume through the Ages: Mrs Esther Sharpley. |
| Wed.24 <sup>th</sup> Apr.2002   | The Knights Templar: Archie McPherson          |

### **Embleton Local History Society**

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

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Wed. 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002 | John Dobson, Architect: Mr H.G.Dobson.                        |
| Wed. 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr.2002  | Northumberland’s History through Painting:<br>Mr G. Highmoor. |
| Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2002  | A surfeit of Salmon: Mr D. Brenchley.                         |

### **Glendale Local History Society**

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

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002 Recent Archaeological work in the Northumberland National Park: Mr P. Frodsham.

Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> Apr.2002. A.G.M. and Members night.

### **Norham Local History Society**

Venue: Norham Village Hall Time: 7.30 p.m.

Mon. 11th Mar. 2002 A Potted History of Berwick : Francis Cowe

Mon. 8th Apr. 2002 The Culley Brothers, Agricultural Improvers : Dr Anne Orde

Mon.13<sup>th</sup> May 2002 War Time Memories : Mrs Sheila Romaines

Mon. 10<sup>th</sup> June 2002 The Romans in the Eastern Borders : Milke Bishop

### **North Sunderland & Seahouses Local History Society**

Venue: St. Paul's Parish Hall, North Sunderland. Time: 7.30p.m.

Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2002 National Trust on the Farne Islands: John Walton.

Wed.24<sup>th</sup> Apr. 2002 A New Look at Cragside: Mr & Mrs J. Trett.

Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2002 A Sense of Place – Poetry, Memory and Local Identity on the North Northumberland Coast: Katrina Porteous.

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

Venue: White Swan, Lowick. Time: 10.00 a.m.

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Mar.2002 The Life of Mandell Crieghton: Mr Dennis Malthouse.

Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Apr.2002 The Radcliffs of Dilston, Fact and Legend: Frances Dickson.

Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> May.2002 “ There’s more to a Needle than meets the Eye”: Barry Mead.

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> June.2002 A.G.M. followed by Bits and Pieces of the History of Coldstream: Dr Brian Sproule.

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

It doesn't seem that long since I last sat down to write something for the Newsletter, however, it has been a busy couple of months. Needless to say the Office has been very busy on its public days since Christmas. We are still averaging about 20 visits a day. The release of the new census has brought some more people in tracing their Family History and there has also been a surge in the number of people tracing the history of their property.

Outside these days, I have continued to be involved in various projects. Just before Christmas, I, along with Gus Fairburn, Ron Shaw and Yvonne Gallagher spent a lot of time sorting out the layout and design of the Friends maritime leaflet for the Tomorrow's History Project. A copy of the completed leaflet is enclosed. We hope you are happy with the final product which we will make available to Schools, Libraries and Tourist Offices .

At the beginning of December, Berwick History Society and the Borders Archaeological Society heard that they had been awarded £9,000 by the Heritage Lottery Initiative to carry out their " Putting Bondington on the Map " project. I have been involved with the Steering Group since the beginning of the Project and will continue to help them as much as I can. If you are free, do come along to our Launch Event and if you want to help in any way, just let myself, Malcolm Aylett, David Brenchley, Brian Chappell or Gus Fairburn know. We would appreciate any help members of the Friends could give.

Last year the Northumberland Record Office was awarded money by NOF ( New Opportunities Fund) to digitise photographs, maps and archive images relating to many communities in Northumberland. A number of these will be in North Northumberland and over the next 6 months, I will be gathering together the items that will be included for our area. At the end of the project ( late 2002 ) the images will be made available on the Internet and will provide people with historical and visual evidence of this area.

Finally, I have also had time to do some Outreach work. At the end of January some of the Creative Writers Group from the Community Centre visited the Office to find out about historical sources and in mid February, I gave a talk to Coldstream & District Local History Society on Berwick and its Archives.

### 1901 CENSUS

Many of you will have read about the problems faced by the Public Record Office in launching their online version of the 1901 census for all of England and Wales. However, if you want to look at microfiche copies of these census returns for **Northumberland and Berwickshire**, you don't have to wait for the online version but can visit the Record Office. The Friends have kindly bought me these returns, which are a great addition to the resources we can provide. Bookings can be made to consult the returns for 2 hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays. So come along, and see what you can find out.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Do you have access to a computer and would like to help the Record Office but can't necessarily come to the Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays? If your answer to these questions is yes, read on! I would like to gather together a group of volunteers who could help index and transcribe the 1901 census for Northumberland. I realise that some people would like to help but can't visit here and so this project is home and not Record Office based. My idea is that I would provide those interested in helping do this with photocopies of the returns for an area ( you can choose where you would like to do but the copies would have to be returned once you have finished the transcript) along with a computer disc with a programme on it (Microsoft based) on which to enter the data. If you would like to help in any way, even just doing one enumeration district would help, just give me a ring on (01289) 301865 or e-mail me at [lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk) .

If you can visit the Record Office and would like to do transcriptions of Parish Registers or indexing other sources for me, please let me know. I'm always looking for volunteers and will try and tailor the task to your interests.

## **ARCHIVE FILM NIGHT – WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2002.**

About two years ago, just before I had Siobhan, the Record Office, in conjunction with the Northern Region Film and Television Archive held a Film Night at the Maltings. The event was a great success and we are planning to repeat it on Wednesday 22 May. We will be showing some films that you may have seen before but also some others which will be new to you. You may remember that the last time we showed Fred Stott's 1950s cine film of local events and the Queen's Visit in 1956 in the bar on video, well this time we hope to show it on the big screen. So if you enjoyed our other Film Nights or have never managed to see one of them, come along and see old films of the area dating from the 1920s to the 1970s. Bring along a Friend for an entertaining evening .

## **BYGONE BOROUGH OF BERWICK – 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2002**

On Saturday and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May there will be a Local History weekend in the Guildhall, Berwick. Both Chris and myself are helping to organise the weekend which is an opportunity for local groups throughout the Borough to put on small historical exhibitions and advertise their existence. As well as the exhibitions, we hope to organise a series of short talks (10 – 15 minutes) throughout both days and some drama upstairs in the Gaol. The Friends will be taking part, so, if you could spare a couple of hours to man our table or would like to give a short talk on a local history theme, please contact Gus Fairburn on (01289) 306649. If you can't help, do come along and support the event.

## **BERWICK ADVERTISER, 1852**

Our local newspapers today are full of articles about local issues and news. However, 150 years, if you looked at a copy of the Berwick Advertiser, it would have been very different. To start with, all the adverts were on the front page, then there would have been a lot of national and international news and finally a local section which included the births, marriages and deaths, ship sailings in and out of the port and anything of local interest. The following are some extracts from the Berwick Advertiser in February 1852 to give you a feel of what was happening at the time and how it was reported - their journalistic style was very florid compared to today :

### **LAMBERTON RACES**

We are glad to learn that means are being taken to keep up these races, which were revived with so much success last year; so that we may look forward to one or two days of similar enjoyment about the same time this spring. We trust a ready response to the call for support which is likely soon to be made on their behalf will be given. We understand that a fund has been in course of formation during the year – a certain sum having been reserved for these races from each of a number of “sweeps” got up in this town in connection with the southern races.

### **THE RAMPARTS**

We have frequently called attention to the state of the walk upon the ramparts, and have endeavoured to awaken public attention to the desirableness of maintaining it in good condition; we are sorry to say hitherto without effect. Our experience of the Local Board of Health up to this time does not warrant us to hope for anything from them beyond talking about it, creating difficulties where none exist, and magnifying those which do exist. They have at present suspended all operations in connection with the ramparts until they succeed in having the lease prolonged beyond the twenty five years offered them – as if all they have at present to do would not have to be repeated before the expiry of the term. On Sunday the weather was exceedingly genial and mild, and after divine worship many people retired from the Church and the chapels by way of the ramparts – apparently disposed to enjoy the walk very much. In consequence of the broken state of the walk, however, and the numerous holes filled with the previous day's rain, they were obliged to make the most irregular and tortuous progression, having to direct their whole attention to guard against accidents, rather than to enjoy the walk and the view. The Mayor lately stated that his attention had been called to a part of the walk which was represented to him to be dangerous. That it is so cannot be doubted – and should an accident occur through it, at whose door will the blame lie? On another occasion, a Councillor proposed that a few shillings should be expended in repairing the walk along the Quay Walls. His suggestion was speedily stifled by the reply that the repair of this part of the Ramparts must in great measure depend upon the subscription of the public. We do not understand this. Does not the Local Board of Health represent the public? and is it not one of the peculiar functions of that Board to attend to

such matters? The duty as well as the power is imposed upon it to make such repairs, which are for the general benefit of the community, not partly by subscription and partly by assessment, but wholly by the latter, the means legally put into their hands. There may well be a cry of scarcity of employment, when the proper and necessary means of employment are so obviously neglected. The last expenditure in the repair of the rampart walks was somewhere about £27. Were an attempt made again to set a soup kitchen going, benevolent persons would contribute a treble sum in order to afford alms to unemployed men; would it not be greatly better for the public to subscribe as much to have their walks repaired, and at the same time to afford labour which is much more desirable than eleemosynary aid, to labourers out of work? We trust that the inhabitants of this town will see it their duty and their interest to act about having these repairs made.

### **SERIOUS ACCIDENT**

An accident of a serious nature occurred on Saturday forenoon, about eleven o'clock, at Allanbank Saw Mill, to a young man belonging to this town, named Robert Statham, who was in the employment of Mr John Brigham, joiner, of Kelloe, and was engaged to construct a paling fence on the bridge lately erected at Allanton. The wood for this paling was being cut at the mill in question, and the sawyer and Statham were in the act of drawing back the side bench, when the latter observed a wedge which he considered would come in contact with the saw and accordingly reached over his right hand to remove it. Being at the time behind the saw, his shirt sleeve was caught by it, and his arm was drawn in by the teeth and seriously crushed. Dr Anderson of Allanton, and Drs Stuart and Denham of Chirnside were quickly in attendance and found the arm so much injured that amputation was considered necessary. The arm was consequently amputated a little above the elbow. Statham continues in the house of Mr Hay, and is progressing favourably.

### **NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRE PETTY SESSIONS**

Feb. 4 – Present Rev. Joseph Barnes and Thomas Hodgson, Esquire – Jane Strangeways was charged by Thomas Beveridge, land steward at Norham Mains, with absenting herself from his service at that place before the expiration of her contract. Complainant stated that he had engaged defendant's sister in Berwick for the half year ending May next. That the girl took ill and had to return home, when it was arranged by her father that his other daughter, namely the defendant should serve out the time. The latter came to the place for that purpose, but after remaining there about a month only, she left. Defendant stated that she had made no agreement to serve till May, and that she merely went to the place for a week or two till her sister got better. She was the bondager of another person who desired her return. The court decided that she was Beveridge's servant till May, and ordered her back to serve out the time, otherwise she must go to Gaol. – Matthew Beveridge of Spittal was charged by Mr Probert with killing two pigeons, the property of Mr Hogarth of Scremerston, valued at two shillings. Defendant did not deny the charge and the court ordered him to pay a fine of £1 including costs, or to go to gaol for one month. He agreed to pay the fine paying one half in court and undertaking to pay the remainder in



eight days. - William Wood and Joseph Forster , servants to Mr Wood of Allerdean were charged with driving each a cart on the Cornhill turnpike without having the owner's name thereon. They pleaded guilty and were fined each 6d and 11s 6d for costs – Thomas Morton, farm steward, was charged by Jane Mason, with being the father of her illegitimate child. He admitted the charge and an order was made upon him for 1s 6d per week, with £3 17s for expenses incurred.

### **COLLINGWOOD ARMS INN**

A number of gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood of Cornhill, and other friends of Mr William Richardson, assembled at his house yesterday for the purpose of giving him a house warming in celebration of him entering upon that extensive Inn and summer lodging house. At half past four o'clock a sumptuous dinner was set out, to which forty six gentlemen sat down: the taste and elegance displayed in the preparation and arrangement of which did great credit to the host and hostess. The president of the feast, Mr Mason of Pallinsburn, discharged the duties of his office with admirable tact, and his sentiment of good wishes for the landlord's success elicited an enthusiastic response. Mr Laing, Cornhill and Mr Smith, Old Learmouth were the croupiers. The company continued to enjoy the good cheer of the house till an advanced hour when all departed highly delighted with the entertainment provided for them.

### **DANCING**

Mr Flintoff begs to announce that his PUBLIC PRACTISING NIGHT will take place on the evening of THURSDAY the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, to which he invites the attendance of his Friends and former Pupils. On the following MONDAY, his half Season will commence when he shall be happy to receive Pupils for that period. Tickets for the Practising Night to be had of Mr Flintoff, and at the bar at the Inn; and dancing to commence at half past Seven O'clock.

**Kings Arms Assembly Room, February 12 1852**

*Linda Bankier*



## ASPECTS OF BERWICK'S CULTURAL HISTORY

### 3: LORD HUNSDON'S WOMEN

Always when researching history one has to contend with supposition, tradition and myth. Historical sources are rarely entirely straightforward and that is certainly true of images from the past. In connection with Berwick, apart from the famous 'War with Russia', the origin of which may finally have been solved (hear more at the A.G.M.), one of the most persistent myths is that Elizabeth I visited Berwick and that a picture was painted to commemorate the event. In the Cell Block Museum in the Guildhall is a coloured engraving of this painting, presented to the town in 1960 to mark the birth of Prince Andrew. In 1963 the Borough Museum was given another (plain) copy of the engraving (no.784). It is the engraving, rather than the original picture, that has given rise to the myth of Elizabeth's visit. The print is boldly entitled '*The Royal Procession of Queen Elizabeth to Visit the Right Honble. Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, Governor of Berwick-upon-Tweed, ...etc*' It was published in 1742 by the antiquarian George Vertue (1684-1756), who saw the original picture, by Robert Peake, in the collection of Lord Digby in October 1737. The Digby family tradition was that it was a marriage procession, though Vertue's research convinced him it showed Elizabeth visiting Hunsdon in 1571. Not in Berwick incidently, but at Hunsdon House. Vertue recorded in his caption that Lord Hunsdon, then in the prime of life, was the one carrying the sword of state. About ten years after producing the print Vertue discovered that Elizabeth had been carried in a litter to the wedding of Lord Herbert of Worcester at Blackfriars in 1600, but unfortunately the antiquarian died before making this public. Until 1866 everybody assumed it was Hunsdon that was the object of the Queen's attentions, but in that year the painting was lent to the National Portrait Gallery and the Blackfriars wedding connection was made again. That identification survived until 1976 when Roy

Strong, then director of the V & A conclusively re-identified the major characters in the picture. Hunsdon he established was not the dapper sword carrier but the older man just in front of him. Also not Henry Carey, 1<sup>st</sup>. Lord Hunsdon, Governor of Berwick but in fact George Carey, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lord Hunsdon, who assisted his father during his Governorship. George's great moment had come in 1570 when he accompanied Sir William Drury's raid from Berwick into Scotland in retaliation at a Scots raid into England. Also in the force was the poet Thomas Churchyard (1520-1604) who celebrated the expedition in '*The Ride of Sir William Drury into Scotland*'. A decade earlier Churchyard had been at the siege of Leith, which he also versified, including this praise for the Berwick contingent:-

“If Barwick bandes had absent ben that day  
A present plague was like on us to lyght  
Uppon our foes they ranne and ledde the way  
And still they put the French perforce to flight”

Just as the 'Lord Hunsdon' on the picture was not quite who he seemed, similarly the strange landscape in the background is not Berwick, nor indeed Blackfriars. Roy Strong suggests that apart from the Queen, the key figure in the picture, and probably the man that commissioned it, is the bald man right in the centre. Edward Somerset, 4<sup>th</sup>. Earl of Worcester, father of the bridegroom in 1600, but also made Master of the Horse in 1601. The buildings in the background are the Worcester properties in London and at Raglan and Chepstow Castles. The picture therefore celebrates, not a single event, but is symbolic of Worcester's elevation to a high position at court to become Master over ceremonies such as that depicted.

But, even if the picture cannot any longer be regarded as a Berwick icon, about the Earl of Worcester rather than Lord Hunsdon, Governor of Berwick, it does not lose its status as a part of the iconography of celebration of Queen Elizabeth. Roy Strong was one of the first to popularise this approach to art history, looking at the ideology behind Tudor paintings. Seeking out the clues and laying forth the hidden symbolism. At the centre of the whole thing is Elizabeth I, a dominating, even domineering, influence on poets and artists of the time, and herself very aware of exactly how she was to be portrayed. There is a mass of this stuff, symbolic paintings like this, poems lauding her virgin virtues, songs singing her wisdom and regality. How much of this was known in Berwick is difficult to say. But Berwick was certainly involved in the national rejoicing that took place annually on Elizabeth's Accession Day, 17<sup>th</sup>. November. The Accession Day festivities seem to have originated in Oxford from about 1570, when bell ringing on Accession Day became popular. In London tournaments were held and up and down the country bonfires were lit, banquets held and there was a general festival atmosphere. Special prayers, poems and sermons were published for use on the day and one for Berwick has survived. In the British Library, Egerton manuscript 2877 is a scrap book compiled from 1591 by Gilbert Frevile of Bishop Middleham, co. Durham. Amongst the worthy sermons by Puritan clergy is "a prayer and thanksgiving to God for the blessed, prosperous and peaceable raigne of the gracious and famous Queen Elizabeth made in Barwick and sunge there in triumphe, the 17 of November, 1586". Thirty-six couplets begin with the

line “If that the Hebrews from the heavens did any blessing gain”. One of the other couplets reveals its anti-Catholic tone:-

“Let not the raging rascals rude, of bloody popish band  
Molest our noble gracious Queen, or this her little land.”

By the time this was being sung in the ramshackle parish church, Lord Hunsdon had been in post as Governor for almost twenty years and any heavenly blessings the job may have had had long since faded. Indeed, by 1581 he was thoroughly irritated with the place, having frequently fallen out with the Mayor and Burgesses, and on 11th August wrote to Lord Burghley begging him to let him come back to court:-

“..I beseech your lordship now to show yourself as willing to rid me from hence, as you were to bring me hither...For as years are creeping upon me, so do I find myself far unable to serve here in such sort as I perceive her Majesty looks for...I am content too abide till Michelmas, at which time surely I will come up [to London], though I lay in prison for my labor; for though her Majesty have so small regard both too my great charges and the shortness of my days, I will preserve my own life as well as I can, for health is above riches.”

Three days later he is writing to Leicester about his troubles

“I cannot but let your lordship understand that by my want of exercise here, I haven gotten that which without present help at the beginning, I shall never clear of, which is the stone – wherewith I assure your lordship I have been grievously tormented of late – having I think as much gravel within me as will gravel the way between Hackney and Wanstead! And therefore I hope...that her Majesty will give me leave on time to seek some remedy for this hellish disease, which if it breed a while upon me I am afraid will be incurable.”

In December 1587 insult was literally added to injury when it was proposed to appoint a military commander for the Borders over him. He was furious with Burghley:-

“..my lord I am sorry to be driven to say it, there is never a noble in England at this day, that has seen some service both by sea and land as I have done, and I assure your lordship I will not now in my latter days, receive dishonour and reproach, and if anyman shall have any charge over me in this town, I will leave the town also...I pray your lordship to let her Majesty understand, that some other may be appointed to be lieutenant under him, for surely I will not.”

Contemporary accounts say that Hunsdon was not the model of the polished, young courtier that Elizabeth liked to surround herself. He was bluff, straightforward and plain speaking, and got on better with military men rather than the preening and lounging lads we see in some contemporary portraits. For all that Elizabeth had a great affection for him, often adding pleasant notes to

him in her own hand to government correspondence. Officially he was her cousin, but some writers believe he may have been her half-brother, as his mother Mary Boleyn rather too readily surrendered to Henry VIII's attentions. When she might have been pregnant Mary was cast aside in favour of her sister Anne, who played harder to get and fell rather further in the end.

Mary was married off to William Carey and her son Henry was born in 1526. Intriguingly exactly sixty years later Henry, now 1<sup>st</sup>. Baron Hunsdon, embarked on a course of action that was to lead to a repeat of the way his mother had been treated. For what does not appear in the official correspondence is that the apparently aged and gravelly Baron had just embarked upon a passionate affair with an eighteen year old black-haired beauty with a fetching mole on her neck called Emilia Bassano. Soon she was established in great luxury and it would be nice to think of her coming north to Berwick to ease his exile here. For her to have visited Berwick is especially fascinating as these days Emilia is rather more famous than the old Lord. Books, articles, conferences and websites are devoted to her. She is a character in novels and plays and a film cannot be far off. I have a distinct memory of the start of all this enthusiasm which was headline news in 1973 when A.L.Rowse identified her as the 'Dark Lady' of Shakespeare's sonnets. Most scholars do not now accept the identification, but Rowse's work was vital in concentrating scholarly attention on Emilia herself whose own writings have now been, to quote one very serious feminist, "re-appraised in the light of different ideologies of power and gender". Emilia's work is certainly worth re-appraising. Her fame rests on her sole surviving book of poems "*Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*" (1611). The title poem is a meditation on the Crucifixion, inflicted on Christ she notes, by men not women. In the preface "To the Virtuuous Reader", one of several in the book, she insists on the goodness of "virtuouys women", reminding that Jesus born of and cared for by a 'virtuouys' woman, was, in his dying moments, concerned for the care of that same woman, his mother Mary. Also that the first person Jesus spoke to when he arose from the dead was a woman. She then goes on to list several virtuous women in the Bible, including the head-lobbing Judith. Other praiseworthy women are Queen Elizabeth and the Countess of Cumberland. It was in the Countess' household that Emilia was brought up and her poem "The Description of Cooke-ham" is remarkable in being the first ever English poem celebrating a country house and evoking it as a lost paradise of female literary endeavour. Both Margaret, Countess of Cumberland, and her daughter, Anne Clifford were talented poets and clearly independently minded women. Margaret threw out her husband and battled through the courts for years to successfully wrest control of the estate for her daughter. Anne, in turn got thoroughly fed up with both her husbands and devoted her time to building projects. With such role models it is not surprising that Emilia developed feminist notions. By the time he met this talented, independently minded half-Italian beauty Hunsdon's wife had born him ten children and may have been content enough to have a rest.

In Stratford at the same time Anne Shakespeare was coping with three children Susanna (b.1582) and the twins Hamlet and Judith (b.1585), while her husband William was busily employed doing...what? We don't know, probably helping with the family business, his first plays but yet sketches. It is usually said the visit to Stratford by the acting company the Queen's Men in 1587 was his entry into

the theatrical profession, but this is speculation. What is certain is that by 1592 he was being lampooned as an upstart playwright by the drunken lecher and hack writer, Robert Greene [not one of my ancestors, unfortunately]. On 15<sup>th</sup>.March 1595 he is listed as a member of the Lord Chamberlain's Men whose patron is none other than Baron Hunsdon. It is at this point that it is supposed Emilia met Shakespeare and became his lover, later rejecting him and being decried in the '*Sonnets*'. Modern writers have got a lot of mileage out of this in a very short time, not only popular biographers, but novelists and playwrights. Roy Lewis '*The Manuscript Murders*' (1981) and Anne Cuneo's '*Objects de Splendeur: Mr.Shakespeare's amoureux*' (1996) centre on their relationship. The first play on the subject seems to be Karen Sunde's '*The Dark Lady*' (1982), while Cenarth Fox's '*Shakespeare: A Two Act Musical*' is currently being sold over the internet with the by-line "*Shakespeare In Love*" may not be available for performances but this is." The show opens in 1590 and Shakespeare goes to London:-

"New people came into Will's life. One was a wealthy young aristocrat who had dangerous political beliefs. Remember in those days you could be executed just for attending a certain church service. Another person was a beautiful and mysterious woman. But Shakespeare decided that acting was not all he wanted to do. He started to write. One day his play was performed and a new career, a brilliant new career was launched."

The aristocrat is the Earl of Southampton and he, our Will and Emilia, the "mysterious woman", get to sing a trio 'Love is a Game'. Then there is a play, '*Men of Honour*', by John Upton premiered at the Ensemble Theatre, Kirribili, Sydney, Australia in April 2001:-

"The time is London, 1594, a dangerous place ravaged by crime, politics and plague. Will Shakespeare (Mark Lee) falls passionately in love with his dark lady, Emilia Lanier (Tasma Walton) a fellow poet who is already married, during the time he was writing sonnets and his most famous love story, *Romeo and Juliet*. Will's reputation is not yet established. Though impoverished, he's optimistic. Then his world falls to pieces. Emilia betrays him with his best friend and noble patron, the handsome but rakish Earl of Southampton (Teo Gebert)".

A review from the '*Sydney Morning Herald*' gives an idea of how it looked on stage:-

"Lee does a credible turn in frustration and angst, but the stakes for gripping drama are not especially high or intense. Despite the limitations of the undertaking there are at least several tantalising and/or robust scenes to make *Men of Honour* vivid and appealing, not least the lively, self-regarding banter and effete gestures of Teo Gebert's Earl of Southampton - Will's loyal, dubious patron. Walton also adds spark as the mistress poet and wilful match for Shakespeare. "... You're not a poet. You ignore poetry, you slave at plays for money. You're a literary thief who plundered Kit Marlowe's style, you steal your stories and pander to sweaty plebs and whores

and bear baiters. You shine because Marlowe and Greene are dead and Kyd is dying, and there's no-one else ..." Emilia says to a stunned Will - a verbal joust threatening to draw blood..... Given the fertile ground of the love triangle and the questions of loyalty, betrayal and honour which surface, *Men of Honour* is unexpectedly bloodless and requires less restraint...and wilder imaginings to bring its emotions, creative impulses and traitorous deeds into irresistible, rollicking play - the promise of which arrives belatedly at the end".

Meanwhile Ian Wilson's '*Shakespeare's Dark Lady: A novel*' set in a university, goes out of its way to deny Emilia Bassano's claim:-

"...it may well be that Shakespeare fathered a few children outside his marriage. He may have direct living descendants whose descent can be proven. You certainly can't deny that he had the opportunity in London while that twit homemaker Anne Hathaway whiled away her days in her Stratford kitchen.'

'I'm aware of your opinions about his—'

'Who knows, he might even have made the Dark Lady pregnant. And she wasn't Emilia Bassano, that much I know.'

Nancy stuffed her powder compact into her bag and rose from her desk.....

'The late Dr. Rowse has shown convincingly who the Dark Lady was and there's no evidence that she had syphilis. Or any illegitimate children, for that matter.'

'With all due respect, bullshit,' Amelia said. 'Shakespeare probably had lots of women, only this one was special. All right, I don't know--yet--who she was, but I know she wasn't Emilia Bassano. Or Lucy Negro, or Mall Fitton or Mistress Davenant or Mistress Florio.'

So now we know. In all this creativity the old Baron hardly gets a look in. But then he had the best of it in the 16<sup>th</sup>.century, and Emilia did not do so well. When she was twenty-three, she became pregnant with Hunsdon's child. This effectively brought the relationship to end and she was rapidly married off to a cousin, one of the Queen's musicians, Alphonso Lanyer. Three months after the marriage, she had her first child, whom she named Henry. Three years later, in 1596, Lord Hunsdon was on his deathbed. As he faded the Queen arrived with the chain and regalia of the Earldom of Wiltshire, an honour he had long coveted. But, to the last the Governor was forthright and plain-spoken, taking one look at the stuff he said "Madam, seeing you counted me not worthy of this honour whilst I was living, I count myself unworthy of it now I am dying". She took the hint and paid for his funeral instead. Back in Berwick his second son John had been acting as his deputy for a few years, contending with not only the perfidy of the Scots and Border rieviers but trying to contend with the enthusiasm of his younger brother Robert. Robert Carey's daring exploits helping to control the unruly natives come to life in the pages of his vivid *Memoirs* only discovered and published for the first time in 1759. Robert's tales have inspired the novelist 'P.F.Chisholm' (i.e. Patricia Finney) to pen no less than four novels in which he is hero, the latest being *A Plague of Angels* (1998) set in 1592. Writing from her home in Cornwall in 1999 Ms Finney said she first met Robert in the pages of George MacDonald Fraser's *The Steel Bonnets*:-

“This was irresistible to me....here was this fancy-dressing, fancy-talking Court dude turning up in England’s Wild West. The Anglo-Scottish Border at that time made Dodge City look like a health farm. It was the most chaotic part of the kingdom and was full of cattle-rustlers, murderers, arsonists, horse-thieves, kidnappers and general all-purpose outlaws...and they didn’t have automatic pistols to make killing easier. It took real work to kill somebody then. And yes, I’m afraid I have fallen, hook, line and sinker, for the elegant and charming Sir Robert Carey. I hope you do too”.

John Carey would not have been amused, he took the view, expressed in many pained official letters to London that he did all the real work while Robert rode about the country having fun hanging people. To make matters worse his over-indulgent father seemed to prefer Robert, giving him estates, such as Norham, that John believed should have come to him. He was just setting out to remonstrate with his father when word was brought that the Baron had died. Their older brother George succeeded to the title, becoming Lord Chamberlain the following year and he is the one in the Procession picture. Poor John got stuck in Berwick, still complaining, until on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1603 Robert suddenly and unexpectedly rode into town with the news that Elizabeth had died. Next day, as Robert was sleeping off the effects of his epic, and irritatingly glamorous ride at Holyrood Palace, John was getting up early to get on with serious business of proclaiming James I in Berwick. John welcomed the king when he arrived in Berwick on his way south and in September George died and John succeeded to the Barony enabling him to escape as well. He lived until 1617, by which time Robert had calmed down a bit and was under the patronage of Prince Charles. Robert succeeded his brother as Lord Chamberlain and lived until 1639.

Intriguingly Emilia out-lived them all. Just before the birth of her second child, a daughter Odillya, which died at the age of ten months, she began to consult the notorious astrologer Dr.Simon Forman wanting to know if her husband would get preferment. She told Forman she was unhappy with her husband who had "dealt hardly with her" and "spent and consumed her goods". The bad old doctor took this as the green light to try get her into bed himself, she resisted this, but they stayed on good terms for a few more years. The only preferment her husband got was a monopoly to charge for the weighing of hay and straw in London. The year that John Carey died found Emilia running a school, but the landlord had her arrested for not paying the rent. The school soon failed and she was arrested again for debt. After this 14 years go by, before she reappears in court records trying to get her money from the hay monopoly. She was then sixty-six and was bringing up two small grandchildren, her son having died two years before. For ten years she battled to get the money, but it only came in a trickle. In desperate poverty she appealed directly to Charles I, one of whose musicians her son had been, the king fortunately granted her a small pension and she was able to die in some dignity at the age of seventy six in 1645. Fifty nine years after she had first met the Governor of Berwick.



“Whom, if unjustly you condemne to die,  
Her sinne was small, to what you doe commit:  
All mortal sinnes that doe for vengeance crie,  
Are not to be compared unto it:  
If many worlds would altogether trie,  
By all their sinnes the wrath of God to get;  
This sinne of yours, surmounts them all as farre  
As does the Sunne, another little starre.

Then let us have our Libertie againe,  
And challenge to your selves no Sov'raigtie;  
You came not in the world without our paine,  
Make that a barre against your crueltie;  
Your fault being greater, why should you disdain  
Our beeing your equals, free from tyranny?  
If one weake woman simply did offend,  
This sin of ours, hath no excuse, nor end.”

From ‘*Eve’s Apologie*’ (1611), by Emilia Layner

### Further reading

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McBride, Kari Boyd. "Amelia Lanyer 1569-1645." Women's studies: University of Arizona. Online. Available <http://www.u.arizona.edu/ic/mcbride/lanyer/lanyer.htm>.

Strong, R. *The Cult of Elizabeth: Elizabethan Portraiture & Pageantry* (1977)

Chris Green

## **PUTTING BONDINGTON ON THE MAP**

Sometime during the period of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain a group of Angles established a settlement on the edge of the escarpment on the north bank of the Tweed, about a mile from the river mouth. This settlement became called Bondington, a name that suggests that it was part of the gradual spread of the Anglian people within the kingdom of Bernicia, later part of Northumbria. If one had to guess then a date not too far away from the reign of Edwin in the seventh century might be suggested. It is quite possible that the village existed before there was any substantial settlement on the riverside where Berwick now stands.

The settlement stood on or close to the line of today's Castle Terrace and since it occurred probably in the second stage of Anglian settlement one might also guess that there was already a trackway there leading from the ford over the Tweed at Berwick towards Paxton and Chirnside. The fact that the village stood away from the river suggests that the main occupation of the residents was farming rather than fishing and that the lands nearby were the basis of its survival. Unfortunately there is no written evidence from Saxon times to provide any information about its origins, ownership or development.

It is some 500 years after the possible first settlement of Bondington, when the land north of the Tweed formed part of Scotland, that the first references to the village occur. By this time the village seems to have had two churches, one dedicated to St. Lawrence and the other to the Virgin Mary. In the nineteenth century Scott suggested in his *History of Berwick* that the remains of a church found when Cheviot House up Castle Terrace was being built could be identified as that dedicated to St. Lawrence and the other one stood close to the line of the Elizabethan walls and had been destroyed during their construction. The discovery in 1998 of a second church lying close to the line of Castle Terrace has thrown Scott's explanation into doubt. The two churches are near enough to each other to have served a single community but it seems strange for this to have been felt necessary. At both sites graves were found and those at the more recently discovered site were of both men and women. There is no reference to the sex of those found in the nineteenth century. The church of St. Mary, it has been suggested, may have been part of a hospital and St. Lawrence the parish church.

The position is made no easier by the knowledge that Scott suggested the existence of two nunneries in the area, one opposite the Meadow Guest House, now probably just within the line of the Berwick bypass, and the other at an unknown spot. Recent aerial photography has confirmed the likely whereabouts of the former, whilst the latter may never have existed in the light of a re-reading of the written evidence.

The exact location of the village remains unknown. On the basis of the present network of communications a position to the west of the recently found church site might be suggested, somewhere close to the fork in the road at the top of Castle Terrace where the road to Paxton and Kelso diverged from that to Chirnside and Duns. On the other hand these roads may not have been of much importance prior to the construction of the bridge at Berwick and the growth of its importance as a port. When Bondington was founded its location may well have depended more on ready access to water from springs than on lines of communication. Certainly near the more recent church there were plenty of springs.

The village continued to exist until after the beginning of the English domination of Berwick and the land close to it north of the river c1300, but from the written evidence seems to have disappeared within the next century. Archaeological evidence suggests that the recently found church ceased to be used during that time. The reasons for its disappearance again can only be a matter of conjecture

at the moment. Did the Black Death of 1348-9 cause its collapse as a viable community? Were the inhabitants forcibly dispossessed by the English government to provide more land for the support of the garrison and burgesses of Berwick? Did the villagers voluntarily leave their homes to seek the protection of the town walls in the troubled times of the wars fought by Robert Bruce and his successors to preserve Scottish independence? We may never know but the many questions linked to the history of Bondington may soon find some answers.

The site of the church was purchased in order to preserve it with the assistance of the Berwick Freemen Trustees and now lies under the protection of English Heritage. At some stage its systematic excavation may be undertaken but this would be an expensive and lengthy operation. Meanwhile there is to be an attempt to prepare the way for any such work.

The Borders Archaeological Society, Berwick History Society, and the Castlegate Area Residents Association have been successful in winning a grant from the Lottery funding, through the Countryside Association, to try to put Bondington on the map. The project will last over two years and seek to collect all the background information about the development of the area until the present day. On Monday February 25<sup>th</sup> an initial meeting will be held at the Maltings at 7.00pm to look for support with the many facets of the work that will be required- from research into medieval documents, to field-walking and geophysics surveys to look for evidence on and below the ground, the piecing together of records and memories of finds of archaeological interest in the area.

This is an exciting project that will research a neglected part of Berwick's past, and it is hoped that as many people as possible, both young and old, will become involved. If you would like to help in any way - do research into the area (in medieval or more recent times), help to organise events to publicise the project, assist on the archaeological side, or help us put together an educational pack for schools - please contact me (01289-382541) or Linda (01289-301865) or let us know at the February meeting. Any help or expertise will be welcome.

*David Brenchley*

## **TOMORROW'S HISTORY**

Linda handed me a bit of paper in late Spring 2001. NEMLAC (North East Museum, Library and Archives Council ) were hoping to find about 100 projects to come under the heading of Tomorrow's History. The projects had to be on localised subjects and had to involve as many local groups as possible. We all put on our thinking caps and agreed on "The Historic Port of Berwick". Our idea was to introduce an A3 leaflet describing, where possible, the past present and future of the ten venues from St Abbs to Alnmouth, which come under the umbrella of the registration port of Berwick.

We sent off for an application form which was duly filled in. Our project was to include the leaflet plus information and photographs for the Tomorrow's History website. There was to be a lot of work, so we were seeking a grant to help us. At first, we were refused but a change of heart meant we could get started.

Our first course of action was to plan our timetable. It all looked so simple! Each member of the committee took a particular venue and tracked down interested parties who could help with archives, memories, stories and photographs. We were overwhelmed by the interest shown and the help given. Our next task was to write about 120 words for each port which would encapsulate its history and future – not easy. The formation of a sub committee to deal with the technical side of things meant that decisions were easier to make on what was to go where.

Apart from our leaflet, we also had to provide an interesting set of photographs and information for the website. Our Community Project Worker was Mark Annis who helped enormously with all aspects of the project. Linda sent him all the items he needed by December so we should be working in cyber space now !. Fantasy Prints helped collate and lay out the leaflet and just before Christmas the first drafts appeared.

We are very proud of our first ever publication. It was harder work than we imagined but everyone did their bit. With encouragement and help from Mark Annis we came up with a leaflet which is to be available throughout the Borough. We are also on the Tomorrow's History web site which gives information about FBDMA, the historic port of Berwick and its subsidiary ports, and which holds photographs and archive material from our Maritime Project which are all made instantly available to the public. The good thing about the project is that it has brought together so many groups and individuals who hold dear the past of North Northumberland.

Perhaps others will come forward with more information, photographs and artefacts which will increase everyone's knowledge of this most interesting aspect of our history.

*Barbara M. Herdman*

### **SUMMER OUTING – THE ALNWICK GARDEN, FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2002**

Those of you who were at our last year's Autumn Lecture will be able to verify how fascinating we found Mr Ian August's talk on the Alnwick Garden. His enthusiasm took us from the 18<sup>th</sup> century well into the future. Throughout the talk he mentioned the Archives of the Garden and how they were making film records of all the work being done now. We could see Linda's eyes going green with envy.

After his talk the Friends questioned Mr August on the flowers, shrubs, water features, etc but I was particularly interested in the archive material. So, I asked if there was any chance of our seeing it. Yes!

Further details will be available in our next newsletter but so far we have booked Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2002 at 3.00 pm. We will have a guided tour of the garden and then we will be able to see selected items from the archives – a rare privilege. Please put the date in your diary and await further developments.

## **SAINT GEORGE'S DAY**

During the last years of the last century, one item that dominated media attention was whether the correct date of the new millennium was 2000 or 2001. Perhaps because of the preoccupation with this date, another important one was overlooked.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001, the United Kingdom and the current Union Flag were 200 years old. Wales, being a principality, is not included in the Kingdom flag.

Although two members of this political trinity take great pride in celebrating their National Days – Ireland celebrating Saint Patrick in March and Scotland Saint Andrew in November, the feast of Saint George in April passes almost unnoticed. In fact the nearest shop selling items to commemorate the event was in Edinburgh although one local shop does stock St. George lapel studs.

Hopefully, Golden Jubilee year may result in resurgence not only of patriotism, but also of national identity. If so, those of us who are proud of our English blood, no matter how minute or diluted the amount may be, will take great pride in “declaring for God, Elizabeth, England and Saint George” in the form of local and national celebrations.

The writer offers both apologies and respect to the Bard who was born on Saint George's day in 1564 and died on that same day 52 years later.

*Pat Willcox.*

## **SNIPPETS FROM BERWICK ADVERTISER**

**JUNE 12 1830**

**SCHOOL EXAMINATION**

**YESTERDAY** the Children educated at the Poor-house School underwent their accustomed annual **EXAMINATION** before a full meeting of Parish Officers. The number at present under a course of Tuition amounts to one hundred and six – a charge of no ordinary interest and difficulty. The result of the Examination however, proved very satisfactory, and afforded unquestionable evidence of the diligence and success with which the School is conducted. This remark applies equally to all the branches of instruction, viz. Reading, Writing, Arithmetic. Our opinion of **MR. KIRTON'S** abilities, and tact as a Teacher, continues unabated.

**JOS. BARNES.** Vicar..

**G. GARDINER.**

Berwick. June 9<sup>th</sup> 1830.

**WM. YOUNG.** Minister.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1830.

**VERY SUPERIOR TRAVELLING** by the **ROYAL PATENT SAFETY COACH, BETWEEN BERWICK AND ALNWICK.** The Proprietors of the **DEFENCE COACH** beg to inform their Friends and the public in general, that for their better accommodation, they have purchased one of the **ROYAL PATENT COACHES**, which in point of **SAFETY** and convenience, cannot be surpassed; and being determined that neither expense or exertion on their part will be wanting to have the above coach always conducted in a superior style, they confidently trust to receive a continuance of public patronage. They have much pleasure in availing themselves of this opportunity of returning their best thanks to the public for the very liberal encouragement they hitherto met with, and to assure them, notwithstanding the institutions to the contrary, that this **COACH** will continue a **PERMANENT** conveyance between Berwick and Alnwick, with a connection to Newcastle.

The **SAFETY COACH** starts from the Red Lion, Hen and Chickens Inn, Berwick at 6 o'clock in the morning (where seats can be secured to Newcastle), and arrive at the White Swan Inn, Alnwick, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and arrive at the Hen and Chickens Inn, Berwick at 6 o'clock.

Fares; From Berwick to Alnwick . . . . Inside – 5 sh. Outside - 3 sh.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1830.

### **MOURNING.**

The following order for the Court's going into mourning has been issued:-  
“**LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, JUNE 26 1830**”. Orders for the Court going into Mourning tomorrow, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> instant, for our late most Gracious Sovereign King George the Fourth, of blessed memory, viz:-

“The ladies to wear black bombazines, plain muslin or long lawn linen, crape hoods, shamoy shoes and gloves, and crape fans.

The gentleman to wear black cloth, without buttons on the sleeves and pockets, plain muslin or long lawn cravats and weepers, shammy shoes and gloves, crape hat bands, and black swords and buckles.”

*Muriel Fraser*

### **Letter from the Editor**

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to report that the 'Friends' who were working on the Tomorrow's History Project did manage to produce the leaflet on the **Ports of Berwick** before the deadline! It proved to be quite a demanding task, with an abundance of information, photographs and postcards, not to mention ideas all to be squeezed onto two sides of A3 in a very limited amount of time. The resulting leaflet has been enclosed for your perusal. To save on costs we opted to fold

these leaflets ourselves so if you can, **PLEASE** come to the Records Office on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March** between **10.00am and 12.00 noon** to help fold them.

I would like to say a huge ' **thank you**' to all those people who have contributed to the newsletter over the past years for without their efforts you would not be reading this!

Please remember any **interesting stories, items, events, letters or queries** for the newsletter will be most appreciated. You may give them to Linda or send them by E-mail to [gallagher@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:gallagher@ukonline.co.uk) or by post c/o. Records Office, Wallace Green, Berwick upon Tweed.

*Yvonne Gallagher*  
*Hon. Editor.*