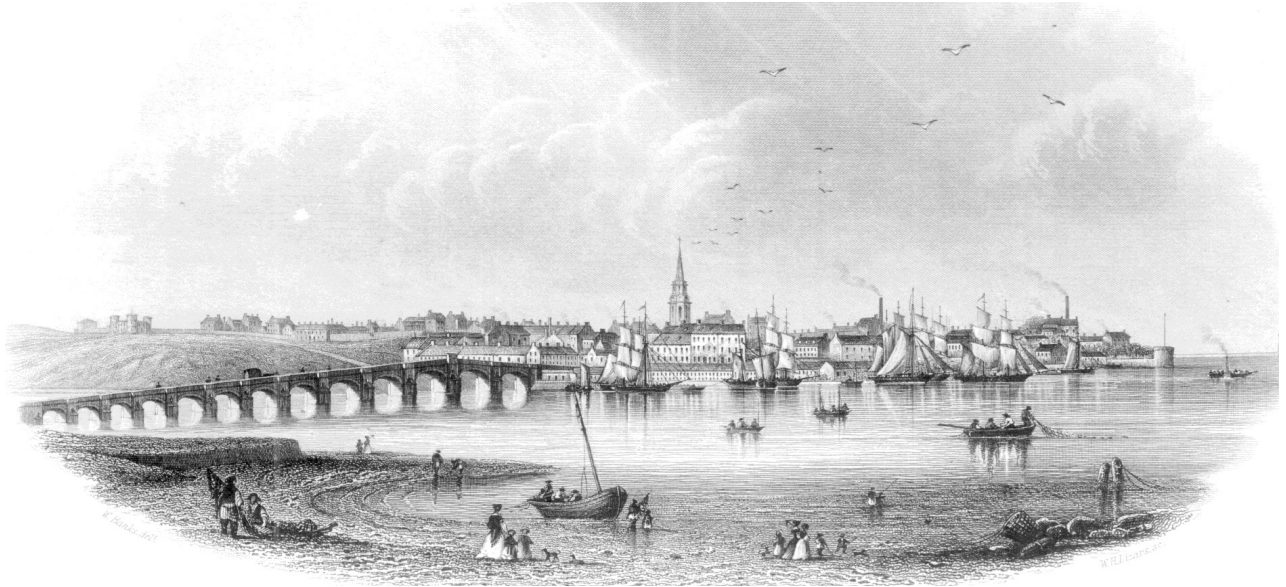


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 45 DECEMBER 2004

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 18th March 2005

Friends AGM followed by a lecture by Shona Alexander, Director of Regeneration and Development. Guildhall, Berwick starting at 7pm.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Bowling Clubhouse.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Tues. 18 th January | Berwick and its Archives: Linda Bankier. |
| Tues. 22 nd February | History of Borders Folk Music:
Michael Yates |
| Tues. 29 th March | AGM + The Bondagers: Ian McDougall. |
| Tues. 26 th April | Visit to Eyemouth Harbour. |

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Wed. 26 th January | The Gretna Green Train Crash:
Mr C. Petit. |
| Wed. 23 rd February | The Development of Agricultural machinery:
Mr D. Thompson. |
| Wed. 23 rd March | Mediaeval Newcastle:
Dr Constance Fraser. |
| Wed. 27 th April | The Chillingham Cattle: Mr R. Widows. |

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: The Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Wed. 19 th January | Berwick and the 'Fifteen : Francis Cowe. |
| Wed. 16 th February | Getting the Fish to Market : Jim Walker. |
| Wed. 16 th March | Women in the Roman North :
Lindsay Allason Jones. |
| Wed. 20 th April | AGM + David 1st & Berwick upon Tweed:
Prof. Geoffrey Barrow. |

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick upon Tweed.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Mon. 7th February

Medievalist : Richard Lomas.

Mon. 7th March

Roman Matters : Jeremy Patterson

Mon. 4th April

AGM plus a speaker (to be arranged)

Visitors fee £2.00

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thurs. 6th January

Borders Walk: William Clinton

Thurs.3rd February

Borders Bits and Pieces: Ian Landels

Thurs.3rd March

AGM followed by
Undertaking and Joinery: Tom Tokely

Thurs. 7th April

England's Rough Wooing:
Mrs Isabelle Gordon

Visitors Fee £1

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Duns Social Club, 41 Newton St, Duns.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 26th January

Borders Miscellany: James Hay

Wed. 23rd February

The place names of Marchmont Estate:
Dr. Maitland-Hume

Wed. 30th March

Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay:
Major General Charles C A Ramsay

Wed.27th April

Stuart McFarlane - "Border Festivals"

EMBLETON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Church Room, Embleton.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 19th January

Social Evening at Olde Ship Hotel, Seahouses.

Wed.16th February

Recent Historical Projects in the Berwick Area:
Linda Bankier.

Wed. 23rd March

The Gas Industry: Mr D.P. Dalby.

Wed. 27th April

Old Embleton : Mr G. Skipper.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
(North Northumberland Group)

Black Bull, Lowick.

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Sat.15th January

Open Forum.

Sat.19th February

Johann Strauss Waltz King: Dr Brian Sproule

Sat. 19th March

The Delavals: Margaret Hickling.

Sat. 16th April

How Joseph Brown became Joseph Clewlo:
Ms Sheenagh Ainsworth.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

I take the opportunity of this Newsletter to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

I would also like to remind you of the AGM in March when the final report on the Union of the Crowns should be available. It has been a strenuous two years setting up the festival, running it and seeing to the finances and my thanks must go to those who had to bear this load.

At the AGM my term of office comes to an end and I hope that you will have made nominations for my successor. I feel that the duties will not be too arduous for the next couple of years so please come forward. There is always a place on the Committee - think about offering yourselves for co-option or election. Keith Wills who has been a tower of strength and particularly so in the past two years has located himself in France so his replacement is also urgent.

My thanks for all your support and best wishes.

Gus Fairburn
Chairman.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions for the Friends for 2005 are due at the beginning of January. A form is enclosed with the newsletter which should be completed and returned to the Record Office. If you joined the Friends after 1 October 2004, your subscription covers 2005 as well.

ARCHIVE NEWS

Another year is almost over and it certainly has been a busy one for the Archives for various reasons, including the Union of the Crowns.

As well as looking after the public which always keeps me on my toes, the Record Office has been involved in the following things over the past few months. Some of you may have seen the programme on BBC 2 – “Who do you Think you are ?” – which is about celebrities tracing their Family History. Many people have certainly watched the programme because more people have come in to the Office to find out about tracing their own Family History. Just before the programme started, I ran a Family History for Beginners course and a Family History and the Internet course for Northumberland College which were fully subscribed. I should have started another one once the programmes started as there is definitely a great interest in the subject ! In conjunction with the programmes, all the local BBC radio stations ran a Family History weekend on 4th / 5th December. I went down to the event in Newcastle and made people aware of what information we have up here in Berwick.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that we were holding a Film Night at the Maltings at the beginning of October where we showed the Film, “The Blackhill Campaign “ Leo from the NRFTA looked after the technical side and Jack Parsons who made the film in the early 1960s came up specially from Cardiff for both the showings. He was amazed at the amount of interest in the film and how much it had meant to so many people. It was interesting that a number of former Scremerston miners came along. Over 300 people attended the two showings of the film and it was a great success. A DVD of the restored film will be available after Christmas which Jack Parson’s own publishing company will be producing. The DVD will cost £15.00. If anyone is interested in buying one but hasn’t put their name on the list yet, please contact me and I will pass your details on.

Over the past couple of months I have been very involved in the Bondington Project. We are coming to the end of the project but there has been lots to do. The final report has now been completed and we have been working on an educational CD for schools. This has been a very exciting project which will be distributed free to local schools for use in the classroom. At the beginning of December, we held a meeting in the Guildhall to tell people about what we have found out in the past 3 years. It is amazing what has been discovered about the medieval parish of Bondington. Hopefully the project will lead to further work on the area.

As part of its work, the Record Office encourages people to place items of historical importance in the archives for safekeeping. If we didn’t do this, we wouldn’t know so much about life in this area in the past. As well as preserving the documents, it is important to know some background information about them – when they were created, by whom and why – because this can set them in context. Often, it is easier to find this out by talking to the people who bring them to me. For example, Fred Stott kindly placed original prints of some of his works in the archives a couple of years ago but it was difficult for me to date them. During the summer, Fred , Fiona and I went through the prints and they both gave me accurate dates for them so that I can catalogue them properly. Without this information and input, I can only guess at their dates but now I can provide a fuller catalogue entry for them which will be more useful in the future. The importance of background information was highlighted again very recently – a First World War Honorary Freeman’s scroll and an album of photos were left in the Planning Department for me. The album wasn’t dated but it looked very interesting and I would originally have said it was Second World War. On speaking to the lady who sent them in, I discovered that they had been taken during the First World War by the gentleman mentioned on the scroll and related to his time as a chemist on board a hospital ship bringing the wounded back across the Channel. These must be quite rare photographs but without that first hand information, I would never

have known. The Record Office would not have so many wonderful resources without the generosity of local people, so if you find anything which tells us about the past – photograph, document, etc. – and you want it to be preserved, please bring it along to the Record Office.

Finally, thank you to all the Friends and everyone else who supports the archives. Happy Christmas and Best wishes for 2005.

COURSES

In conjunction with Northumberland College, the Record Office is running another two Family History courses starting in early January. There will be a “**Family History for Beginners**” course on a Tuesday from 1 – 3 in the Record Office for those interested in finding out about basic sources and how to use them. For those who are interested in using the Internet, I am running another “**Family History and the Internet**” course in the Cheviot Centre in Wooler on Monday mornings, 10 – 12 starting 10 January. Both courses are free and last for 5 weeks. If you wish to enrol on them, please contact the Northumberland College Annexe at Berwick – 01289 302446.

UNION OF THE CROWNS 400

Although the Union of the Crowns 400 celebrations were officially finished in May, Derek and I have been sorting out a lot of things over the past couple of months. The end is in sight and hopefully in January everything will be sorted out.

Over the Charter Weekend at the beginning of May, two local people, John Crombie from Kelso and John Hankinson from Tweedmouth kindly went round and videoed all the different events, including the Freedom Parade; Beating the Retreat; Riding of the Bounds; Re-enactment of the Granting of the Charter; the recreation of the 17th century Quayside; the Tweed Rivers Festival and the meeting of the Tweedmouth Salmon Queen and the Eyemouth Herring Queen.

If you would like a memento of this memorable weekend for Berwick, the video/DVD is now available from the Record Office - £12.00 for the video and £14.00 for the DVD. Postage and packing is £2.00 and cheques should be made payable to John Crombie. The Friends will receive a donation for each video/DVD sold.

Linda Bankier

LOCAL EVENTS IN 1894

On looking through the Berwick Advertiser for interesting snippets on Christmas, I found a list of events which happened 110 years ago in Berwick and District. I thought you might be interested in some of them which appear below.

January

- 6 Intense frost all over the district – 35 degrees registered in Berwickshire.
- 8 Proposal by Glendale Agricultural Society to form a Farmers' Club.

- 11 Steam trawler “ Ocean Prince” awarded £110 as salvage for services rendered To the Swedish brig “Idog” in Berwick Bay when disabled on 21st November , 1893.
- 12 Chirnside Paper Mill workers paid a bonus of one week’s wages for 1893.
- 16 Horse racing revived on Lamberton Moor.
- 25 Bamburgh Castle bought by Lord Armstrong for £16,000.
- 31 Opening of a new bridge at Wooler for traffic, erected at a cost of £1100.

February

- 1 Married soldiers’ quarters at Berwick, erected at a cost of £3,000, occupied for the first time.
- 7 Protests read at Berwick Town Council from a number of eminent men against the widening of the Old Bridge.
- 14 New steamship company to trade between Berwick and Leith, registered with a capital of £2500 for £10 shares.
- 22 Loss of the steamer Redlands, newly bought by the Tweed Shipping Company, off Hull, and two Berwick young men drowned.

March

- 1 Sir Hubert Jerningham banqueted in Paris in recognition of his services rendered in connection with the terrible cyclone at Mauritius in 1892.
- 5 Berwick Board of Guardians decided to negotiate for the purchase of the Workhouse Garden.
- 30 Berwick Quarter Sessions – “Lord Thompson”, charged with false pretences, ordered to be detained during Her Majesty’s pleasure, he having become insane.

April

- 7 Discovery of prehistoric remains at Duns Law.
- 9 Restoration of the peal of bells in Berwick Townhall.
- 24 New charity of £20,000 established by Lord Armstrong in connection with Bamburgh Castle.

May

- 1 Riding of the Bounds at Berwick; horse and cycle races introduced on Lamberton Moor.
- 25 Presentation to the Mayor and Mayoress of Berwick of a silver cradle on the birth of a daughter during the Worshipful’s year of office.

June

- 1 Judgement given by Deputy Judge Lloyd in the Tithe cases at Berwick. Cases against Corporation dismissed and Freemen held liable.
- 7 Border Cyclists' second annual meeting at Swinton.
- 9 Percy Artillery encamp at Goswick.
- 13 Mayor of Berwick receives £400 from the executors of the late Thomas Johnston, Esq., Scremerston to be invested on behalf of the Soup Kitchens of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal.
- 29 Berwick Quarter Sessions : Patrick McHugh sentenced to six months hard labour for theft of jewellery and wearing apparel.

July

- 11 Berwick Urban Sanitary Authority refuse to let the Cattle Market as an auction ring for live stock.
- 27 Berwick Cricket Club celebrate the club's jubilee by holding a bazaar, resulting in the raising of £210.

August

- 7 Dreadful accident on the railway at Goswick – man and horse cut to pieces by a train.
- 10 Sale of work at Spittal to build a tower for Parish Church realised £137.
- 14 Opening of a new bandstand at Spittal.
- 17 The question of introducing cookery into Public Schools discussed at a public meeting at Hutton.
- 30 Berwick ministers appear before the licensing justices and ask for the Sunday closing of public houses.

September

- 3 Tweed Commissioner's annual meeting. Season reported to be one of the poorest known. Total number of salmon killed by disease 102,741
- 11 Berwick Presbytery sanction building of an iron church at Windmill Hill for use by the Goswick Mission.
- 12 Presentation of a chiming apparatus for the bells in the Town Hall by the Mayor (Alderman Weatherston)
- 20 11 Spittal fishermen a sum of 10s each for resisting bailiffs. Arrival of steam tug Test to assist Tweed bailiffs in searching for illegal nets.
- 24 Belford Feast : Sports a fiasco owing to betting being prohibited.

October

- 1 Close of herring season : total catch between St Abbs and Coquet, 47,214 crans, against 53,393 crans in 1893 and 63,091 crans in 1892.
- 8 Offer by Sir James Miller, Manderston to lay out Duns Public Park, at an estimated cost of £1,500.
- 13 Severe gales – wrecks along the coast.
- 17 Berwick Town Council called to consider the question of the borough police assisting the Tweed bailiffs, and agreed to send a deputation to Government, urging the desirability of having the law amended.
- 22 Public Meeting at Berwick decide to improve the Greenses harbour for benefit of fishermen at a cost of £600.

November

- 6 Opening of New Iron Church at Windmill Hill as U.P. Mission Station.
- 12 Opening of new infant school at Tweedmouth by the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne.
- 15 Ceremony of laying the last sod of Berwick new bowling green.
- 30 New company formed at Berwick to carry on the work of the Tweed Saw Mills – Capital of the company £120,000 in £100 shares.

December

- 4 First parish meetings held under the Local Government Act (England) 1894.
Death of a boy through burns at Berwick.
- 12 Severe westerly gales. Eyemouth fishing boat sunk.
- 16 Re-opening of Church Street, Church after being extensively repaired, etc.
- 17 Launch of the “Tweed” a new steamer for Tweed Shipping Co. Limited.
- 22 Terrific W.S.W. gale; wreck of a steamer and exciting scene at Berwick.

ASPECTS OF BERWICK'S CULTURAL HISTORY

A LONG UNHEARD SONG

In the last issue I recounted a strange tale of 18th century obsession and murder in Berwick reclaimed from an obscure anonymous source by the wonders of digitisation in *18th.Century Books Online* . In the same digital archive are a number of books printed in Berwick mostly by William Phorson in the 1790s. He seems to have chosen more popular titles to publish, by

comparison to the solid and worthy fare put out by Berwick's first printer Robert Taylor. Included in the archive are novels, an easy English grammar and a jolly little tract, published by Phorson in 1793 called *The Art of Engaging the Affections of Wives to their Husbands*. This was supposedly translated from an anonymous French book published at Versailles in 1713. The humour of the book is, from today's perspective, rather laboured, elaborate and slow paced. So, rather than go into detail on that, I will quote from another Phorson production of the previous decade, grandly entitled *The Union Song Book or Berwick Vocal Miscellany, being a Choice Collection of the most celebrated Scots and English Songs, Never Before Published*. This appeared in 1781, and is not as original as it claims of course, with at least one of the poems featuring the Tweed having been around for a century before Phorson included it. Not that he has made it easy to check, almost none of the poems are attributed to authors. This is true of that on pages 271 to 273, the only work specifically mentioning Berwick. Sung to the tune of 'There was a jovial beggar' it is called:

The Berwick Fishery – A New Song

Ye Lovers of your freedom
Your country and your King,
To keep all three from danger
O! Listen whilst I sing!

Chorus

How a fishing we must go, must go, must go.
How a fishing we must go!

And ye who, friends of Britain
Wou'd fain crub Holland and France, [crib]
Attend and I'll instruct ye
Our welfare to advance.

Chorus

The people now are groaning

Beneath a heavy debt,
And will be soon a bankrupt
Unless we cast the net.

Chorus

For food, whilst other nations
Upon their fields rely,
To us the Tweed's rich bosom
A harvest can supply.

Chorus:

The ocean lying round
If we this trade pursue,
Will yield us wealth surpassing
The treasures of Peru.

Chorus

Then all with empty pockets
Who nothing have to do,
Come list beneath our standard
We'll cut out work for you.

Chorus

The ropes, nets and fishing smacks

Will multitudes employ,
Increase of manufactures
Fill every heart with joy.
Chorus

Let none think meanly on us
Or the profession shun,
A fisherman is noble
St.Peter he was one.
Chorus

How very different would be a song about Britain's fishing industry today.

Source: 18th.Century Books Online, part of the Electronic Resources Network at the National Library of Scotland.

Chris Green

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

March 21 1846

MIDDLE ORD GRASS PARK

TO BE LET BY AUCTION AT MIDDLE ORD, PARISH OF TWEEDMOUTH COUNTY OF NORTH DURHAM, ON FRIDAY 3RD DAY OF APRIL 1846. THE FOLLOWING GRASS PARKS :

	A R P
Davie's Lea	36.0.0.
Ox Close	28.1.21
East Field	28.0.36
Camp East Side	13.1.0
Camp West Side	17.0.30

The above are well know Rich Old Pastures, are well watered and fenced, and an experienced and careful Shepherd will take care of the stock.
The Roup to begin at Twelve o'clock Noon.

March 14th 1846

John Embleton, Auctioneer

Sept 26 1846

ASSEMBLY ROOMS, SALMON INN, BERWICK

MR H. O'CONNEL (of the Edinburgh Observatory) will lecture on ASTRONOMY, on Tuesday and Wednesday next, Sept 29th and 30th.

The subject will be illustrated by SPLENDID DIAGRAMS, MECHANICAL APPARATUS, and a Vertical ORRERY. After the Lecture the beautiful instrument called the CHROMATROP and DISSOLVING VIEWS. Purchases of First and Second Class Tickets will be afforded an opportunity of seeing " BAINS ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH" in operation on the days of the Lecture, from 2 till 5pm.

Front seats 2s Second 1s third class 6d each. First Class Family Tickets for Six 9s To commence at 8 o'clock each evening.

Oct. 24 1846

NEW BEAVER BONNETS

Ladies and Children's BEAVER BONNETS, Newest Shapes.

Boys and Infants BEAVER HATS ditto.

Superior LONDON BEAVER and FRENCH SATIN HATS.

Cloth, Velvet and fur CAPS.

At THOMAS HUBBOCK'S 20, HIGH ST. BERWICK

Oct 24 1846

Muriel Fraser

And More...

Snippets from Berwick Advertiser June-August 1840

13th June

SALE OF VALUABLE FURNITURE

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

FOR READY MONEY

At the BOWLING GREEN on WEDNESDAY the 17th June instant

new, belonging to MR KELL, who is about to leave the

Hen and Chickens Inn, consisting of Mahogany

Tent Bedsteads with Hangings, Feather Beds (excellent), Hair Mattresses, and Chamber

Furniture; Dining and other Mahogany Tables, Mahogany Sofa with hair seating, a large

mirror in gilt frame, carpets. Several sets of window hangings (Mereen), other Bar

utensils, a Mangle and a Quantity of kitchen requisites, including an excellent smoke jet.

R. Richardson, Auctioneer.

27th June

Matrimonial Misgivings.

On Saturday afternoon, as some gentlemen were walking on the foot road leading by the riverside, they observed a young man, in appearance a fisherman, precipitate himself from a boat into the Tweed. Perceiving that he was inebriated and apparently intent in drowning himself, the bystanders humanely exerted themselves to bring him to the shore, and having been successful, were about to inquire of him his reasons for the action they had witnessed, when they were saluted by the shrill voice of a female who had by this time joined the party and who informed them that she and the half-drowned man had just returned from being 'made one' at the toll. At the sight of his bride, however, the happy swain seized her by both hands and movingly besought her to be drowned along with him - an invitation which she thought proper to decline. The dripping bridegroom, now casting a "longing- lingering look behind" at the water and then another at his bride, seemed to hesitate between the two, but at last (seeing that he could not help [---] the meantime) brought himself to prefer matrimony to drowning, and set off with his future partner. Let us hope that of two evils he has chosen the least.

18th July

Window Tax - a fresh survey to be made for purpose of imposing additional duty of 10%, houses with less than 8 windows not chargeable. Closing windows since 6 April last year will not exempt from this years duty.

8 windows	16s 6d	
9 "	£1 1s 0d	
10 "	£1 8s 0d	
11 "	£1 16s 4d	
12 "	£2 4s	2d
13 "	£2 13s 3d	
14 "	£3 1s 9d	

Etc.

15th August

Postage Stamps.- By a Treasury order every postmaster and letter-receiver without exception, is bound to sell the postage label stamps to the public at one penny each; whatever number sold, whether a single stamp or more; and the covers at a penny one farthing each this should be universally known - that wherever there is a post office there is also a depot for the stamps and covers.

Wendy B. Scott

LETTER FROM EDITOR

I recently came upon an old note book which I believe was kept by my Great Aunt, Isabella Pringle. In it she recorded births, marriages, events and deaths of family, locals and famous people. She lived most of her married life in Amble. Here are a few entries:

- *Joe Sample fined for stealing flowers from the cemetery*
£7.12.6 April 14 1939
- *Mrs Matthews 13 Edwin St got her Black Coat from*
Mr Frazer on May 18 1939 Paid £3.15.0

- *The Vicar of Amble Rev J.M. Gray sprained ankle in the lifeboat when the German bomber brought down Nov29 1939*

Please don't forget if you have 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 or by post c/o. Records Office, Wallace Green, Berwick upon Tweed TD15 1ED.

Yvonne Gallagher
Hon. Editor