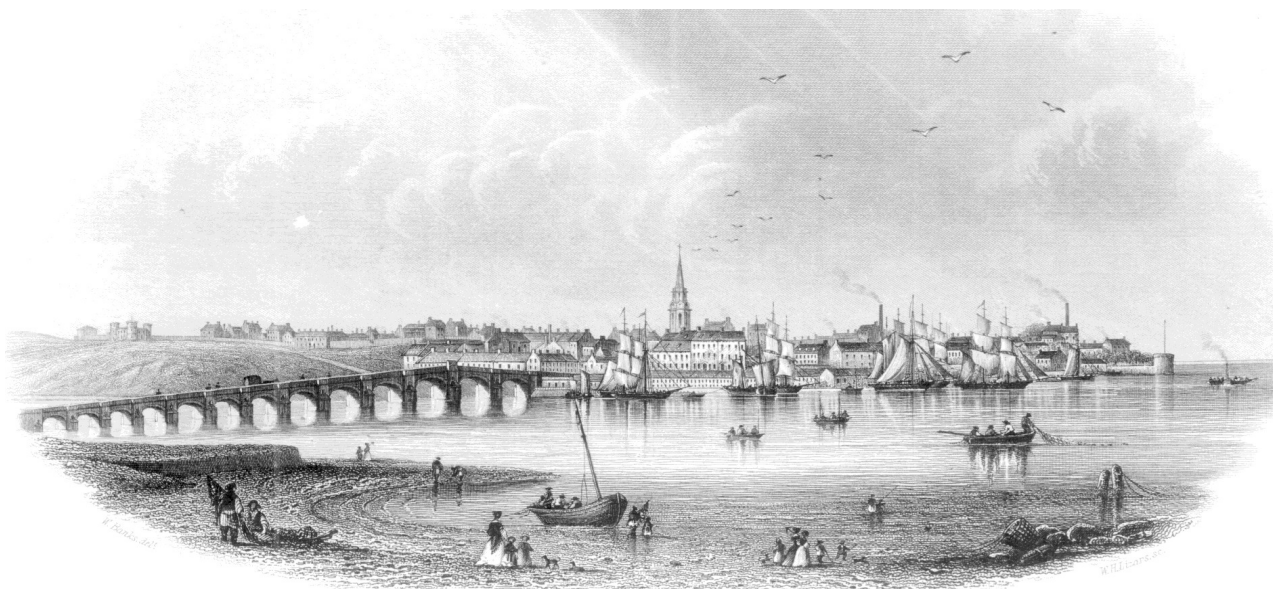


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 47 June 2005

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 21st July 2005

FRIENDS SUMMER HISTORIC WALK. Guided historic walk around the Walls by Francis Cowe. Meet at the end of Wallace Green at 7pm. Coffee & tea afterwards. All welcome

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th
September 2005

**EVE OF TRAFALGAR/ HERITAGE OPEN
DOORS WEEKEND**

Friday 28th October 2005

FRIENDS AUTUMN LECTURE – Fred Kennington. Fred's lecture on "Berwick Shops in the 1930s and before" which was postponed last year. 7pm start in the Guildhall.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Bowling Clubhouse.
p.m.

Time: 7.30

NO MEETINGS IN THE SUMMER

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd June

Evening Visit to Chatton Moor.

Wednesday 27th July

Evening visit to Bamburgh Dig.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: The Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

NO MEETINGS IN THE SUMMER

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick upon Tweed.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 6th June

Richard Lomas
(Replaces Club Members' Night)

Monday July 4th

Dr Robert Young - Historical
Village Atlas Project

Visitors fee £2.00

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 4th June

Field Trip to Hirsell House with
Lord David Home.

Thursday 4th July

Field Trip to Ayton House with the
Curator.

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

NO MEETINGS IN THE SUMMER

EMBLETON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Church Room, Embleton.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 21st September

AGM +speaker. (To be arranged)

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

NO MEETINGS IN THE SUMMER

NORHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue; Norham Village Hall.

Time; 7.30 p.m.

Monday 13th June

Norham Castle : Trevor Pearson

Monday 11th July

Trip to Manderston

Monday 12th September

Norham Railway : Mrs Cathy Short

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Parish Hall.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25th June

Members Outing.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (North Northumberland Group)

Black Bull, Lowick.

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Saturday 18th June

Family History of Clare: Ms Janet Clare-Dean

Saturday 17th September

To be arranged: Speaker Neil Richardson

THE AGM – AND BEYOND

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Friends on Friday 18th March went swimmingly, as usual. We had a goodly crowd of interested persons who voted in a new Chairman and approved the Committee. We all basked in the unstinting praise of our President, Lord Joicey. Gus Fairburn, as retiring Chairman, gave a colourful account of the work of the Steering Group of the Union of The Crowns 400 Project. He formally closed the group and Lord Joicey presented Derek Sharman, Project Leader, with a Fred Stott original of the Old Bridge. Linda and Chris gave a view of their work before and after the A.G.M. They both endorsed the hard work of the volunteers.

Shona Alexander, Director of Regeneration and Development, then gave an enthusiastic talk about her vision of the regeneration of Berwick entitled “Berwick Renaissance” – The Role of Heritage and Regeneration”. We wish her all the best. There was not a lot of information about the future of the Museum and Archives but it is such a nebulous subject to handle as there are so many “bodies” involved.

After the meeting finished there was much catching up to do and then, eventually, groups drifted away into the night. Yet again, a successful event for the Friends!

At our first Committee meeting we made some decisions which should make for the smoother running of F.B.D.M.A. business. We agreed all the dates for the coming year. Our diary is as follows:

COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT BERWICK RECORD OFFICE

Tuesday 7th June 10.30am

Tuesday 4th October 10.30am

Tuesday 10th January 10.30am

EVENTS

Thursday 21st July A walk around the Walls with Francis Cowe

Friday 28th October A talk by Fred Kennington

COMMITTEE

Chairman : Barbara Herdman

Vice Chairman : Gus Fairburn

Secretary : Lady Rose Crossman

Treasurer : Keith Wills

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Angela Darling, Yvonne Gallagher, Wendy B. Scott, Jim Shewan.

As you can see we are a small committee and are in need of new blood. If you would like to become a co-opted member please contact me on 01289 – 307524.

Barbara M. Herdman

ARCHIVE NEWS

Newsletter time seems to come round very quickly for me. I feel as if I only wrote something for the last one yesterday.

Needless to say, the Record Office has been busy with various projects and its general day to day work. I have been kept busy on my "public days" with lots of people coming in, mainly to trace their family tree or pursue other topics. It is interesting that we have had a number of academics in recently to look at some of the records – medieval title deeds and early 19th century businesses. Perhaps this means that people outside the area now realise that we exist !

Other than looking after the public, I have been involved in a number of projects over the past couple of months. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council have just set up a Designation Scheme for Archives whereby archives can apply for their collections to be officially recognised as of national significance. I have applied on behalf of the Berwick Borough Archives collection to see if we can receive this recognition. It was lot of work to complete the form by the beginning of April and we won't hear until September but keep your fingers crossed that we will be successful. There's no harm in trying !

As well as that, I have been involved in two Outreach Projects. This term Spittal First School is doing some work on Spittal in the Second World War and I have been helping them. Often people don't realise how much Spittal was affected by the War (see my article on some of the incidents) and so we are trying to help the children appreciate what happened and bring people into the classroom who have experienced it and talk to them. It is going well so far and if we get a grant, we are hoping to put on a small exhibition before the end of the summer term. I have also been work with the Maltings Youth Community Theatre on a project which will be part of the Eve of Trafalgar/Heritage Open Days weekend over the weekend 10/11 September. The teenagers are going to re-enact a crime which took place in Berwick in the early 1800s. I have provided them with three different court cases which were tried at Berwick and they have picked one of them to interpret and re-enact. As part of their preparation, they are going to come to the archives to look at the original source material and find out about life at the time. So, if you want to see the final product, come along that weekend. They will be acting one part of the production outside the Guildhall, the second part in the Old Gaol and the last part down at the Quayside. So, do come along and watch. They are very enthusiastic and it is great to see young people using archives and interpreting them in their own way.

The last couple of months have also been very busy with talks to various groups . I have spoken to the following groups on a variety of topics from the work of an archivist to the history of property – Branxton Village Hall; Berwick Inner Wheel; Friends of Berwick Parish Church; Norham Local History Society. I have also continued my links with Northumberland College, teaching another 5 week course on Family History and the Internet at Wooler.

Finally, on another note, I will be leaving the archives for awhile at the end of August to go on maternity leave. I will be coming back again but not until March 2006 (it sounds a lot way away at the moment). At present, I don't know if I will be replaced and what the arrangements for the Record Office will be but I will let you know in the next newsletter - I'll write my bit before I go !

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Over the past couple of months, the Record Office has purchased the following items which some of you may wish to consult :

General Register Indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1946 – 1955 on microfiche. The fiche for 1951 to 1955 have arrived but I'm still waiting for the ones in between.

1861 + 1871 Census CD Roms for Northumberland and Durham

Microfilms of the Berwick Advertiser and Berwick Journal – 1940 – 1945

Microfilms of the pre 1855 Old Parish Registers for Coldingham, Eyemouth and Fogo in Berwickshire

If you would like to consult any of these, they are available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.30 to 1.00 and 2.00 to 5.00.

EVE OF TRAFALGAR/ HERITAGE DOORS OPEN DAYS, 10TH & 11TH SEPTEMBER 2005 – HELP NEEDED

As part of this event, the Guildhall will be open from 10 to 4 on Saturday 10th September and 12 to 4 on Sunday 11th September. We hope to have a variety of exhibitions there, including some historical ones and the art work produced by the "Wicked Wednesday" sessions at the Maltings during the summer holidays which are based on the theme of the early 19th century.

It would greatly help me as I cannot guarantee that I would be able to be there much over the weekend (small baby permitting !), if the Friends could help "man" the Guildhall. So, if you have a few hours to spare on either of those two days and would be happy to help in some way , please contact Barbara Herdman (01289 307524). Many thanks.

SPITTAL DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

During the Second World War Spittal and Tweedmouth were bombed on a number of occasions in 1940 and 1941 leading to the devastation of a number of properties and the deaths of civilians. Their main target was Spittal Point with its various industry including the North of England Chemical Works but sadly they were not very accurate and it was the innocent who suffered. The following entries are taken from a North East War Diary, 1939 – 1945 which you can look at on the Internet (www.bpears.org.uk/NE-Diary) and are interspersed with some extracts from the Berwick Advertiser. If anyone has any first hand reminiscences of the various bombings of Spittal or life during the War in the area, please let me know. If you would like to write them down, I would be happy to have them here in the Archives :

Monday, 28th April 1941 D604

15.30.. Northumberland.. Enemy plane machine-gunned a ship in Amble Harbour. No casualties.

15.43.. Northumberland.. Spittal.. Aircraft machine-gunned gun site of 310 Coastal Battery, Royal Artillery. Four HE dropped. Two in sea. One exploded in the Mill of Johnson and Darling Ltd after passing through four gas-chambers in the North of England Chemical Works (Sandstell Road, Spittal). Fourth bomb on common between East Street and Main Street. One person seriously injured, fifteen suffered shock and cuts; all treated at Spittal First Aid Post. Nine taken to and detained at Berwick Infirmary. Damage to North of England Chemical Works, Johnson and Darling's Manure Works, J.J. Cunningham's Manure Works. Nine dwelling houses badly

damaged, seventy houses and seventeen shops with window and roof damage, nineteen other buildings damaged. Three windows broken at Spittal Police Station [NU0051].

Day 604. All times BST. Blackout ends: 05.04, begins: 21.04

Berwick Advertiser, 1 May 1941

FIRST EXPERIENCE OF ENEMY BOMBING North East Coast Town unperturbed by Incident. FEW CASUALTIES – ONLY ONE SERIOUS

Having undergone its first experience of enemy bombing, a small North East Coast holiday town recently emerged scathed but undaunted from its ordeal.

Coming in off the sea under the cover of cloud, the raider heralded its arrival with machine-gun fire as it swooped low over the town.

The German plane dropped bombs in quick succession, one of which landed in industrial premises, causing a few minor casualties amongst employees. Another bomb fell in a disused plot of ground

Some houses suffered heavily and a number of housewives were cut by flying glass as their windows were blown in.

Although the scene was one of devastation, housewives remained undaunted and speedily "went to it" with their brushes and shovels in an effort to clear the debris from their homes.

The most serious casualty of the raid was Mr Richard Hankinson, an ARP warden, who was standing in a garage when the bombing occurred. The force of the explosion threw Mr Hankinson into a corner of the garage, where he was buried under the wreckage. Mr Hankinson was quickly extricated and removed to hospital.

A seventy year old bed-ridden woman, Mrs Burns, also suffered along with her married daughter, Mrs Dixon, when their house was almost completely destroyed.

The incident did nothing to abash one small boy, who after viewing the damage, picked his way among the debris into a local barber's shop and with complete savoir faire called for a haircut. Although unable to comply with the request, the hairdresser showed that he was preparing for business as usual when he replied "Call tomorrow, Sonny "

A member of the defence services who was nearby told an Advertiser reporter how, when the plane opened fire with its machine guns, the bullets were whizzing past his head and he had to take cover. After the machine gunning had ceased he heard a loud explosion and, on going outside, got a good view of the plane which he identified as a Junker 88 flying at a height of about fifty feet. After dropping its bombs, the plane made off over the sea.

Mrs Ford, who resides only a few yards away from where one of the bombs landed and whose house was practically left without a window pane , told how she and some children had a narrow escape. They were standing in the doorway when they saw the plane coming in from the sea. As soon as it started machine-gunning she realised it was a German and hurriedly got the children inside the passage. Mrs Ford closed the door and made the children take cover behind it. Although all of the windows were smashed, her presence of mind saved the children from injury.

The large glass windows of a church were mostly destroyed and altogether between forty and fifty houses were affected.

ARP wardens, police, ambulance personnel and all other civil defence services deserve high praise for their speedy appearance on the spot to assist the injured.

Quite unperturbed by this incident, the people went about their business.

Members of repair squads performed yeoman service and long before dusk many of the houses had been restored to a habitable condition.

Three of the most unfortunate victims of the raid were Mr James Gray and family, who having been bombed out of their homes in the South of England, came to this town for peace and

quietness, but unfortunately they were also forced to abandon their present residence for the time being as it was badly shattered by the explosions.

Mr Gray is a native of the town and served in the Royal Navy during the Great War, after which he resided at Yarmouth, He is the son of the late Thomas Gray, the local poet....

Monday, 2nd/Tuesday, 3rd June 1941 N639

Enemy night action resulted in an attack on Berwick where seven people were killed. In another attack, Amble and Alnwick were raided.

23.41.. Northumberland.. Report of HEs dropped NE of Red Row. Believed to have been out at sea.

00.00.. Off Northumberland coast.. 'SS Royal Fusilier' (3000t) attacked at sea [NU342051], seven miles E of Amble. Ship developed list, Amble lifeboat called, fifteen of crew taken on lifeboat then put back on the ship. Ship then towed north by one of the two destroyers which were in attendance.

01.40.. Northumberland.. Three HEs between Howick Rectory and Howick End, Howick [NU2517]. Also three UXBs near road at Howick Rectory between Howick Road and Howick End. Road closed.

02.30.. Northumberland.. Four HEs Sunnyside Crescent, Spittal, [NU0051]. Early reports say seven children trapped in house. Twenty men of the King's Own Scottish Borderers sent by Lt Col Anderson to assist - not asked for but accepted. 1st bomb - direct hit on 7/9 Sunnyside Crescent. 2nd bomb - roadway outside 11/13 Sunnyside Crescent. 3rd bomb - direct hit on 40/42 Sunnyside Crescent. 4th bomb - gardens in front of 44/46 Sunnyside Crescent. Final figures eleven dead, ten injured and treated at Berwick First Aid Post, two of them sent to Berwick Infirmary. Five houses demolished, seven uninhabitable and evacuated, one hundred houses slightly damaged, some with roof and ceiling damage, others windows only. Report of final body recovered at 10.50.

00.01.. Hull.. Two small and two medium sized HEs were dropped in Park Grove, Cave Street, Blenheim Street, Marlborough Avenue and Margaret Street. Some domestic damage was done. This was Hull's fiftieth raid, and though it was small, it had most unfortunate results. The "Raiders Passed" signal had sounded, and people were making their way from shelters to their homes when the bombs dropped. The casualty list included, twenty-seven killed and eleven seriously injured, all killed and injured within minutes of thinking they were safe.

A Junkers Ju 88 A was shot down by a Hurricane, into the sea four miles NE of Tynemouth at 22.29. Two of the crew were killed and two were taken prisoner.

Night	639.	All	times	DST.	Blackout	begins:	23.34,	ends:	04.33
Public	Alert	(Newcastle	Warning	Dist):	22.17,	All-Clear:	22.34		
Public	Alert	(Newcastle	Warning	Dist):	23.50,	All-Clear:	01.03		
Public Alert (Hull Warning Dist): 22.30, All Clear: 23.55									

Berwick Advertiser, 5 June 1941

NIGHT VISIT OF ENEMY PLANE. FATAL CASUALTIES IN NORTH EAST COAST TOWN. MAGNIFICENT WORK BT SERVICES

In the early hours of Tuesday a North East Coast town had a surprise visit from a lone enemy raider who dropped some bombs right in the middle of a housing site, demolishing several of the houses and damaging others. There were several casualties, including some fatal ones and

one whole family was wiped out. There were many miraculous escapes and a pet budgerigar was got out of the ruins of one house safe and sound in his cage, apparently none the worse for the experience.

It was still dark at the time of the visit of the raider. The ARP Services were, however, early on the scene and their work was magnificent and within a few hours the fatal casualties were extricated, the minor casualties and shock cases had been taken to the First Aid Posts for attention, the Rest and Feeding Centre for the area had been opened and children were put to bed waiting for their breakfast.

The wrecked houses were just a mass of rubble and broken timber, the craters telling their own tale of the havoc wrought by the enemy. Neighbours were all anxious to help and thankful at their own good fortune to be alive. Normal activities were carried on, meals prepared and soon the morning delivery of rolls from a nearby bakery was welcomed AS just a matter of daily routine.....

The raid caused much damage, baths, beds and furniture of all kinds being scattered all over the place.

A WVS Mobile Canteen was soon on the spot supplying people with snacks. Hot tea supplied by householders was gratefully accepted by the men of the Rescue squads.

Much sympathy was felt for those who had been rendered homeless and to the relatives if those who had been killed.

Mr J.W. Wood whose house was only a few yards from where one of the bombs fell told a Press representative : "There was the sound of an enemy plane overhead. Shortly after I heard bombs screaming down. When they exploded the blast blew me completely over. I went out as quickly as I could and was on the scene rescuing the inhabitants of the nearby houses within three minutes "

The hero of the raid was a 67 year old man, Thomas Drummond, who was one of the first on the scene. He did a lot to get various people out from under the debris. He was assisted by Mr P.Lough...

A young lad, Frank Patterson, whose house was also badly damaged, was lying in bed at the time but slept through the whole incident. The first he knew of the raid was when his mother came and wakened him.

Mr J. Patterson who is 80 years old, heard the plane coming over very low. He heard the swish of the bombs as they fell and saw the flash as they struck the ground. The next thing he knew was that part of the ceiling and part of the roof had fallen. Two large bricks were lying near him and glass was scattered all over the floor.

Mrs Patterson and her daughter who were lying in a box bed downstairs when the bombs dropped, were saved from injury from splinters and shrapnel by the box sides of the bed.

Mr J. Wilson said that everything happened so quickly that no one knew exactly what was happening. He said that he heard the bombs falling. He lay down and hoped for the best.

Mr & Mrs Frank Anderson heard the enemy plane coming so low that the sound of the engines shook the house. They heard the bombs falling and jumped. When the bombs fell part of the ceiling of their house fell in and their daughter who was in the next room screamed. On looking into the room, they found a large part of the roof had been carried away and a large coping stone was lying on the floor quite near her.

Sunday, 3rd/Monday, 4th August 1941 N701

There were a few minor incidents on the North and North-East Coasts, but only at Spittal near Berwick was any damage done. Four houses and a shop were destroyed and one hundred houses and a church damaged.

00.28.. Northumberland.. Two HEs Main Street, Spittal [NU005519]. Six dead (two men, three women and one boy). Two bodies thrown over 100 yards. Three seriously injured (one man, two women) (two severe shock and one compound fracture of the leg) to Berwick Infirmary. Eight others (four men, three women and one boy) attended Spittal First Aid Post. 9 and 9A Main

Street demolished, three others to be demolished, twelve dwelling houses temporarily uninhabitable, one hundred dwelling houses damaged. Three Public Houses damaged (Red Lion severely damaged). Severe damage to Allan's Garage. Windows and doors of St Paul's Presbyterian Church blown in. Doors blown off mills of Johnson and Darling, East Street, Spittal. Roofs of J.J. Cunningham, East Street damaged by blast. The siren had not sounded, which was causing concern among a number of people. Report of UXB in Gibsons Row - large evacuation - report later discredited.

23.55.. Co Durham.. Five HEs were dropped in fields at High Stotfield Farm, Elwick causing no casualties or damage. One, which was 25' from the Sunderland - Stockton road failed to explode.

Night 701. All times DST. Blackout begins: 23.06, ends: 05.19

Thursday, 7th/Friday, 8th August 1941 N705

23.33.. Northumberland.. Five HEs North side of Ryal [NZ010747]. (Moatlaw Farm, Ryal Village), Four in grass fields, one in wheat field. No damage or casualties.

23.35.. Northumberland.. One HE reported at Pegswood - no confirmation.

03.40.. Northumberland.. Two HEs Askew Crescent, Tweedmouth. (Junction Billendean Road/North Road). A fourteen year old girl, killed (head injuries), two slightly injured (one man, one woman). All persons accounted for.

04.15.. Northumberland.. Tweedmouth.. One house destroyed, one badly damaged, thirty damaged. Gas, water, electricity supplies damaged. Billendean Road blocked. Two Naval Patrol boats in Tweedmouth Dock opened fire with machine-guns at an enemy plane, which then attempted to bomb the boats.

Night 705. All times DST. Blackout begins: 22.58, ends: 05.26

Sunday, 4th January 1942 D855

10.50.. Tweedmouth.. Four died, five injured, one seriously at Station Cottages, Tweedmouth during a daylight attack with HE and machine-guns. Railway lines were damaged and water, gas and electricity supplies affected.

Day 855. All times BST. Blackout ends: 09.01, begins: 17.21

Tuesday, 20th January 1942 D871

12.05.. Northumberland.. Berwick.. Bombs at Spittal wrecking two houses and damaging twenty others, six of them badly. Damage was done to gas, water mains and telephone wires. The chemical works of Johnstone and Darling suffered considerably. There were six casualties, three of them fatal.

Day 871. All times BST. Blackout ends: 08.47, begins: 17.47

Tuesday, 10th/Wednesday, 11th February 1942 N892

Tweedmouth.. One enemy plane penetrated inland in Northumberland where bombs were dropped at Tweedmouth. Some houses were damaged and three people injured. There was also a temporary suspension of traffic on the LNER line.

Night 892. All times BST. Blackout begins: 18.31, ends: 08.09

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

THE BIG EVENTS OF 2005

This year is turning into a particularly busy one for the Museum. After the great successes of the *Union of the Crowns* project we are off on two new quests, to explore Berwick's maritime heritage and to recount Berwick's role in the Second World War. Both these projects are supported by generous grants from outside bodies totalling over £48,000.

Tales of the Sea

First underway is Berwick's contribution to the national SeaBritain celebrations marking the 200th. anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. Regionally museums have got together with the North East Museum Hub to raise grants to stage events. Our own Jim Herbert had the honour of designing the SeaBritain North East logo and the whole project has been a model of co-operative efficiency. In Berwick the first event to open has been the joint-exhibition at the Main Guard, organised in co-operation with the Civic Society. The Museum has produced an account of ***Maritime Berwick*** from earliest times up to the mid-18th century, and from the 1820s to the present. The intervening period is covered in more detail in the associated exhibition ***Berwick at the Time of the Napoleonic Wars*** produced by Civic Society chairman Philip Miller.

The next part of the project will be a summer exhibition at the Museum itself opening on 25th.July entitled the ***Wonderful Undersea World of Dr. Johnston***. This is a evocation of the imagination of the Museum's effective founder Dr. George Johnston, who died in 1855. Dr. Johnston was a pioneer in marine biology and what we intend to do is to combine some serious exhibits showing his work and contribution to science in his 150th anniversary year, with what he might recall of the marine fictions of his age – Coleridge's poem of the *Ancient Mariner*, tales of pirate treasure grottoes and especially accounts of sea monsters. Aimed at a family audience it will run until the end of September and there will be a private view from Friends, the first we have been able to stage for many years, due to budget cuts.

The third major part of our SeaBritain festival will be focused around the weekend of ***Heritage Doors Open Day*** on 10th and 11th September. To add period colour and action to the fascinating group of buildings not normally open to the public, the Museum has commissioned Derek Sharman to plan an ***Eve of Trafalgar Weekend***. Several bands of historical re-enactors have been engaged to play out scenes of Berwick as it might have been in the momentous years around 1805. There will be guards at the Main Guard and powder barrels moved once again from the Magazine. Canon and musket will boom out across the river, and recruiting parties and press gangs will roam the streets looking for potential victims. A military encampment will be set up on Palace Green, and in the ice houses on Bankhill and Quay Walls there will be more re-creations, with a dramatic presentation by members of Berwick Youth Project at the latter venue. A centre-piece of the activity will be the Town Hall with exhibitions and a recreation of a trial staged by members of the Maltings Youth and Junior Theatres. The Barracks will be open free of charge during the weekend and in the Gymnasium Gallery there

will a selection of Jim Walker's photographs of the salmon fishing industry. This is but a curtain raiser for a major showing of Jim's photographs in the Gymnasium during October. The suspension of the Gymnasium Visual Arts Fellowships means that the Gymnasium has become again available for exhibitions aimed at a wider audience than has been possible up to now. Some details still have to be worked out, but the plan is to show a combination of images from three of Jim Walker's previous exhibitions *Wake for the Salmon?*, *Secret Berwick* and *Remembering Walls*. The last of these exhibitions was originally staged in the Gymnasium and it will be excellent to see the pictures return there. But we do need to call upon the Friends to revisit a role that was originally theirs in the early days of the Gymnasium Gallery, that of stewards. This is an extra show slipped into the programme to take advantage of the unexpected opportunity, so volunteer help to keep it open to the public is essential.

Berwick at War

The other strand of our activities this year is to mention the war rather a lot. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the ending of the War, another national project entitled ***Their Past, Your Future*** has been launched by the Imperial War Museum. This takes the form of a travelling exhibition and a large grant to stage war related activities. The travelling exhibition will go into the Gymnasium in November and will join our own ***Berwick at War*** show that will be in place in time for Remembrance Sunday. The ***Berwick at War*** exhibition is an on-going project throughout the year. A portion has already been shown in the Town Hall as part of the Mayoress' Charity event on 2nd May. But this was just the start, more or less re-staging Derek Sharman's Main Guard exhibition from 1995. Now with help from the grant we can undertake more research, record more memories and gather more exhibits and photographs. We are combining this research effort with another project Linda is assisting on Spittal at War and together the two should provide a valuable collection of material for a booklet, education pack and CD-ROM to be distributed free to schools. A second part of the project will be a drama on the subject of Berwick's memories of war staged by the Community Theatre at the Maltings in the first few days of February next year. So we are on the hunt for material, if we have memories of the period, or objects or photos relating, or know of people that do, let Linda or myself know. This is the best chance we have of getting it all recorded and published to inform the upcoming and future generations that not all wars are fought in 'far away lands of which we know little', but were once at least, right here, beside the sea.

Chris Green

CHILLINGHAM SOUVENIRS

Chris Green's article in the last Newsletter coincided with research I had been doing on the Brand papers in the Archives. By the 1870s, Brands were already well established in Wooler as bookseller, bookbinder, newsagent, stationer, and seller of fancy goods. Although the surviving day books only record sales to local people who paid their bills quarterly, it is clear, even from them, that souvenirs of one sort or another formed a significant part of their stock in trade. The books for 1870 make several references to the sale of 'Fancy wood' items, as the wooden souvenir ware, now generally called Mauchline Ware, was then described. The following year the trade seems to have become more specialised with an emphasis on the sale of items made of 'Flodden Wood'. These were almost certainly the special Mauchline pieces claimed to be made of wood grown on Flodden field and produced specifically for A.C Robb of Coldstream, whose imprint they bear. Presumably the Brands had made some agreement with

the Robbs to retail them. There would be more profit however, if they could find their own niche market. The attention which the Prince of Wales' visit brought to Chillingham, probably provided inspiration, although there was a necessary time lag to get the relevant transfer plates engraved and secure a supply of Chillingham wood dried for use. In February 1875 there is the first reference to the sale of 'A Chillingham Album' for 5/-; this was followed in May by the sale of 29 Chillingham wood articles to John Riddell for the grand sum of 14/6. Many of the pieces, like the one illustrated showed the Chillingham cattle, but Brands also decorated Chillingham wood items with transfers of local houses such as Fowberry Towers and Fenton.

Jane Bowen



EXTRACTS FROM NORHAM KIRK SESSION MINUTES 1753 – 1759

The following are extracts from the Norham Kirk Session minute book. It is the earliest Kirk Session minute book which we have for the north of the County and illustrates how strict the Presbyterian Church was with its members at the time.

12th November 1754

It was represented that John Winterup had in Norham in about the month of September did upon the Sabbath Day Desperately strike his Mistress's son on the Head and wounded him sore; he being called in compeared and he being interrogate thereon owned that thereby he had dishonoured God and offended his brethren.

9th December 1755

William Yeoman a member of this Session was charged by the Session for making some Distinguishing appearance in Point of Gesture last Lord's Day Relative to a certain Note in Mr. Balantine's sermon & being examined thereon he acknowledged that his conduct was of a bad tendency and so not conform to that suitable Exercise of spirit Required in hearing the Word upon which he was admonished against such conduct for the Future add to all this the Session saw fit to express their dissatisfaction with some of the expressions anent Mr. Balantine's Doctrine.

10th January 1757

There compeared before Session William Dunbar & John Gotraw (members of the Congregation) and confessed that they were guilty of promiscuous Dancing and that they had Dishonoured God and offended their brethren whereupon the Session judged that they should

be admonished to be more watchful for the future which accordingly was done by the moderator.

5th February 1758

There compeared before the Session Thomas Alder and confessed that he had sinned against God and offended his Brethren in Staying overlong at the water in the Saturday Night buying a Fish it being the Sabbath morning or he came away for which the Session agreed he should be admonished to be more watchfull for the Future which was accordingly done by the moderator.

2nd April 1758

There compeared the Session William Landels and confessed that he had Pulled and carried Home some Turnips on a Fast day when he was a member of the Associate Congregation of Dunse and that thereby he had dishonoured God and offended his Brethren for which the Session agreed he should be rebuked.

5th April 1758

It was reported by a member of this Session that Thomas Young a member of this Congregation had been Guilty of several very irregular Practices; such as a Breach of a Fast held in this Congregation by shaving himself upon that day, and that before some members of another congregation in the secession. And also of encouraging and Countenancing Lottery in the drawing of Figures at the Cock-fighting among his Scholars: and also of several very unguarded Expressions offensive to many and inconsistent with his former profession. ----- He also not appearing the Session agree that he is to considered a person under Scandal, incapable of receiving sealing ordinances ay and untill he give Satisfaction for his conduct .

7th May 1758

There compeared before the session Jane Short and confessed that she had Apostatized from the Lord's Cause and Testimony in going to hear the English Service performed at Newcastle when she was at the Infirmary there and also since in hearing one of the dissenting ministers Examine. The Session agreed she should be rebuked & admonished to be more watchfull of her practice for the Future.

23rd November 1760

There Compeared Jane Short and confessed that She had heard a minister of the Established Church of Scotland three several Sabbath Days

16th June 1765

At the same time Jean Short being called and Compeared before the session for going to hear a minister in the Established Church of Scotland for which she owned that she did. The Session agreed that she should be rebuked before them and Exhorted to more Steedfastness for the time coming which was done accordingly by the moderator.

23rd July 1758

There compeared also before the Session Jean Alexander and Ninion Brown who before the Session accused the said Jean Alexander of having spread a report upon him of his being Guilty of undecent behaviour in Walking unbecomingly with a Lass upon the Sabbath day which she acknowledged she did upon invalid Information for which the Session agreed that she should be admonished to be more tender of the character of her Brethren for the Future which was accordingly done by the moderator.

5th November 1758

There compeared before the Session Thomas Huntley and after he was much dealt with concerning what sense he had of his unbecoming conversation in being Guilty of promiscuous

dancing and of Gaming & rambling at a Lykewake the Session finding that altho' he confessed he was wrong in one word in so doing, yet he seemed to Justify his practice in another. Wherefore the Session agreed to delay the Affair until they should see more Evidence of his sorrow & Repentance & in the mean time to be admonished and Exhorted to lay the matter seriously before the Lord.

19th February 1759

There compeared before the Session A member of the Society of Thorntown and Accused James Brown a member of this Society of several Sinful Practices, viz. His keeping company in His House all the Night who were employed in drinking and promiscuous dancing, and of his Countenancing them therein ; 2nd also of his having drawn some Pyes from the Oven upon the Sabbath day 3rd of his having Sworn by the Devil once & again. James being called Compeared, & being interrogate, acknowledged his Sin and Sorrow in all these particulars, but the Session found upon Examination, the 2nd of these Charges to be alleviate from the Consideration of his having discharged any Pyes to be left in the Oven after the Saturday Night, but that He was necessitate to draw them Least they should be Lost.

1st July 1759

John Lermont being called compeared (of whom it was reported to the Session that He had consulted with a Fortune Teller and Enticed others so to do Likewise as also that He frequented Ale Houses and had been Guilty of Excessive drinking). He being interrogate whether He owned himself Guilty and professed his Sorrow for the same upon which the session agreed that He should be rebuked before them which was accordingly done by the moderator.

4th December 1759

There compeared Walter Henderson a member of Session who confessed that he had taken the Constable Oath after the English Form both the Last year and this. The Session dealt with Him at some considerable Length as to the sinfulness of said practice.

Myra Johnson

CHOLERA IN BERWICK - 1849 – From the pages of the Union Minute Books

There had been several outbreaks of cholera within the Berwick upon Tweed Union in 1848, particularly in and around Norham where a special Cholera Hospital had been rented.

In September 1849 however, there were fresh outbreaks in Cornhill and Berwick, resulting in Dr. Kirkwood, the Berwick Medical Officer declaring that 'Extraordinary Medical Aid was now required in the Berwick district'. At that time he and the Medical Officers for the other Districts 'were empowered to procure from the Druggists such Medicines as may be required for necessitous persons attacked by Cholera or by premonitory Symptoms.'

At an Extraordinary Board of Guardians' Meeting on the 28th of September further action was taken.

'The following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

- 1st Resolved that the Members of the Medical profession be requested to meet and deliberate on the means of preventing or more effectively mitigating the outbreak or diffusion of cholera and to communicate the result of their deliberation to the Board.

- 2^d Resolved that the Dispensary with its appliances of beds, clothing, warmth and attendance be considered during the prevalence of cholera an Hospital for those attacked, the condition of whose dwellings may require their Removal.
- 3^d Resolved that a House of refuge be provided for the Inhabitants of houses when cholera has appeared until cleansing, whitewashing, and fumigation be affected.
- 4th Resolved that the Butchers be warned that the slaughter of cattle except in the slaughter houses appointed for that purpose will not be permitted as the flow of blood &c in the Kennels, the deposit of offal in the premises is certain to create and spread disease and that the non-compliance with this resolution will render them amenable to the penalties imposed by the General Board of Health.
- 5th Resolved that all pigsties be subject to the authority of the Inspector of Nuisances and the Parish Surgeon and all those the condition of which in their opinion, is prejudicial to the Public Health be forthwith removed.'

At the beginning of October the Guardians followed this by instituting a house to house visitation in both Berwick and Tweedmouth. Following this, on the 15th of October Dr. Kirkwood reported to the Guardians that 'the following Streets, lanes, and places are in a state prejudicial to Health and require more frequent and Effectual cleansing by way of Precaution against disease viz. Walkergate Lane, Chapel Street, Narrow Lane, Weatherby Square, Crawford's Alley, Hatters Lane, Ness, Foulford, and some parts of the Greenses.'

By the beginning of November, the worst of the epidemic was passed and a Report to the Board of Guardians listed 24 deaths and 13 recoveries from the disease.

Cholera Report September 1st to October 14th

Recoveries			Deaths		
Name	Age	Residence	Name	Age	Residence
John Smith	35	Chapel Street	— Lindsay	36	Scott's Place
James Craig	40	Well Close Square	Mrs. Nichol	27	Greenses
— McDonald	35	Chapel Street	John Duff	60	Parade
Wm. Whitehead	11	Hattles Yard, Castlegate	Wm. McDonald	68	do
George Bryers	9	Wallaces Green	John McDonald	58	do
Mrs Buxwell		Western Lane	Richard Knight	54	Narrow Lane
" Buxwell		Do	Richard Knox	38 Chapel Street	Chapel Street
" Brown	40	Chapel Street	Jas. Cook	19	do
James Colvin	8	Weatherly Square	—Garrett		do
Anthony Colvin	10	Do	Alice Robertson	30	Workhouse
—Garrett	40	Black Bull Yard	—Strachan	80	do

John Manwell		Greens	Mrs Horne	60	Castlegate
Thomas Unthank		Western Lane	—Grieve		Narrow Lane
			Mrs. Brotherton		Ravensdowne
			Mrs. Cleghorn	26	do
			Nun Hunter	70	Wallace Green
			Mrs Howe	36	Hatters Lane
			John Connolly	36	Wallace Green
			George Cleghorn	23	Forster Square
			Mrs Cleghorn	65	do
			John Cleghorn	29	do
			Eliz th . Cleghorn	23	do
			Agnes Cleghorn	19mnn	Workhouse
			Mrs Burn		Wallace Green

Jane Bowen

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

January 12th 1850

MORPETH GAOL MATRON WANTED

To take charge of the female Prisoners in the above Gaol. Salary £50 a year, with Furnished Apartments in the Prison, Fuels, Candles, Washing etc.

Applications with Testimonials, under Cover, addressed to the Clerk of the Peace, to be forwarded to the Gaol on or before the 6th day of February next, with the word “MATRON” written on the cover.

By order, Wm.DICKSON, Clerk of the Peace. Clerk of the Peace’s Office. Moot Hall, Newcastle. 8th January 1850.

July 5th 1851

TEA

A very Superior BLACK TEA at 4 shillings per lb. DODD’S Celebrated MIXTURE of BLACK and GREEN TEAS at 4 shillings per lb.

To those who enjoy a cup of really good rich tea, the above are particularly recommended. DODD’S TEA WAREHOUSE, BERWICK UPON TWEED.

October 4th 1851

**SMEARING, BATHING AND DIPPING MATERIALS FOR SHEEP.
ROBERT BROWN, DUNSE.**

Has on hand the following MATERIALS of the BEST QUALITY, at Moderate Prices.

ARCHANGEL TAR	FOREIGN GREASE BUTTER.
BROWN SPIRITS TAR.	RECTIFIED GREASE BUTTER.
TOBACCO	TOBACCO PAPER
SOFT SOAP IN whole or half firkins.	
PALM OIL.	WHALE OIL.
SPIRITS TURPENTINE.	CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE.
Etc.	Etc.

Agent for Smith of Denstone's PATENT SHEEP DIP, also Agent for BIGG'S SHEEP and LAMB DIPPING COMPOSITION, the best Article for the purpose in use.

Dunse 3rd October 1851.

Muriel Fraser

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Have a nice summer everyone and if it does rain you can always spend a few happy hours in the record office or visit the museum (It is free for F.B.D.M.A.members!) or you could even write a short article for the next Newsletter!!

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.

Yvonne Gallagher
Hon. Editor