



Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 50 April 2006

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5th June – Friday 30th
June 2006

“Facades of the Fifties” – exhibitions at
various locations in Berwick – see article

Thursday 22nd June 2006

Launch of Bondington Project , Phase 2 in
William Elder Building, Castlegate

Friday 21st July – Sunday
1st October 2006

“Tales from the East : From Aladdin to Zen
at Berwick Borough Museum & Art Gallery

Saturday 29th & Sunday
30th July 2006

Bondington Weekend in the Nunnery Field
at the top of Castle Terrace

Saturday 9th & Sunday
10th September

“War with Russia” and Doors Open
weekend in Berwick – further information in
the Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Members,

Isn't it wonderful that we've reached our 50th edition of the newsletter? Our President, Lord Joicey, has often said it's a highlight of the day when the F.B.D.M.A Newsletter appears. I think we can all agree with him. It gives us huge insight into life in times gone by and shows us how our towns and villages are shaped by the past.

We can also affirm how lucky we are to have an archivist like Linda and a curator like Chris who dedicate so much of their time to promoting the history of the area and to encouraging young and old to investigate their roots.

A great big thank you to all who have helped in any way to ensure a first class and enduring Newsletter. Here's to the next 50!

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Herdman (Chairman)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let me admit that I do sometimes worry, though I never seriously fret, over the title of our group. It's too long to say it in full, and the letters FBDMA don't lend themselves to an easy acronym. The simplest version is, of course, something that sounds all too similar to "Forbid Ma" - which in turn sounds like a crossword clue.

On the occasion of the 50th edition of the Newsletter, I should like to announce an **Anniversary Competition**, for a five-word phrase, the words starting with the letters F, B, D, M and A, which best describes the activities of the group. The Archivist and the Curator shall be the judges, and I will present a couple of bottles of good wine to the adjudged winner.

For the moment, all I can offer are the five adjectives which, from my point of view, characterise FBDMA and all its activities.

Friendly **B**usy **D**evoted **M**otivated **A**ctive

Each edition of the Newsletter (for many folk, the most interesting magazine in the locality) brings us more details of the talks and lectures on the history, the archaeology, the architecture, the genealogy and the heritage of North Northumberland. There is thriving interest in all of

these, and it is a privilege for the group to be able to assist the Archivist and the Curator in so many different ways.

The 50th edition of the Newsletter is a real milestone, and I would like to offer warmest congratulations to all concerned in its production over the years.

The 51st edition will reveal the winner of the **Anniversary Competition**, so put your creative thought processes to work, and submit your entries to: the Editor, FBDMA Newsletter, c/o The Borough Archivist, Wallace Green, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1ED, to arrive by end of June 2006.

With best wishes
James Joicey, President

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

If you have not renewed your subscription, you will receive a renewal form with this newsletter. Those who do not renew their membership will not receive the next newsletter. Membership of the Friends is great value for money, so please renew and persuade some of your friends to join as well ! Remember you also get free entry to the Borough Museum and Art Gallery as a Friend.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Bowling Clubhouse. Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 26th April Visit to Mellerstain House.

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Wed. 26th April The Golden Age of Northumbria :
Mrs A. Sweatman.

Wed. 24th May. The Haunted Borders: Mr N. McLeish.

Wed. 28th June. Visit to Chillingham Barns by kind permission of Mr & Mrs D. Thompson.

Wed. 26th July Visit to Dodd Law with Mr T. Braidford.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

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

No meetings until October

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

No dates available

Visitors fee £2.00

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Thurs. 4th May. RCAHMS Images of the Eastern Borders : David Easton

Thurs. 1st June. Field Trip to Chillingham Castle

Thurs 6th July 2006 Field Trip : Flodden Walk with James Bell.

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

No meetings until September

EMBLETON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Wed. 17th May 2006 Master Mariners and Shipowners : Mr N. Richardson.

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

No Meetings until September

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Dates not available

NORHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue; Norham Village Hall.

Time; 7.30 p.m.

Mon 8th May 2006

Ladykirk : Dr G.A.C. Binnie.

Mon. 12th June 2006

A Visit to Coldingham Priory with lecture by
Mr Rory McDonald (Scottish Borders council)

Mon 11th September 2006

Dickinson the Norham Naturalist :
Mrs Muriel Woodward.

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Parish Hall.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 24th May 2006

Members Evening.

June 2006

Members Outing.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

(North Northumberland Group)

Black Bull, Lowick.

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Sat. 20th May 2006

Work of the County Conservation Team and
An Introduction to the Keys of the Past Project:
Ms Sara Rushton.

Sat 17th June 2006

Captain Wood and His Mysterious Tablet :
Dr John Ferguson.

Sat.16th September 2006

Newcastle : Ann Robinson

ARCHIVE NEWS

It seems a long time since I last sat down in my office to write something for the newsletter. As you can all gather by now, I have returned to work after my maternity leave – where did it go ? I have not come back full time but am working 3 ½ days a week which I am enjoying. It's lovely to see all my regulars again on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Well, what has been happening in the Archives since I last wrote – quite a lot. Firstly, although I have returned to work, Ian Johnston, my replacement, has stayed on for a bit to do some Records Management work for the Council. He leaves at the end of April to take up a permanent post at Salford University where he will be setting up an archive – the same challenge I took up when I started here. I'm sure you would agree that Ian has done a great job of looking after the archives and all the people who use the service in my absence. I wish him well in his new job.

Although I haven't officially been here over the past few months, I have been involved in a number of archive projects. The Spittal at War project is just about finished and we will officially launch the children's book in early May. This has been a really enjoyable project and it would be great if I could do some similar work with another school.

You may remember that I mentioned we attended a "School Gate" event in Tweedmouth Middle School in November. In March, a similar event was held at St Mary's First School. This time, Ian, Carole and myself went along and had a very successful afternoon introducing young children (5 to 9) to archives. We took along a number of different activities – family tree sheets to complete; design your own family shield and looking at old maps and photographs. Parents came along as well . We all found it very enjoyable and the children had a good introduction to archives – it is so important to get them interested when they are young.

I have also been involved in preparations for some events later on in the year – Facades of the Fifties (see later article) ; War with Russia; work with the Old Parish of Bamburgh group who have been awarded a Heritage Lottery grant. There's lots happening in the next six months !

POSTSCRIPT TO THE PHOTOGRAPH IN THE LAST ISSUE

In the last newsletter, we published a photograph of a hunting scene with a plea for someone to identify the building. Thanks to our members, we have now identified the building – it is the county building in Greenlaw, Berwickshire. The building is still there but is not in use. Claire was able to add the following information about the photograph when it was identified :

According to a newspaper article in the Milfield scrapbook George Grey hunted for 4 years with his father George Annett Grey , 2 years with Mr Lambton , then 4 years with the Berwickshire Hunt . There are lists of hounds and their masters pasted into the book. The Berwickshire ones are dated 1881 and 1891. But the hounds list pasted next to the photo was for the Glendale hounds and undated.

LETTER TO MR CULLEY FROM HENRY COLLINGWOOD SELBY

Collingwood Thompson brought in the following letter that Henry Collingwood Selby sent to his friend, Mr Culley of Coupland Castle. The letter talks about his imminent visit. I'm not sure if I would like to have him as a guest !

Swansfield Sunday
Afternoon 26th Octr. 1828

Dear Culley,

I take ye Opportunity of My Architect Mr Smith going to Shotton tomorrow, to write you a few lines too acquaint You with my plan of Operations. I leave home for Belford, to visit Clark & his family, on Sunday the 2d Novr., he goes with me the next day 3d to Holy Island where we shall remain all that day & night. The next day, viz: Tuesday the 4th: I will come to Coupland Castle, and take some food with you before it be quite dark in the afternoon and of course take a bed at ye Castle. You will, I am sure give me what I like most and that is a fresh Trout, a Mutton Chop & a pancake, which if in the larder, are all prepared & cooled in 20 Minutes. On the next day, Wednesday, I purpose taking an Inspecimus of our College Bridge when I shall hope to find it completely finished, particularly the cradling and wood & Stone penning under the Main Arch, and paving with large & long stones under the other Arches of ye Bridge; & the Coping Stones on the Bridge filled up with small stones & Roman Cement, in the manner pointed out by me to Mr Balmer, to whom pray give Notice to be in attendance at ye Bridge on Wednesday the 5th in the forenoon about 11: That we may then judge a little if anything & what remains to be done to compleat ye bridge.

I have got abot: £16 of the pound & Ga subscriptions, & expect to get the Remainder of those in our present lists when I go to Pawston on the 5th Novr.. I pray you not to forget to lay hold of some Cash from your Scotch friends, now that the Bridge is passable for Carriages – for severl. Of them when applied to at the beginning said they would not subscribe until the bridge was actually erected. I have written a pretty strong letter to Mr Boague ye Tenant of Kilham for his Subscription. To ye Bridge in lieu of Mr M's. . What beautiful Weather We have ! I wish it may Continue for another month. I hope you will not think that Unreasonable. In haste all last I am ever truly your's

H.C. Selby

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

This year promises to be busier for the Museum if anything than last year. In July is the first part of our contribution to the regional Festival of World Cultures. This is an exhibition entitled ***Tales from the East: From Aladdin to Zen***. This will trace, in 26 sections, the eastern origins of a lot of our western stories and cultural forms. I always like the idea, when doing exhibitions, of leading the visitor from the known to the unknown and familiar stories such as Aladdin can be a useful lead in to more detailed consideration of Eastern culture. We will be using the Museum's eastern collection in a new way and will be putting in a lot of interactive things for families.

Rearranging the eastern items will free up some space in the galleries to get out some items from store not seen for a while. This will be accompanied be a general upgrading of our labelling and more information boards about the collection. The one message that emerged loud and clear from last summer's visitor survey was that the public expected to see more information in the galleries. This is needed in Window on Berwick as much as in the Burrell galleries and so we will be focusing on how to do this effectively without spoiling the gutsy look of Window on Berwick and making it look too much like a 'Museum' in the dull sense. The public in the outside world also needs to have access to more info and this year will see the launch of a new **web presence** for the Museum. If all goes well there will be space for information about Berwick's history as well as catalogues of the collection and the museum reference libraries.

Long-running research efforts should also come to completion this year with the publication of the first of a number of **Museum booklets**. First off will be Phil Rowett's new history of *Berwick at War*. Building on Derek Sharman's booklet published by the Museum in 1995 the new work will contain a flood of extra information and some illustrative material gathered during the research for the various exhibitions held on the War during 2005. There will also be some images new discovered in the Imperial War Museum which were not included in any of the exhibitions.

Another booklet we intend to publish in association with the Tourist Information Centre is *Berwick People and Stories: A Historical A-Z* which will gather into a convenient alphabetical layout a lot of my research over the last six or seven years into Berwick characters and incidents. The range is from ancient times till the 20th.Century.

Finally an advance mention of the big theme for the latter part of the year: Berwick's famous '**War with Russia**'. It is 150 years since the signing of the Treaty of Paris which ended the Crimean War and which, so the story goes, left out Berwick-upon-Tweed, thus leaving the town (always cited in Acts of Parliament) still at war with the Evil Empire. To mark this quirky anniversary the Museum and Record Office are hosting a number of events, especially over the weekend of 9th and 10th.September. There will be an exhibition in the Guildhall, the visit of a Victorian sailing ship and living history re-enactments, hopefully including a skirmish between Berwickers and Russians. More information in the next newsletter.

Chris

Green

ASPECTS OF BERWICK'S CULTURAL HISTORY

Literary Heroes and Heroines in Berwick

As part of my ongoing research to update the Museum's coverage of Berwick history I am now undertaking a serious search for Berwick references in the electronic database *Eighteenth Century Books On-Line* which I mentioned in the *Newsletter* back in October 2004 (issue 44). To cut down the endless repeats of the legal formula which separately mentions Berwick I am taking one subject area at a time starting with 'Language and Literature'. A full text search reveals 1386 publications with references to Berwick. Of course some of turn out to be North Berwick, Berwickshire, Berwick Street, The Duke of Berwick and the Rev Berwick but a surprising number do mean Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Having now looked at 230 of the 1386 references I find the real Berwick references fall into three broad categories, the first, and by far and away the most common, is what I am going to call the 'Berwick Proverb' – but I'm not going to say more about that now, as I will be writing an article about in the future – see if you can guess in the meantime. The second is Berwick irregular marriages. Some popular novelists in the 18th century seem to use running away to Berwick to get married as a convenient and dramatic plot device for their heroines. Mrs Agnes Bennett's *Juvenile Indiscretions* (1785), a novel in 5 volumes, has Miss Elton a "young and thoughtless heiress" eloping to Berwick though her heart "...wanted the animation of passion to gloss over the indelicacy of the act she was now guilty of". A decade earlier in Sophia Briscoe's *The Fine Lady* (1772) the news is conveyed by a letter sent from Berwick, beginning "Urged by you I have taken a hasty step – the grave-ones may call it a rash one". In neither case are the ceremonies described as the mere mention of the location is sufficient to proclaim what deed has been done.

The third group of Berwick references are varied mentions of the town in poems, plays and the subscription lists of books. One of the more remarkable that struck me immediately was in two translations by William Huggins (1755) and John Hoole (1783) of Lodovico's Ariosto's huge and famous epic poem *Orlando Furioso* (1532). Huggins' edition is a parallel text with Italian and English side-by-side. The last two lines of Canto IV/53 read:-

"Ed al nocchio comanda, che si spicche,	Then gives the pilot orders sail to set,
E la vado aspettar a Bericocche.	To Berwick voyage, and there for him wait"

Hoole has it :- "He bids the pilot Berwick speed to gain/ And there till his arrival to remain." While a modern translation, by Barbara Reynolds (1973), gets the verse swinging and leaves no doubt as to the place:-

"Commanding first the pilot to make speed
And wait for him at Berwick-upon-Tweed".

As Huggins says in a note to these lines: "Very remarkable for an Italian to talk of ordering the vessel round by Berwick". There is yet one more reference to Berwick in Canto VIII/25, where the King:-

"In sin a Beroicche accompagnollo,	To Berwick in his company would keep;
E visto pianger su, quando lasciollo.	And, when he left him, he was seen to weep"

Or Hoole's "To Berwick town convey'd the valiant peer/ There, parting, shed for grief a tender tear." Or Reynolds'

“The king as far as Berwick kindly keeps
Him company and, on departing, weeps”.

The King in question is the King of Scotland and the valiant peer and ship-ordering hero is none other than the great Christian knight Rinaldo. He first makes his appearance in literature, under the name Renaud, in the legends of Charlemagne and later as Rinaldo in Matteo Maria Boiardo's *Orlando Innamorato* (1487). Ariosto (1474-1535) was writing a sequel to Boiardo's poem and Rinaldo's expedition to Scotland is a minor sideshow to the central theme of Orlando's battle with the Moors and his madness of the title. Ariosto has been accused of hardly having an original idea and of stuffing his poem full of material 'borrowed' from other writers. Rinaldo's Scottish expedition certainly seems to confirm this. Rinaldo does not want to go to Scotland but Charlemagne orders him there to raise troops to help in a European campaign. After being battered by a storm at sea (II/28) he arrives in Scotland (IV/51) which Ariosto clearly regarded as a playground for warrior heroes:-

“At last the Scottish coast they draw upon,
Where Caledonia's forest they can see,
Where oftentimes amidst the ancient oaks
Is heard the clash of war and steel-edged strokes.
For there the cavaliers of Britain roam,
Valiant in arms, with knights of other lands,
Some from near by, and others far from home:
Norwegian, Frankish and Germanic bands.
Valour is needed by all those who come,
For here a knight his death, not glory, stands
To find; here Tristan, Galahad, Gawain,
Lancelot, Galasso, Arthur foes have slain”.

The roll-call makes Ariosto's intent clear, he is putting Rinaldo into the Arthurian tradition and moving the action to Scotland. And, no sooner does the knight arrive in the warrior's playground, than he forgets his original mission to boringly raise troops and enquires at a monastery that gives him lodging:

“If any enterprises, such as an
Adventurous young knight always requires,
Are to be found, whence risking death or worse,
He stands to earn renown or the reverse.”

The monks tell him to go through the woods where there “was no lack of strange adventures” and sure enough from a maiden in distress, who he rescues from some ruffians, he learns of a dastardly plot by the Duke of Albany to frame Queen Guinevere for adultery. So off to St.

Andrews he dashes to save the day and arrives just in time. Once that little difficulty is sorted out, Rinaldo gets round to the raising of troops for Charlemagne. That successfully done he takes leave of Scotland on his ship waiting in the port of Berwick. That Ariosto should use the Arthurian tradition is no great surprise, it was part of the European literary heritage, but what is interesting is that he combines a mythic landscape of dark Caledonian forest littered with dead heroes with the prosaic matter of embarking by ship from Berwick. Ariosto's day-job was as a diplomat for various noble families and he would have been fully aware of which towns in Europe were of strategic importance, and which had good trading links with the rest of the world, but he would have put them in his poem only if he thought if his readers were similarly aware. It is a measure therefore of Berwick's standing in the 16th.century that it plays a small role in such a widely read epic as *Orlando Furioso*.

Note

Eighteenth Century Books On-Line is part of the Electronic Resources Network at the National Library of Scotland.

Chris Green

FRIENDS ' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting was held in the Guildhall on Thursday 16th March 2006. It was a very stormy, windy night so some members could not attend. Also missing was our President, Lord Joicey, who had succumbed to a very heavy cold. Our Vice-President, Lady Rose Crossman gallantly stepped in and steered us through the evening. We welcomed Neil Anderson who is the Director of the Woodhorn Project, and Ian Johnston who has been standing in for Linda while she was on maternity leave. We shall be sorry to see him go but wish him well in Salford.

This year meant no changes as we were elected last year. However, we do have the welcome addition of Brian Chappell to our committee. His enthusiasm and ability are legendary. The Annual Reports had been received and were accepted. The Treasurer's Report, an art form in itself, reminded us yet again how lucky we are to have Keith Wills as our Treasurer (although he would like to escape) and to have Linda and Stuart Bankier as able auditors. Lady Rose thanked all those who had helped the year go well and commended the committee for all their work.

Linda and Chris then gave inspiring talks about their work over the past two years and on what lies ahead. Not only did they speak fluently on their subjects but they battled above the sound of Bell-ringing practice and the exuberant exit of the Council from its deliberations.

I hope both guest speakers will write more fully about what they told us at the A.G.M but at the moment suffice it to say that Linda told us about her work with teenagers in 2004. They were able to explore their childhood and compare it with that generations. It was a well-worthwhile project which reached old, and young.

'Spittal at War' was a wonderful and emotive subject which produced a growing audience. Its popularity ensures its growth now on. The Bondington Project grows too and Linda has helped produce a CD Rom for use in schools. For the Eve of Trafalgar Linda assisted greatly with archive material for our Youth Theatre to perform their three venue court case- a triumph. This year - War with Russia and more chances to bring children to History and Archives.

Linda's next tasks are to help organise Facades of the Fifties culminating in an exhibition of photographs of shop fronts in Berwick. The Old Parish of Bamburgh has obtained funding for a project which encompasses the Centenary of Seahouses School. Behind those enthusiastic folk stands Linda-ever ready with advice or knowledge. A hugely challenging task, too, is creating a series of Heritage Play areas for Sure Start.

Chris then spoke of his work which doesn't stop with the "day job". He has been with us 16 years but never seems to lack enthusiasm for the Museum which contains many local items but also international artefacts which draw interest world-wide.

One of Chris's great strengths is his interest in education. The Second World War exhibition drew hundreds of people into the Gymnasium in November. He had 16 classes work on World War 2 projects including drama and role play. The work done was so valuable that Cramlington School is just one institution interested in learning from what Chris has instigated.

Chris touched upon the closure of the museum but feels that has been put aside. There will be a review of the museum service and perhaps the public will begin to appreciate that the museum, archives, heritage and tourism are all intermingled and make our lives so much richer.

This year brings the exhibition "Tales from the East" and promotion of World cultures in A to Z, Aladdin to Zen, which will draw out esoteric interests in a populist way.

Drawing on the popular myth that Russia was at War with Berwick Chris will produce fact and fiction, which has helped this tale grow. Other delights include the Gymnasium housing The Burrell Collection and, later, Victorian watercolours by James Faed Jr. with the addition of 16 Frank Woods.

Both Linda and Chris have “education” close to their hearts. They run projects both simple and complicated which enthral and enthuse their audiences. One thing which came over loud and clear was their dedication to their chosen interest and to its promotion to a wider audience. It is also obvious that we must appreciate that although Linda and Chris work hard they do ignore the boundary of time to give Berwick Borough so many scintillating “added extras”.

*Barbara Herdman
Chairman*

ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

‘The past 80 years have been a defining period in social history. Our older generations in particular have seen more technological change and social upheaval than any other in human history’. Maybe true, maybe not, but that’s what I have just read in the British Legion magazine before putting fingers to computer this morning.

By the time this document appears in the newsletter, the Oral History Archive will be nine years old. While I know that ‘history begins yesterday’, my personal views at the time accorded with those expressed by the British Legion. Thus I set out to get people with stories that would disappear when they went to the happy hunting grounds. I’m glad I did that. Some of them are still with us, albeit now into their nineties but what a lot we might have lost. The Archive now contains 120 sides of cassette tape of which three are copies of Radio Scotland broadcasts of local interest. There are ten prepared as part of the Ord Village Design Statement but totally useful to the Archive.

Some others, half a dozen or so, I have recorded as being of social history interest although away from Berwick. One example is that of Douglas Beebe, Cockermouth. He was a member of the Antarctic Survey team in the 1950s. His contract finished; Ann went out to the Falklands where she and Douglas were married and looked after a sheep farm on one of the islands. Mary Blood was a servant pre-war with the Tennyson family in Lincoln, going later to London and the Highlands for the respective ‘seasons’.

In Berwick Borough I have tried to record as wide a range of jobs and stories as possible. In 2002, I recorded Will Benton, who worked for Landels from 1941 to 1979. That firm and its like have gone for ever. But what did that recording lead to? Will has now written the story, not only of Landels’ business, but of how things were done in earlier days. It is a very full

technical document which will be of much interest to preservationists. It may not be published as such but the Record Office is certain to get a copy.

I won't try to sum up in detail what has been covered but just look at a few examples.

Annie Meston's mother was a 1914-18 war widow. Just note what happened to them. Mrs. Meston took a job 'looking after' the Ladies Pond (where's that?) when swimming was the norm. Seven days a week – light a fire on the beach and cook fish. 'We had a barbecue before they were invented'. Annie developed TB as a teenager. Listen to her talking about Stannington Sanatorium. 'I saw my mother on a Saturday every 11 weeks. They stopped my children's allowance while I was in Stannington'.

In the floods in 1948, Tom Mabon saw his bungalow disappear down the Whitadder under Canty's Bridge. 'We found the front door on Cocklawburn beach; somebody had stolen the letter box.'

Bob Welsh, also in the floods, had, with his family, to take refuge on the roof of his house. The breeches buoy had to be brought to Abbey St. Bathans to rescue them before the house disintegrated.

Miss Linda Walker, whose family had a baker's shop up Castlegate. She talked about WW1. 'The zeppelin came over Berwick about 8 o'clock that summer's evening. My mother brought me in and shut the shop early!' So much for air raid precautions!

Fred Stott's family business was in Bridge Street at one time. 'They were laying new tarmac there but didn't take account that the street was paved with wooden blocks. When they put down the hot asphalt the blocks caught fire and the street went up in flames!'

Another old Berwicker, Joe Booth, still playing golf and baking cakes, worked in a grocer's in High Street. 'We sold a lot of bacon. There were no fridges then. The shop was shut late on Saturday nights. When we came back on Monday morning in summer, the sides of bacon were crawling with maggots. We had to scrape them off'.

Bearing in mind our personal experiences at Stockport with Environmental Health Inspectors, I asked Dr. James Mitchell about this. 'Oh, maggots are the best things to remove bacteria'. So, we eat a peck of dust.....! But he talked too about his early days as the first 'young' doctor in Berwick. He stayed at the Waterloo Hotel. Stories about the Waterloo are legion.

Listen to Gordon Bell. The Bells were a carting family from Chapel Street. Bell's horses and carts emptied 'the buckets'. For the benefit of the 'antelowpers', dustbins were unheard of in Berwick. It was always 'the bucket', and I still hear the term. Gordon's tape is highly amusing but, for me, there was a personal benefit. He showed me their premises in Chapel Street before

they were demolished. He also took me inside. 40, Chapel Street had been the Harp Inn pre-1900 and had been tenanted by my Irish ancestry, the Burke family. Gordon knew it as 'Burke's pub' and the former 'snug' was still as it had been in Burke's day. What a bit of family history for me!

None of the folk I've recorded, nor their stories, have I forgotten. But some stand out. Their manners, gentleness and philosophy will always be outstanding.

Sena Angus went with the fisher girls from Eyemouth all round the country from Mallaig to Lowestoft. They worked whatever hours were dictated by the herring catches. If they had to work until midnight, so be it. 'Sena, if you had your time over again, what would you do?' 'I would do the same again; I had a happy life!'

Jean Kinghorn, recorded in Saltgreens, Eyemouth when she was 96. She had been a bondager in Berwickshire. The farm work she, and others, described was so hard. 'We (two women) had to lift 18 stone sacks of corn on to the carts. Nae bother!' That day, as we talked, Jean was knitting for the Girl Guides. She had made a toilet roll cover; a beautiful item; it was to be raffled for charity.

They are only two examples of people who had influenced me. They have taught me lessons – even at my advanced age.

I haven't ignored the youth totally. One I have recorded is Robert Whitten, West Longridge, another talented young man with a long way to go.

It wasn't always what came up on the recording that was entertaining – I had some classic moments off the record. Like the irrepressible Dora McGregor. Before I started she was telling me about her health – which incidentally was remarkably good. 'The doctor called the other day. I said to him, doctor, am I going to die? He looked at me, surprised, and said, 'why are you asking me that? Well, you see that wool on the chair across there. Yes. Is it worth starting to knit myself a jumper?'

Yes, there are so many people I've been privileged to talk with. If I have to single one, it has to be the late Andrew Rutter. He told me he left school at fourteen with no education. Yet he was the most talented man I have ever met. To listen to him talking about Seahouses – which he did in his native tongue to me; to see the models he made; and, most of all, to view the oils and water colours he painted, I can only say they were 'out of this world'. His 'Seahouses Saga' might have ended in the recycling bin had it not been for that first visit to record him. It has been reprinted and is the classic work for those interested in cobbles – apart from its historical and social interests.

There has been yet another consequence and, to explain that, I have to go back to Linda. Having got the earliest recordings into the Record Office, Linda listened to some of them. The

very first recordings were of Annie Meston. Annie was a very typical Berwicker, sincere and with no edge. She was not even bi-lingual – she was ‘broad’ Berwick. Linda asked me, ‘what do some of those words mean, I’ve never heard them. Can you make a list of them?’ The answer was ‘yes’ – but which words did Linda not know? It was a very reasonable question.

I had to sit down, listen to some of the recordings and then rack my brains to think what words I would use, or have used. I made that list years ago. But where did those words come from – why were they different from what Linda knew? Thus I was propelled into doing research into the dialect itself. The more I researched, read, thought, and used my personal knowledge of European languages, the more interest in the Berwick ‘patois’ I had. What about Norwegian, Dutch and even Frisian? How did they connect?

The idea of writing something about the Berwick dialect interested me, but would it interest anybody else? Probably not. What I had done was consigned to my personal archive.

Impulsive one day, I brought my work out, thinned out the contents and put the Berwick words at the front. ‘As Spoken in Berwick’ was born, put to computer and then to the printer. So, thanks to the recordings, and to Linda, the local ‘patois’ is now recorded for posterity and not lost, as it might have been. After all – I am a Berwicker – and I have my heritage to think about! I hope to continue recording although it does involve a 450 mile round trip for me and thus limits the opportunities to do so. The associated job is to get the recordings on a more permanent record and to transcribe them – or even to publish them.

Fred Kennington

News from Bondington: Phase 2

Phase 2 of the Bondington Project is alive and well – it’s official from the Steering Group. We have received support from the Freemen Trustees and the Council and have just heard that ‘Awards for All’ is willing to support us by giving us a grant. We can now start on Phase 2 of the Bondington Project and our plan is to concentrate our activities on the Nunnery of St Leonards. We want to carry out further work there, starting with Community Fieldwalking at the Nunnery Site off Paxton Road where we worked in July 2003. We are still working on the details of our plans but at the moment they look like this:

On Saturday 8th/Sunday 9th July we shall be organising Community Fieldwalking at the Nunnery site and **everyone is invited to come and help us** find what objects or finds there are on the surface of the nunnery site and record where each was found..

During the weeks commencing Monday 10th July, Monday 17th July and Monday 24th July, our Team will split into two parts: one part will be conducting a geo-physical survey over the field of the Nunnery Site to confirm previous findings and define the extent of the whole nunnery: another part will be digging to excavate more of the Nunnery Site and trying to answer a major question posed by the excavations in 2003, that is, the nature of the southern boundary (which was only superficially inspected) and whether it was a part of an enclosing wall around the whole nunnery, and also to look at other components of the complex, the buildings to the west and north of the church, which could be the prioress's house, nuns' dormitories, guest lodgings for important visitors to the nunnery or just barns. **Anyone interested is invited to come and watch our progress.**

Over the week ending Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July **we are inviting everyone to come and join us.** You will be welcome at our Final Event where we shall:

- set up a marquee;
- have an exhibition of finds;
- offer refreshments;
- have a Children's Dig;
- have guided tours of the sites by trained archaeologists.
- have a Potter in attendance with a kiln to demonstrate how pots were thrown in the Middle Ages.

Brian Chappell

A POSTSCRIPT TO THE ARTICLE ON THE CORNELIUS

Some of you may recall that we printed an article some years ago on settlers leaving Berwick on the Cornelius and other ships to settle in New Brunswick in Canada. Since then I have learnt more about some of the people who emigrated and the background to it from Dr Bruce Elliott and some of my regular researchers who have contacts or family links with the families who emigrated. Bruce Elliott has come over twice from Canada to do research in our archives.

Following on from this I have been contacted by Trevor Swan, one of our members about a reunion which will take place in our area in 2007. Read on to find out some more :

Ford Castle, Northumberland, 1st & 2nd September 2007

In late summer 2007 a reunion is planned to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the founding of Harvey Settlement in York Co. New Brunswick, Canada, by settlers principally from the Northumberland and Berwickshire area. This reunion is novel in that it will be held in the area

that the settlers originated from. The first settlers arrived in 1837 aboard the Brig Cornelius of Sunderland and settled as a group to found the community that became known as Harvey Settlement. Through the next 15 years successive waves of friends and relatives arrived from the same area, settling around the first arrivals. There are now many thousands of descendants of these pioneers spread not only throughout Canada and the US, but around the world.

Short History of the settlement

The Harvey Settlement, south of Fredericton, owes its origin to a second party of Northumberland and Borders immigrants recruited for Stanley by the New Brunswick Land Company. Upon their arrival in 1837 they found the Company commissioner absent, and discovered that the Company's inducements had been exaggerated. They appealed to the Legislature and to the Governor, Sir John Harvey, to be permitted to purchase land outside the Company's territory. They were given work on the new St Andrew's Road and the right to draw lots upon it, in the community that would bear the Governor's name. The party of 137 had arrived at Saint John from Berwick-upon-Tweed aboard the snow *Cornelius*, and hailed mostly from Northumberland, many being from the town of Wooler or its rural environs. They set up a small settlement and called it Tweedside. It is still Tweedside today but most of the population live in Harvey.

Reunion

The main reunion events will take place during the weekend of 1st and 2nd September 2007. However, additional informal events are planned from 26th August to 9th September 2007 for those who can stay longer. The plan at the moment is that Ford Castle would be the ideal venue for the event, however this is still to be confirmed.

If anyone would like to help in any way with the re-union or has any information about those who went out from Berwick (I will produce a small exhibition when they are here), please contact Trevor Swan (01890 882574) , Tony Brown (01289 381368) or myself at the Record Office (01289 301865 or lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk). We will put some more information in the newsletter once dates and venues have been confirmed.

Trevor Swan, Linda Bankier

FACADES OF THE FIFTIES

You may have seen "Facades of the Fifties" advertised in the Dates for Your Diary and wondered what it is. In 1959, Northumberland County Council took a series of black and white photographs of all the shop fronts in Berwick Town Centre. The photos are a fascinating record

of how the town looked at the time. The Record Office is working with the Culture and Heritage Sector Board of the Local Strategic Partnership, Berwick Civic Society and Berwick History Society to put together an exhibition of the photographs. During the month of June, you will be able to see the photographs for a selected number of streets in the following locations :

Marygate photos in the **Tourist Information Office**

Castlegate photos in the **William Elder building**

Hide Hill photos in the **Universal Building Society**

West Street photos in the **Post Office**

Bridge Street photos in the **How and Blackhall shop**

Miscellaneous photos in **Berwick Library**

In addition, we are also planning to have an exhibition in the Guildhall on **Sunday 20th August** where you will be able to see all the photographs which were taken.

As well as displaying the photographs, we are also looking for information on the individual shops in the photographs; any recollections of shopping in Berwick in the past and any other photos of the shops. Sheets will be left at each location which people can take away to fill in with information but the completed sheets are to be returned to the Tourist Information Office. All the information we receive will be lodged here in the archives to complement material we have already collected on Berwick shops.

So, do have a look at the photos when you are out and about in town and come along and see all the photos in August.

If anyone wants any more information about the project, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01289 382025 or lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk

Linda Bankier

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

November 22 1856

IMPORTANT TO LADIES AND HOUSEKEEPERS – 250 per cent SAVINGS
IN YOUR WASHING BILLS.

MR M. JOCELYN COOKE, 45, Dean Street, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, begs to inform the Ladies and Housekeepers of Berwick-upon-Tweed and Neighbourhood, that he has been appointed Agent for the Sale of Moore's Celebrated Patent.

AMERICAN FLOATING BALL WASHING MACHINES, of which Thousands have been sold in America, France and this Country, and have everywhere given the greatest satisfaction.

One woman, with one of the Machines, can wash 6000 Towels or other similar articles per Day, with saving of 100 per cent cost in Labour, 100 per cent in Wear and Tear of the articles, 25 per cent saving in Soap, and 25 per cent saving in Coals.

Any party bringing their own Soap and Clothes can have a Trial of the Machines before purchasing.

The price of one for Household purposes is £3, for Hotels, large Laundries etc. from £6 to £10.

One of the Machines to be seen Daily at 45 Dean Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where its Action is fully explained, and to which it is requested all Letters may addressed.

AGENTS WANTED for Berwick-upon-Tweed and surrounding Towns.

January 15 1859

THE ARCH at SCOTCHGATE

We observe that Mr. Kelly has completed his erection of the new Arch at Scotchgate. We are convinced that the obstruction formerly complained of at that place is not merely mitigated, but entirely removed; and a more graceful finish to the street has been made than if the Structure had been entirely carried away. The Arch is sufficiently lofty to admit of any Conveyance passing underneath, while it spans the entire roadway, and the foot passengers are accommodated with a passage on either side.

January 24 1857

LARGE PIGS

Two pigs bred by Mr. John Armstrong of this town, were this week weaned from their mother, being seven weeks old. One of them was found to weigh 2 Stones 7 pounds, the other 2 Stones 4 pounds. Their sire was the property of Mr. Thomas Crosby of White Damhead.

Muriel

Fraser

INDEX TO FRIENDS NEWSLETTERS

As we have reached, our 50th Newsletter, we have decided to produce an index to the articles in editions 1 to 50. This is nearly completed and you will receive a copy with your next newsletter. We've had lots of interesting articles and snippets over the years and so the index should help you locate them.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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 lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk or by post c/o. Records Office, Wallace Green, Berwick upon Tweed. My new E-mail address is ygallagher@tiscali.co.uk

Yvonne Gallagher

Hon.

Editor